

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - December 18, 2018

Hello All:

Sunday: Last Sunday we were at the Corner for "Exploring the Environs." I was disappointed in the turnout -- especially considering that it wasn't a very long ride and the weather was great. There were only 4 of us. I took this photo:



That's **Jacques Stern, Gary Murphy** and **Mel Culter**. Mel was there to lead the newcomer ride, but there weren't any newcomers. He needed to get home early so he rode the short ride anyway. The rest of us did the long, although Gary cut it a bit short because he also needed to get home early. It had been so long since I had ridden this long route, I didn't remember much of it. It went up Beverly Glen instead of the usual climb on Benedict. Turns out Beverly Glen is a bit wider and probably a bit safer than Benedict, but I thought it was also a little more difficult than Benedict. The route out in the Valley was sort of screwy -- often zig-zagging for no reason and doing a lot of gratuitous climbing. I guess that was the point -- to add some miles and difficulty to the long route to distinguish it from the medium. The route ended with a trip over Old Topanga. I had thought we would see some damage from the recent fire, but I didn't see any. The fire may have reached Old Topanga Canyon, but apparently did not reach the road. Mel sent me this photo of the little lake near the top of Franklin Canyon. This just shows how pretty it is to ride this time of year. The rest of you are really missing out.



Next Week: This Sunday we will be riding "Honolulu For Lunch" which starts in Monterey Park. All routes head up to Montrose with the long and medium taking a more circuitous route there than the short. The long continues up and over La Tuna Canyon. I just saw a news report on improvements made to La Tuna Canyon to increase safety. Supposedly they put in bike lanes and made other changes. It will be interesting to see these changes. Yes, this ride will be only 2 days before Christmas, but don't you need to get away from it all just one day before all the relatives show up? Why not join us Sunday.

On Tuesday, we will be riding our annual Christmas Day ride. This is always a nice ride for those who can get out of the house for a few hours on the holiday. We ride along Mulholland and through Elysian Park before heading downtown. The streets are quiet and it's a good time to ride these places. We usually gather for a group photo up on Carroll Street where we view the restored Victorian houses there. I hope a lot of you can make it. It is a nice day.

Triple Dipper Excursion: Last Thursday the Triple Dipper ride changed things up a little and rode to Pasadena to view the "Moons" exhibit at the Arts Center College of Design. The concept of the exhibit was to sort of combine the science of moons with art. Here is a photo taken by **Mel Cutler** of one of the exhibits:



The man in the center was our guide and (I believe) the curator of the exhibit. I think my favorite piece was a series of photos of pancakes which looked like cratered moons. If I hadn't been told they were pancakes, I wouldn't have known. Here is a photo (from **Gary Murphy**) of the group riding the Arroyo Seco bike path on our way up to Pasadena. It was the first time I had ever ridden that path.



We also rode through downtown on our way there and I was surprised how bike-friendly they have made some of the streets downtown. Figueroa now has a separated bike lane running from near USC all the way to the heart of downtown.

Meeting: Thursday is our monthly meeting. I am happy to say we have a volunteer to bring drinks -- thank you **Gary Murphy**. I mixed up the Grandma Doty Sugar Cookie dough earlier tonight -- you have to refrigerate it overnight -- so I'll be baking them tomorrow. You will definitely want to come to the meeting for them.

Art Project of My Own. This time of year, as I ride around, I always see a lot of dead Santas on lawns. These are inflatable lawn decorations which are shut off during the day and collapse in a heap. For some reason, I always think they look sort of funny. Here are a couple of samples (I took the first photo and Gary Murphy took the second)



These include a dead Christmas tree and dead reindeer. We have another week before Christmas and what I would like everyone to do is take photos of any dead Santas they see (or dead snowmen, elves etc.) and send them to me. Next Tuesday, if I get enough of them, I'll put them together in a "Dead Santa Collage." So, as you ride this coming week, keep your eyes peeled and your camera ready.

Final Shot: There were some big waves today and some of them inundated the beach bike path in a couple of places. **Gary Murphy** sent me these photos: Who says ocean levels aren't rising?



See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP