

## Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - December 26, 2018

Hello All

I'm getting this out a day later than usual because of the holiday. Next week will probably be a day late too.

**Sunday:** Last Sunday we were riding "Honolulu For Lunch" which started in Monterey Park. There were only 7 of us at the start, but we were joined en-route by two more. I took this photo at the start.



That's **Russ Brynes, Jacques Stern, Phil Whitworth** and **Terry Neff**. **Sheila Szymanski** and **Thomas Knoll** were not in the photo. The two that joined us later were **Chris Hedberg** and **David Nakai**. We all started off on the long. Sheila, Thomas and Phil made up the lead group and as far as I know, completed the long. Chris, Russ and Terry cut the route short at one point or another. David and Jacques took the early lunch while I went on ahead. I didn't see them again, but David sent me a report and they did complete the long. The weather was a bit colder than I thought it would be, but otherwise it was a nice day. I took several photos of "dead Santas" (see below) There had been news reports of changes made on La Tuna Canyon for safety reasons. There is now either a wide shoulder or bike lane on the entire hill, but it didn't look new to me, so I'm not sure what changes were made. There are "botts' dots" periodically along the edge of the traffic lane which would warn drivers if they are drifting into the shoulder. Those seemed new. I guess that's something.

**Tuesday:** Yesterday we held our annual holiday ride. There had been talk of rain, and that might have kept some riders away, but the day was mostly sunny and even a bit warmer than Sunday. The roads were still a bit damp in places so there may have been rain overnight, but not a drop during the ride. There were only 6 of us riding.





From left to right: **Jacques Stern, Ann Trank, Mel Cultler, Marc Spiegelman** and a newcomer whose name I now forget. We all stayed together except that Mel had to get home early and cut out about halfway through the route. The air was very clear and the views from up on Mulholland Drive were spectacular -- both of the mountains and the buildings downtown. We took the usual group shot up on Carroll Street, but without Mel, we were down to 4 (plus me taking the photo)



There was scaffolding around one of the old Victorian homes which was derelict in past years, so perhaps they are finally going to restore another of the homes along this street. We took our usual break in Chinatown and then headed home. It was a very nice day. It's a shame more of you weren't able to join us.

**Next Week:** This Sunday we will be riding "Legg Lake" which starts at Brookside Park next to the Rose Bowl. These are relatively short and easy rides which take us down to the Whittier Narrows area and back. There actually isn't much difference between the routes except a few miles. We finish back at the Rose Bowl where they will be feverishly finishing the floats for the Rose Parade on Tuesday. You could always look into volunteering some of your time there before you head home.

On Tuesday, January 1st, we have our usual two rides. You can choose to ride to the Rose Parade. This is a very short ride from Alhambra over to the parade route and back with a break while you watch the parade. If you have never seen the parade in person, you really should do it at least once and this is an easy way to get there and back. If you volunteer to help finish the floats (see above), you can check out your handiwork.

Our other ride on the 1st is our annual "Kickoff Century and Metric Century" These both start in Malibu and head north. The full century gets all the way to Ventura while the metric century turns around in Camarillo. These are fairly easy century routes and a good way to get your year off to a good start. I like to think that if you ride a century on the first day of the year, there isn't anything you can't do the rest of the year -- the Grand Tour, the Triple Crown, whatever. I hope to see you there.

**Winter Solstice Ride:** Mel Cutler and David Nakai both rode the Winter Solstice brevet offered by the San Diego Randonneurs last Friday night. I'm not sure why this ride has to be at night, but it is held every year on the shortest day of the year. David sent me this photo of the riders. As you can see, many of the bikes were decorated for the season. David is not in the photo, but his bike was still decorated when he showed up to our ride on Sunday.



**Good News:** At the club meeting last Thursday, nominations for club officers were opened. We have been without a Secretary for almost a year now, but **David Williams** has accepted the nomination to become our



club secretary in the coming year. Nominations remain open for another month, but it's a pretty safe bet David will become our new secretary in March.

**Dead Santas:** Last week I included a couple of photos of "dead Santas" (inflatable lawn decorations which are turned off during the day). I took several more photos this week and I had intended to put them all together in a collage, but that's too much work. So here are just two more of my favorites:



Santa and all his reindeer came in for a hard landing and there were no survivors.



Looks like this one was caught scaling the wall and just shot where he was.

If I don't see you on Sunday or on the 1st, Happy New Year and have a great cycling 2019.

See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP