

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - March 28, 2017

Hello All:

Sunday: Last Sunday was our annual Fargo Street Hill Climb. I joined the ride from the Corner over to the Hill. We had a dozen riders at the start, but I believe a couple of them went off on their own ride and did not go to Fargo. Phil Whitworth took this photo of the group at the start:



When we arrived at Fargo, climbing was underway. A few of our group made attempts, but I don't believe any of them made it to the top without stopping. Hoy Quan did make it to the top, but he was forced to put his foot down once or twice on the way up. Attendance at the climb seemed lighter than usual. In fact, Kermit later told me that he shut the climbing down around noon or one because the only climbers left were making multiple attempts, but none of them were going to be able to set a record that day. Perhaps I'll get a full report later with numbers and a list of climbers and staff. The most intriguing climber of the day climbed the hill a couple of times with a rocking chair strapped to the back of his bike. There was also a climber on a unicycle who really showed amazing power. Dave Wyman posted some excellent photos on Facebook. Here are a couple:



Both photos are beautiful and capture the steepness of the hill very well.

I think about half a dozen riders took the extra trip downtown to have lunch at Philippe's where we were joined by hill climb staffers Jacques Stern and Kermit Ganier. There was a Ciclavia event taking place in Culver City and Venice Sunday and I had thought I might ride that on the way home, but by the time I got back to the start, all I wanted to do was go home. I passed through the Ciclavia route on the way home and it looked like it was very successful. I was beginning to think people were getting tired of Ciclavias, but I guess not.

This Weekend: This Saturday starts our annual 12 week program of training rides leading up to the Grand Tour on June 24th. I've been doing these rides most years since they were first started by Lou Steinhauer back in the mid-80s. That would mean I've been doing them for at least 30 years. I love 'em. Even if I wasn't planning on doing the Grand Tour, I would want to ride them. They ride some beautiful areas and give you some good challenges. Every time I make it to the top of one of the major climbs on these rides, there is a sense of accomplishment that I just can't describe, but it keeps me coming back. Some years (but sadly, not all years) a small tight knit group of riders will form as we share the agony and triumphs of the rides over the 12 weeks. That makes these rides all the more fun. So, if you are at all interested, you should at least consider showing up this Saturday for the first one. It's one of the easiest. We ride up Bouquet Canyon (which is beautiful) and down Lake Hughes Road (not so beautiful, but it's a long downhill). We pass near the Poppy Preserve which should be really something this year. It will be April Fools Day, but this ride is no joke. Join us.

Sunday we will be riding "La Tuna Melt" starting from the Zoo parking lot. These routes are not so long and I have hopes of making both Saturday and Sunday's ride. The ride gets its name because the long route rides up La Tuna Canyon. The predictions are for warm weather, so the climb might live up to it's name. The long and medium also ride up "Christmas Tree Lane" in Altadena. It's short but somewhat steep. At least it's shaded by the trees. I hope to see a lot of you out either day or even both days.

Great Western Bicycle Rally: I received an e-mail from the people at the Great Western Bicycle Rally and they wanted me to remind you that early registration prices will end March 31st, so you should register in the next few days. Also, remember that club members get a discount if they use the discount code WHEELMEN15. You can get info on the Rally at www.greatwesternbicyclerally.com

Triple Dippers: The Thursday Triple Dipper riders did something unusual last Thursday. Instead of the usual ride to Palos Verdes for a break, we rode out to North Hollywood to visit a coffee shop in a restored train station. It's right at the intersection of the Orange Line and Red Line. We were joined there by North Hollywood residents and members Nancy & Richard Wedeen. Nancy sent me this photo of the group:



Final Word: Summer will soon be upon us and many of you will be taking cycling vacations. If you send me your photos, I will vow to include some of them here each week. To kick off the season, Gary Murphy has been cycling in Texas this past week. He sent me this photo:



There's a line from "Full Metal Jacket" . . . well never mind.

See You On The Road
Rod Doty, VP