

## True Meanings

**M**ountain bikers speak a language all their own. It might sound like English, Spanish, Italian, German or French, but take these words literally and you are not getting the message. When a rider speaks, the words need to be translated into mountaineese. If you are not yet bilingual, use this handy mountaineese translation guide to decipher what your riding partner is trying to say.

**Mountaineese:** The ride is going to start at eight in the morning.

**Translation:** The ride is really supposed to start at 8:30am, but your riding partner is telling you eight so you will hopefully get there by 8:15, repair the slow leak you've got in your rear tire and adjust your front brake. The ride will actually start by 8:45.

**Mountaineese:** It's about an hour ride.

**Translation:** It will take at least 45-minutes to get to the halfway point, and that's mostly downhill, so expect to be in the saddle at least two hours.

**Mountaineese:** There will be a little bit of climbing.

**Translation:** You better hope your granny gear is in good working order and you've got a 34-tooth cog on the rear cassette, because there is a climb that will have you begging for mercy by the halfway point.

**Mountaineese:** There is only one more climb.

**Translation:** Your riding partner can tell by the look on your face and your labored breathing that you are shattered. The "one more climb" is meant to encourage you to keep trudging on, although your partner knows there are many more climbs still to come.

**Mountaineese:** It is not a very technical ride.

**Translation:** There won't be any hike-a-bike sections, but expect to descend a number of white-knuckle chutes, bounce your way through a razor-sharp rock garden, and forge three bottom-bracket-high stream crossings.

**Mountaineese:** It's a little bit technical.

**Translation:** Wearing knee and shin guards wouldn't be a bad idea. Be sure

your Blue Cross card is in a convenient-to-reach pocket of your hydration pack. Make sure your cycling shoes are comfortable to hike in, because there is no way you are going to be riding all these sections.

**Mountaineese:** This isn't a tough section if you stay off the brakes.

**Translation:** Let me get ahead of you so I can watch the yard sale. (For those who need further translation, a yard sale is when a rider and his bike part ways, leaving a smattering of parts and apparel down the trail.)

**Mountaineese:** The trails we'll ride today are not marked well.

**Translation:** Pack survival gear in your hydration pack, because we might be in the woods overnight, or at least until search and rescue locates us.

**Mountaineese:** We'll be back way before sunset.

**Translation:** Tell your wife, husband, mom or dad not to expect you for dinner, but you will be home in time to watch Jay Leno. If there isn't a full moon, make sure your light's battery is fully charged.

**Mountaineese:** This will be a fun group ride.

**Translation:** This will be a fun group ride until we hit the climb and the rider in front takes a quick glance over his shoulder before jumping out of the saddle.

**Mountaineese:** We are almost there.

**Translation:** We are not really almost there, but if I tell you the truth there is an excellent chance you will dismount, slam your bike down on the trail and refuse to talk to me for a month.

**Mountaineese:** We'll be riding a secret trail I found.

**Translation:** It would be a good idea if you programmed your attorney's telephone number in your cell phone, because there is a 50/50 chance we are going to get popped for trespassing.

**Mountaineese:** Make sure you check your bike before we ride.

**Translation:** The last time we rode this loop, the group suffered three flats, one taco'ed wheel and a cracked top tube.

**Mountaineese:** You did really well for your first time on that trail.

**Translation:** I thought I was going to bust a rib laughing when you cartwheeled down that tricky section and when you fell over in the creek crossing.

**Mountaineese:** We've got to do this again real soon.

**Translation:** You were a great riding partner, that was a fun ride, and we've got to do it again real soon. □

Jimmy Mac actually reads the e-mail sent to [Jamesmac@hi-torque.com](mailto:Jamesmac@hi-torque.com).

