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**LA Wheelmen VP Report**

1 message

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**Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - March 26, 2019**

Hello All:

**Sunday:** Last Sunday we started in Torrance for "South Bay Typical." The weather promised to be good and the start was relatively close to home so I expected a good turn out. I was a bit disappointed. If my memory is correct, we only had 6 riders. I didn't get a photo at the start but the 6 were: **Bill Faulkner, Gary Murphy, Jacques Stern, Thomas Knoll, Phil Whitworth** and me. Phil and Thomas (the faster riders) took off and weren't seen again. I'm guessing they did the long route. The rest of us regrouped at the point where the long and medium routes split. The other 3 wanted to do the medium and I almost gave in to peer pressure to go with them, but I really had my heart set on doing the long, so I continued on by myself. It was a real nice day and I actually enjoyed the ride by myself. I went to an alternative lunch stop which I liked -- I might not have done that if I was with the group. Unfortunately, I didn't get any photos from the ride except this one I took from near the top of Palos Verdes. It is looking down on the Trump golf course on the left. The wild mustard on the hillside looks nice.

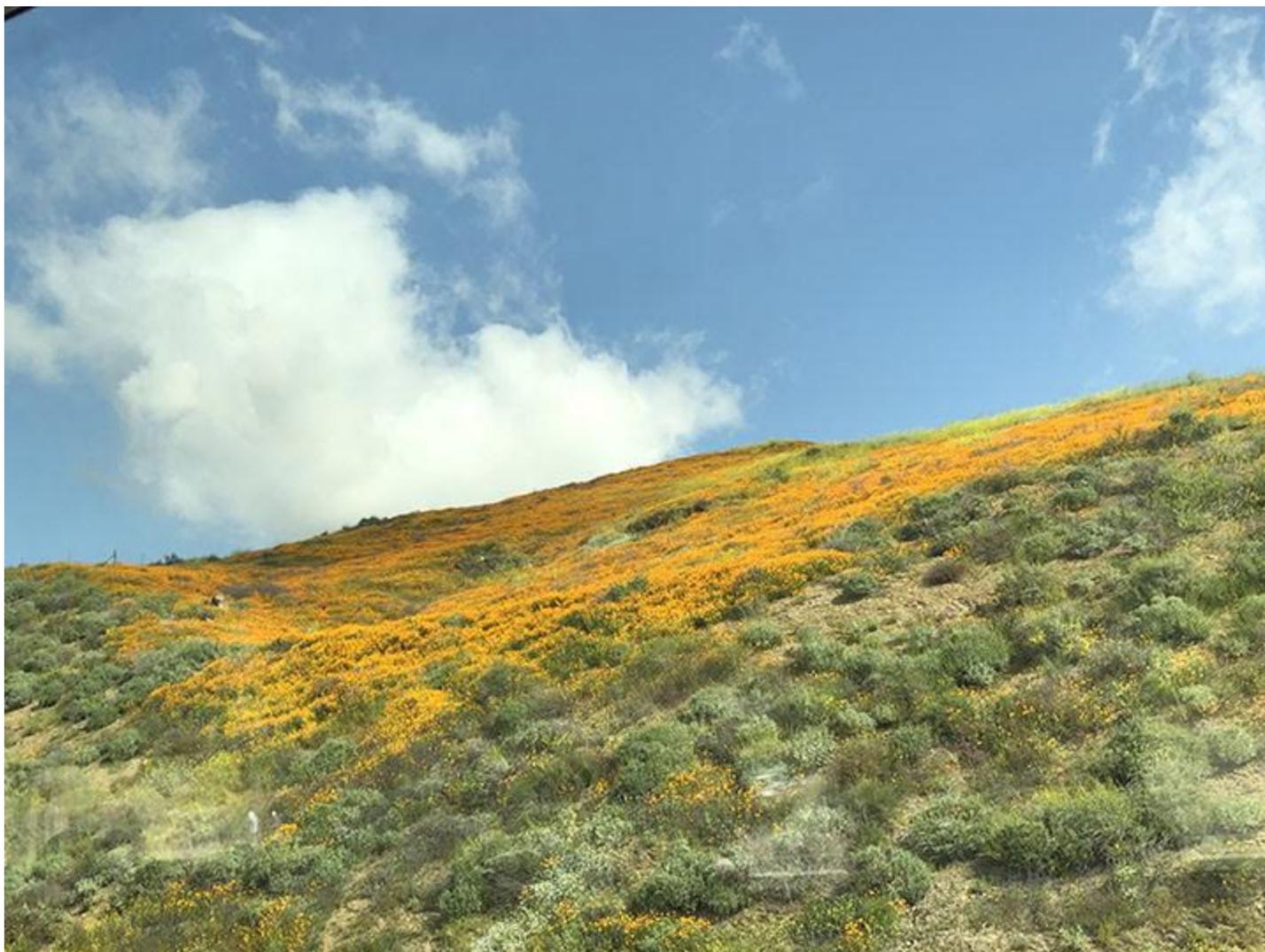


**Next Week:** On Saturday we have the first of our Grand Tour training rides. This series of 12 Saturday rides leading up to the Grand Tour are always the highlight of my year. Even if you have no plans to do the Grand Tour, you might want to consider doing these rides. They are beautiful and they take you places you are not likely to ride otherwise. Yes, they are difficult. But a slow and steady pace will get you through them and the feeling of accomplishment you get when you finish just can't be beat. Our first trainer is "Canyon Lakes." This is definitely a beautiful ride as you ride up Bouquet Canyon and pass 4 different lakes during the day. Two years ago Lake Hughes and Lake Elizabeth weren't much more than mud holes, but I'm anxious to see what they look like now. The weather is supposed to be good, so why not come out and join us. It is not an easy ride, but it probably is the easiest of the trainers.

