

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - September 25, 2018

Hello All:

Sunday: Last Sunday we were riding our annual Grand Tour Lite. This year we ran the event as an unsupported century. Predictably, the numbers were down although sometimes it is hard to understand why people would rather pay for a ride like this which they could do for free on their own. Sure, you pay for your own food, but that's usually less than the fee for the supported ride. I suppose the convenience of having the rest stops on the course is worth something. Well, I digress. I think we had 8 riders at the start. I took this photo:



From left to right (Not counting the blue helmet behind the first rider): **Thomas Knoll, David Williams, Phil Whitworth, Terry Neff** and **Sheila Szymanski**. There were a couple of other riders, but I didn't get their names, and except for the blue helmet, they didn't make the photo. The riders I didn't know took off on the double metric. I am informed only one of them finished it. Terry, Phil and I rode the century route. Thomas and Sheila rode the metric century route, but Thomas had ridden from home, so he ended up with a century anyway. I understand **Jacques Stern** also rode the metric from home to complete a century, but we never saw him out on the route. It was a very nice day for this ride. Never very hot and the winds were mild. It felt a little like a fall day which is as it should be since it was the first full day of autumn. And of course nothing makes it feel more like fall than seeing pumpkins. There is a farm along the century route which grows them and we usually see them every year. This year they were well off the road and I couldn't get a good picture, but I got this:



That's a lot of jack-o-lanterns.

Next Week: Next Sunday we will be riding "Flintridge Express" which starts in Monterey Park. I think these routes go way back with

the club -- seems like I have been riding them forever. They offer something for everyone, but unfortunately, the 3 routes split almost immediately, so you have to make your choice right from the start. The long is only 56 miles, but is notoriously hilly including a very steep climb in Flintridge. The medium is much easier and the short is easier yet. All are nice tours of the communities in the area. I'll be there with my low-g geared bike and plan to take on the long.

Ghost Bike: I saw this ghost bike on the route on Sunday.



It was on Victoria Avenue not far from where it crosses the Santa Clara River near Oxnard. We passed this location on the Whale of a Century last March and I don't remember seeing it then, so it must be fairly recent. I've never seen a ghost bike hung in a tree like that, but it makes it very visible.

Update on Last Week's License Plate Photo: Two members said some of the characters on the plate I included here last week were for "Nagasaki" so I guess the plate is from Japan. I still find it curious that a Japanese plate would use the roman alphabet for the main identification ("SENPAI"), but maybe they do.

Refreshments: We managed to get some refreshments at the meeting last week (Cream Puffs), but we still need someone to provide refreshments at the October meeting on the 18th. The meeting will again be held at the Veterans Memorial Center in Culver City. Let me know if you can provide these.

Meeting Host: While we are on the subject, we could use a meeting host for the November meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 15th. If you can do this, please let me know.

No other news comes to mind and I didn't get any vacation photos this week, so this will be shorter than usual.

See You On The Road
Rod Doty, VP