

Riding Around the Sierra Nevada Roads



Emmigrant Trail
March 31st, 2007

All of my climbs have been in the northern part of the Carson Tahoe area. Now it's time to head south. My first climb here is called Emmigrant Trail. It has two sides and both are really short. The north side is 3.01 miles long with an elevation gain of 618 and the south side is even shorter at 0.30 miles with an elevation gain of 60 feet. These climbs are almost too short to even be noticed except that getting to them is half the fun! Start out on Jack's Valley Road by the large shopping center with the Target store. You'll be greeted with a short climb to a fire station. A beautiful valley will open up as you crest the climb.



You'll ride along the foot of the Sierra Nevada mountains and reach the town of Genoa. Genoa claims to be Nevada's first and oldest settlement, a fact disputed by the nearby town of Dayton. It's a very small town but it has its own Post Office, fire department, and court house. Visit Mormon Station park early in the morning and hear the woodpeckers hard at work in the trees!



Continue heading south along Jacks Valley Road and it will eventually change its name to Foothill Road. You'll reach the intersection for Kingsbury Grade. It's a long and beautiful climb and we'll explore this one later. Foothill Road is dotted with large beautiful homes and traditional cow pastures. There are a couple of trails along the way for hikers to enjoy.



From Footfill Road you'll turn left on Fredericksburg Road and the area begins to get a little emptier and a little more open. There aren't any toilets here and don't expect to find any bushes for privacy. If you need to take a natural break then do it quickly and hope for no passing cars! The north side of Emmigrant Trail will greet you a ways down the road on your right side. Take the turn and downshift quick! The road wastes no time in pitching up.

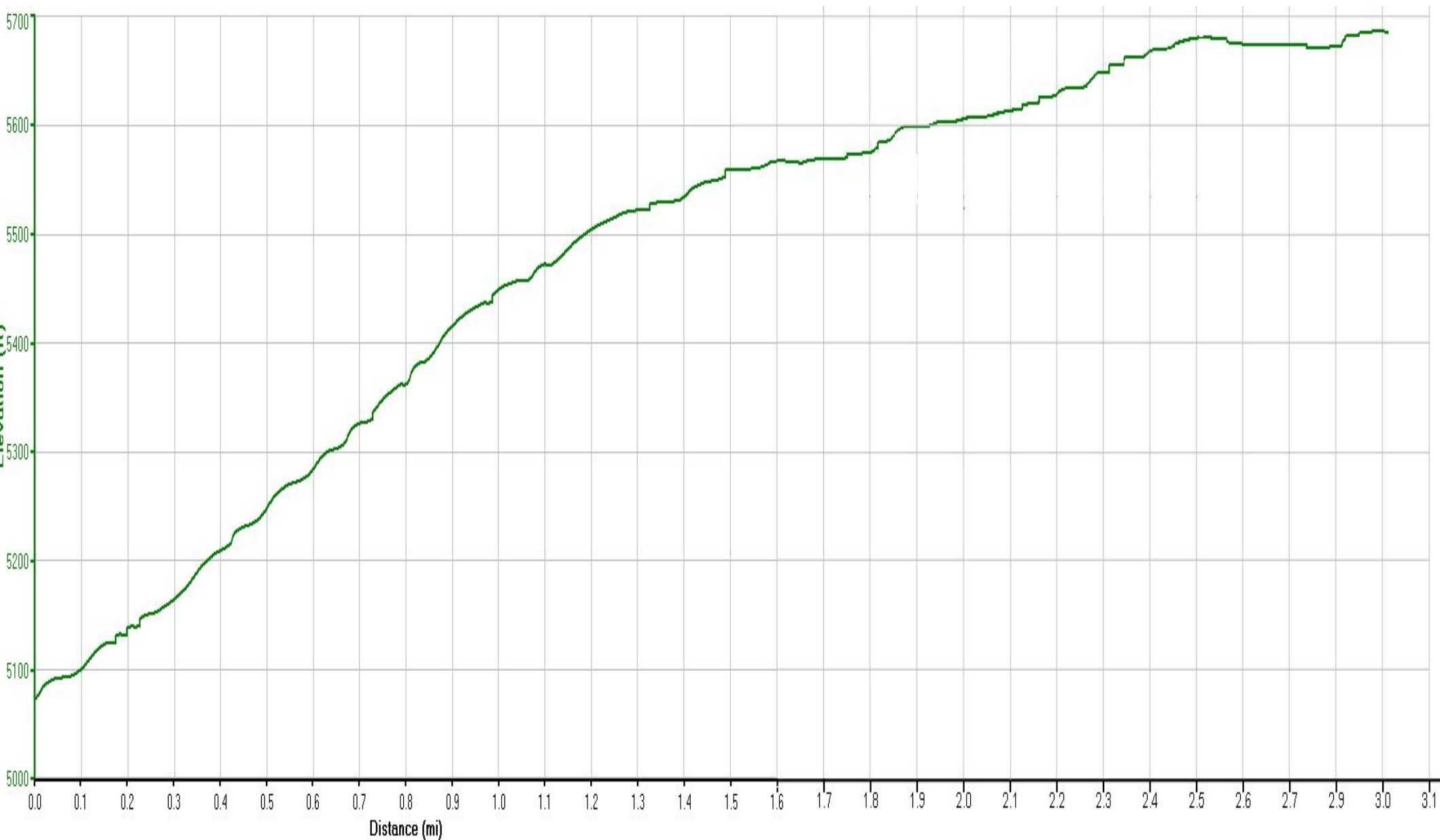


There are several false summits along the way and I ended up generating three small segments of data. The Garmin software does not allow for combining the segments so I had to manually combine three screen shots. It wasn't much fun scaling them down but I think I managed to get an accurate representation. Unfortunately, I lost the grade plot along the way. After learning where the summit is from climbing the north side, I was able to capture the south side without any confusion.

After descending down the south side, be sure to turn around and take a look at the beautiful texture of the mountains!



So there's my pieced-together plot. I can safely say from memory that certain parts of the road pitch up to around 10% but they also ease off down to 2% as well. The average grade turns out to a mere 3.9%



Here is the south side of Emmigrant. It's really short and almost not worth graphing but I can't leave it out. Somehow the experience would be incomplete if it wasn't ridden. The grade plot is included because I captured this one right! This has an average grade of 3.8%.

