

## Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - April 25, 2017

Hello All:

Saturday: Last Saturday was our 4th Grand Tour training ride which took us up Topanga and Fernwood Pacific. I heard from Thomas Knoll who said he, Sheila Szymanski, and James Carter started early to beat the heat -- we never saw them. I think there were 11 of us starting at the scheduled time. We didn't take a photo at the start and the climbing sort of spread us out. There was a trailing group of 3 and I later heard they cut the route short. I was dropped by the main group but caught up to them at lunch where Phil Whitworth took this shot. One other rider skipped lunch to get a head start on the final climb.



From left to right, that's Nancy Domjanovich, Mel Cutler, Emma Pham, Gary Murphy and me. For me the highlight of the ride was the 7 mile downhill on Latigo. Some skipped it (going down Kanan instead) but despite the extra effort it took me to get to the top, I enjoyed it. I could feel the temperature drop every mile as I approached the coast.

I received a ton of photos from Saturday. Here are a couple more. This first was sent by Mel and was taken on Fernwood Pacific (or maybe it was Saddle Peak)



That's Emma again (on the left).

This next photo was sent by Gary and is of Nancy and Emma climbing up the Rock Store hill.





Sunday: On Sunday we were out in Reseda for "Reseda Park - Phase II" There were 6 of us: Bill Faulkner, Mel Cutler, Russ Brynes, Kit Gray, Bob Wyman and me. Bill and I started out to do the long route, but essentially ended up doing the medium. Kit also basically did the medium, but chose to go up and over Box Canyon -- a very tough climb I really didn't have the legs for after Saturday. The rest I believe did the entire long. The weather was noticeably cooler than Saturday and even coming back over Santa Susana in the afternoon wasn't too bad. I only have one photo from Sunday which was sent to me by Russ:



That's Russ in front with Mel behind. I'm not sure where it was taken and I can't read that street sign behind them. It was a good ride. I just wish there had been more riders.

Next Week: Saturday will be our 5th Grand Tour trainer and one I look forward to every year -- Mount Baldy. Even if you are not training for the Grand Tour, you might want to try and make this one. It's very pretty up there and it's a nice challenge to get up there. And if just getting the Mount Baldy Village (where we have lunch) isn't enough for you, there is always the optional 5 mile climb up to the ski lift. I tell myself I'm going to do it every year and so far I've only done it once. Maybe I'll make it this year. Another thing to look forward to is the downhill on GMR. I thought the 7 mile downhill on Latigo was fun last week, but this one is even better. Well worth all the effort to get up to the top.

On Sunday we will be riding "Arcadia 'N Stuff." The highlight of these routes (and it's only on the long) is the climb up to Chantry Flats. It's no climb to Baldy, but I still don't know what possessed me to schedule the climb to Chantry the day after going to Baldy. Well, there is always the medium and short routes which are relatively easy. However, I hate to pass up a chance to go up to Chantry, so I might try to do it even if I'm still tired from Saturday. After all, it's a short ride and I have all day. The reward is a trip to Tops for lunch after we come down. I always get the huge order of Chili Fries. I will have earned it if I go to both Baldy and Chantry. Why not join me?

Club Meeting: Last Thursday we held our monthly club meeting. Attached are the minutes from that meeting. Kermit showed us a preliminary version of the Grand Tour jersey for this year. It looks good. When it is finalized, I'll include a copy of it in this weekly e-mail.

Grand Tour Staff: At the meeting, Ira Kuccheck indicated that staffing for the Grand Tour is coming along well, but there are still a few places to be filled. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Ira at [ikuccheck@gmail.com](mailto:ikuccheck@gmail.com) or at 949.759.2975.

Spring Flowers: Everyone knows that with all the rain this spring, the flowers are more beautiful and abundant than usual. Well, you don't have to travel way out of town to find them. It strikes me that even the well manicured yards in Palos Verdes seem more beautiful than usual this year and as this photo from Gary Murphy shows, even the wild flowers on Palos Verdes are more abundant than usual.



So get out there and ride. These flowers won't last forever.

See You On The Road,  
Rod Doty, VP