

## Tough ride, why heavier at the end than we started?



Yes, been awhile. Again. Last Tuesday's ride was another strong one for me, having to circle around and wait again at the wide-open space 2/3rds up Kings. Thursday, another story, as I got to watch Kevin and Kevin ride away from me. Tomorrow, who knows. Not real hopeful, since it's gotten pretty cold again, and clearly, I don't do cold well. But yesterday?

Yesterday it was time to do the reference ride again, Pescadero/Tunitas. We took it easy up Old LaHonda, Kevin not showing the cards in his hand. Haskins was another thing entirely; I held on all the way to Sam McDonald Park, and then Kevin left me in the dust. Just rode off and didn't look back. I wasn't feeling it, and when I saw a couple guys behind, just tried to make it to the top ahead of them. Which I did, just barely. Kevin was upset he missed his PR by just 6 seconds; it's amazing how hard he can go without many miles. Maybe it has something to do with being in your 20s instead of 60s?



Almost forgot about our first rattlesnake sighting of the year. Unfortunately, it was a dead baby rattler, on West Old LaHonda. We did stop to make sure it was actually dead and, even though it was, I still moved it off the road. It's been a while since we've seen a rattler, so maybe a sign of seeing more again.

Pescadero. Finally, giant cookies again! And finally, we remembered, too late, why it makes sense to split one giant cookie between us, or just bring half of it home. We were pretty bogged down the rest of the ride home, particularly on Stage. Yeah, one half of a cookie, or one half of the macaroon I ate, would have been enough.

Funny thing on Tunitas; I started to feel strong again. Able to dump the bike into a higher gear and push myself up the hill, having to wait here and there for Kevin. But while I felt decent, it was nothing like Kevin's heroic effort up Haskins just a couple hours earlier.

Pretty sure that, had I been "off" on all the climbs, I wouldn't have bought the plane tickets for France. But there's still something left to play with in the Alps and Pyrenees. This will be the first year we're doing both. Will be interesting!