

I declare this "A Winter to Ride!"

Pretty amazing out there this morning. 50 degrees, warm enough that most of my breathing problems were gone (still have a cold that's been hanging on too long, but the difference in how my lungs work in 50 vs 40 degree weather is huge). I even hung with the fast guys up to the first hairpin (just over 5 minutes into the climb) before throttling back. Pretty big group despite some of the regulars not in attendance (no Karl, Karen or Eric, but we did have Todd, Kevin, Kevin, Ludo, Nigel, MikeF, Andrew and was Marcus there?).

It was so nice climbing in nearly-balmy weather, warm enough that I was slightly overdressed. Kevin (my son, not the pilot) was apparently overdressed enough that he overheated less than a mile from the top and had a seizure, very unfortunate since he was heading towards one of his best times on the climb.

I'd prefer it if it weren't quite so wet on the descents though. Most of the guys don't seem to mind much, but I'm just not comfortable with my tires sliding around on the rain stripes, probably because it's been a very, very long time since I hit the deck so I'm riding a bit too conservatively.

In the totally-absurd category, just heard Roberta Gonzalez (Channel 5 weatherperson) say that the computer models aren't showing any rain until February 10th???! That's pretty unbelievable. While it's not likely they'll reopen Sonora Pass, it's quite possible Ebbets (Highway 4) and Tioga (120) may give us some interesting opportunities in the weeks ahead.