

Riding Around the Sierra Nevada Roads



Highway 341 (Truck Route) to Geiger Summit
April 28th, 2007

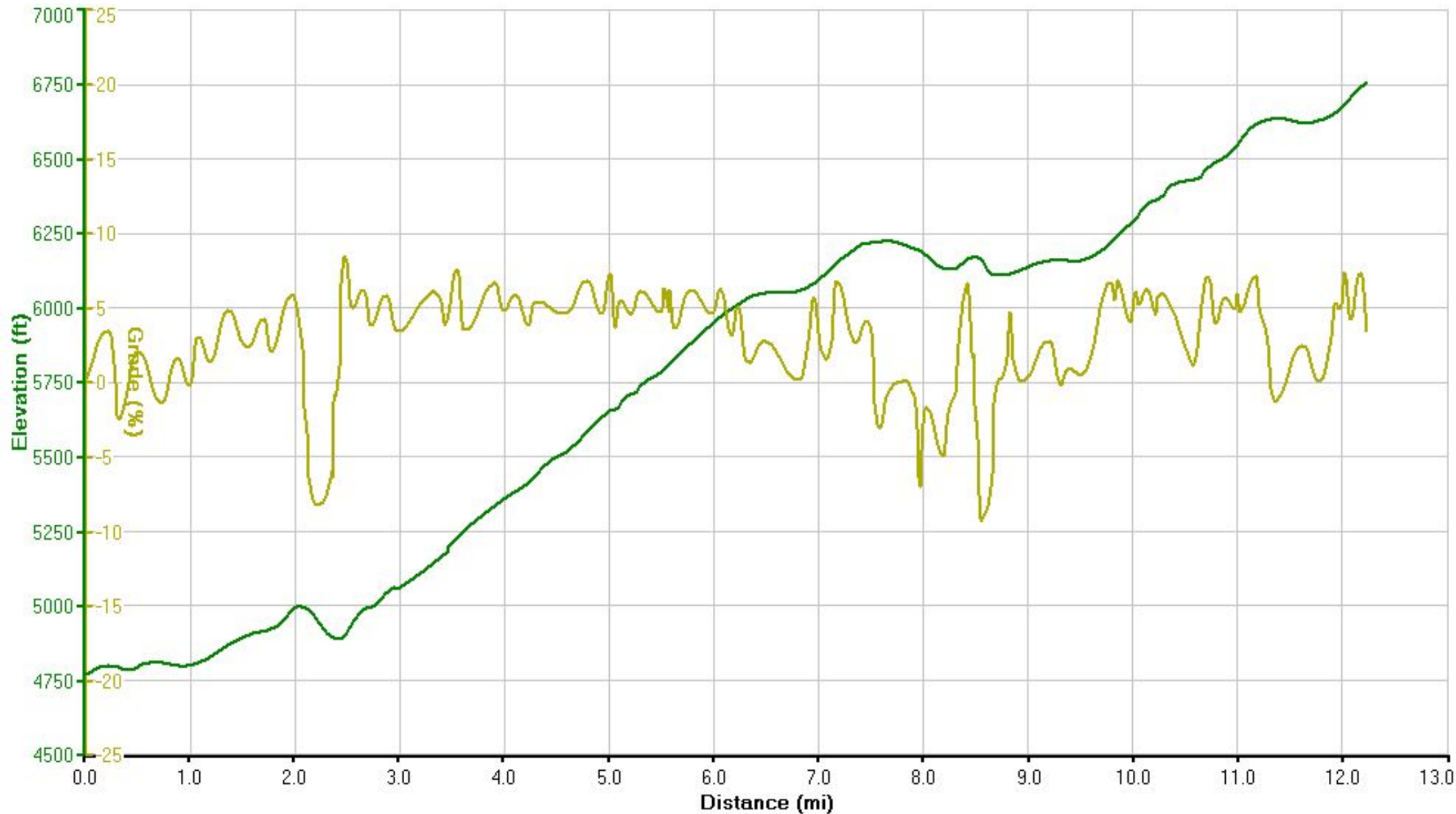
There are two routes to Virginia City from Highway 50. Last week I rode up a combination of Hwys 341 and 342. This is the quickest and steepest way up. Sticking to Hwy 341 will take you through a milder path although the ride is slightly longer. Just hang a right at the first and only fork in the road. Hwy 341 is well worth exploring because you will see what is on the other side of the houses you ride past when climbing Hwy 342.



You'll see an old cemetery that is on the other side of Silver City and a couple of old mines. The area is generally very open and there is very little traffic except for the occasional resident. Virginia City hosts many events during the year such as dirt bike races, camel races, and festivals. Travelers with large RVs or trailers will take this route but don't expect hordes of vehicles even on the busiest of days.



The Garmin recorded an ascent of 1994 feet over a distance of 12.24 miles which results in a 3.1% average grade. I started at an elevation of 4767 ft and ended at 6761 ft. This is slightly different than last weeks starting elevation of 4761 ft and ending elevation of 6802 ft but it is still less than 1% error!



I tried to overlay the two routes over each other in Photoshop and I had some moderate success. Unfortunately, I lost all of my previous Garmin data (long story) so I have to use my past screen captures instead of the native data! The distance and elevation scales match but the % grade did not so I had to manually erase the lines which resulted in the white spots on the scale lines. Still, you can see the difference in the road profile. The less steep route is of course the truck route.

