

Shakedown ride, Col de la Charmette from the backside



This innocent little road takes you up the backside of the Col de la Charmette. The FUN side.



This is the experience I seek out!

Details coming later today, but for now, suffice it to say we completed a [ride that Kevin and I started 2 years ago](#), doing the infamous "other" side of the Col de la Charmette, up Route Forestiere. Many claims that the road isn't for riding on anything but a mountain bike, but, if you're willing to walk over just a couple of places where rocks might slice your tires, and probably walk through one dark tunnel as well (again, because sharp rocks might do a number on your tires), you could ride any road bike up it. Provided you have reasonably-low gears that is! And yes, parts of this are pretty steep, with kilometer sections averaging 10, 11 & 12 percent. You will be working! Thankfully, our Bike Fridays were up to the task, as usual.



Cool view maybe half-way up



The top half is completely closed to cars



The top is worth smiling about. It takes a lot of work to get here!