

Howdy Drake MTB folks!

It's a good time of year to reflect on the year behind us and the adventures ahead.

First, let me say what a privilege it is to work with ALL of you in my first year as a coach. I'm still not quite sure what magical things happened to put me in this role, but that does not make me any less thankful. When I first moved to San Anselmo less than four years ago, Meghan and I would sit at the café and watch people go by. Now we sit at the café and watch friends – Riders, parents, neighbors – go by; no matter where or when I ride, I can count on seeing familiar faces sometime along the way. What a gift. Thank you all!



Second, for those new to the team, our “real” season is about to begin – regular Sunday rides, after-school meetings, and preparing for [races](#). For returning Riders and Parents, you know (and are excited) about what we are about to begin. Looks like we have some really nice weather between now and Jan 8th, so the break is a great time to get some rides in with family and friends. My [Strava feed](#) is filled with Riders riding with their families, which warms my heart and is one of the secrets to the team's success – multiple generations of bike riders getting out with family for the love of movement on two wheels. If you are on or affiliated with the team, try the free version of [Strava](#) and join the [team club](#). Feel free to follow [me](#), and I will return the favor. For Riders in particular, this gives us coaches a great way to see Riders' individual progress. I take particular delight when new riders crush my own times on our regular routes.



Third, Jan 8th (weather permitting), we will have our Forming Ride at 9am at Deer Park, our first “official” Sunday ride. We will do the bike check from 8:30am to 10am, a chance for you to get to know our mechanics Eric and Tony firsthand... if you can find two better, kinder, funnier bike mechanics anywhere, let me know – I would need hard evidence to believe that they exist. While the bike check is happening, we will do some organized activities like the Circle of Decreasing Size, Group Sprints, and See if Coach Rob Can Remember My Name.



Happy holidays to all, and Otis and I very much look forward to the season ahead. Every Rider, every family, every alum, is an important part of our team.

Questions/comments? DrakeMTBCoaches@gmail.com