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**LA Wheelmen VP Report**

1 message

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**Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - April 30, 2019**

Hello All:

**Last Weekend:** On Saturday we were riding our annual Grand Tour trainer to Mount Baldy. Although officially Glendora Mountain Road and the Ridge Road were closed, as I suspected, the roads were accessible to bicycles and plenty of cyclists were taking those routes. While there were only 5 riders at the start who were there specifically for our ride, there were at least a dozen other riders there headed up to Baldy on their own. Our riders were **Thomas Knoll, Sheila Szymanski, David Williams, Gary Murphy** and me. I later received some photos from **Dale Aaronson**, so he was also on the ride, but I never saw him on the course -- perhaps he started early. Thomas, Sheila and I chose the option which took us up Baldy Road while David and Gary took the traditional route up Highway 39, East Fork and GMR. Gary never went all the way to Baldy, but he did achieve one of his goals -- checking out the Bald Eagles on Hwy 39. He sent this photo of the young eaglets in the nest.



I achieved my goal of going all the way up to the ski lift. I had only managed to do that one time before. I felt very pleased with myself and took this selfie to show how happy I was (and to prove I made it)



On the way up to the ski lift I saw this sign. Last week there was a warning about algae. This was a bit more serious



I didn't see any bears. On my way down, I did see David heading up, so I'm guessing he also made it to the ski lift. Way to go David.

There was still a bit of snow on the mountains, as the photo below shows, but it was all above the level of the ski lift. You could hear the water running in the streams along the road and that means the reservoirs along Highway 39 are still filling up. Gary sent the photo of one of the reservoirs which shows that it is almost full. They were almost empty last year.



All in all, it was a very nice day. I had some misgivings about riding the closed roads on the return because if I had a problem, it would be difficult to get help. But there were so many cyclists on the road, I don't think I ever went more than a few minutes without seeing another rider. And then I heard a car coming up behind me -- I wondered how it got on the road, but it turned out to be a police car. He cruised by me without comment. I can only assume he was patrolling the road in case a cyclist did have a problem. Or maybe he was just taking a shortcut home. It was very nice doing that long downhill with no cars.

On Sunday we were down in Orange County for "John's River Ride" Alas, there were only 3 riders. I took this shot at the start:



That's **Russ Brynes** and **Bill Faulkner**. The long and medium routes stayed together until after lunch. Russ and Bill did the medium and I did the long. The route included a trip on the Balboa Ferry. Here is the only other photo I took during the ride. It's Bill on the ferry.



I did check out something I was curious about. In the past, the trip across the channel didn't add any mileage on a bike computer since they required the wheels to be turning. But the new GPS units don't require the wheels to turn to detect motion, so I was curious if the ferry moved fast enough to register on the GPS. Yes it did. In fact, it showed the ferry got up to a speed a little above 4 mph. I didn't think it went that fast. So, the distance across the channel was added to my mileage for the day. It was only 0.1 or 0.2 miles so I counted it in my log. It was a nice day for a ride. I'm just sorry more riders didn't come out for it.

**Next Week:** On Saturday, our Grand Tour Trainer is "Encinal Canyon." I would consider this the last of the more moderate trainers before the difficulty level turns up a notch. The only major climb is the trip up Encinal Canyon from the coast. There are a couple of lesser climbs as we return through Agoura Hills into the Valley and back over Sepulveda, but when you look at the profile for this one, it's clear the Encinal climb is the only one to really worry about.

On Sunday we will be out in Newhall for the "Saugus Special." Both the long and medium routes ride up San Francisquito Canyon and back down Bouquet Canyon. The long goes all the way to Leona Valley while the medium only goes up as far as Green Valley. We were just out there for the first trainer a few weeks ago, but many of you missed that ride, so here's another chance. Also, the trainer went up Bouquet, while this one goes down. I hope to make both rides on the weekend, but expect to be fairly slow going up the long climb on Sunday. So why not join me -- misery loves company -- as they say.

**New Memorial Signs.** Nancy Domjanovich sent me an article about a new alternative to ghost bikes to honor fallen cyclists which is being instituted by Los Angeles. The city will put up a permanent sign with the fallen cyclist's name along with a safety message. The advantage is that it is an officially sanctioned memorial and will presumably remain in place longer than ghost bikes. You can read the entire article (which contains a photo of a sample sign) here:

[https://www.bicycling.com/news/a27229568/memorial-signs-cyclists/?source=nl&utm\\_source=nl\\_byc&utm\\_medium=email&date=042819&src=nl&utm\\_campaign=16702055](https://www.bicycling.com/news/a27229568/memorial-signs-cyclists/?source=nl&utm_source=nl_byc&utm_medium=email&date=042819&src=nl&utm_campaign=16702055)

**Keep Those Cards Coming:** I have received enough business cards to now last me a little over a year, but I had hoped to get a longer supply so I wouldn't have to be asking for more cards again next year. So, if you have any old business cards (which are only one-sided) I could still use some

more. Please send them to me: Rod Doty, 4900 Overland #334, Culver City, CA 90230 Thank you.

**Vacation Photos:** **Saul Miller** continued to send photos from France. I was struck by this one which shows the lines waiting to get into Versailles. Saul said they waited 2 hours and 15 minutes. Worse than Disneyland.



With summer coming up, I want to remind all of you that I will happily share any vacation photos you send me. Of course, it would be better if they were cycling related, but they don't have to be. Your fellow clubmates would be interested in any sort of vacation you may take.

See You On the Road

Rod Doty, VP