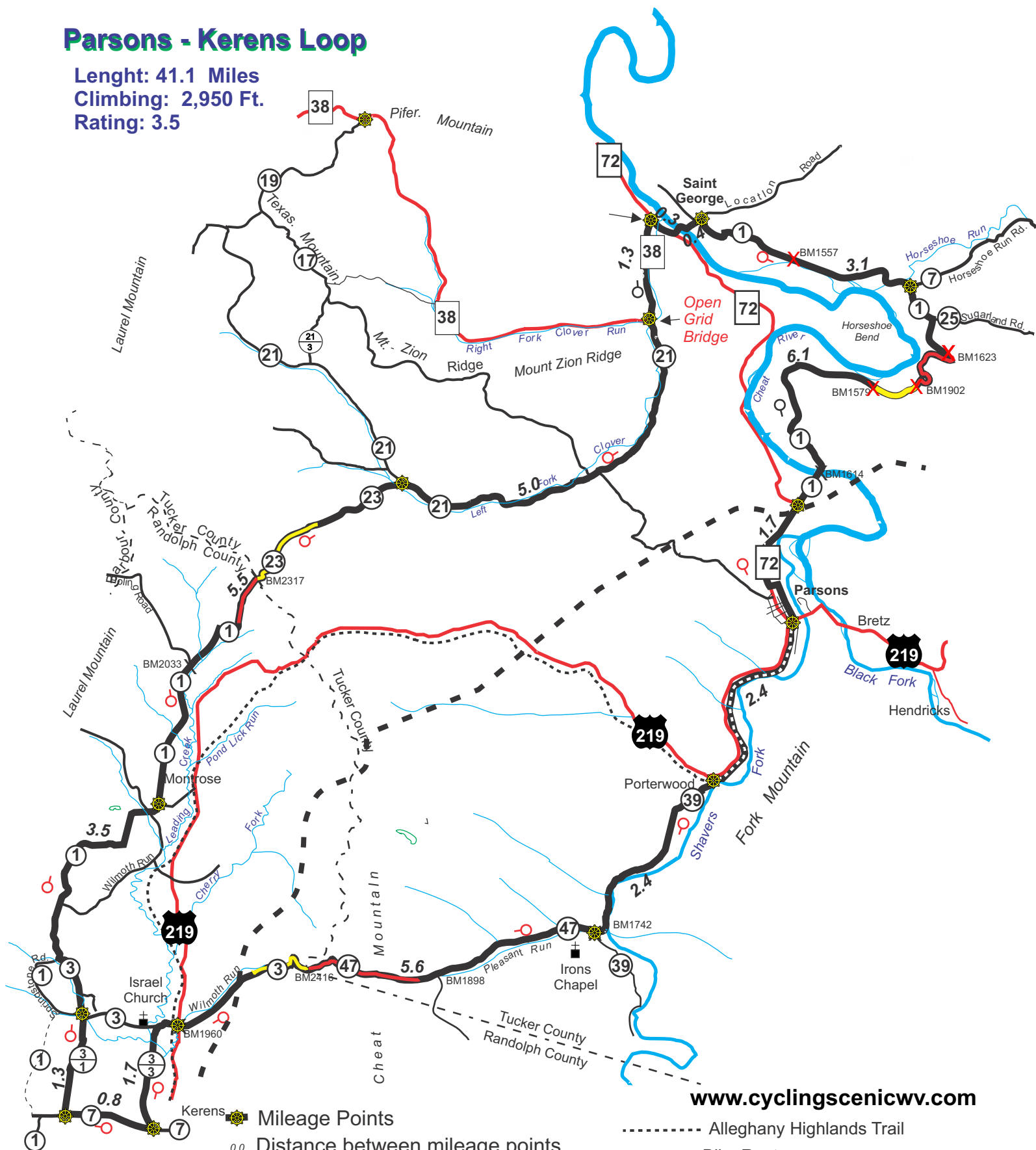


# Parsons - Kerens Loop

Lenght: 41.1 Miles

Climbing: 2,950 Ft.

Rating: 3.5



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● Mileage Points

0.0 Distance between mileage points

○ Preferred riding direction

— Rivers and streams

X BM1960 Elevation at designated points.

