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In search of "Bliss"

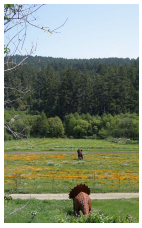
My "blissful" cycling scene, descending Stage Road just north of Pescadero

Yesterday I came across an article about the default Windows XP screen display, that green hillside setting that it's estimated has been seen by over 1 billion people. You can read about it here. The image is called "Bliss" and it got me thinking... is it really that different from what I see most every time I get out on my bike?

So today I set out on a somewhat challenging ride that, as I approached the coast, became blissful. I actually took the time to stop at many places along the way, taking photos, looking for that shot you might see in an advertisement (or on a computer screen).

The ride itself was the reverse Pescadero wit h West Alpine added as a kicker. Head up Old LaHonda, down 84 to San Gregorio, south on Stage Road, east on Pescadero Road over Haskins the hard way, then up West Alpine, north on Skyline and back down 84 into Woodside. A tough 67 miles but surprisingly a bit tougher than normal when you don't stick to it but instead make frequent stops along the way.

Goats, lots of goats, at a ranch on the outskirts of Pescadero.



The gigantic prehistoric mammals squaring off for battle, on Pescadero Road just a mile or two east of Pescadero.

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Gold California Poppies were everywhere. These stood out because they weren’t gold. All others were a uniform shade of gold (ok, orange). Nothing in-between. This was on West Alpine.