

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - February 5, 2019

Hello All:

Sunday: The weather predictions were pretty sketchy for Sunday and when I checked Sunday morning, it still didn't look good, so I decided it wasn't worth the drive down to Tustin to find out. Actually, later it seemed like I might have been able to get the ride in, but it was too late to change my mind. I don't know if anyone else showed up. I haven't heard anything. If anyone went, let me know how it went. Otherwise I guess I'll reschedule the ride for a later month. At least the weather let me watch all of the Super Bowl. Unfortunately, that was a disappointment too. I didn't even think the commercials were that great. Whatever Amazon paid Harrison Ford, I don't think it was worth it.

This Week: Well on to the next weekend. On Saturday we have a special century ride. **Kermit** has put together a new century to be used as the last 100 miles of the Quadruple Century at this year's Grand Tour and he wanted a few people to test it out. It looks like a nice century (at least if you haven't ridden 300 miles first) but it does start up in Port Hueneme -- the site of the Start/Finish of the Grand Tour. I intend to go even with the long drive, unless it looks like it is going to rain. Unfortunately, they are currently talking rain on Saturday. So, we shall see.

On Sunday we will be riding "Ivan's Ride" which starts at the "Corner." These routes head over to the Valley and back. The forecast for Sunday is more promising and since it's a local ride, I'm more likely to go even if the predictions are a bit "iffy." I hope to see you there. I'm getting tired of missing rides due to rain.

Ballona Creek History: **Dennis Miller** sent me the following link to a brief history of Ballona Creek. Since many of us ride the creek often (I ride it 2 or 3 times a week lately) Dennis thought club members might find it interesting. I was surprised to find that there is disagreement over where the name "Ballona" came from. Anyway, here's the link:

http://ballonacreek.org/history/?fbclid=IwAR1EMzp_ZppmXVw_M8agZR-8viL72PDYb92FCdnBKASewRU8UTwnZB_bSvA

Parting Shot: Well, this is certainly one of the shortest reports I've done in a while. Just not a lot going on in the club this week I guess. And with no riders on Sunday, I have no photos. Fortunately, I held back a few of the sky photos sent to me a few weeks ago by **Mel Cutler**. Here they are:





I think these were morning shots after a night ride, but they could be sunset photos.

See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - February 12, 2019

Hello All:

Last Weekend: Last Saturday we had a bonus century. Kermit wanted a few riders to check out a proposed route for the final century of the Grand Tour Quadruple century. The ride started up in Port Hueneme so I didn't expect too many riders to show up. It took a real leap of faith for me to show up myself because it was raining fairly steady when I left home. But the weather people said the storm was coming from the northwest and by the time it got to LA, it would be ending in Ventura County. Turns out they were right. By the time I got to Port Hueneme, the sun was actually out. However, I was the only rider. Not too surprising. Full disclosure -- the sun didn't last. At about mile 20 I started getting rained on and it lasted maybe 5 miles. But by then I was in Simi Valley and making my turn to head back west towards the better weather. After that, the sun was out most of the day and it was a fairly pleasant ride. It was a nice century as centuries go. I'd put it in our regular century rotation except for the fact that it starts up in Port Hueneme. I don't think many riders would want to drive up there for a century, even in good weather. However, I'm not sure it would be so great as the last century on the Quad. It has more climbing than I would like if I was trying to finish a quad. It turns out **David Nakai** also rode the century, but he rode it at night to simulate actual quad conditions. He sent his comments out to the Yahoo Group -- You may have read them. I didn't take any photos worth sharing here. Early in the ride I could see snow on the mountains to the north which I think are then ones behind Ojai. I should have taken a photo then, but I thought it would be better if I waited until I was closer in Santa Paula. But the snow wasn't visible from Santa Paula. The lesson is: Take the photo when you have the chance.

