

## The GoPro “HD” Hero Wide Sports Camera

By Tom Niemela

I've had excellent results with GoPro's Hero Wide Sports Cam, and then I acquired the HD version. I'd ridden with and viewed some recent rides from friends who snagged the high-definition (HD) version and the results were nothing short of phenomenal! Being a camera junky, I just had to try the HD version.

Once I received this unit, it was clear that GoPro had updated a few things. The first item that stood out was the new lithium-ion battery, instead of the previous AAA batteries. This was a big improvement, since the AAA's that I had been sporting just didn't seem to have enough life in them for much more than an hour of recording. The new battery looked to be a big improvement and claims to record for three hours.

The new HD retains the previous wide-angle 170 degree lens, which seems about perfect for off-road use. It also incorporates three new sweet recording resolutions of: 1080p (1980 x 1080), 960p (1280 x 960) and 720p (1280 x 720). At 1080p and 960p resolution video is captured at 30 fps, while at its lowest 720p resolution video can be captured at 60 fps, which is great for playing back in slow motion – perfect for when you catch your buddies bailing! Videos are encoded using the popular and high quality H.264 video compression format before being stored on the standard SDHC memory cards. The video quality is so good that I can easily see leaves and miniature details in the soil as I ride down the trails. Plus, just plug it into your large-screen TV and use playback to watch the video full screen – nice!

It also now supports up to 32GB SDHC cards, so no more swapping out those darned memory cards every hour or so. Beware though – your hard disk drive will now start filling up rapidly with all your newly-recorded, priceless ride videos!

The new HD is only slightly bigger than its sibling predecessor, so size is still quite small. And it still retains the same mounting brackets from the earlier versions, so you don't have to head out and purchase yet new mounting parts if upgrading.

In summary, the new HD GoPro is a smoking deal at \$299, since you get a clear wide-angle lens, rechargeable battery, waterproof case, larger recording times, proven mounting capabilities and best of all – high definition! Run to your local bike shop, or onto the web, and get one:

[www.goprocamera.com](http://www.goprocamera.com)

Finally, for comparison purposes, here is video from the GoPro Hero Wide Camera:

<http://vimeo.com/7675447>

...and here is video from the GoPro “High-Definition” Hero Wide Camera:

<http://vimeo.com/17047561>