— Approximate Corridor H Alignment

----- Alleghany Highlands Trail

--- Bike Route

— Climbs

— Descents

----- County Lines

— Federal and State Highways

# Parsons Loop - Revised 2021

## 41.1 miles. 2,950 climbing.

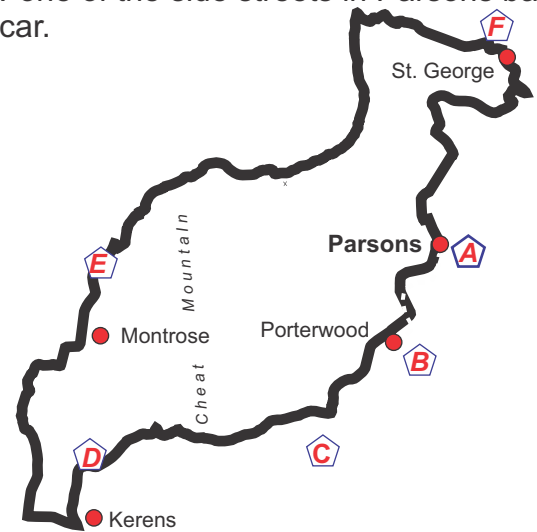
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Starting in Parsons behind the railroad station (A) and take the rail trail to Porterwood (B) and make a 180 degree turn onto County 39 South along Shavers Fork before climbing Cheat Mountain along Pleasant Run on County 47 [C].

Topping Cheat Mt. and crossing into Randolph County, you drop down Wilmoth run and cross U.S. 219 (D) just north of Kerens. You continue across 219 for 0.5 miles and make a left onto Co. 3/3 and follow the one lane road to Co. 7. Taking a right on 7 you shortly turn on to 3/1, which soon becomes Co. 1. You follow this road, being sure to bare left near Montrose (main road goes right to U. S. 219), before a 1/2 mile climb to the Randolph/Tucker County line (E). From there you drop down to Valley Fork run on what is now Tucker County 23.

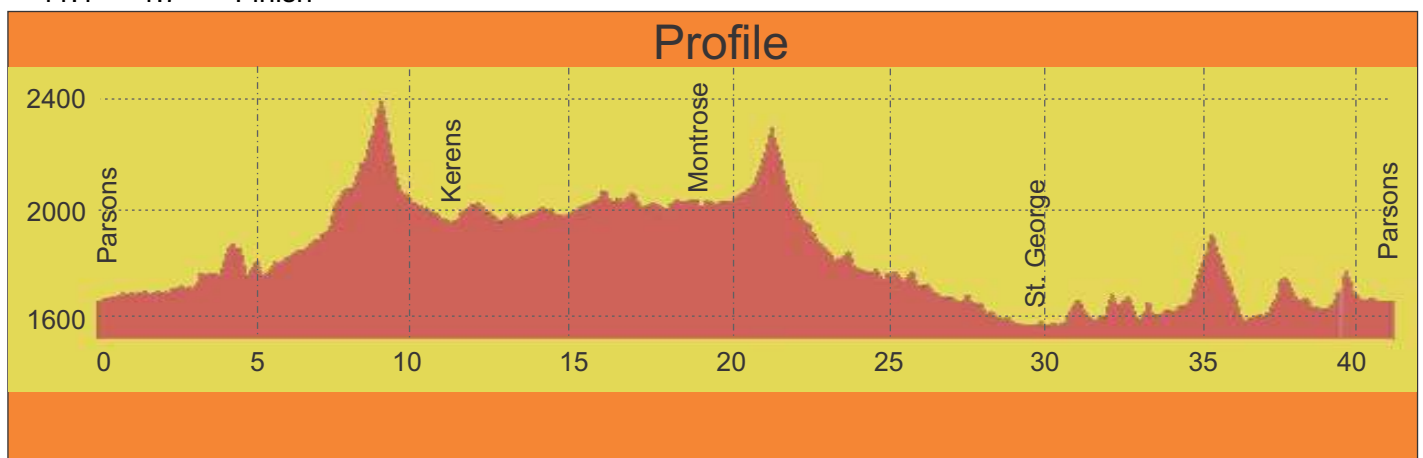
You take a right when 23 connects with County 21 and follow it to State 38. A mile on 38 brings you to State 72 (F) where you take a right and after 1/4 mile you leave 72, taking a left across the Cheat River at St. George.