On Sunday, the club ride was "Ivan's Ride" from the Corner. Rain was predicted by around noon and I didn't think I could finish the ride by then and I had done my share of riding in the rain on the century. But I drove over to the start to see if anyone else would show up. The sun was out and the day looked pretty nice. Five riders showed up. It was also a newcomer ride and **Mel Cutler** was there to lead that. All five decided to do a short "newcomer" ride rather than the scheduled ride in order to avoid the coming rain or simply because they needed to get home early. I took a photo of the 5 at the start, but it was terrible. Fortunately, Mel took some photos up in Franklin Canyon



Here they are at the Nature Center. From left to right: **Jocelyn & Rob Goubeaux, Gary Murphy, Mel Cutler** and **David Nakai** (I'm not sure who took the photo) I thought Jocelyn and Rob were there for the newcomer ride, but they have been member for a while. They also took a selfie in front of the lake up there:



Gary said he got a little rain before he got home, but not too bad. This time of year, you just have to squeeze a ride in any time you can.

Next Week: This Sunday we have our regular century of the month which is "East Road, West Road, All Around Downtown" which starts in Culver City. We are offering both a full century and a metric century. The full century travels through downtown and points east to ride East Road and West Road before returning through Whittier for a lunch stop and then a return west. The metric makes it to Whittier but doesn't get to East Road and West Road and it returns by a more direct route than the full century. We've done the full century several times now and I've always enjoyed it even though it is a lot of urban riding. Right now the weather is sort of up in the air (actually weather is always up in the air), but weather permitting, I plan to be there.

Meeting: We have our monthly meeting on Thursday the 21st. We are once again meeting at the Culver City Veteran's Memorial Center (this time in Room B) As always, we would like someone to volunteer to bring refreshments. If you can do this, please let me know.

Road Repaving: Those who ride the beach communities know that there has been an on-going project on Hermosa Avenue through Hermosa Beach. Today when I went through there, they were beginning to put the final layer of asphalt down, so they may be done in a week or so. Then it will be a very pleasant ride through Hermosa. That's the good news. The bad news is that Culver City is just starting a project expected to take several months to repave Overland Ave. in Culver City. I know some of you ride Overland to get to Ballona Creek or to get to the Corner, so you can expect periods when the street will be roughed up prior to repaving.

Final Shot: Last Thursday on the Triple Dipper ride, after our usual break in Palos Verdes, **Dale Aaronson** and **Phil Whitworth** extended their ride with a trip down to San Pedro. Along the way, they stopped at the Freedom Bell and Phil sent me this photo



He also sent me this photo of Dale being questioned by Customs Agents. I'll be interested to get the story behind this photo. Maybe they thought he was smuggling something in those panniers.



See You On the Road

Rod Doty, VP

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - February 19, 2019

Hello All:

Last Weekend: The ride scheduled for Sunday was our century and metric century of the month -- "East Road, West Road, All Around Downtown." The weather forecasts were not promising for Sunday, but Saturday was predicted to be a nice day, so three of us decided to ride the century on Saturday. Besides myself, the other two were **Gary Murphy** and **Phil Whitworth**. The route doesn't just go "around" downtown, it actually goes through it. Here is a photo taken by Gary of Phil and me by the Staples Center.



I believe Phil is looking up at the "jumbo-tron" type display on the side of a building. It reminds me of some of the scenes in the original "Blade Runner" movie which was in fact intended to depict Los Angeles in the future. We ran into a Chinese New Year bike ride in Chinatown and later came across a run. Seems like everyone was holding events that day. We had a pretty good ride although the last half was mostly into a headwind. I had forgotten how much all the stop lights slow this ride down, but still finished with a little daylight to spare.

I had injured my hand on Saturday in a minor accident, so I didn't plan to ride at all on Sunday, but since the start of the ride was only a few blocks from where I live, I went over to see if anyone showed up. The morning was bright and sunny. It was later in the day when the rain was predicted. Two riders did show up and I took their photo.



This is **Lewis Singer** and **Howard Weden**. They are two of the regulars on the Thursday Triple Dipper ride, but I think this may have been the first time they showed up for a Sunday ride. They hadn't intended to do the entire route anyway and when no one else showed up, they decided to just ride down to the beach instead of the planned route. I don't think it ever rained much that day, so there is good chance they got a nice ride in.

This Sunday: This Sunday the ride is "La Tuna Melt" which starts at the zoo. The long is the only route which actually rides up La Tuna Canyon for which the ride is named. The medium takes an easier way up to the Rose Bowl where it joins the long route. Both ride up Christmas Tree Lane in Altadena before heading to lunch in South Pasadena. **David Nakai** has said he plans to be on the ride and plans to find lunch at some place that actually serves tuna melts. Anyone who knows me well, knows I would never touch a tuna melt, but there are several lunch options on these routes so everyone should be happy. I don't think you can actually melt tuna anyway. I don't think there is any rain in the forecast for Sunday, so I hope to see a lot of you at the zoo (where Paul Simon says it's all happening).

