



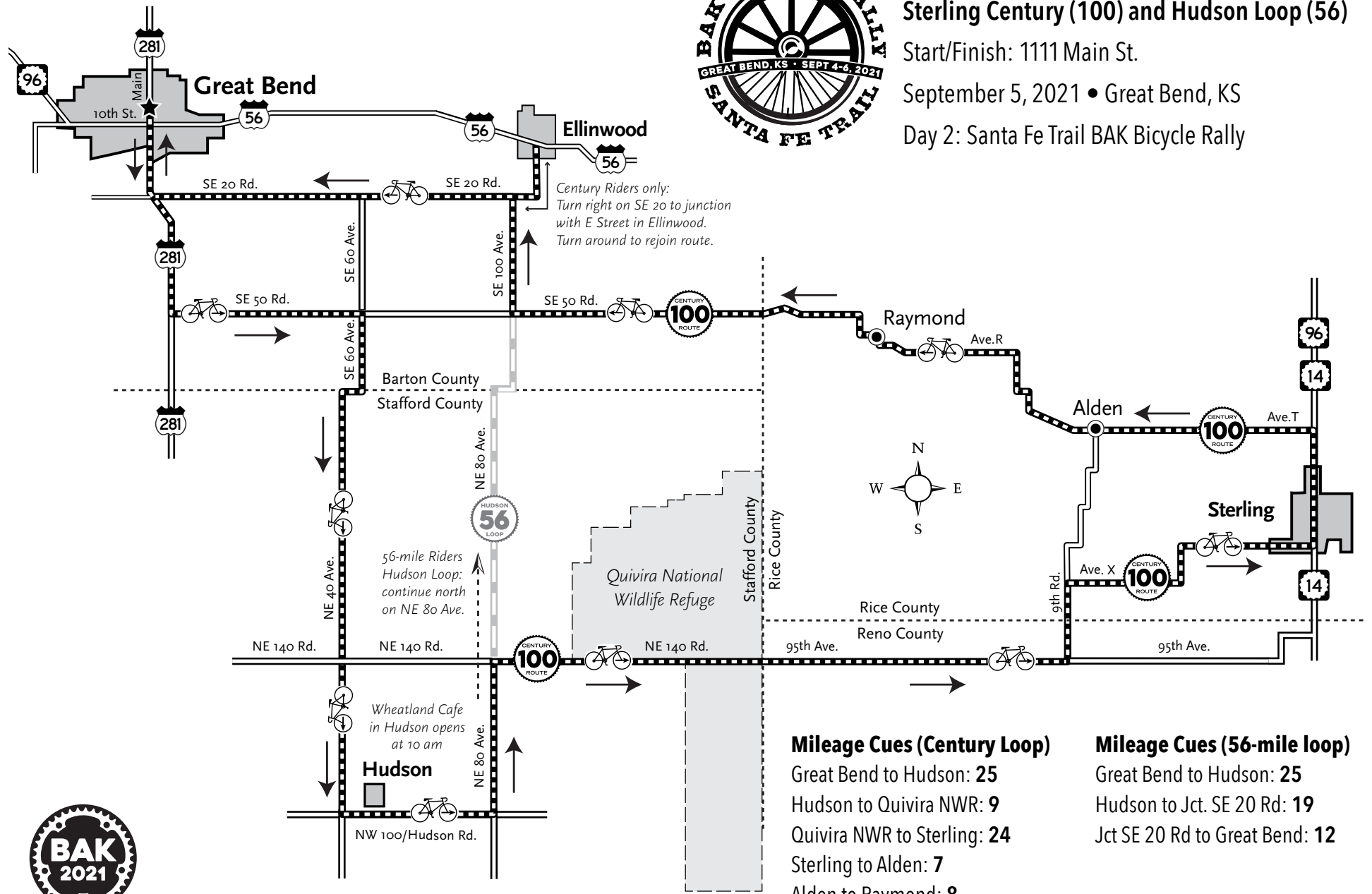
# Arkansas Valley Ramble

Sterling Century (100) and Hudson Loop (56)

Start/Finish: 1111 Main St.

September 5, 2021 • Great Bend, KS

Day 2: Santa Fe Trail BAK Bicycle Rally



Century Riders only:  
Turn right on SE 20 to junction with E Street in Ellinwood.  
Turn around to rejoin route.

56-mile Riders  
Hudson Loop:  
continue north  
on NE 80 Ave.

