

## First the Bear- then the Grizzly: A 'brutal' race to the finish

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After finishing eleventh in last Thursday night's Bear footrace, 29-year-old Andy Mitcheltree of Blowing Rock placed first in Friday's Grizzly bike race.

It took Mitcheltree three hours, ten minutes, and fifteen seconds to complete Grandfather Mountain's first-ever bike race. It was an experience he called "brutal." With sixty-five miles of winding mountain road in between, "brutal" was not an exaggeration, according to the sixty total participants. The track took cyclists through Elk Park, Beech Mountain, Banner Elk and Newland while they climbed a staggering 7,000 feet. The race raised funds for the Western Youth Network, an organization providing a number of services to youth and their families in the High Country. The first female cyclist to return to MacRae Meadows was Blowing Rock's 29-year-old Robin Farina with a time of 3 hours, 19 minutes and 30 seconds.