

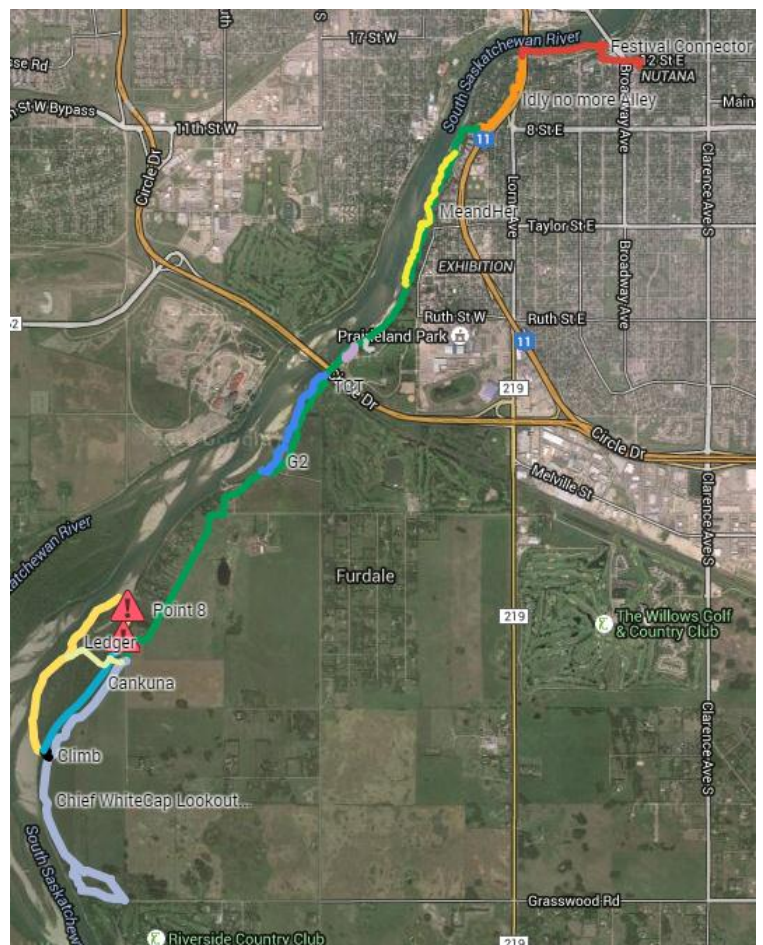
Global Fatbike Day December 5th 2015



Send off point from the Nutana Winter Festival which also was the host of the amazing slow race prior to embarking

Global Fatbike Day Saskatoon- 2015 had 42 participants including 2 from North Battleford and 1 from Tisdale with the balance being from the host community of Saskatoon. The event was run in conjunction with the Nutana Winter Festival. Prior to embarking on the Global Fatbike Route to Chief Whitecap the riders lined up for the amazing slow race. Contestants were given a 30 second warning and had to track stand or ride forward extremely slowly so as to not cross the start line prior to the surprise whistle. Riders then charged across a 50m park to claim bragging rights. The Bike doctor was onsite with some demo fatbikes for festival goers to try out and a number of youngsters hopped on the opportunity for a fatbike sled pull.

Weather was very warm (+7C) leading up to the event so very icy conditions in the city but much improved once on the trails. The [Global Fatbike Day Saskatoon course](#) followed the South Saskatchewan River valley to link up with some urban back alley single track next to Idylwyld before linking into the TransCanadaTrail (TCT) at Gabe Dumont Park. Here riders had a choice of remaining on the easy wide trails of the TCT or hopping on narrow twisty single track called "MeandHer".



There was a challenging hill and descent option at Diefenbaker Park before crossing under South Circle Drive Bridge and proceeding Southward either on the TCT or dropping down on the G's. The G trails ("G1" and "G2") are among the oldest known single track mtn bike trails in the City. These trails have some nice flow (particularly riding South-North) and peak out for some amazing views of the river valley. It was a honor to have the original designer/builder "G" along on the ride. With the soft conditions the single track was plenty challenging and slow going.



The course then followed the newly completed "TCT" south the Chief Whitecap Dog Park where riders again had a choice of dropping down to the river's edge and riding the new "Ledger" trail which is exactly a ledge that swoops along the riverbank with some really fast fun and has the feeling of slalom skiing in a number of spots. Eventually the trail winds its way back to the embankment where riders climbed up and followed the single-track trail around to the Chief Whitecap monument for a brief snack break before turning around for the charge home.

The 2015 participants at the Chief Whitecap turnaround (Photo Credit Mike Power)



The return route was largely the same with the exception of single-track hunters dropping back down and picking up “Cankuna” - Lakota for little path – which is a tight twisting trail through a thickly wooded area. The trails were much softer on the return route as the warmth of the day set in.

The ~25km ride ended across the street from the Nutana Winter Festival at the Hose with some much needed replenishment and sharing of conquests and calamities.

Refueling at the Hose after the ride

