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**LA Wheelmen VP Report**

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**Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - April 16, 2019**

Hello All:

**Last Weekend:** On Saturday we were riding the 3rd Grand Tour Trainer which was the "Whale of a Century." It started in Camarillo and went up to Santa Barbara and back. There was a metric version which started from Ventura, but I am not aware of anyone who rode that. There were 8 of us at the start in Camarillo. **Phil Whitworth** took this photo at the start:



From left to right: **Jay & Audrey** (two newcomers), **Sheila Szymanski**, **Dale Aaronson**, **me**, and **Thomas Knoll**. Phil was taking the photo and **Nancy Domjanovich** had taken off a bit early and didn't make the photo. Not long after the start, the only other rider I saw again was Phil. We were up at the whale together and also at lunch. But all the cars were gone when I finished so I assume everyone finished or cut it a bit short. Our destination was the whale skeleton at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. I know Phil and I made it there and Dale sent me this photo, so I know he made it. Others may have skipped the whale.



There was a detour for construction along Foothill Blvd, but of course some of us attempted to get through anyway. Apparently it was a tight fit getting through the fence and a local resident called the police, but no one was apprehended. Here is a photo of one of our riders after getting through the fence. I have blurred his face to protect his identity.



On Sunday we were riding "The Sierra Donut Ride." Unfortunately, this time of year when we are scheduling rides on both Saturday and Sunday, we tend to split our usual ridership. The result is that only two of us showed up on Sunday. Here is my photo of the only other rider: **Bill Faulkner**.



We were starting from the Zoo parking lot where normally there are several other groups starting. Oddly, on Sunday there were almost no other riders at all. Where were they? I have several hypotheses: 1. Everyone was home doing their taxes, 2. They were home watching Tiger Woods win the Masters for the first time in years. 3. Spring Break. 4. Celebrating Palm Sunday. Or maybe they were all at the Rose Bowl because when we got there, that place was really jumping. The monthly swap meet was going on, but it seemed like a lot more cars were there than is usual for that event. Our destination was the Sierra Donut shop in Sierra Madre. I did take a photo of my donuts, but I don't think I'll include that here. All in all, it was a nice ride, but I wish there had been a few more riders to join us.

**Next Week:** On Saturday our 4th Grand Tour Trainer is "Sand Canyon." We don't run this trainer very often, but it goes back to the days when **Lou Steinhauer** first organized the training rides. It starts in Brentwood but heads out to Santa Clarita where the main climb of the day is the long climb up Sand Canyon with its twin peaks. The payoff is the long downhill on Little Tujunga. It also allows you to preview the Little Tujunga climb because we will be going up that one in a few weeks. One of the reasons we don't run this very often is that there is no place to get food until you are back in the Valley -- a long way into the ride. So, bring snacks and carry enough water. I hope to see a lot of you there. It might be another 10 years before we run this one again.

On Sunday we will be running our usual Easter Day ride. These are relatively short and easy rides to get you home early in case you want to celebrate the holiday. There's nothing particularly Easter-ish about these routes, so you should feel free to

join us regardless of your affiliations. They are just nice springtime rides. I plan to be there to continue my goal of riding both the training ride on Saturday and the Sunday ride.

**Good News:** Our monthly meeting is this Thursday and we have a volunteer to bring refreshments. **Andy Pollack**, a relatively new member, has volunteered. Thank you Andy.

**Thank You:** In response to my request last week, I have already received some business cards from **Mark Dehanke** and **Steve Benoff**. Thank you. I hope to get more from others. Why not come to the meeting this Thursday and save yourself the postage?

**Vacation Photos:** This week we have photos from two members. First, **Saul Miller** is in Amsterdam and sent in this photo showing just how popular bicycles are in that city.



I also received additional photos from **Mel Cutler** who is still traveling in Europe. He sent me several more of various art pieces, but I was more struck by this selfie of Mel in front of one of the last pieces of the Berlin Wall which is still standing.



I can't decide if he looks more like someone who escaped over the wall or one of the Russian guards who used to prevent people from doing that.

**Final Shot:** Mel also sent me this photo from London which shows they are pretty serious about bike laws there.



See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP