

2015 Reveille Peak 100

First time I did this race was in 2011, I believe it was the 1st edition of RP100. The race was held around August and I remember it was scorching hot for a marathon race then. After that year I think all the other editions have been in November, great decision by the organizers. I was really looking forward to doing this event again, it was like doing a new race because I didn't remember much of the course, except for the technical rock climb.

The cool front kicked in right before the race just as the forecast had warned, but luckily no rain. I was freezing at the start line while I scouted the riders to see who was there. I noticed a guy in an Elbowz kit and knew he had to be the rider to watch. I've never seen that team race mountain bikes so I was wondering if he would be strong on the technical sections. Race starts and he's at the front setting a fast pace, I grab his wheel. We start taking turns at the front and we are opening a gap on the rest of the guys. After a while we talked and introduced, and turns out he was doing the team race, so that means I'm leading my race. The course was technical, but it flowed great. I had forgotten about that.

Close to the end of the lap I decide to ride my own pace and let Tony Baca go, I knew I still had a long race ahead of me. One of my cleats got loose and I had to stop at the end of the lap to tighten the bolts. I didn't want to get to the technical climb on my 2nd lap and not be able to unclip. Takes me a few minutes to get that fixed and another rider from a team catches up and I'm off. On my 2nd lap, I'm feeling good and find myself riding better lines. I catch the 2 riders in front of me after a while and I'm back to the front. I finished that lap and the time was about 2 minutes slower from lap 1. I decided to take it easy and recover on the 3rd lap so I could have a strong finish. That lap was the hardest so far. The demanding course was taking a toll on me. My body was suffering, not just the legs. I'm able to get through it and finish about 8 minutes slower than the previous. My wife is at the feedzone and she's excited that it's just one more to go and encourages me to finish fast. I'm sure it had been a long morning for her too.

Knowing it was almost over gave me strength. I start my last lap and feel much better. I know I'm riding faster than the previous lap so tactic is working well. Halfway through the lap I get caught by another rider, and he's gunning it. A gap opens and I'm chasing him down not knowing if he's racing solo. I get close enough to ask and find out he's racing on a team. Sigh, I ease off. Everything is going well until the unfortunate happens. I end up clipping my rear derailleur on a rock and left half of it on the trail. I have no chain breaker tool on me, and even if I did, I've never had to shorten a chain or convert to a single speed before. It's 7 miles or so to the finish and I'm thinking it's too late to DNF now. I don't run much, so I start walking after a few minutes of trying. I recover and then jog some more. I would coast on the downhills when ever I could, but eventually I got passed by riders. At the end of the race I finished 4th place, only 12 secs off from 3rd and a podium spot. Maybe I need to add some running to my program, or just learn how to fix a chain.

Aside from that, the trails were awesome and the weather was perfect for a long day on the bike. Looking forward to next year, thanks for reading!

Jorge Munoz
goTenac.com