



2024 BDF Grand Fondue Event Notes

*Presented by Dirty Kitten Productions; Sponsored by Bike Doctor Frederick
Hosted by Orchid Cellar Meadery & Winery; Benefiting Heartly House*

Join us at [Orchid Cellar Meadery & Winery](#) on Saturday, October 26th for a casual and fun, yet challenging, ride on a variety of terrain. The ride begins in Middletown, MD and tours through various parts of Frederick County. Our goal is to highlight some of the beautiful, rural roads in this area while pushing you to explore your limits on pavement, gravel, and a little dirt!

Event entry includes: Prepared routes (including GPS files, cue sheets, and maps), aid stations (Half & Grand routes only), ONE free drink with a custom glass per participant served at Orchid Cellar Meadery following the ride (for participants 21+), ride snacks, live music, gear swap, and various prizes/giveaways!

Location: [Orchid Cellar Meadery & Winery](#) - 8546 Pete Wiles Rd, Middletown, MD 21769

Registration Fees (prices increase 8/1, 9/1, and 10/1):

- Grand Fondue - \$40, \$50, \$60
- Half Fondue - \$35, \$45, \$55
- Mini Fondue - \$30, \$35, \$40

NO refunds, transfers, or deferments. All no-show registration will be donated to Heartly House. Day-of registration is available if the event isn't sold out (an additional \$5 will be added)

Parking: Orchid Cellar Meadery & Winery (follow signs & volunteers upon arrival)

Registration: The venue will open at 7:00am. Please DO NOT arrive earlier than 7am as staff & volunteers may not be available. Start times are "rolling" (see below).

Start Times: 8:00-9:00am (Grand); 9:00-10:00am (Half); 10:00-11:00am (Mini)

**Grand Fondue (100 mile) participants may start as early as 7:30am after sunrise. Sunset is about 6:30pm so plan to be back before dark. We may direct riders back along a shorter route if timing becomes a safety concern. If you think you will be pushing sunset, bring lights!*

Distance & Elevation: Grand - approx 100 miles & 10,500 ft elevation; Half - approx 55 miles & 5,800 ft elevation; Mini - approx 25 miles & 2,000 ft elevation

Difficulty: Grand (extremely challenging), Half (challenging), Mini (moderate)

Terrain (mixed-surface): pavement, gravel, and dirt with optional trail sections for Grand & Half only (all trail sections are optional; you can choose to skip them and take the adjacent road instead)

**Road bikes with narrow tires are NOT recommended*

Routes: RideWithGPS route files can be found [HERE](#)

***Participants will be riding on open, public roads and must adhere to all Maryland State Traffic Laws. Roads will NOT be marked with signage. Be sure to download the GPS route files before arrival and/or bring a cue sheet so you are prepared. Some areas in the Watershed are more remote and may not have cell phone service (we plan to have those areas marked).**

Aid Station: Grand & Half routes ONLY. Other gas stations & stores may be accessible along the route. There will be a “mini” rest stop on the Grand route with water and some light snacks. We will have food (grilled cheese sandwiches!), water, and support provided by Bike Doctor Frederick at ThorpeWood Barn. Look for the Dirty Kitten signs to direct you.

1. Beltran’s House - 13407 Brandenburg Hollow Rd
 - o Grand Fondue ONLY: approx 40 miles
2. [ThorpeWood](#) Barn - 13002 Mink Farm Rd, Thurmont, MD
 - o Grand Fondue: approx 60 miles
 - o Half Fondue: approx 34 miles

Support: Ride support provided by [Bike Doctor Frederick](#)

**Please plan to be mostly self-supported for this ride. There are aid stations and volunteers available, but riders won’t have full support along the entire route so plan accordingly based on what YOU need for yourself during your ride. Our volunteers are not your own personal bike mechanics or Uber drivers. Everyone is expected to be able to take care of themselves throughout the day. That means pack whatever food, water, and supplies you need for your ride.*

Food & Drink: [Boxcar Burgers](#) food truck will be at the after-party (12-6pm) along with mead and wine served by [Orchid Cellar](#) (21+ participants only). Feel free to bring your own food and non-alcoholic beverages. **NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL PERMITTED.**

Gear Swap: Bring lightly used cycling gear, parts, and accessories to donate or swap/trade (no For Sale items). Leftover items will be donated to a local cycling nonprofit organization.

Medical: Emergency/EMS personnel will be stationed at the start/finish area for basic First Aid needs. If a serious emergency arises, call 911. Thank you to [On the Trail First Aid](#) (Wilderness First Aid, Standard First Aid, CPR/AED, Health Care)

Contacts: Alex & Chris Howell - [Dirty Kitten Productions](#) (fondue@dirtykittengravel.com) 240-215-4818; [Bike Doctor Frederick](#) (bikedrfrederick@gmail.com)



This event benefits [Hearty House](#) in Frederick, MD: A non-profit organization that provides services, free of charge, to survivors of domestic abuse, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, human trafficking, and child abuse. Hearty House also works to develop community awareness programs and prevention education in the area. Proceeds from this event will be donated directly to Hearty House. You may choose to make an additional donation directly through their website.