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Check It Out!

Ride Report for 10/26/03 Tour of Cleveland National Forest

george vargas

Oct 27, 2003 16:54 PST



Hello Everyone,

Let me begin by saying that I hope everyone in our cycling community is safe and sound. I don't know where most of you live but I do know Malmute is out there in Valley Center and I hope he is unaffected by the fires.

Now for the ride report.

Four riders showed up at the start Paul S. Matt P, David N. and myself. After some hesitation about the fires and breathing conditions we headed out Telegraph Canyon Road, Otay Lakes, 94East and all was well. Matt (who was out for a short ride) turned around at Delzura. And then there were three.

Paul, David and I continued to Buckman Springs fighting the wind all the way. The wind was blowing really strong and steady. Paul (the smart one of the bunch) takes the turn to Pine Valley. I was determined to get to Boulevard so David and I continued. And then there were two.

That's when George and David's Bogus Adventure began. On the rest of the way to Boulevard the gusts of wind were so strong I couldn't believe we were riding in it. David and I were being sandblasted. Our bikes are ready to for repainting. We got to Boulevard averaging 6 mph over FLAT TERRAIN and turned around and headed for Pine Valley. Once at Pine Valley we realized that the fires were moving in on us.

We made it down Japathul and Lyons Valley to the four corners. Honey Springs Rd was closed, Otay Mesa was closed, 94 was closed and East Lake was being evacuated. We turned onto Skyline Truck Rd we saw fires on all sides. We descended into Jamul. Then a voice calls out my name and it was David Howell. Not one to quit on a ride, I hesitated, but the stats looked good. It was already 5:10 pm no lights and no idea what roads were open to get back to Chula Vista so we called it a day. Thank you David H.

Once home I realized the severity of the situation and thought we were fortunate to be home safe.

Stats for the Ride

Elevation Gain: 9400 ft
 Max Alt: 4000 ft
 Distance: 101 miles

george

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