

Nicer weather, new rider, what's not to like?



This was not the easiest photo to take; impossible, while riding and wearing winter gloves, to use an iPhone. Had to stop, try to quickly take a photo before everyone was out of sight, and then race back up to them. Not that great a picture, but had to have something to show for such a beautiful morning. Quite a bit nicer today than Tuesday! Clear skies and dry roads allowed me to leave the 'cross/rain bike at home and ride the Emonda, which really is a much faster bike. Just me heading over Jefferson to the start; Kevin spent part of the morning at Kaiser, having an "interactive brain scan." That's a lot less boring than the normal type; instead of having to stay motionless for quite a few minutes, he got to watch odd images on a screen while the machine figured out what part of his brain was being engaged.

The other Kevin was waiting at the start; surprisingly, I didn't see anyone else on Canada. Cold, yes, but the sun was out & the roads dry; why would you miss a chance to ride just because it's a bit chilly? Within a minute or two we picked up Karl and Karen though; they had run slightly late so they took a shortcut and backtracked to us. On the way up Kings we caught up to Ellen from Stanford; she was planning to do pretty much the same route so we invited her to join us. We've seen quite a few riders in Stanford "kit" the past couple of years, but she's the first to actually join us.

I think I'm going to have to go back to carrying my regular camera again; it's just way too difficult trying to take photos with an iPhone while wearing winter gloves. Would have been really nice to get photos of the trees filtering the morning light. For fast shots, there's just no substitute for a real camera, something you can set up ahead of time for the likely conditions (shutter speed high enough for use while riding). I thought I could get by with an "action cam" (Garmin Virb) and the iPhone, but the quality isn't there with the Virb and, as mentioned, the iPhone is too difficult to use with gloves. I know, I've got Strava to prove I rode, but it's not the same as a really great picture. --Mike--