

Hello All:

Last Sunday: Last Sunday we were down in Tustin for the "Amazing Maze" ride. I think there were nine of us. Phil Whitworth took this photo of us at the start:



From left to right that's **Jacques Stern, Lee Meller, Terry Neff, Me, Thomas Knoll (behind me), a newcomer, Sheila Szymanski, and Nancy Domjanovich.** The group split in half with five of us doing the long and 4 doing the medium. The morning was cold but it turned into a nice day. I ate lunch out on the patio at

Knowlwood and the medium riders (who went to an alternative lunch off the route) apparently did also, as this photo shows:



I was a bit disappointed about one thing. I had touted this ride for its great holiday decorations in the Villa Park area. I hardly saw any. I don't know what happened. The last time I did this route in December I seem to remember a lot of elaborate decorations.

The medium rider's detour to the alternative lunch must have taken a bit longer than anticipated because they finished about the same time as the last of the long riders. It was nice to come back together at the end.

Next Sunday: As I mention in the ride schedule, this coming Sunday is unusual because Christmas falls on a Sunday. That means our regular Sunday ride will be our standard Christmas ride from the Corner to downtown and back. There is only the single route. Also, this year Chanukah coincides with Christmas closer than usual (I think Christmas is the 2nd day of Chanukah). So I've designated this Sunday's ride as our Christmas/Chanukah Ride. This ride is always pleasant as the streets are fairly quiet on the holiday as we cruise along Mulholland Drive and through both Griffith Park and Elysian Park. A highlight is always the trip along Carroll St with its restored Victorian Houses. We often stop here for a group photo. We take a break downtown in Chinatown and then it's a quick trip back to the corner. I hope to see a lot of you out.

Holiday Party: Everyone should have received their invitation to the club's Holiday Party (via e-mail). If you haven't, please contact me.

Ride Policy: We are making a couple of changes to our ride scheduling policy in the coming year. First, while we will continue to schedule at least one century each month for those participating in the century challenge, this year we are going to attempt to offer a companion metric century with each century. This is for those who want to participate in the century challenge at the metric century level. This first one to do this will be our annual January 1st century.

Second, in most months, we are going to move the monthly century/metric century to Sunday. We may also add a short route to round out the usual three-tiered ride program. We are doing this for several reasons, but a principal one is that riders who show up for the Saturday centuries are often the same ones that show up for our usual Sunday rides and if they ride on Saturday, they don't show up on Sunday. This way we won't be splitting our ridership between two days and with the addition of metric centuries and perhaps a half century route, the Sunday rides will still have the usual choice of distances. This policy won't start until March because I had already scheduled February and it won't be in effect during April, May and June when we run the usual Grand Tour training rides on Saturday. If you have any comments on these changes in policy, we would like to hear them.

Photos: I have a couple of photos from last Sunday I thought were mildly humorous. The first is from Phil:



This appears to be an inflatable Santa that was the victim of a drive-by. Apparently the war on Christmas isn't quite over.

I took this next one. The long route passed the Saddleback Church off El Toro Blvd. This is one of those so-called mega-churches or "big box churches" which (according to Wikipedia) has more than 20,000 attendees each week. But this photo shows that the church is not so popular with at least one person:



Happy Holidays and
I'll See You On The Road
Rod Doty, VP