

# BREAKFAST RIDERS

**Mt Tam 2009** The weather report was heavy with the chance of rain starting early in the afternoon, but at least the start of the day looked dry,

albeit cloudy. We had nine bikes show up with regulars Steve Dodini, Skip Moffatt, George Schjelderup, Frank White (who covered the tail gunner spot -- thank you), and me. New to the group were Thomas and Lisa Kelch, Bruce and Darlene Campbell, Jeff Williams, and Mike Tislan. The start of the ride was boring freeway -- 80 to 37 to 101. Finally we got to Lucas Valley Rd and the start of twisties. There was traffic, but they either turned off or moved over enough to allow a slight bit of spirited running. This road just gets better the further from Hwy 101 you get. We make it to Nicasio and take our first break. Smiles were big on those riders who had never ran this road -- as it should be. The clouds were still threatening and thick. I warned the group that we may encounter fog as we climb into the upcoming hills. We gathered up and headed out on Nicasio Valley Rd to San Geronimo. A short, sweet, twistie road. I gathered the group on Sir Francis Drake Blvd and then had a leisurely ride to Fairfax with some nice views. When we made it to Fairfax, there were detour signs to get to Bolinas Rd. So we were diverted into the real tight, twisted, hilly, residential area of Fairfax -- with speeds nearing 10 or 15 mph! Then finally onto Bolinas Rd. Shortly out of town, there is a tight right-hander that is my indicator that we have entered the twisty zone. This is a technically challenging road. The road needs to be repaved and it has lots of places with debris. But it is fun! Luckily the bicyclists were not too numerous, nor were we in each other's way. We took a stop at the dam to rest up the arms for the next ration of twisties. I warned the group to keep their eyes out for the upcoming spot that has some serious ejecto-bumps. I found the spot and was able to stop and wave a warning...everyone got through fine. At the top of the hill, we made the turn into the park. The road here is much wider and better paved, but speeds still had to be kept low to keep from getting tickets. The views to the right...the views to the left...oh wow the views! Many thanks to the weather gods for keeping the fog away and the road dry allowing us to sight see. We made the turn onto Pan Toll Rd and started downhill, where brakes and braking skills were tested. Then we made the turn onto the Panoramic Hwy. The road seemed very wide after all the tight enclosed spaces we have been traveling through, but it was still narrow and twisty. Finally onto Hwy 1 -- again it seemed wider still. As we made our way into Stinson Beach, I looked for parking near the restaurant, but found none. So we aimed for the free parking near the beach...only I made the turn one block too soon. It took me a couple of tries to get the right road...sigh. The group did not shred me too hard -- nice. Once parked, we aimed for lunch. Skip, Tom, Lisa, Bruce, Darlene, Jeff, and me aimed for the Sand Dollar while others ate the lunch they brought or opted for the greasy spoon by the beach. We 'luxury diners' strolled back to the bikes where the group awaited us. We saddled up and headed out for Point Reyes Station and gas. This stretch was marred with slow, rude traffic. The gas station was high priced as expected and had installed pay toilets -- the jerks! With tanks full we headed north for Marshall. Making the turn off Hwy 1 onto Marshall-Petaluma Rd got us away from traffic -- mostly. This is a gentler road rising into the pastured hills. We took the brief jog on Wilson Hill Rd to get to Novato Blvd. Twisties all gone...sigh. We then made

the left onto San Marin Dr and plenty of stop signs. I made another mistake and got us on the left turn for Hwy 101 north waiting for the light. The RV along side us was very, very nice and allowed to scoot around him back onto the road -- thank you. Then we made the turn to get onto Hwy 37 and it was freeways all the way home. No rain. No fog. Not too many bugs. Great day.

