

LA Wheelmen VP Report

1 message

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Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - April 2, 2019

Hello All:

Last Weekend: On Saturday we had the first Grand Tour training ride in our 12 week series leading up to the Grand Tour. As it has been for many years now, the first trainer was "Canyon Lakes" which took us out to Bouquet Canyon. I think there were only 8 riders -- a far cry from a few years ago when more than 20 riders would show up for this one. I didn't get a photo at the start, but I believe the following riders were there: **Dale Aaronson** (who started early and I never saw him), **Sheila Szymanski**, **Thomas Knoll**, **Phil Whitworth**, **Gary Murphy**, **Jacques Stern**, **Josh** (whose last name I don't know), and me. It was a beautiful day for the ride. There was talk of winds, but they were never as bad as I had feared. The wind was actually the reverse of the usual which meant we had a headwind going up Bouquet and over the top of San Francisquito. But I was happy to grind out the early miles into the wind to get the tailwind on the 13 mile downhill on Lake Hughes Road. That was fun. Here is a photo Gary took of me as I came up the last little bit of climbing into the wind:



I was looking forward to seeing how much water was in the 4 lakes we would be passing during the ride and also getting a view of all the wild flowers in the area. I was a little disappointed in the lakes. Here's a photo Dale sent me of Bouquet Reservoir:



You can see that the reservoir is very full since some of the trees near the shore are now under water, but it actually appeared that it was not completely full. Here is a photo I took of Castaic Lake. It too is near full, but not completely full.



The real disappointments were Lake Elizabeth and Lake Hughes. I didn't take photos of them, but they still did not have a lot of water in them. Both Bouquet and Castaic can be filled with water brought down from up north, so their levels don't necessarily indicate how much rain we have had. Elizabeth and Hughes are just filled by local rainfall.

The wild flowers, however, were not a disappointment. I thought about riding the extra 5 miles over to the poppy reserve, but really didn't need to in order to see a lot of flowers. The view along Lake Elizabeth Road was just fine. Here's a shot Gary sent me:



Here's a shot I took in the same area:



All in all -- a very good day.

Sunday was to have been our annual Fargo Street Hill Climb. But we weren't able to get a permit to hold the climb. We may hold the event later in the year if we can get the proper permit. However, we were still going to hold the usual ride over to the hill and on to downtown for lunch at Philippe's. I went over to the start at the "Corner" but no one else showed up, so I just did my own ride to Palos Verdes instead. Philippe's is more fun with a group.

Next Week: On Saturday we have our 2nd Grand Tour trainer: "Pioma." This route takes us out to Malibu and inland on Malibu Canyon to where we pick up the featured climb -- Pioma. This 6 mile climb is closely followed by the two mile climb on Schueren. But then there is the fast downhill on Stunt Road and on to the Valley for lunch. After lunch, you only have the easy climb over Sepulveda to complete the day. It's a great route and I hope to see more than 8 of you out this Saturday.

On Sunday we are in Long Beach for the "Long Beach Rides." These very flat rides loop around the Long Beach area most of the day. The long and medium make loops inland to pick up extra miles, but then come back to Long Beach for lunch. These are also very nice routes and not very difficult, so why not come on out.

Parting Shot: Not much else to discuss tonight, so this is short. Here is a photo of a sign I took on Saturday at the top to Spunky Canyon.



I had never heard of this campaign before, but the idea is that they don't want you to transport firewood from one place to another because it spreads insects. The "gsob" in the website refers to the Goldspotted Oak Borer, which is the pest they are trying to stop. I'm not sure a sign at the top of Spunky is exactly getting the message out, but maybe they have similar signs up on Angeles Crest now too.

See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP