

## Hope the video from today's ride comes out well!

First of all, let me get one thing out in the open. Again. I hate sunrises. I don't like getting up when it's dark outside, and I've got one ride left, Thursday, where it will be even-darker than it was today. After that standard time kicks in and it will be like getting up an hour later. I'm ready!

Thankfully, by the time Kevin and I are out the garage, the sun's decided to come up, but just barely. And just barely today meant that street were still a bit damp, and we still had some drizzle up on Skyline. But a great ride, large group (Karen, Kevin, Kevin, Marcus, Eric, Karl, JR, Keith... 9 including myself). In some ways, it was a turning-back-the-clock ride, as I was quite a bit stronger than Kevin (my son), and actually circled back on Kings at one point to make sure he was OK. He was; just a bit slow right now, from lack of miles.

The video I'm hoping to post shortly? As we were descending 84 west, towards Old LaHonda, we came upon "Men Working" signs and finally a flagman stopping us. Why? Huge tree on the left, tilting at a threatening angle, being removed bit-by-bit. And how do you remove a huge tree, bit-by-bit? By having some guy way up at the top of it, attached by straps, and cutting off three-foot-tall sections at a time and pushing them off the top, dropping quite a distance to the road below. Even though not very close, you could feel the earth shake, and when it bounced down the embankment it made contact with trees, shaking them violently enough to snap branches which then dropped to the road. Very cool indeed!

The upper part of West Old LaHonda was a solid carpet of debris from the trees above, so much so that you couldn't see any part of the road surface below. But after riding that piece of road so many hundreds of times, I could navigate it blindfolded, so not that big a deal.

Overall, pretty darned nice ride, even though a bit wet, even though a bit cold, even though dark when I got up. Guess it's going to be quite a few months before I get to venture out without leg warmers again. Darn! --Mike--