On Sunday we were going to run the Fargo Street Hill Climb. However, because they made Fargo a one-way street in the wrong direction this year, we were seeking a permit to hold the hill climb. We did not get this in time. We may run the event later in the year. We were to do the ride from the Corner over to Fargo for the hill climb. I've decided that we will continue to do the ride anyway. It was already scheduled and I thought it might create confusion if I changed it at the last minute. So, on Sunday we will ride over to Fargo to look at the hill, but not climb it. I've put instructions on the route sheet for an easy (well- easier) way to the top of Fargo so that if you like, you can ride to the top and test your ability to ride down Fargo. Frankly, I think I would be too scared to do it. But maybe you are up to the challenge. We have two routes. One just goes over to the hill and back. The other continues on to downtown for lunch at Philippe's. I've always thought this place is over-rated, but it's an LA tradition and if you have never been there, you should go.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on March 21 are attached. They were prepared by our substitute secretary **Nancy Domjanovich**. Thank you Nancy.

**Poppies:** There has been a lot of talk on the news lately about all the poppies down by Elsinore. Last week **Mel Cutler** was doing a brevet down that way. He said he passed the wild flower area in the dark, so he couldn't see them, but then on the charter bus ride back they passed the poppies on I-15. He said it slowed the traffic down just as the reports have been saying. But he did get this photo:



But why brave the crowds and traffic to see the poppies in Elsinore when there is a poppy reserve up near Lancaster and Saturday's training ride passes within a few miles of it. In the past there were plenty of poppies and other flowers to be seen right on the Canyon Lake route, but if you want to go over to the reserve, it will only take you about 5 miles off the course (and 5 miles back). Unfortunately, although it would be mostly downhill over to the reserve, you would have to climb about 800 feet to get back. Anyway, seeing the flowers this year is another good reason to come out for the trainer on Saturday.

**Final Shot:** I don't have many photos this week. Here is a shot Mel sent me of the Pre-ride dinner before his brevet last weekend. Mel is in the lower right corner.



Although I don't think I want to get into randonneuring myself because I'm not that fond of riding in the dark, I have to admit, it looks like these guys do enjoy themselves.

See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP

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