Thursday Meeting: **David Nakai** has graciously volunteered to provide refreshments at the meeting this Thursday. He always brings something special so you might want to make an effort to be there. Details are in the schedule on the club's website.

Academy Awards: The Academy Awards are this Sunday. I have a special interest this year. For several years I have had season tickets at the Pantages Theater. For the 2019-2020 season, they are splitting the shows between the Pantages and the Dolby Theater where the Academy Awards are held. They assigned me a very good seat at

the Dolby. For those shows I will be in the 5th row and 5 seats in from the right in the center section (as you look out from the stage). So I thought it would be fun to see if I can spot who is sitting in my seat during the Academy Awards. I'm hoping it is someone like Meryl Streep which would mean it's a really lucky seat.

Final Shot: Mel Cutler was down in the San Diego area last Sunday for a 300K brevet. He sent me his photo which he said was taken in Solana Beach.



It looks like they may have had pretty good weather down that way. **David Nakai** was doing a brevet up in the San Luis Obispo area. He sent out a long report of the ride to the club Yahoo Group. They had plenty of rain up that way. His report did not make randonneuring sound like fun. But, to each his own.

See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - February 26, 2019

Hello All:

Sunday: Sunday we were riding "La Tuna Melt" which started at the Zoo. Although a little nippy at the start, it turned out to be a really nice day. We had a good turnout of 13 riders. Unfortunately, I didn't get the usual photo at the start, but I think I remember who was there. I apologize if I forgot someone. We split fairly evenly between the medium and the long route. Riding the medium were **Nancy Domjanovich, Bill Faulkner, Sheila Szymanski, Thomas Knoll**, and a newcomer named **Krystal** who joined us via the "Meet Up" site. Riding the long were **Phil Whitworth, Russ Brynes, Gary Murphy, Jacques Stern, David Nakai, Mel Cutler, Dale Aaronson** and me. One of the featured climbs on both routes was the trip up "Christmas Tree Lane" in Altadena. Here is a photo I took as Jacques and David neared the top.



Gary sent me this photo from out on the course. It was taken above the Rose Bowl. You can see what a nice day it was.



We all split for lunch, but I did see a number of the riders back at the finish. David Nakai was in quest of an actual tuna melt for lunch to match the title of the ride. Others went to Gus's BBQ and others went to other places. I believe Thomas skipped lunch entirely because he had to get back early because he was going to the Oscars that night (see below). David sent an extensive report of his own to the club's Yahoo Group, but since many of you don't get that, I've attached a copy of it to this e-mail. You can read it (or not) at your leisure. He did find his tuna melt.

Next Sunday: Next Sunday is our annual installation lunch and ride. We will be installing the officers for the year to come and handing out awards. You should have received a separate notice of his last week. The ride is a short ride starting from the corner and it takes you to the lunch location. If you wish to simply join us for the lunch, it will start around noon. The location is the activity room at Lindberg Park in Culver City (5041 Rhoda Way, Culver City). If you haven't already, take a second to click on this address and RSVP for the lunch to **Nancy Domjanovich:** nancydomx@icloud.com

Academy Award Winner Among Us: We actually have an Academy Award winner as a member this year. At the separate Scientific & Engineering Awards handed out about a week before last Sunday's award ceremony, **Thomas Knoll**, along with his brother and another were given an award in recognition of their contribution to the industry by their creation of Photoshop -- the photo editing program many of us know so well. Here is a link to a YouTube clip of his acceptance speech.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=4&v=t0uTQrQ3hW0

Thomas was also able to attend the awards on Sunday and during the ceremony they mentioned the the sci/tech awards and showed a brief montage of some of the winners, including a shot of Thomas, but if you blinked you might have missed it. But at least he was on the show. Congratulations Thomas!!

Final Shot: Last Thursday the Triple Dippers were able to get their usual ride in, but we had to race the rain to get home before it struck. **Gary Murphy** sent me this photo of the approaching rain as it rolled across the bay from Malibu.



See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP