

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - April 18, 2017

Hello All and Happy Tax Day (or Sad Tax Day, as the case may be)

Saturday: Last Saturday was our third Grand Tour Trainer. We left the hills in exchange for a relatively flat century -- the old Paul Neuerburg Century. I can't remember exactly how many riders we had but I count 12 in the photo below plus Phil Whitworth, the photographer, would make at least 13. There might have been one or two more not in the photo.



There might not have been many hills, but miles of headwinds made up for the difficulty. The group stayed together for a while. Here's a shot Gary Murphy took while we were still all in a line.



I hadn't ridden this route in maybe 10 years and I was concerned about a stretch on a bike path down in Yorba Linda. My memory was that it was hard to follow. But the map showed that it was still there, so I thought we would be OK. Well, the group I was with got lost. It seemed the path just ended and we couldn't find where to pick it up again. I have since looked at it using the satellite view on Google Maps and I'm not surprised we lost it. It doesn't appear to be too well defined in a couple of places. Well, we finally got back on track, although there was another detour due to construction.

What amazed many of us (including me) was the incredible number of homeless encampments along the Santa Ana River. It's been a while since I've ridden the Santa Ana River trail, but the number has certainly grown since then. I wish we had gotten a photo, but a single photo would not have done it justice. It's almost like a separate city.

Sunday: Sunday was Easter and we were riding our usual Easter ride. Only 3 other riders showed up besides myself and one of them was a newcomer. I was fairly tired from Saturday and was hardly making 10 mph on the ride over to the Corner. The thought of doing the few small hills in Beverly Hills and trying to keep up with the other 3 didn't appeal to me, so I went off to do my own short ride to the beach and back. The other 3 were planning to do a modified version of the Easter ride, which is what usually happens anyway. Hardly anyone ever does the whole thing. I hope they had a good day. Unfortunately, I have no photos from Sunday.

Next Week: This Saturday will be our 4th Grand Tour Trainer -- the "Fernwood Trainer." I designed this route to do a couple of downhills we don't often ride -- Stunt Road and Latigo. But to go down, we have to get to the top first and that involves a couple of good climbs. We have lunch at the Rustic Canyon General Store near the Rock Store, which is one of my favorite training ride lunch stops. The return is back along the coast, which at least makes for an easy finish.

Sunday we will be out at Reseda Park for "Reseda Park - Phase II." Originally we were planning on riding Phase I, but Little Tujunga Canyon remains closed after last summer's fire, so we made the switch. Phase II heads out over Santa Susana Pass to Simi Valley (medium) or Moorpark (long) and then returns back over Santa Susana a 2nd time. The long rides through Box Canyon which is always interesting, although somewhat steep. The last time we rode this one, most of us turned back due to fierce headwinds. I hope we can get it in this time.

Boston Marathon: Yesterday was the Boston Marathon and club member Mike Eberts ran in it. I hope he had good time. I know running in Boston is every marathoner's dream. I just looked up the results on the web and Mike finished in 4:15:50. Congratulations Mike. I don't have many photos this week, so here is one from his Facebook Page taken before the race.



Grapevine: I heard through the grapevine that Gail Standish (whose membership lapsed last September -- somebody should remind her) is soon to undergo back surgery and will off the bike for a while. We hope all goes well. The news isn't all bad -- I also heard through the grapevine that Gail is now engaged to be married. We hope that goes well too.

More Grapevine: Speaking of marriage, I also heard through the grapevine that a couple of weeks ago member Thomas Knoll married his long time girlfriend Cheryl. Congratulations to them both.

Well, that's all the news for tonight.
See You On the Road,
Rod Doty, VP