



PHOTOS BY JOHN WALKER/THE FRESNO BEE  
William Nowlan pumps his fist Saturday at reaching the top in the Climb to Kaiser. The 155-mile race was won by Vince Owens of Fresno and Brandon Franklin of Clovis, who completed the annual ride in record time.

## Two win Kaiser climb

Riders from Fresno, Clovis finish together in record time.

### The Fresno Bee

Vince Owens of Fresno and Brandon Franklin of Clovis completed the annual 155-mile Climb to Kaiser bike ride in record fashion Saturday — crossing the finish line together in a record 8 hours, 4 minutes.

Owens said he was motivated by a cash reward put up by friends who said they'd give him \$600 if he could break the previous record of 8:23.

"That's why I did it. ... I knew Brandon Franklin was going to do it. I figured if he and I did it, it would be a lot easier with two guys because Brandon's a really strong rider."

Owens, 28, said this was the first time he attempted to finish the entire course, which begins in Clovis, goes to the top of 9,200-foot Kaiser Pass

in the Sierra National Forest and returns.

Owens said it was hard descending the course because of the heat. He said it was good that he and Franklin, 24, finished the race early in the afternoon before temperatures reached their highest in the mid-100s.

Franklin finished the ride first last year and said coming down from the peaks was like "descending into a furnace."

Ride coordinator John Craft said there was a typical amount of riders sagging in because of the heat.

The odd moment of the day was when a calf ran onto the road near Burrough Valley and into a cyclist. The cyclist's bike flipped and he was taken to a hospital and treated for a broken shoulder, Craft said.



### MORE ONLINE

For video of the Climb to Kaiser, visit [fresnobee.com](http://fresnobee.com).



**Clockwise from left:** Mandy Arevalo rides past wildflowers along Ashlan Avenue during the first part of the climb. At far left, Lisa Williams reaches the top and gets support from flag-waving Larry Kirchert. At top, McKay Florence sails along Highway 168 in the downhill portion of the climb. And above, riders take a break for refreshments and more sunscreen on the Kaiser Pass.