

LA Wheelmen VP Report

1 message

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Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - May 7, 2019

Hello All:

Last Weekend: On Saturday we were riding our 6th Grand Tour Trainer -- "Encinal Canyon." I'm guessing everyone is already in good shape for the Grand Tour because you really aren't showing up for these trainers. We had 5 riders. **Phil Whitworth** and a visitor named **Ivan** took off fast and weren't seen again. **Gary Murphy, Dale Aaronson** and I stuck together and brought up the rear. It had been a while since I had climbed Encinal Canyon, but it is really a nice climb. It climbs at a very steady gradient for its entire 5 miles and has a pretty good shoulder most of the way. Not a lot of houses and the park near the top is closed, so not much traffic. Gary sent me a few photos showing that there is still plenty of color in the landscape. I liked this one:



This is in an area that burned in the Woolsey Fire and you can see that it is already recovering.

Dale sent this photo of me just past the top of Encinal



We noticed that there were a lot of caterpillars all crossing the road (the insect kind -- not the bulldozer kind). We wondered what sort of instinct was driving them all to the road -- clearly at great peril to themselves. We also encountered quite a few of the Painted Lady butterflies which were in the news about a month ago when they were migrating through Southern California. Was this a second wave of the migration? Were they related to the caterpillars? These are the questions we pondered as we rode. Gary did some research after the ride, but didn't come up with any definite answers. We need an entomologist in the club.

On Sunday, the ride was the "Saugus Special" starting out in Santa Claita. There were only 3 of us for this one: **David Nakai**, **Jacques Stern** and me. I took a photo of David at the start before Jacques showed up, so I have two photos from the start:



We all rode the long route which took us up San Francisquito Canyon all the way to Leona Valley and then down Bouquet Canyon back to Santa Clarita. It was a very hot day, but a good wind was blowing for the second half of the ride. It was at our back on the climb over the top of San Francisquito, but wasn't much help there. Then it was in our face for the initial climb on Bouquet Canyon where it definitely made a moderate climb into a tough one. But then we had the miles and miles of downhill on Bouquet Canyon and that was fun. David took this photo of Jacques as he neared the top of San Francisquito



Next Week: NOTE: SCHEDULE CHANGE This Saturday's trainer is now the "Three Hills Trainer" which had been scheduled for the following week (the 18th). That route (which uses Angeles Crest) would have conflicted with the Tour of California which will be coming down Angeles Crest to Pasadena on that date. So we have moved the trainer up to this week and pushed the trainer originally scheduled for this Saturday to the following week. The Three Hills Trainer was new last year, but it rained and we didn't really give it a good trial. Hopefully, things will be better this week. The three hills are 1. a climb through Griffith Park, 2. a climb over Camino San Rafael in Glendale and 3. a climb to Mount Wilson and back. The first is easy, the second is steep but not too long (and you can take an easier alternative if you like), and the third is not so steep but very long. It's really more like two hills and a mountain. But, you can always cut your trip up to Wilson short so you can really tailor this route to your ability or your desires. So why not join us and see what you can do.

On Sunday we will be riding "Alhambra and Bikeway" which (no surprise) starts in Alhambra. The bikeway of the title is the Rio Hondo which we take northeast to the end of the road. We circle back to Pasadena for lunch and then all three routes split. The short heads straight back while the long and medium make loops up to La Canada and back. A few of our route sets have all three options staying together until lunch. This way, everyone can stay together to lunch and then you can decide which route you want to ride. How can you beat that?

Passing: We have received word that **Joseph Bennett**, a former member, has recently passed away at the age of 97. He started riding with the club back in the 60s. I personally do not recall Joseph, but for those members who might have known him, there will be a Celebration of Life for him later this month. For details you can contact Ken Carlson at (951) 659-6043.

Grand Tour Jersey: The design for this year's Grand Tour Jersey is out. It is on the club web site, but to save you the trouble of going there, here it is:



I am reminded of the album cover for "Smell the Glove" in the movie "This is Spinal Tap."

Business Cards: A thank you to **Andy Pollack**, who sent me a bunch of business cards this past week.

Final Shot: David sent this photo from Sunday's ride. He must have seen it on his ride home. He said it is called the "History Bear" and is at the Newhall Library. The d painted on the bear is the Saint Francis Dam formerly located in San Francisquito Canyon and which failed in 1928 taking 431 lives.



