

## Unexpectedly-awesome Sequoia Century



Back in the day, the Sequoia Century was known for its 100 mile route that included a loop into Santa Cruz. I'd always looked forward to that, and in the years since it's been removed, it just hasn't quite been the same. In fact, last year Kevin and I didn't even do the full 100 miles, opting instead to just ride 75, skipping the Gazos Creek extension.

Today, things would be different. I didn't even consider a shorter option, and it turned out to be a great ride. Sure, Redwood Gulch was still not much fun (much?), and it did turn a bit gray as we descended West Alpine towards the coast. But as we headed towards the coast after the LaHonda rest stop, we tacked onto a "train" that was running a bit faster than ours, and rode the entire coast section with two guys (Dave & Orion) that pushed us to go faster, while giving us some protection (drafting) from the winds on the coast. There's no question we wouldn't have had so many Strava "accomplishment" if we hadn't hooked up with them! And Kevin even spent quite a bit of time at the front, driving the pace.

The end result was a really enjoyable ride. The only modification was due to the fact that we rode our bikes to the start (Foothill College), and ended the ride back home, instead of riding back to Foothill College. It actually added a few miles too; 104 instead of 100.