

## MERRIMAC MAIN ROUTE

A good loop near town which starts out easy and then has several ups and downs. Merrimac was a coal-mining area earlier in the century.

**STARTING POINT:** Main entrance to University Mall in Blacksburg

**DISTANCE:** 12.6 miles

**TERRAIN:** Moderate, but not flat

### **MILE DIRECTIONS**

- 0.0 From University Mall front doors, go east (right) onto University City Blvd.
- 0.2 Right at signal onto Prices Fork Rd.
- 1.3 Pass signal in Hethwood at Heather Dr.
- 2.6 Left onto Merrimac Rd.
- 4.3 Curve to the right near Old Sewage Treatment Plant.
- 6.2 Left onto Hightop Rd.
- 6.7 Pass Huckleberry bike route which crosses road.
- 7.3 Pass under bridge for US 460.
- 7.4 Curve left onto Main St. Watch for traffic on right exiting US 460.
- 7.6 Left on Yellow Sulphur Rd., then right onto Ramble Rd.
- 8.6 Curve left at VPI airport as Ramble Rd. becomes Tech Center Dr.
- 9.1 As Tech Center Dr. curves right at west end of airport, stay on Tech Center Dr. or use bike lane on left side of road.

### **MILE DIRECTIONS (continued)**

- 9.6 Cross Huckleberry Trail again just before road descends to football stadium.
- 10.0 Left onto Southgate Dr.
- 10.1 Right onto Spring St.
- 10.4 Left onto Washington St.
- 10.6 Right onto West Campus Dr.
- 10.9 Right onto road around Drillfield.
- 11.8 Right onto West Campus Dr.
- 12.2 Left onto Prices Fork Rd.
- 12.4 Right into University City Blvd.
- 12.6 Return to start.

There is some traffic on Prices Fork Road, particularly during rush hours, but there are lanes on each side of the road for bicyclers. The Merrimac Road is hilly, more rural, but has occasional speeding cars on the straight stretches.

