

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

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - January 8, 2019

Hello All

Sunday: Last Sunday we were riding Reseda Park - Phase II. There had been talk of rain on Sunday, but by Saturday evening, I think they had taken the threat of rain entirely out of the forecast so I was hoping there would be a few more riders, but there were only 5. **Thomas Knoll** took this photo at the start:



From left to right, **Gary Murphy, Sheila Szymanski, Bill Faulkner** and me. Gary and I did the long route while the other 3 did the medium. The long took us up the very steep climb through Box Canyon, but it's worth the trip to see the famous flying pig near the top. Gary took this photo of me struggling up the last of the steep sections



And I took this one of him with the pig



We skipped lunch in Moorpark and instead had lunch back in Simi Valley where there is a Habit Burger. I believe both Sheila and Thomas also modified the medium route to visit the same Habit. The Habit is getting more and more of the club's business these days.

Next Sunday: This Sunday we will be riding the "Tri-County Safari" which starts in West Covina. Only the long visits all 3 counties (LA, Orange, and San Bernardino) and travels through both Carbon Canyon and Brea Canyon. Sounds like a lot of climbing, but actually the medium route has almost the same amount of climbing - just fewer miles. I believe the usual lunch spot on this route is now another Habit -- this one is in Chino Hills. Well, there are a lot of other places to eat at the same location if you are getting tired of the Habit (or it's getting to be a habit). I hope to be there and I hope to see many of you.

Meeting: We still need someone to provide the refreshments at the meeting on January 17th. Let me know if you can do this.

Thursday Triple Dipper Ride: Last week's Triple Dipper ride on Thursday drew an unusually large group. **David Williams** took this photo of the group when we stopped at the Manhattan Pier.



The group included **Marty November** (in purple slightly to the right of center) who was visiting from the north. He has retired from his job in Canada and is now moving to Spokane, Washington. I'm not sure who the person on the right is, but I don't think he is a ghost -- just standing in a shadow. It does look a little weird though.

I hope to see a lot of you at the Holiday Party on Saturday.

See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - January 15, 2019

Hello All:

Sunday: Last Sunday we were out in West Covina for the "Tri-County Safari." We had a pretty good turn-out of 11 riders (I think). And that was without 2 or 3 of our regulars. I took this photo which included almost everyone.



Despite the rain the day before, it was a really nice day and it's always so clear right after a rain. There was plenty of snow on the mountains for our viewing pleasure. I believe most of us did the long route, but there were a few who did the medium. It was nice to have **Nancy Domjanovich** back on a Sunday ride -- she has been off the bike for a while due to illness. It was also nice to see **David Nakai**, who apparently had no brevet to ride that day.

