

# The Ride for Cider - 40 miles

## North Liberty to Sutliff Cider

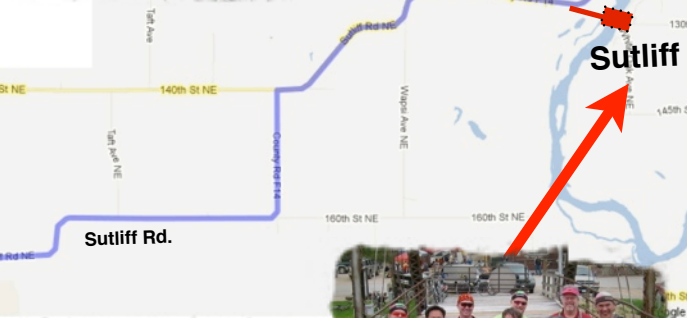
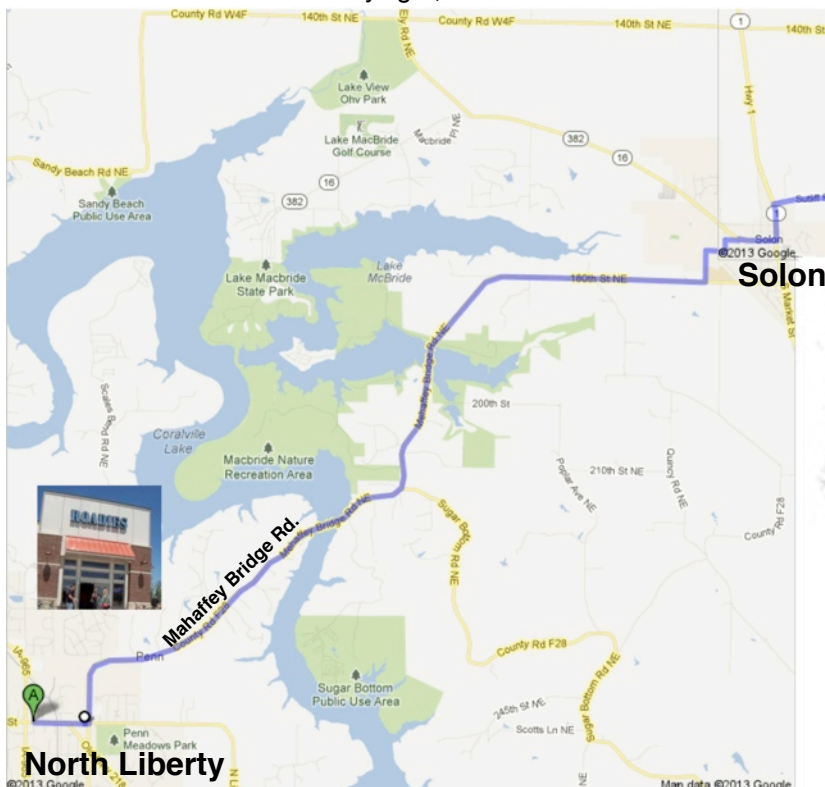
With a side visit to Historic Sutliff Bridge

If you are a true lover of apple cider (be it hard or soft) this ride is for you. Start at Roadies in North Liberty at the corner of Hwy 965 (Coral Ridge Road) and Penn St. It is a mini mall on the North side of Penn St. Leave cars in parking lot but away from store fronts.

From the lot and head east on Penn Street to Mahaffey Bridge Road, then turn left. It's a pleasant ride but the traffic can be busy, so beware. You will cross the Coralville reservoir on the Mahaffey Bridge. Continue on into Solon. Shortly after passing Solon High School, take a left on Iowa St and head 6 blocks to downtown Solon.

To leave Solon, head north on Hwy 1, at stoplight. Hwy 1 is very busy; however, it's for a short distance. At bottom of downgrade exiting town, look for Sutliff Road on the right. Turn onto that road.

Sutliff Road is a winding road, but just remember to alternate between turning east and north when you come to curves or intersections. Traffic is usually light, but be cautious.



Old Sutliff Bridge & Baxa's Lounge

About 8 miles out of Solon, you will cross the Cedar River bridge (in green) that replaced the very old Sutliff Bridge. Shortly after you cross the bridge there will be a road to the right. This is road to Sutliff and follows the river south (about 1/2 mile). You may wish to stop there on way back.

From the bridge it is 3 miles to Sutliff Cider. It is housed in neat old barn on the left side of the road (see insert).

Sutliff Cider is a neat facility with indoor and outdoor tables. Like many bodegas/wineries, they ALLOW you to bring food. So when in Solon, stop at the grocery store downtown and pick up cheese and crackers. They sell both hard and soft cider on draft or in a bottle. The apples are grown, squeezed, and cider fermented on site. **Do buy the bottle! You will love it!**

Sutliff Cider often has private parties as well as scheduled entertainment. Therefore; it is always best to check on-line to see what is happening before your set your ride date. The web site address for Sutliff Cider is: <http://www.sutliffcider.com/>

On the way back, you may want to visit the small burg of Sutliff and historic Sutliff Bridge and Baxa's Store. This bridge was partially destroyed by the flood of 2008. The MelonHeads were the last bike team to have their picture taken on this bridge, a mere 34 days before its demise (see picture above). Contrary to local fork-lore, we were not the cause of the bridge's collapse. It is currently under restoration. When completed, you will be able to cross this bridge (in RED on map) and link into the road back to Solon. We did this a lot to save a mile before the flood of 2008. **This is a GREAT Ride!**

When you get back to North Liberty stop at Roadies for a brew. Ask to see or buy the Roadie's bike jersey. **It's a hoot!**