

A bit cooler but still one heck of a nice day to ride



On the left, Kevin having tacos in Pescadero. On the right, the obligatory shot riding up the final Stage Road climb to the coast, with Skyline in the background.

I asked Kevin yesterday, where should we ride? I was thinking something a bit adventurous, although saddened a bit knowing this would have been the very last chance to get to the Sierras, and that wasn't going to happen. Too much to get done before leaving on vacation with my wife Friday night. So back to the old reliable. Old LaHonda/Pescadero/Tunitas.

As usual Kevin takes off like a bat out of wherever, with me trying to hang onto his wheel. Takes me a good hour, maybe 90 minutes to really get up to full speed, while he can take off hard right from the start. He made it to the top of Old LaHonda a few minutes faster than me, just over 20 minutes, and circled back to find me. I'd like to claim that my three minutes slower was by choice, but no, I was gassed, plain & simple.

Haskins was a different story. It's usually a different story. Kevin kills himself climbing hard on Old LaHonda and I get some measure of revenge on Haskins. Sometimes that just means I can keep up with him, but often I'll actually have the upper hand. Didn't quite break 10 minutes; Strava says 10:10, but at least I did get past the 1000 meters climbing/hour threshold.

We had a different-than-normal ritual in Pescadero today. The sandwich line at the bakery was a couple miles long, and we didn't want to just do the pastry or cooking-thing, so we headed down the street to the combo gas station/tacqueria for a couple of very tasty tacos. Far too tasty to be healthy I think!

Then came the big surprise. Heading north on Stage Road, we actually had a tailwind. Strong enough that, despite the gravel that's been laid down on the road, we were just 13 seconds off my fastest time on that segment. Fastest time of course refers to the post-Strava world, which began about 9 years ago.

Tunitas? We just tried to enjoy the climb at a moderate speed. I'll admit it was a bit difficult, wasting a good tailwind ride to the bottom of the climb, but not really THAT difficult.

Overall a pretty nice ride on a pretty nice Fall day. Quite a bit different than last Sunday's ride in the rain.