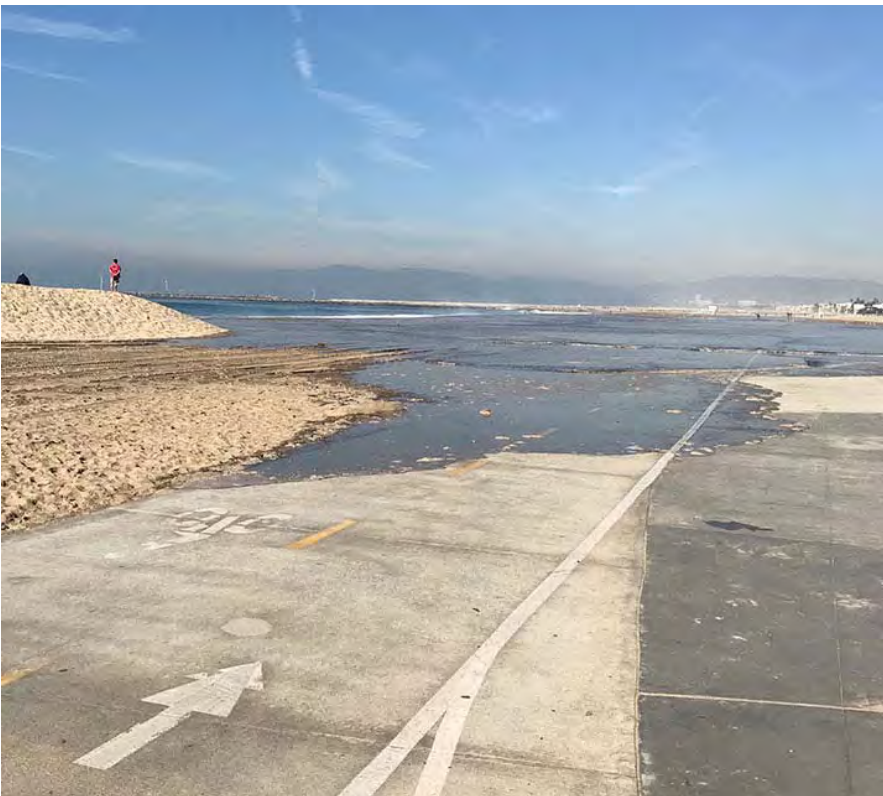
Next Weekend: This Saturday and Sunday we will be running our annual Janus Sequential Centuries. This is a century (or metric century) on Saturday and then a 2nd century (or metric century) on Sunday. The routes both days are the same except that on Saturday we ride them in a clockwise manner and on Sunday in the counter-clockwise direction. Few riders actually come out for both days, so don't feel you have to ride both days. Just come out for one or the other if that suits you. The full century routes are somewhat hilly with about 5000 feet of climbing each day. The metric centuries cut out much of the climbing, but on Saturday, the metric does climb Potrero -- a very tough climb. It looks like all this rain we have been having is going to end by the weekend, so I'm optimistic we will get these rides in. I definitely plan to be there Saturday and if that doesn't kill me, I might try for Sunday as well -- maybe only the metric on Sunday. But I'm slow, so I plan to start early. Most of you will probably catch me at some point. I'll keep an eye out for you.

Holiday Party: Last Saturday we held our annual Holiday Party at the Olive Garden out in the Valley. I didn't get a count, but it seemed like a pretty good crowd. We filled two long tables. We had a selection from 4 or 5 entrees, none of which suited my tastes, but the Olive Garden was very accommodating and came up with something that suited me just fine. So I was a happy camper and I think everyone else was too. The meal included ice cream, but Kermit also brought in a nice chocolate cake which really hit the spot. I wish I had taken more photos, but here is a shot of one of the tables which I think I took after dessert.



Meeting: We have a club meeting this Thursday (information is on the schedule on the club web site). I believe nominations for officers will close at this meeting, so if you are dying to become a club officer, you had better come. We don't yet have a volunteer to provide refreshments. I did it last month, so I'm really looking for someone else this time. Contact me if you can do this.

Wave Action: Last week when there was particularly high surf, **Lewis Singer** took this photo of the bike path near the Marina del Rey channel. I've been riding the beach for many years and I don't remember the waves ever swamping the path like this. Proof enough for me that the oceans are rising.



Sky Photos: Mel Cutler sent me several photos of the sky he took out towards Riverside last week. He has a real eye for photography. I'm putting one photo in here and I'll hold the rest for later if I need them. I like the silhouettes of the palm trees.



Final Shot: Last week it occurred to me that it's January now and we should start seeing the new colored tags on license plates. I started looking for one on the parked cars I was passing and must have passed over a hundred cars without finding any. It is surprising however how many cars still have orange stickers which are now all out of date -- many of which I noticed were months late. I finally did find a new one and here it is. They are yellow this year.



See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - January 22, 2019

Hello All:

Last Weekend: Last weekend was our annual running of the Janus Sequential Centuries -- back to back centuries or metric centuries on Saturday and Sunday. I went out for an early start on Saturday, but **Phil Whitworth** showed up just before I took off. He may have been the only other rider on Saturday. He told me a group of riders overtook him near the end and were at the parking lot when he finished. They may have been on our ride, but he didn't know any of them. Both Phil and I did the full century on Saturday. It was a great day for it. Not freezing cold at the start as it often is and warm enough later that I took my jacket off before the final climb up Potrero. I always consider this ride to be my annual showdown against my nemesis -- Potrero. Sometimes the hill wins and sometimes I win. I am happy to report that this year I beat the hill. That just means not stopping and not walking, but I was pleased with myself. I didn't take many photos. Here is one I took of Lake Sherwood. It appears to be completely full. I was a little surprised because it seems like the last time I saw it, it was somewhat low.



