

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - November 27, 2018

Hello All:

Last Week: Last Thursday was our annual Thanksgiving Day Ride. I took this photo at the start:



I count 7 in the photo and with me that would make 8, but I think there might have been one or two more that didn't make the photo. We had a few newcomers in the group. We all did the long except the wife (I think) of one of the newcomers. She didn't think she would be able to keep up with her husband and didn't want to hold him back, so she did the short and met us at the break in the Marina. If her husband had ridden his own pace, she probably would have held him back, but he stayed with us and I'm pretty sure she could have ridden our pace. Newcomers never believe us when we insist that we are slow. Anyway, we all (but the wife) headed to the Palisades for our annual break there. I didn't take my usual photo there because I saw others taking pictures, but no one sent them to me. You'll just have to believe me that it was a very nice day looking out over ocean. We then went down to the Marina to meet up with the wife (her name was Kelly) and to listen to Christmas Carols as we took our usual Starbucks break. Starbucks has had their holiday cups since the week after Halloween and Coke has their holiday cans and bottles out, so it was very festive.

On Sunday we were in Downey at Wilderness Park for "Bike Trails Galore." I took this photo at the start:



From left to right: **Russ Brynes, Sheila Szymanski, Mel Cutler, Phil Whitworth, Jacques Stern, Terry Neff, Thomas Knoll, and Gary Murphy.** I'm pretty sure two more riders joined us after the photo. They were **Marc Spigelman** and a newcomer named **Topher.** That would make 11 total which is a pretty good number. We all did the long route except Mel who had ridden from home and only wanted to to the medium. With that, he probably still got in a century for the day. Normally the long stretch on the LA River down to Long Beach is into a steady headwind, but Sunday there was a slight Santa Ana condition and the headwinds weren't there.

That made for a very pleasant ride. Down in Long Beach Phil came across this on the bike path:



It was gone by the time I got there, but it looks to me like the largest snake I've ever seen out on the road. After lunch it was a short trip back to the start and we were on our way home before the real heavy post-holiday traffic clogged the Freeways (although I didn't take the 405 past the airport).

Next Sunday: This Sunday we will be in Whittier to ride the "Valley Rally." These routes head out the San Gabriel Valley and back with the long making it to the edge of Pomona. The long and one of the medium routes (there are two) go over Turnbull, but that's really the only major hill of the day. Oddly, the medium does Turnbull on the way out and the long does it on the way back. I suppose the creator of the routes figured long riders would be better able to do a climb late in the ride. We are getting into the rainy season so that means rides are always a little up in the air. Just remember -- 10% or less means no rain.

Parting Shot: I've got nothing else to discuss tonight. I guess that means the club is running smooth. On his way home last Sunday Mel took a few photos at the beach near sunset. I wish I could take photos that looked this good.





Pretty nice, huh?

See You On The Road,
Rod Doty, VP