

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - January 2, 2019

Hello All and Happy New Year

As I did last week, I'm sending this out a day later than usual because of the holiday.

Sunday: Last Sunday we were riding our last scheduled ride of 2018 -- "Legg Lake." I guess not many members needed one last ride to cap off the year because there were only 4 of us there. I forgot to take a photo at the start, but two of the riders had been at the ride the previous week, so here is that photo again (edited)



That's **Russ Brynes** and **Jacques Stern**. We met **Mel Cutler** shortly after we had started -- he was riding from home. Mel did the medium route which actually went past Legg Lake (which the long route did not) and he sent me this selfie from the lake.



Mel constantly impresses me. In order to get to the ride, he had to leave home before the sun was up and this time of year, it is very cold at that hour. I don't know how he does it. It was fairly cold for the ride, but at least by the time we started the sun was up and it was OK. I think my fingers quit aching after the first 5 miles. It was a nice ride although it isn't one of my favorite routes. When I got back to the Rose Bowl where we started, I did one lap around the Bowl to get up to 60 miles for a final metric century of 2018. That took me past the big tents where they were decorating floats for the parade. Quite a zoo. There were so many people there they had parked cars on the soccer fields next to the Rose Bowl. Lots of security, so I didn't get a glimpse of the floats.

New Year's Day: New Year's Day was our traditional "Kickoff Century." High winds were predicted and that apparently scared off all the riders. I was the only rider. Yes it was windy, but no where near as bad as predicted. There is a lot of talk of "fake news" these days, but I think the weathermen are often the real fake news. They tend to report the worst case scenarios. Anyway, I had a nice ride. Despite the wind, I finished about the same time I always do. Maybe that was because some of the time those winds were helping me. It was my first trip through Malibu since the fire. There are indeed long stretches where the fire burned down to the edge of PCH (and sometimes across it right down to the water's edge), but I was impressed with how few homes I saw burned -- at least right on PCH. There were a few, but I didn't take any photos because mostly they weren't very visible (Malibu residents like homes with privacy). I did take this photo:



A fairly dire warning. **David Nakai** was doing a New Year's Day brevet in Orange County and he indicated the winds were a problem there too. In fact, it sounds like they were worse than what I encountered. He sent this photo from the start of his ride.



Looks colder there too, but then they were starting a little before sunrise.

Rose Parade Ride: On New Year's Day we also had our traditional ride to the Rose Parade. The only person I know for sure went to this was **Jacques Stern**. He reported no wind (despite what the fake news weathermen said), but said it was very cold. Unfortunately, I didn't get any photos. But there are plenty of photos of the floats on the news, on the web and in the LA Times.

Next Sunday: Our first regular ride of 2019 is "Reseda Park - Phase II." These rides start at Reseda Park and head west. The short makes it to the west valley, the medium makes it to Simi Valley and the long makes it all the way to Moorpark. These are fairly nice routes, but the long and medium both have the climb over and then back thru Santa Susana Pass. On the way out, the long uses Box Canyon which has a very steep section. There is talk of rain, but if there isn't any, I'll be there. I hope to see several of you out.

Vacation Photo: **Kit Gray** is in Virginia where he was riding the Washington and Old Dominion Train Track Trail. He sent this photo



Looks cold, but Kit said it was in the 40s -- not much worse than here (at least in the early morning).

Holiday Party Reminder: All of you should have received the invitation the the club Holiday Party which will be held Saturday, January 12th at 3 p.m. at the Olive Garden at the Fallbrook Mall in the west valley. We hope to see all of you there. Please remember that if you plan to attend, you should RSVP to **Kermit Ganier** by text or phone at (310) 367-0458. You should do this before January 6th.

Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on December 20 are attached. Read them at your leisure.

January Meeting: It has been decided that all of our 2019 meetings will be held at the Culver City Veteran's Memorial Center. So, we will no longer need to hound members into hosting the meetings. However, we will continue to hound members into providing refreshments at these meetings. This is easier than hosting and I would hope some of our members who couldn't host a meeting will consider doing this. Our first meeting is January 17th in the Uruapan Room at the center. If you can provide refreshments, please contact me.

Parting Shot: Here is a photo (provided by **Phil Whitworth**) from a Triple Dipper ride several weeks ago. We were on our way to Pasadena, but passed through USC and took this photo. USC is my alma mater, but I hadn't been back there in a long long time. The campus looks very different, but Tommy Trojan is the same.



See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP