

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - March 21, 2017

Last Sunday: Sunday we started from Long Beach and rode down to Huntington Beach and back. We had a whopping 18 riders (after Mel Cutler, who rode from home, joined us). I know someone took a photo of the group at the start, but I didn't get it. I'm not sure I would have been able to name all 16 or 17 people anyway and I'm not going to try and remember all the names now. Gary Murphy sent me a few photos from out on the road. Here is one:



I'm not sure where this was taken -- somewhere in Orange County I guess. Except for a faster group of 5 or 6 riders, we all stayed together until lunch. At lunch the long and medium routes split. I'm not sure what the faster group did. The slower group split between the long and medium routes. Those of us who did the long agreed that the nicest part of the ride was the trip around the Back Bay in Newport. We made the entire circle which I think is 7 miles around and basically all on a bike path. Then there was the 15 mile run back on PCH. The nice weather really brought out the people in Huntington Beach. The pier looked like it was crowded with people. Unlike the problem plagued ride the previous Sunday, I think everyone had a good day.

Next Sunday: This Sunday is our annual Fargo Street Hill Climb event. For 40 or 50 years now the club gathers once a year at Fargo Street in Silverlake to see who can climb up this hill. I don't know if it's because bikes are better or people are stronger or what -- but these days, not only do some come to see if they can make it to the top, but others come to see how many times they can make it to the top. Either way, a lot of us (including me) show up just to watch the others try. We have a nice way to get over to view the climbing. We have two routes (a medium and short) which start from the Corner and go to Fargo and back. The longer route adds a few miles to go downtown to Philippe's for lunch. If you have never been to Philippe's before, that's almost worth the ride alone. They claim to have invented the French Dip sandwich. I take such claims with a grain of salt.

Cayman Island Visitor: Our visitor from the Cayman Islands (Chris Bailey) joined us on our Thursday Triple Dipper Ride last week before he returned home. It so happened that it was his wife's birthday, but she was in the Caymans. So he FaceTimed her on his iPhone and when she answered we all launched into "Happy Birthday" to her. She must have been very surprised. Here is a photo (from Phil Whitworth) of the event.



He only rode two rides with us, but Chris was very taken with the club and joined on the spot. He might come back for a vacation. You can imagine he gets tired of riding the Cayman Islands all the time.

Injury Update: I mentioned last week that Jacques Stern had taken a fall on the century ride. He hasn't gotten back on the bike yet, but he joined us in Palos Verdes for our break last Thursday and is looking pretty good. He was sporting a large bruised area on one cheek, but frankly, after the fall he took, I thought he would look worse. Here's a shot (also from Phil).



Minutes: I have been waiting until right before the next meeting before publishing the minutes of the last meeting, but then sometimes I would forget. So now I'm going to try and publish them as soon as I get them from our Secretary. So, the minutes from last Thursday's club meeting are attached as a pdf file. Happy reading.

Grand Tour Staff: At the meeting, Ira Kuccheck mentioned that he still needs staff to fill out all the locations for the Grand Tour on June 24th. If you, your family or friends are available and would like to take part in this great event, please click on this link for more info and to sign up - GT 2017 Staff If you have any questions about volunteering please e-mail or call Ira – ikuccheck@gmail.com or 949.759.2975

RAAM Crew: We have a couple of members who are planning to ride RAAM this year, but have had one of their crew members drop out. They are therefore looking for someone to join their crew. If you are interested, you can contact Axis Espinosa at 704-912-7260 or e-mail axisrn13@gmail.com

Closing Thoughts. Both my alma maters, USC and Duke, dropped out of the NCAA tournament last Sunday so I've lost interest in that. But hey -- Cub's opening day is only a little more than two week away!!!

See You On The Road
Rod Doty VP