

## Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - December 4, 2018

Hello All:

**Sunday:** Last Sunday we were in Whittier for "Valley Rally." I took this photo at the start. I'm sorry I didn't wait for everyone to turn around.



From left to right: **Mel Cutler, Phil Whitworth, Jacques Stern, Sheila Szymanski, Bill Faulkner and Terry Neff.** With me that would make 7 riders. Like last week, we all did the long route except Mel who had ridden to the start and was planning on going to the Southbay Wheelmen pizza party on his way home. Sheila and Phil formed the fast group and the rest of us rode together in the rear. It was a nice day for the ride -- maybe a little crisp -- I never took my jacket off. Terry suffered a bad slash in the sidewall of one tire and took a shortcut back to the start, but we all finished about the same time. I don't have any more photos from the ride, but Mel sent me this one he took of the sunset on his way home from the pizza party.



**Next Week:** Next Sunday we will be riding our monthly century and metric century. As it has been for several years now, our December century will be the "Foothill Footsie." This ride was created by **Dennis Miller** but for the first time he won't be riding it with us. It's a fairly easy ride out to Claremont and back. The full century starts in La Crescenta while the metric century starts an hour later in Pasadena. The metric century pretty much rides the center portion of the full century, so the riders may come together on the route or at lunch. As I have in the past, I'll probably start early, but usually all the other riders catch me either on the route or at lunch.

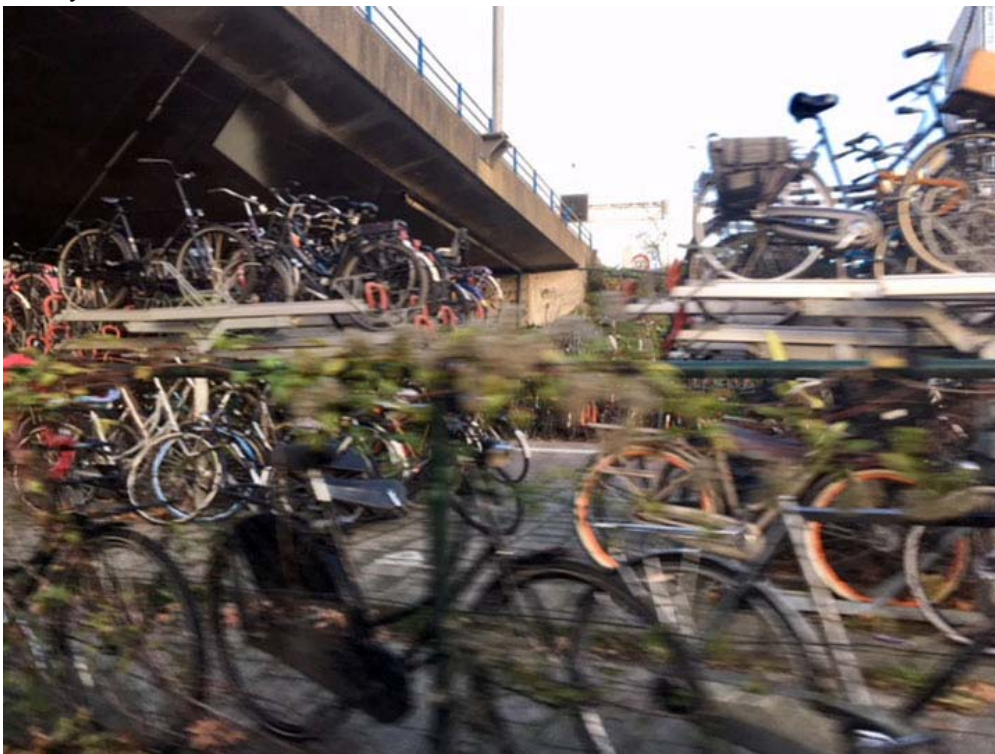
I'll be at the Habit Burger if you want to find me. Most homes will probably have their holiday decorations up by this weekend and it's always fun to see what is new this year in decorations.

**Early Triple Dipper Ride:** Because it looks like rain is likely this Thursday, **Gary Murphy** and I rode the usual Triple Dipper ride today. It was a clear day and you could see where last week's rain had put snow on Mount Baldy. Gary took this photo from Ballona Creek. That's my back in the photo.



With the rain coming this week, there should be some really nice snow cover on Baldy when we ride out to Claremont on Sunday.

**Vacation Photo:** Ann Trank has been in Israel for a few weeks, but she sent me this photo from Amsterdam -- maybe she is on her way back now. Anyway, she says she took it out of moving vehicle and apologizes for it being blurry. She says it is of a parking lot for bicycles.



**Rant (or whatever):** Just want to get a few thoughts off my mind here -- you can skip this part. I prefer not to shop on-line. I like to physically see what I'm buying and for clothing, it's nice to be able to try it on. Recently, I wanted to buy a new cycling jacket for the winter. I knew the type of jacket I wanted so I went to two different bike shops that in the past have had a fairly large selection of bicycle clothing (Performance and Helen's in Santa Monica). Neither place had what I wanted. So I went on line and easily found what I wanted (the red Showers Pass jacket in the photo above). It seems to me that bike shops are being squeezed by on line-shopping, so with diminishing revenues, they can't afford to stock as much inventory as they used to. So they don't offer the wide selection they formerly had. But this just sets up a vicious circle. I can't find what I want at the shop, so I go on-line, which further squeezes the shops. I don't have any solution for this -- I just think it's sad. People seem to think brick and mortar stores are losing out to on-line shopping because people like going on-line so much. I'm just not sure that's entirely true. People like me are being forced on-line because the brick and mortar stores don't carry the selections they once did.

BTW -- I'm not crazy about Amazon either. I could have gotten the jacket on Amazon, but I got it through an on-line bicycling retailer that I like: [BikeTiresDirect.com](http://BikeTiresDirect.com) Despite the name, they carry a full line of bicycle accessories. They have a nice web site and I've purchased 3 things from them now and they usually ship the same day you order. Just like Amazon.

Well, with that, I'll just say --  
See You On the Road,  
Rod Doty, VP