I was feeling good enough after Saturday's ride that I decided to go out on Sunday as well. But once I got there, I couldn't face another 100 miles, so I opted for doing the metric century. **Sheila Szymanski** also rode the metric and **Jacques Stern** was there to ride the full century. As far as I know, we were the only 3 riders. The weather was cooler and cloudier on Sunday, but it was still a fairly nice day for this time of year. I took this photo, which requires some explanation.



This is on Harbor Blvd between Ventura and Oxnard. I probably ride this stretch 3 or 4 times a year and I've come to realize that it is impossible for me to pass this street without hearing in my head "Wooly Bully" by Sam the Sham & the Pharaohs. (I know the spelling of "Wooly" is different). And it usually takes 5 to 10 miles before I stop hearing that song in my head. For those of you too young to remember the song, here is a link to a YouTube video of it. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uE_MpQhgtQ8 Now you can hear it in your head too when you pass this street.

Next Sunday: This Sunday we will be riding "Straight Cow Mountain" which starts in Alhambra and rides Turnbull Canyon. We were originally scheduled to ride "Arcadia 'N Stuff" which would have taken us up to Chantry Flats, but then I found out that Chantry is closed due to the federal shutdown. Two weeks ago when I decided to substitute a different ride, I thought maybe I was being rash --surely the government would be reopened by now. Well, it doesn't look like it will be, so I guess I made the right choice to schedule a different ride. The principal goal of "Straight Cow Mountain" is a trip over Turnbull (long and medium only), but it does it in what is generally considered the reverse direction -- that is from east to west. I think that is the easier direction, so why not come out and join us. We'll get back to Chantry someday when the government reopens.

Minutes: Attached are the minutes of the meeting we just held on January 17th. You can read them at your leisure.

Beach Bike Path: High waves swamped the beach bike path again last week, just after they had cleaned up the mess left from the week before. **Lewis Singer** sent me another photo of the mess.



I don't think one person with a broom is going to be enough. Actually, I was out there today and it is being cleaned up again.

Final Shot: Gary Murphy sent me this photo today. He thought maybe the "LAW" refers to the Los Angeles Wheelmen and that this was an official sag vehicle. I'm not so sure.



See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - January 29, 2019

Hello All:

Last Sunday: On Sunday we were riding "Straight Cow Mountain" which started in Alhambra and took us out to the San Gabriel Valley and then back over Turnbull Canyon. I think we had 11 or 12 riders which is really good compared to what we have been getting lately. I took a photo at the start, but it appears to be missing a couple riders:



I think we split pretty evenly between the long and medium routes. **Gary Murphy** sent me several photos from out on the course. This one of **Mel Cutler** shows what a nice day it was and that there is still some snow in the mountains.



Although it was a little hazy, it was clear enough that I got this shot of downtown from the top of Turnbull



I took this photo by **Lynn Katano** off her Facebook page. It is of the medium group at the top of Turnbull



Looks like they were having a good day.

Next Week: This Sunday we will be riding "Orange Thrill at Redhill" which starts in Tustin. It's Superbowl Sunday and the Rams are in the game, so it's understandable that many of you would rather stay home and watch the game. I would too. But the game starts at 3:30, so I figure I can do the ride and be home in time to catch most of the game. So, why not come out and join me. Actually they are talking rain for the weekend. Right now it's probably too early to tell if it will affect our ride. Usually I would make every effort to ride, even if the the forecast is iffy. But with the game that day, I find myself almost wishing it would rain and make my decision easy.

Selfie-a-day: For several years now (3 or 4 at least) **Kit Gray** has taken a selfie each day. At the end of each year he combines all the selfies from the year into a little video set to music and posts it on YouTube. He has two versions of the video for his 2018 selfies. The links are below. I think you'll find them interesting, if not entertaining.

<https://youtu.be/fCbgPIKpekU>

<https://youtu.be/RcUWOqmx8os>

Parting Shot: Here's one more photo from last Sunday taken from Lynn Katano's Facebook page. At the end of the ride several of the medium riders made a slight detour to stop at Fosselman's Ice Cream in Alhambra. This is **Nancy Domjanovich** and **Mel Cutler** enjoying their ice cream:



See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP