

Day 6 14th June 2017
Wet camp in the Mission Mountains to Seeley Lake

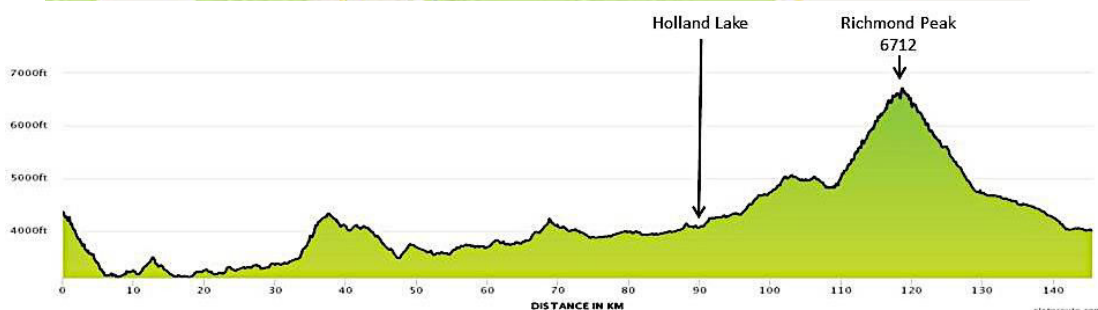
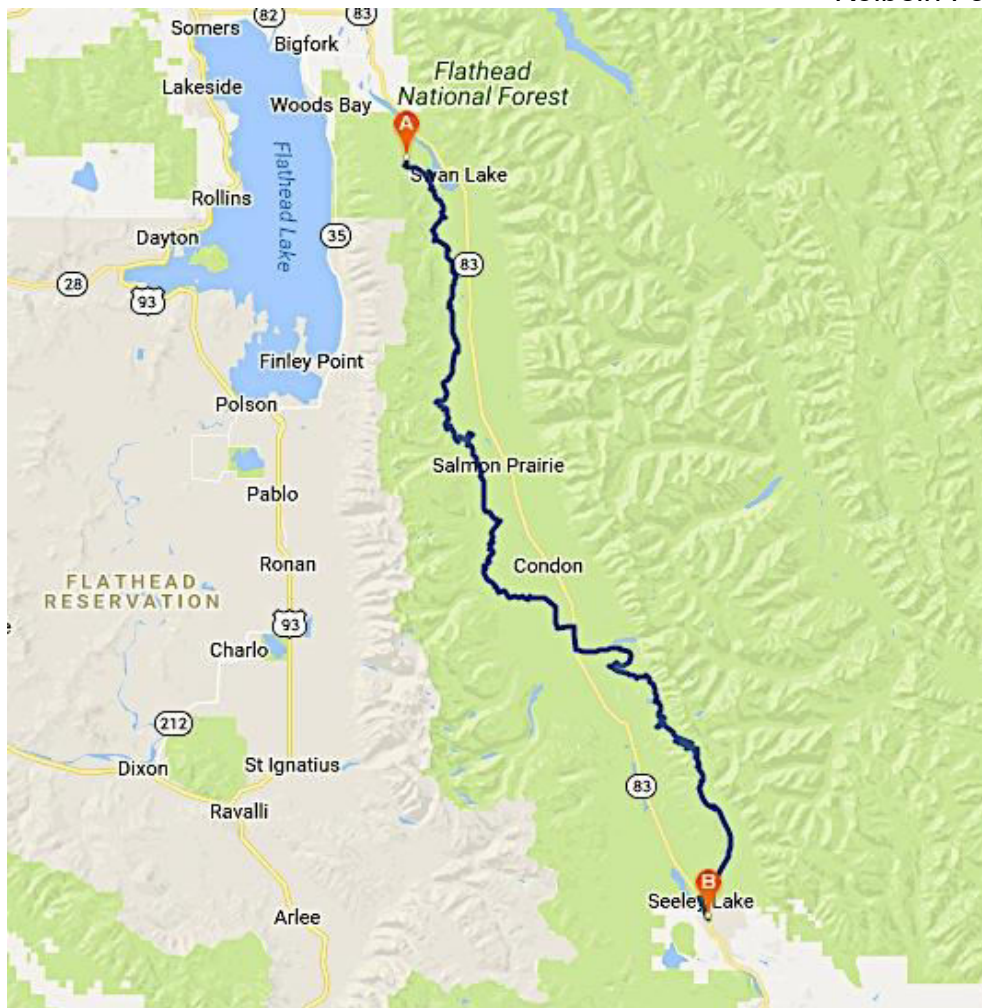
145.5k / 90.4miles

2951m / 9681ft (3059m / 10,036ft descent)

45%↑ 43.6%↓ 11.4%→ 48.9% max!!

*It's morning again, ...
and the world's drying off with fresh-laundered sunshine.*

Kolbein Falkeid¹



Another hilly day which dawned dull but definitely not raining. The plan today was for Adrian and I to get as far as Seeley Lake and hopefully share a room overnight.

1. Uncle Google says: 'One of the most widely read contemporary Norwegian poets', implying that there are several widely read contemporary Norwegian poets – I need to get out more.

Unfortunately despite waiting for Adrian on a couple of occasions eventually he did not reappear, so somewhat guiltily I carried on but I rationalised that it must be remembered we are all independent and he said he was doing a tour rather than the race itself. Hopefully I would see him I Seeley Lake.

Cycling through the woods going south was pleasant. The sun was shining and everything was starting to dry out – saw no bears.



*Moving south towards
Holland Lake*

I elected to leave the route and visit Holland Lake for lunch. I duly turned down the track to the Lodge.

Initially I had a problem finding it! I reached the car park at end of the dusty trail but couldn't see the Lodge. I had to backtrack some 300m.

The Lodge was a pleasant place, even if the service was a little slow. Apparently numerous riders, weathering the storm had slept in their lounge the previous night. Trackleaders gave 23 riders as having spent the night there.

I took the opportunity to dry all, with the emphasis on the word all, my kit in the bright sunshine in the grounds by the lake. I realised that it would take about an hour but thought it a worthwhile investment.

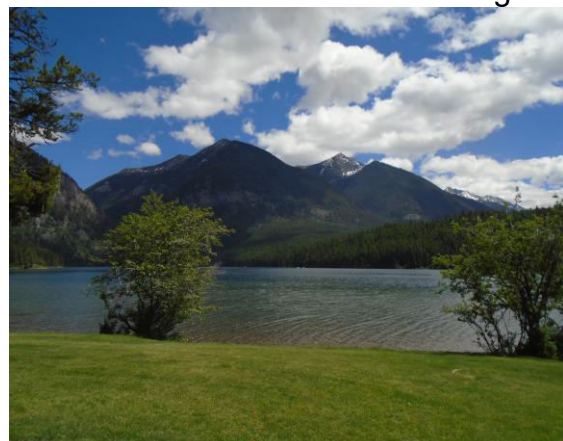
Views from Holland Lake Lodge



They had been married here some 25 years previously.



While I waited I chatted to a couple, both Professors of Music, who had returned to celebrate their wedding.



After Holland Lake, returning to the TD route I very nearly made a rookie 180° error starting off back north but fortunately realised and stopped myself just in time.

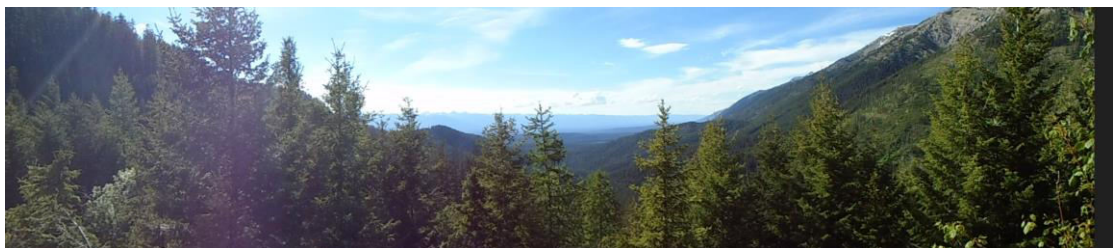
The views climbing Richmond Peak (6,712') were fantastic. Unfortunately you will have to believe me when I say the pictures below do not do it justice:



Panoramic view looking west showing the Grizzly Basin in the Bob Marshall Wilderness



North western part of Bob Marshall Wilderness



Looking north

The climb up to the summit was long but sunny. I was starting to feel better, the lingering nausea from the previous day had begun to settle and the sun was invigorating.

Also it was reassuring that I had succeeded in drying all the kit especially given the last 24 hrs drenching it had received.

Part of the route had washed away, leaving a relatively narrow path.



Given the size of the drop off to the left I walked this bit. Little did I know what Day 29 had in store. This would have seemed like a motorway by comparison!!

*En Route
to Richmond Peak*

Seeley Lake was a bit off the TD route and I resented the height lost but thought at least there would be somewhere inviting to stay.

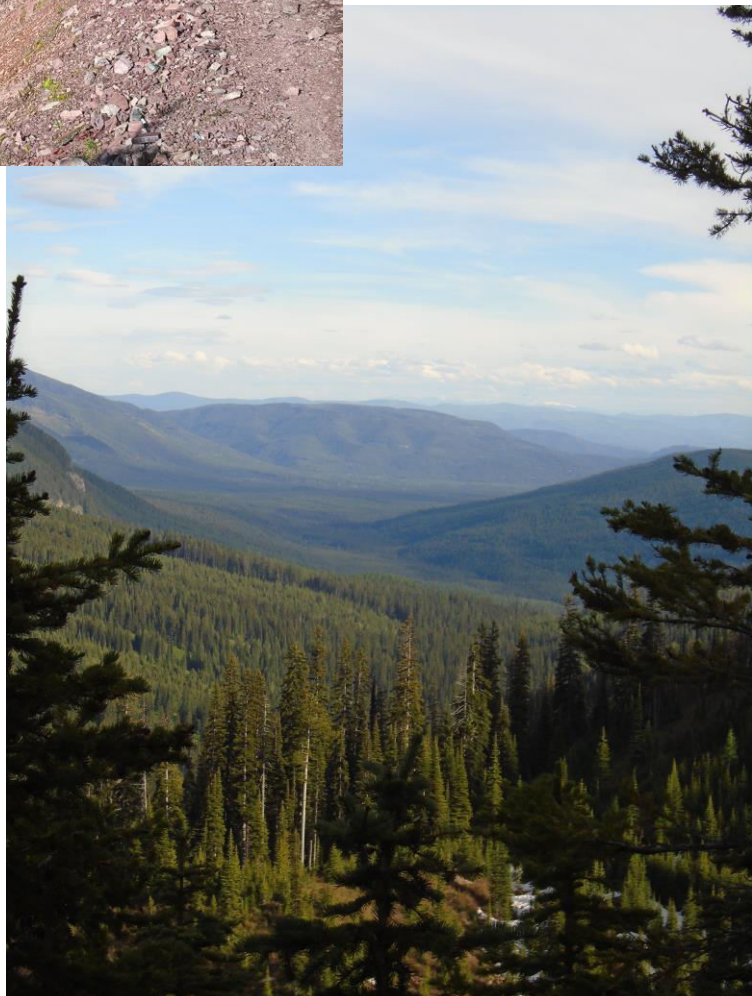
*Looking south
down Morrell Creek
towards Seeley Lake*

I was wrong.

Seeley Lake is a dispersed settlement, and if I am honest not my favourite place.

I think I was too tired to appreciate its finer aspects. In order to get a key for the motel you had to cycle to the other side of 'town'. I think not...

I also resented the distance I would have to cycle in order to get to the campsite.



Instead I had some food and a beer in a noisy bar next to the filling station.

I then stocked up at the store down the road. It was getting dark and surprisingly cold and as the official campsite seemed too far away given my physical state I asked if the Lot by the side of the store was free. It was. So I bedded down there, behind a disused trailer. Not quite what I had intended when I set off this morning but it was fine.

Slept relatively very well, although I did note that I was starting to need a shower!!