

LA Wheelmen VP Report

1 message

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Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - May 14, 2019

Hello All:

Last Weekend: On Saturday we were riding the "Three Hills Trainer." This was new last year but it was rainy and no one finished the whole thing. It didn't look promising this year either. The predictions for rain were only around 20% down here, but up at Mount Wilson (the 3rd hill of the "Three Hills") it was more like 40%. I figured I would give the ride a try and maybe I could get the first two hills in without rain and then if I encountered rain on the way up to Wilson, I could always turn around. Turns out 5 other riders were game also. I took this photo at the start:



From left to right: **Thomas Knoll, Phil Whitworth, Sheila Szymanski, Dale Aaronson and Mel Cutler.** Thomas had a mechanical problem right off the bat and didn't go far. I saw Sheila coming back down Angeles Crest as I was a few miles from Clear Creek. She is faster than me, but not so fast that she had time to go all the way to Wilson and back when I saw her -- I'm guessing she turned around at Clear Creek. Mel later told me he went as far as Red Box before turning around, but he was off the bike for several weeks while in Europe and this was a tough ride. That left Phil, Dale and me and we all made it to Wilson. As it turned out, the weather was better than expected. We had a mixture of sun and clouds for the early climbing. The weather still looked good as I started up Angeles Crest heading for Wilson, so I kept going. Amazingly, I made it all the way to Wilson without a drop of rain (although Phil, ahead of me, said he encountered some). However, as I started down I did encounter a shower that got me pretty wet. By the time I was down to Clear Creek, it had stopped and I was drying out. I understand Mel (and probably Phil) encountered a good shower down near the bottom of Angeles Crest, but by the time I got there it had stopped. So, there was a little rain, but the good news is we got all (or most) of the ride in.

I had 7000 feet of climbing in by the time I got to the top of Wilson and for the last 5 miles the thought of a Coke and a jumbo hot dog at the Cosmic Cafe up there kept me going. So I was really bummed when I got there and found this:



I had checked their web site and they were supposed to be open, but when I got home I checked their Facebook page and it indicated that for unknown reasons, they were going to be closed that Saturday. At least it was almost all downhill back down to where I could get some food.

On the first climb of the day through Griffith Park, we encountered a group walking dogs. I'm not sure if it was a hiking group that happened to have dogs or a dog group that happened to like hiking. Mel took this photo of the group. You can see that the weather was pretty nice at that point with the observatory in the background.



On Sunday we were riding "Alhambra & Bikeway." There were 6 riders, but I didn't get a photo. The riders were **Jacques Stern**, **Bill Faulkner**, **Gary Murphy**, **Kit Gray**, **newcomer**, and me. Gary rode from home and joined us mid-ride and also left us before the end. Kit and the newcomer rode the short, Bill rode the medium and Jacques did the long. It's rare that we split among all three routes. However, all routes stayed together until lunch so at least we ate together. It was Mothers Day and as we passed Descanso Gardens and the Huntington Library, it was clear to Jacques and me that these were very popular venues for celebrating with mother. I think both had people

directing traffic in and out. I had hoped to take a photo from the high point on the long route (in the hills above the Rose Bowl) where I remembered a nice view of down LA, but it was too hazy to see much. I did take this shot of Mount Wilson where I can see the antennas at the top. It just amazed me to think that the day before I had been up to those antennas.



Next Weekend: This Saturday our trainer is a century -- "Twin Peaks & Flying Pigs." This is also our century of the month for May and we will also be offering a metric route. The routes start in west LA but spend much of the day in the Valley. The Twin Peaks of the title are the two tops of Old Topanga and New Topanga. We go over both. There should be two flying pigs too, but I'll let you find those. (only one on the metric century). There is a fair amount of climbing on these routes, but it's spread out among several moderate length climbs. I don't consider this trainer to be as difficult as last week's.

On Sunday we will be riding "Soup to Knotts" which starts within sight of Knotts Berry Farm and heads to the Yorba Linda area for lunch. The long makes a trip over Tuolumne Canyon, but other than that, these routes have a bunch of smaller hills, but nothing too serious. The long and medium come together for lunch at the "Worlds Best Harvest" but it always seems that the long riders arrive just about the time the medium riders are ready to leave. I hope to make the rides on both Saturday and Sunday, so I look forward to seeing you out on the road.

Meeting: We have our monthly meeting this week, but **PLEASE NOTE** -- the meeting is on Friday instead of the usual Thursday. We couldn't get a room on Thursday. As usual, the meeting is at the Veteran's Memorial Center in Culver City, but this month we are in room 2 which is in the basement. Check the schedule on the club web site for instructions to get to the basement. Finally, as always, we need someone to provide refreshments. If you can do this, please contact me at rododty@roadrunner.com

Tour of California. I imagine a number of you are watching the Tour of California which is taking place this week. One of the nice things about doing the training rides is that we ride some of the same roads used by the race. This Friday, the race will be going up to Mount Baldy which we just did on a trainer two weeks ago. On Saturday, the race will be riding Soledad Canyon to Acton, going up Aliso Canyon and on up to Mill Creek Summit on Angeles Forest. We will be doing that on the trainer the following week. On Saturday, the race also comes down Angeles Crest which we just did last Saturday. It's always somewhat humbling to watch these racers zip up climbs which I crawl up. It's still fun to see them ride the same roads I ride.

More Business Cards: I got some more business cards this week so thank you **Michelle Mowery** and **Emma Pham** (and indirectly **Clay Lacy** because many of the cards Emma sent were aviation related).

Final Shot: Although ridership at our regular rides is often less than I hope for, the Thursday Triple Dipper ride continues to draw good groups. Last week we had more than a dozen riders. **Sandy Weiner** took this photo of the group at our break at Starbucks in Palos Verdes



See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP