

LA Wheelmen VP Report - October 4, 2016

Hello All:

Last Weekend: Sunday was the rescheduled Grand Tour Lite. I don't know it was due to the last minute switch of dates, but participation was very disappointing. I'm not sure exactly how many riders there were, but I think it was 22 or 24. It's a shame too, because the weather could not have been better. After the heat last week, it was just right -- not so cool in the morning that I needed a jacket, but not so warm in the afternoon that I was sweating going up Zuma Hill. And those wonderful tailwinds coming back down the coast (that didn't materialize for me on the Grand Tour in June) were blowing very nicely all the way back on Sunday.

I rode the full century, but I rode my own pace and spent most of the day alone. I did, from time to time, run into a group of about 6 or 7 who I think were the bulk of the other riders doing the full century. That group included **Phil Whitman** who sent me this photo of most of the group as they came back down the coast to the finish.



Phil is in the photo, so I'm not sure who took it. I think a few riders did the double metric and the rest did the metric century. **Dennis Miller** had agreed to sweep the metric century on his bike. He posted this photo on Facebook of the group he was following when they stopped for a flat tire.



After reaching the first reststop, Dennis left his metric century charges to go sweep the century loop but by then I think everyone was well ahead of him. So he completed that loop and then rode back down the coast by himself, stopping a few times to take photos. Here is one he took approaching Mugu Rock



I always look forward to seeing that rock when I'm coming back down the coast because it's when you get past the rock that you usually pick up the tailwind all the way back.

This Week: This Saturday we have another century (it was scheduled before the Grand Tour Lite got moved to October). This one is "Circling San Fernando." It starts in West LA and heads up Sepulveda, along Mulholland to the East and down into Griffith Park. From there it makes a large counter-clockwise circle around the San Fernando before heading out Mulholland Hwy and crossing to the coast through Malibu Canyon and taking PCH back through Santa Monica to finish the loop. There is a fair amount of elevation gain, but the largest single climb is Sepulveda, and that's not so bad. Since I rode the century last Sunday, I'm not sure I'll be there for this one, but I'm thinking about it.

On Sunday we start from the Corner for an oldie: Corner Caper - Phase II. Both the long and medium head out to Valley via Benedict Canyon and make a loop to the East. The long adds an extra loop up to Pasadena and back down, but then rejoins the medium route for the return. The short stays on this side of the mountains. If I don't ride Saturday, I will for sure be at the ride Sunday.

Photo Analysis: Take a second look at that first photo above. There are a couple of things I notice. First, it seems that Phil (that sly dog) managed to ride with a group of all women. I'll let that pass. The other thing I notice is that 3 of the riders are wearing Grand Tour Jerseys each from a different year. I was wearing a Grand Tour Jersey that day from a 4th year. It might be interesting to get a group photo some time with as many different Grand Tour Jerseys as we can.

Thank You: Finally, I would like to thank all the staff who supported the Grand Tour Lite on Sunday. With the small rider turnout, I think there was at least one staff member for every two riders. How many rides can claim that? Perhaps I'll get a list of the staff to publish here another week.

See You On The Road
Rod Doty, VP