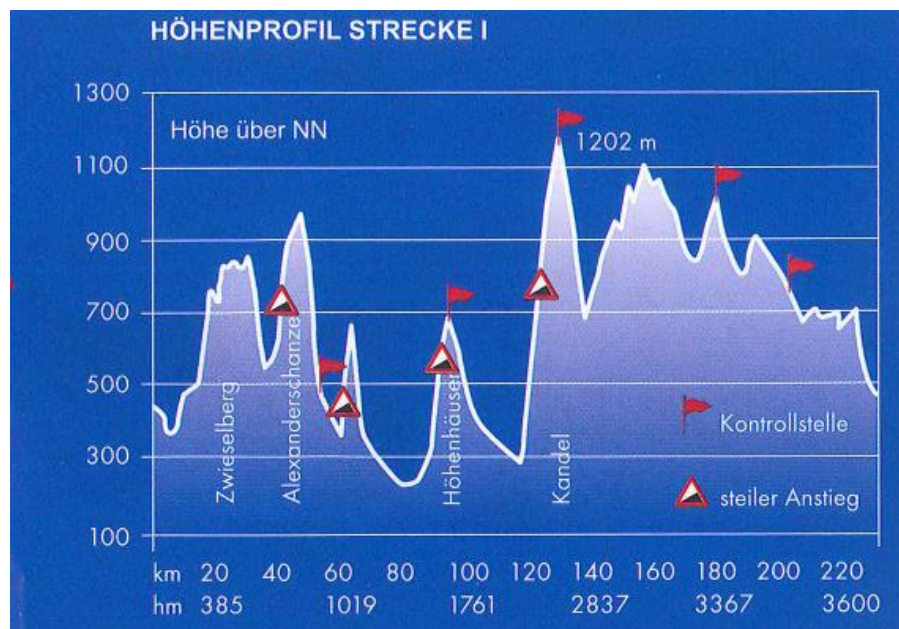


At the end of 2017 I saw myself in a good shape and wanted to find my main challenge for 2018. I was looking for an endurance bicycle tour like the Oetzaler. I found the SURM (Schwarzwald Ultra Rad Marathon) with declared 230km and 4070m elevation, it got a good reference as a good organized tour with alpine like climbs, 4 climbs were declared as steep. I was motivated by the tour profile because the hardest climbs and almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of the height meters were done by $\frac{1}{2}$ of the route by climbing the Kandel. I could attract Jørgen Holm, John Hansen, Thomas Schaukal for the tour and we went for the SURM in Sep. 2018. We arrived Alpirsbach Saturday midday. After checking the location and getting our start numbers we went for a 35km teaser tour where we took the first climb on the route. After the teaser tour I was left with the feeling of excitement and fear for the long tour.



The hotel we stayed at was prepared for the SURM and offered breakfast from 6 o'clock in the morning so that we could be at the start at 7 o'clock. The event was declared as a Rad Touristik Fahrt which means that it was no race and that the traffic rules needed to be followed; my feeling was that the riders did follow the rule to a high degree. We didn't get a transponder and took the time on our bike computers. The start was in groups of approximately 20-30 cyclists. We started driving slightly down and had to turn right after 3-5km. Unluckily the turn was a little bit unclear and it got messy and Thomas was hidden frontal by another cyclist during this messy situation and needed to drop out of the tour.

The 1st steep climb was hard and the second even harder as it started with 12% increase. I couldn't keep Jørgen and John's pace and we decided that I continue at my speed; instead of trying to hold their pace. The climbs declared as steep were surprising hard and challenging and the fear for the Kandel was increasing for each height meter we absorbed.

On the remaining 100 km after the Kandel there were no long steep climbs left. But anyhow we had to overcome one more 15km long relative flat climb.

From the depot at km 160-170 my motivation was that there were only some short climbs left and the last 10 km were only with decreasing slope. The last 30-40 km were relative relaxed riding.

The depots were good and well organized. We got fruit, yoghurt, bread, soup, cake, water, ISO drink and warm drinks as well. At the last depot they served beer.

The roads were in good condition and we could easily let the bike run with 65 km/h (downhill) without feeling insecure. We did not get into a lot of traffic. The most traffic was on the way up to the top of the Kandel, as this a popular sightseeing point in the area. Also, in the start and finish area the SURM was well organized. The tour was declared to be 230km with 4070hm. Our computers showed around 240 km with a bit less than 4000 hm. I was happy and proud that I finished the tour. It was very different driving compared to Grejsdal where you have a lot of "short" climbs.

Getting to Alpirsbach takes ~10 Hours' drive by car and you need to plan with 4 days; I feel that it was worse the effort. I would like to take the challenge again, Jørgen is already provoking me to take a tour called Schwarzwald Super which seems to be even harder.







Ein echter Kracher zum Saisonabschluss gefällig? Der Schwarzwald-Ultra-Radmarathon, kurz SURM, hält Anstiege von alpinem Niveau bereit und deckt gnadenlos auf, wie viele Trainingskilometer tatsächlich in den Beinen stecken. Drei Strecken führen beim SURM durch den Schwarzwald. Die Königsdistanz ist der Ultramarathon über 230 Kilometer mit über 4000 Höhenmetern. Die Namen der Anstiege sind in Rennradlerkreisen berühmt-berüchtigt: Zwieselberg, Kniebis, Löcherberg, Geisberg. Der „Scharfrichter“ der Tour ist aber der Kandel. Der Anstieg auf den 1202 Meter hohen Berg verlangt auf 13 Kilometern mit 900 Höhenmetern seinen Tribut an Körnern. Doch die weiten Ausblicke über den dunklen Wald im Südwesten Deutschlands sind alle Mühen wert.

Herausforderung im Schwarzwald

Der SURM gilt als einer der schwersten Radmarathons Deutschlands. Wer ihn bezwingt, schafft auch den „Ötzi“, heißt es. Wer sich die ultralange Distanz mit sieben Gipfelpassagen noch nicht zutraut, dem bieten die Veranstalter zwei weitere schöne und schwere Strecken: 147 Kilometer klingen zunächst gut machbar, doch bitte nicht unterschätzen: Die 2200 Höhenmeter haben es in sich. Radmarathoneinsteiger können sich an die dritte Strecke heranwagen, die mit 82 Kilometern und „nur“ 1250 Höhenmetern zu Buche schlägt. Zahlreiche Elitefahrer stehen beim SURM immer wieder gern am Start. Auch aufgrund dessen, weil der Marathon mit Start und Ziel in Alpirsbach für seine gute Organisation bekannt ist.



DER SCHWARZWALD

Der Schwarzwald – berühmt für Kuckucksuhren, die Brinkmannsche Klinik, Bollenhütte und knackige Radrennen. Neben dem Schwarzwald-Ultra-Radmarathon findet auch das Mountainbikerennen „Black Forest Ultra Bike“ in Kirchzarten im Schwarzwald statt. Der höchste Berg des höchsten deutschen Mittelgebirges ist der Feldberg mit stolzen 1493 Metern.