In St. George, you take a right on County 1 and go out past the old academy and medical clinic. There is a good climb over the hill at Horseshoe Bend and then a flat ride to the junction of 72. Take a left on 72, for a mile to Parsons. Once reaching Parsons, you can follow one of the side streets in Parsons back to your car.



### Parsons - Kerens Loop Turn List

0.0	0.0	Parsons Allegheny Highland trail parking lot behind old train station.
2.4	2.4	Left - Make a 180 onto Co. 39
4.8	2.4	Straight onto Co. 47 which becomes Randolph Co 3. 39 goes right
10.4	5.6	Straight across 219, continue on Co. 3
10.9	0.5	Take a left onto 3/3 at end of bridge.
12.1	1.2	Take a right onto county 7. .
12.9	0.8	Take a right onto county 3/1. .
14.2	1.3	Continue straight onto Co. 3.
17.7	3.5	Straight to continue on Co.1
23.2	5.5	Bare right onto Co 21
28.2	5.0	Right onto St. 38. <b>Beware of open grid metal deck bridge just before St. 38</b>
29.5	1.3	Right on St. 72
29.8	0.3	Left on Co 1 across Cheat River <b>Water: A public faucet can be found at the community park at end of bridge. Usually has a hose attached to it.</b>
30.2	0.4	Right in St. George to continue on Co. 1
33.3	3.1	Straight past Co 7 and bare right at Jct. 25 to stay on Co. 1
39.4	6.1	Right on St. 72
41.1	1.7	Finish



## Overview

Length: 41.1 Miles

Climbing: 2,950 Feet

Climbing Per Mile: 72

Rating: 3.5

**Location:** This ride is in southern Tucker and northern Randolph Counties and is another beautiful route through farm country and forest. The communities of St. George and Parsons are on the route. St. George was the original county seat of Tucker County.

This is one of my favorite rides. The scenery is just outstanding. At 72 feet per mile, there is plenty of climbing on the route. There are three significant climbs on the route, the longest being the 1.5 mile climb over Cheat Mountain between Shavers Fork and route 219. These climbs are through forest and therefore shaded from the Sun during hot weather. The flatter parts of the ride are through farm land and provide little relief from the Sun.

I am generally doing the ride from Horseshoe Campground, which adds another 8 miles of rolling terrain to the ride. For a longer ride option check out the Elkins Lollypop that incorporates this loop with the ride starting from Elkins.

**Water and Food:** The description and turn list starts in Parsons, which is the best source for food and water. You might consider starting at another point on the ride such as Israel Church, to make Parsons a mid ride break. There is a Patriots Four store at the intersection of routes 38 and 72 at mile 29.5, but they are not always open. The one dependable water source is in the small community park at the end of the bridge over the Cheat River at mile 30. There is a public water faucet that usually has a hose attached to it, used by locals to get drinking water. There are also restroom there that may or may not be open. In the past, I have often stopped at the St. George Medical Clinic to top off my bottles, but they are closed on Sunday and public access is also restricted due to COVID 19.

## General Route Description

**Parsons to U.S. 219.** Starting at the Allegheny Highland Rail Trail parking behind the old train station, you head South toward Elkins on the trail. You soon arrive at the Corricks Ford Battlefield site. You will want to take the time to read the interpretive signs. Past the Corricks Ford site, you come to the Kingsford Charcoal Plant. with its huge pile of wood chips. I've always loved the smell of wood chips. Be cautious of trucks entering and leaving the plant. Continuing on the trail you will arrive at Porterwood, where there is a kiosk and more trail parking. You will come alongside County 39. At the kiosk, you will do a 180 turn degree onto route 39, which leads you up Shavers Fork of Cheat. This is the route the Confederate Army took to Corricks Ford. The road here skirts the valley along the edge of the mountain with numerous rollers. 2.4 miles from Porterwood, the road makes a sharp downhill right turn and comes to an intersection. Route 39 continues up river to the left and County 47 comes in from straight ahead. You want to continue straight onto route 47 past Irons Chapel. Route 39 begins as a gentle upgrade along Pleasant Run until to come to the long climb (1.7 miles) of the ride. The climb starts out fairly reasonable with 5-7% grade before ramping up to 8-10% nearing the top. Cresting the top, leave Tucker and enter Randolph County and have a nice descent and rollout along Wilmoth Run to the intersection with US Route 219, passing under Corridor H on the way.