Wheatland Cafe  
in Hudson opens  
at 10 am

### Mileage Cues (Century Loop)

- Great Bend to Hudson: 25
- Hudson to Quivira NWR: 9
- Quivira NWR to Sterling: 24
- Sterling to Alden: 7
- Alden to Raymond: 8
- Raymond to Ellinwood: 14
- Ellinwood to Great Bend: 13

### Mileage Cues (56-mile loop)

- Great Bend to Hudson: 25
- Hudson to Jct. SE 20 Rd: 19
- Jct SE 20 Rd to Great Bend: 12



## Sunday, September 5

### Route Notes: Arkansas River Valley Ramble

Sterling Loop Route Map: <https://bit.ly/2SOowtD>

Hudson Loop Route Map: <https://bit.ly/3vVrvhm>

**Wetlands and Wildlife National Scenic Byway:** K-156, K-4, US-281, and paved roads in Barton, Stafford, and Reno Counties. 77-miles of a birder's paradise for seeing waterfowl, shorebirds, and whooping cranes. Includes Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and Cheyenne Bottoms.

**Stafford County:** pop. 4,181. Organized in 1873, it was almost eliminated when the Legislature of 1874 divided the territory between Pawnee, Barton, and Pratt Counties. It was discovered later that a 6-mile x 12-mile strip remained. On April 25, 1875 the Supreme Court declared the divisions unconstitutional and the county was restored to its original boundaries. It is named in memory of Lewis Stafford, captain of Company E, First Kansas Infantry.

**Hudson:** pop. 99. Incorporated in 1908, the town has a history dating back to 1887 when it was first plotted by Daniel Updegraff, a New York immigrant associated with the Hudson Bay Company. Hudson suffered several fires between 1904 and 1921, one which destroyed the "Flats" business district.

The City Park and Hudson Community Hall welcome bicyclists riding the Trans America Trail. The Wheatland Cafe welcomes people from around the world for its Sunday buffet (open for Rally riders at 10 a.m.).

**Stafford County Flour Mill.** 108 S. Church St. Established in 1904 by Gustav Krug, this is one of the last independent flour mills in the country. It's Hudson Cream Flour is famous and a baker's delight. It is recognized as one of the "8 Wonders of Kansas Commerce."

**Quivira National Wildlife Refuge:** This "Oasis of the Great Plains" is visited yearly by nearly 500,000 migrating birds. It was established in 1955 to provide and protect habitat for migrating waterfowl in the Central Flyway. The 22,135 acres feature prairie grasses, salt water marshes, sand dunes, canals, and timber. It is recognized as an original "8 Wonders of Kansas" for its vital and international importance as a migrating stop for North American shore birds.

**Quivira National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Education:** 3/4 mile off 140th St/140 Ave junction.

**Reno County:** pop. 61,998. Named for Major-General Jesse Lee Reno who fought in the Civil War and died in the line of duty at the Battle of South Mountain in Maryland in 1862.

**Rice County:** pop. 9,658. Named for General Samuel A. Rice, who was killed at Jenkins Ferry, Arkansas, in the Civil War. The geographic center of Kansas is in Rice County

**Sterling:** pop. 2596. Originally named Peace when founded in 1872 but changed to Sterling after Sterling Rosan. In the 1890s Jonathan S. Dillon sold groceries at the general store. In 1913, he moved to Hutchinson and opened his first market, which became the Dillons supermarket chain. The 1955 movie *Picnic* featured Sterling Lake (2 blocks east of Hwy 14) in a sequence; the boathouse was built for the movie.

Since BAK's overnight stop in 2015, Sterling has become a stronger bicycling community and now promotes bicycling as a tourist option. Many cyclists stay in Sterling as they travel the TransAmerica and American Discovery Trails.

**Bronze Sculptures:** "The Doctor Is In" (2007), outside of Dysart Park (NW of S Broadway & Monroe); "Little Picasso," outside of Studio 96 (121 S Broadway); "Best Friends" (2007), outside of Library (SW of N Broadway & E Jefferson); "Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet" (John 13:1-17) (Sterling College, NW of N Broadway & W Cooper Ave).

**TNT Dairyland:** 131 S Broadway. Formerly Phillips Filling Station C. 1933. Built by the Phillips Petroleum Company and was leased to a local business owner for 21 years before becoming the food stop it is today.

**Charles K. Beckett House** (NRHP): 210 W Main. Italianate, Second Empire architectural style.

**Cooper Hall** (NRHP): Sterling College, N Broadway Ave.

**Alden:** pop. 121. Founded in 1872, it was a station on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway. It was named after Alden Speare, a railroad employee.

**Raymond:** pop. 76. Founded in 1871, it's the oldest town in Rice County. The town was named after Emmons Raymond. The town was known as a wild cowtown and was a stop along the Santa Fe Railroad.

**Ellinwood:** pop. 2,063. Founded in the 1870s by German immigrants, the town had a two-block business district. However, below ground, there was another set of stores and businesses, connected by underground walkways. At one time, it included 11 saloons.