

LA Wheelmen VP Report - March 14, 2017

Hello All and Happy Pi Day.

Last Sunday: Sunday we were riding our century of the month which was the "Whale of a Century" taking us from Camarillo to Santa Barbara and back. The weatherman said it was going to be a great day with temps in the 80s. Unfortunately, that was everywhere but the coast and this ride spent about 80 percent of the time at the coast. For us it was cool and foggy almost all day. There were 13 of us at the start for the century and I was told there were a couple of riders doing the metric century which started at a different location. Terry Neff took this photo of the group:



From left to right: Phil Whitworth, Rod Doty, Jacques Stern, David Nakai (barely visible), Chris (a guest from the Cayman Islands), Thomas Knoll, Sheila Szymanski, Bill Faulkner, Emma Pham, Dennis Miller and, Nancy Domjanovich. Missing are Terry (taking the photo) and Rick Gordon who showed up late. You can see how foggy it was. I don't think you could see much further than 100 yards.

Those of you who are on the Yahoo Group probably already know how things sort of went wrong on the ride. In hind sight, perhaps it was a bad omen when the first flat occurred only a few miles into the ride. It was our Cayman Islander. Phil Whitworth took this photo while it was being repaired.



Obviously, still very foggy. The group (except for 2 faster riders who rode on ahead) stayed together to Santa Barbara and I was thinking it was going to be a nice ride. But then there was a 2nd flat which split the group. Consequently, we never had a group shot up at the whale. Here's a selfie Dennis took and posted on Facebook.



After viewing the whale, while at lunch, several of us learned that Jacques had taken a fall and was in the ER. Fortunately, although he did suffer a concussion and a few other injuries, I believe he is going to be fine. He seemed fairly chipper when I saw him at the end of the ride, but then the pain probably hadn't really set in yet. The accident further split the group with those who were with Jacques at the accident delayed even more. So what once started out as a nice group staying together ended up dribbling into the finish. To add to the problems, Nancy also took a spill (some abrasions) and the late finishing group had 3 or 4 more flats on the return. We arranged to pick up Jacques at the Hospital and get him and his bike back home since the doctors did not want him to drive. With the beginning of Day Light Saving, I had thought we had plenty of time for the century, but in the end, the last riders in came in just as the last glow in the west was disappearing.

So, it was something of a busted day. I don't know what to say when a day goes off the rails like that. I guess just hope the next ride goes better.

On the plus side, 11 members got a century in. I only see 5 of them listed on the Century Challenge web page, so 6 of you should still submit them.

Next Sunday: This Sunday we will be riding "Huntington Beach Go-Round" which starts in Long Beach and heads down to Huntington. The long goes all the way down to Newport for a trip around the Back Bay. These are among the flattest routes we have, so it should be a pleasant day. Let's see if we can't put last Sunday behind us and have a good ride.

Meeting Host: I was putting together the schedule for May earlier this evening and I realized we don't have a meeting host for May. The date would Thursday, May 18th. It sure would be nice if someone new were to step forward and offer to host a meeting. They are rarely attended by more than 15 people (often less) so you don't need a lot of space. I'm sure the reason we have a hard time getting hosts is that we keep relying on the same members over and over and they are just tired of it. We could really use some help to take the pressure off those who host over and over. If you would like to host the May meeting, e-mail me or any other officer. We will be very grateful.

Triple Dipper Photo: I got some photos from Lora Chen taken on last week's Triple Dipper ride. I don't think she has ever submitted a photo before and I like to encourage that kind of behavior, so here is a nice shot of Terry Neff on his recumbent. It was taken in Palos Verdes.



Closing Remark: Our guest last Sunday from the Cayman Islands was an interesting fellow. The Cayman Islands are so small, he said they have to ride several times around the entire island to get in a century. The Islands are also very flat and I wondered how he would do on the hills, but he was fine. He works for Price Waterhouse Coopers and even in the Cayman Islands he said they took a lot of ribbing over the Oscars fiasco. Something I didn't know -- he said there is a competition within PriceWaterhouse to see who gets to go to the Oscars. I always thought it was someone from the LA office, but apparently not. He is here for a few more days and I think he plans on joining our Triple Dipper ride this Thursday.

See You On The Road
Rod Doty, VP