**US 219 to State 38:** Continuing straight across US 219 onto County 3, the next few miles will be through beautiful pasture land. You will shortly take a left onto narrow Co. 3/3 and a short climb. 1.7 miles will bring you to Co. 7 where you take a right and after 0.8 miles another right onto Co. 3/1. This is the southern point of the loop, and you are now heading north. Though you are on 3/1, that becomes Co. 3, that becomes Co. 1, it all appears as one road when riding up the valley on a pretty flat profile. At Montrose, you want to bear left instead following the main road when it turns right. After passing the small community of Montrose the country becomes more forested and then you make a sharp left and begin the 1/2 mile climb to the county line. Crossing the crest and the Randolph-Tucker Co. line, Randolph Co. 1 becomes Tucker Co. 23. You immediately begin a steep descent with SHARP turns at the top with a lessening gradient and straighter profile nearing the bottom. Co. 23 intersects county 21 and you bare right and continue on 21 through the forest. You are now riding on part of the cross country American Discovery Trail. (<https://discoverytrail.org/>) When you near Route 38, beware of the medal open deck bridge you have to cross at about the 28 mile mark, just before reaching route 38.

**Route 38 to Parsons:** Taking a right on 38, you have a 1.3 mile gradual downhill run to Route 72 and the Cheat River. The Patriots 4 store is at the intersection. Taking a right on 72, you go 0.3 miles and take a left across the Cheat River to former county seat of St. George. At the far end of the bridge is the small St. George community park, where you will find a public water faucet, and rest rooms that may or may not be open. Take a right in St. George on county route 1 and past the St. George Academy and the St. George Medical Clinic as you leave the community. The medical clinic used to be my place to top off water bottles and rest room stop, but COVID has restricted access. Plus they only have Sat. morning hours on weekends. Passing the clinic, you will be traveling along the edge of the Cheat River valley with rolling terrain and a couple short steep ramps. After passing the roads to Horseshoe Campground and Sugarland Road (Bare sharp right. Sugarlands goes straight.) you will come to a sharp switchback that begins the last big climb of the day. This is a pretty steady climb with no severe ramps. Topping out, you begin a steep descent with a sharp turn in the middle. Watch for rocks near the bottom. Reaching the bottom, you come out again along a short beautiful stretch of Cheat River. Leaving the river as it goes to the other side of the valley you have some more short steep rollers before crossing the river again and coming back to route 72. Beginning 2021, there will be a couple years of Corridor H construction here, but should not effect the ride. Take a left on route 72 for the final 1.7 miles to Parsons. When arriving in Parsons, I cut left toward the Five Rivers Campground and take the back streets to the finish.

### Points of Interest

The Corricks Ford Battlefield is the major point of historical interest along the route. There are several informational signs concerning Corricks Ford along the route. From Parsons to Rt. 219, the bike route follows the route of the Confederate retreat and Federal pursuit, though in the opposite direction as described in the turn sheet. Shavers Fork and the Cheat River provide geological interest.

Parsons is the county seat of Tucker County, and has three building listed on the National Registry of Historic places.

If you have time, you can check out the Allegheny Highland Trail in the other direction from the train station.

### Local Sources

Joey's Bike Shop, 19 B Third St. Elkins, 304-636-0219

Blackwater Bikes

Patriots Four has five cabins for rent as well as camping.

Horseshoe Campground, a national forest campground operated by the YMCA is open June, July, and August.

Blackwater Outdoor Adventures offers kayating, canoeing, tubing, stand up boarding from St. George.

Five Rivers Campground on the outskirts of Parsons.

