**Ride With GPS – Quick Tips**

Paul Selden January 17, 2013

**Overview**

The Ride With GPS (RWGPS) website is <http://ridewithgps.com/>

Signing up is free. It requires email address for confirmation (they don’t send junk emails); a “display name,” and password. You can edit your profile/preferences later, including whether to be named as the “Submitter” (author) of your maps.

Sharing maps is easy. After saving a map its address can be sent to others and made public (e.g., http://ridewithgps.com/routes/1654598).

RWGPS offers Help (“? How do I…”). The quick video tutorials are highly recommended\*.

**Drawing Maps**

Click on the “Add Content” tab. You’ll see many options, including drawing from scratch and uploading files from various GPS sources. (Uploading is not covered below.)

Draw Route > Start Drawing

Opens an interface based on Google Maps. Main options in the right column include optimized automatic routing for Walking, Cycling or Driving, and Follow Roads (vs. drawing straight Lines directly from point to point). Some options are for more specialized purposes such as creating a cue sheet, points of interest, and adding/removing control points (secondary options such as choosing whether or not to “Enable Distance Markers” may be left at their default settings, except for “Avoid Highways”). Start simple; we can refine and standardize further, later.

For routing on roads, select “Follow Roads” and Optimize for “Cycling.”

To route following bike trails and paths when available (in addition to roads), select “Follow Roads” and Optimize for “Cycling.”

The software automatically generates a route between so-called “control points” you mouse click on the map, building a turn by turn Cue Sheet in the left column and displaying a selectable grade or elevation profile at the bottom.

To prevent RWGPS from generating automatic routing between control points (say, if you intend a different route), click on the desired mode (Cycling or Driving) before you click on the next point and/or create points closer together on your desired route. Drag a route or use Add/Remove Control Point to refine routing that has been generated.

Due to the imprecision of clicking, clicking directly on an intersection to add a point sometimes generates unintended directions. To avoid this, click on points just past an intended turn.

Options at the top center of the map include Undo and Redo, etc. drawing steps.

**Saving**

Click on “Save Route” at the bottom of the right-most column to save your route. (Scroll down to see it if it doesn’t seem to appear.) Name your route, provide a description and other appropriate selections, and click “Save.” After saving you may View the route or Continue to Work on it.

**Editing**

Your routes are listed under the Profile>Routes menu; View or Edit choices appear on the screen.

*\*Note: I am not a RWGPS expert. I learned things watching the videos that could have saved me hours when first trying to use it on my own. Almost everything I know about RWGPS is written above. Use Help, or Email RWGPS if you need assistance not covered above.*