

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 1 – 8:30 a.m. SANTA ANITA CANYON (Long 70 mi & 2600 ft, Medium 31 mi & 2400 ft, Short 30 mi & 1000 ft) There apparently was no Saint “Anita.” “Santa Anita” is simply a diminutive of “Santa Ana” Santa Ana translates to Saint Anne and Santa Anita would translate to Saint Annie. Well, we already have plenty of things named for Santa Ana (city, canyon, river, wind etc.) so I guess it provides some nice diversity to name some things “Santa Anita.” Today’s ride is named for Santa Anita Canyon, but actually, only the medium route heads up that canyon. In fact, today’s three routes are quite different from each other. The long is a fairly lengthy ride out the San Gabriel Valley to Pomona and back. It’s not very difficult, but plenty of miles. Contrast this with the medium. It is much shorter, but offers the challenging climb up Santa Anita Canyon to Chantry Flats and back down. In fact, the trip up to Chantry is almost the only purpose of the ride. In recent years, this has been the most popular option and you can expect that many of our riders today will select this route. The short, which is about the same length as the medium doesn’t do the big climb, but just tools around the San Marino and Pasadena area. Both the medium and short do pass near the Santa Anita race track (which may or may not still be open) and the County Arboretum where many peacocks roam free. So, as you can see, we offer a wide variety of rides today. You just have to make your choice and do the ride that suits your fancy – and may Saint Annie guide your way. **START: ALHAMBRA PARK in ALHAMBRA.** From the San Bernardino Frwy (I-10), off & north on Fremont 2 miles, R- Alhambra Rd 4 blocks to Park. Park on Raymond on East side of the park.

Wednesday, December 4th, 10 a.m. GRIFFITH PARK GROUP See “Every Week Rides” at www.lawheelmen.org/wheelmen-weekly-rides/

Thursday, December 5th, 8:30 a.m. TRIPLE DIPPER RIDE See “Every Week Rides” at www.lawheelmen.org/wheelmen-weekly-rides/

Sunday, December 8th - 7:30 a.m. (full century) and 8:30 a.m. (metric century) FOOT-HILL FOOTSIE CENTURY (Century 92 mi & 3700 ft, Metric Century 66 mi & 2400 ft). This is our 10th year in a row riding this century designed by **Dennis Miller** as our December Century of the month. It’s only a couple of weeks until Christmas, and in the last few years I have come to consider this the “Dead Santa Tour.” Inflatable lawn decorations have become increasingly popular, but most homeowners turn them off during the day. The result is that you see a lot of deflated Santas lying dead on the lawn. The century is so named because it roughly parallels Foothill Blvd (sometimes actually riding Foothill) from La Crescenta east through the San Gabriel Valley all the way to Claremont and back. Although the route has a lot of short ups and downs, there are no mountain climbs, and that makes for a fairly easy ride. Most of the roads should be familiar to anyone who has ridden with the club a lot or who rides the San Gabriel Valley often. **NOTE:** The metric century has a separate start location. In order to give metric century riders the best portion of the full century, they are starting at the Pasadena High School and riding the center portion of the full century route out to Claremont and back. By starting an hour later, they should meet up with the full century riders either along the route or at lunch. Besides dead Santas you often spot dead snowmen, dead reindeer and dead Christmas trees. **FULL**

CENTURY START: LA CRESCENTA PARK in Glendale. From the Foothill Frwy (210), off and south on Pennsylvania, R- Honolulu to Park (on left) at Frederick St.

METRIC CENTURY START: PASADENA HIGH SCHOOL near the intersection of Orange Grove and Sierra Madre Blvds. From the Foothill Frwy (210), off & north on Sierra Madre Blvd to school on left.

Wednesday, December 11th, 10 a.m. GRIFFITH PARK GROUP See “Every Week Rides” at

www.lawheelmen.org/wheelmen-weekly-rides/

Thursday, December 12th, 8:30 a.m. TRIPLE DIPPER RIDE See “Every Week Rides” at

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Sunday, December 15 - 8:30 a.m. WESTLAKE-POTRERO (Long 76 mi & 2800 ft, Medium 45 mi & 2300 ft, Short 30 mi & 1400 ft) “Potrero” is a name that strikes fear in many cyclists – well at least me. After all the years of cycling I’ve done, it remains one of the most difficult climbs I ever do. But no fear today – we will be riding DOWN Potrero Canyon. If you have never gone either up or down the canyon, you should come out today to see what people are talking about. The long and medium riders start with the fast descent of Potrero. They then tour the Camarillo area (the long making it all the way to Ventura) before heading back east to Moorpark and over the ridge back to the start. The Short skips all that and tours the Westlake area with a trip up to the top of Moorpark ridge. Yes, it’s a long drive out to Westlake, but it’s freeway close and it’s one of the few regular rides in our library which actually ride Potrero and the only one that goes down the canyon. So here’s your chance – come join us. **START: WESTLAKE PLAZA in Westlake Village.** Go North on Ventura Frwy (101) to Westlake, off and L on Westlake Blvd., L on Agoura Rd. and L into shopping center lot. Park near Agoura Rd by bank

Wednesday, December 18th, 10 a.m. GRIFFITH PARK GROUP See “Every Week Rides” at

www.lawheelmen.org/wheelmen-weekly-rides/

Thursday, December 19th, 8:30 a.m. TRIPLE DIPPER RIDE See “Every Week Rides” at

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Thursday, December 19 – 7:30 p.m. MONTHLY MEMBERS MEETING. This is a farewell meeting of sorts. All year we have been meeting at the Culver City Veteran’s Memorial Building. However, next year we will return to meeting in the homes of members. This will be much nicer than the cold sterile industrial feel of the meeting rooms at the Culver City facility. We switched to the Culver City location because we were having a hard time finding hosts for our monthly meeting, but **Nancy Domjanovich** has taken on the task of finding hosts and I believe she has almost already lined up 12 different hosts so that no member has to host more than once a year. She might have a couple of months open yet, so please contact her if you can host a meeting. Anyway, this will be our last meeting at the Culver City Building. Once again we will be Room B. That’s “B” for “bicycle.” Of course we will have the usual chore of preparing schedules for mailing, but this usually only takes a few minutes these days. Then we will take on the business of the club as we close out the year. **IMPORTANT:** Nominations for officers for the coming

year open at this meeting. Usually I have to hound people to provide refreshments, but for December I have decided to provide them myself. I always like to make a batch of Grandma Doty's sugar cookies for the holidays and this will give me the chance. So join us one last time in Culver City and come prepared for cookies. **PLACE: CULVER CITY VETERAN'S MEMORIAL BUILDING – CONFERENCE ROOM B** 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City (Southwest corner of Overland Ave & Culver Blvd. The conference rooms are in the rear (west side) of the building as well as parking.

Sunday, December 22 - 8:30 a.m. REVEL THE ROLLIES III (Long 65 mi & 3600 ft, Medium 55 mi & 2600 ft, Short 36 mi & 600 ft) Tonight is the first night of Chanukah and Christmas is later this week, so clearly we are in the midst of the holidays. Although bicycling is not really associated with either holiday, there isn't anything that says you can't include cycling as part of your holiday celebrations. So why not come out today and revel in the holiday atmosphere as we revel the rollies in Orange County. This is the third installment of our "Revel the Rollies" series and it manages to find some areas of Orange County not hit by the other rides in the series. The long and medium riders take Antonio Parkway all the way to Ortega Hwy, just a hop, skip and a jump from Capistrano where we stop for lunch. Then it's north along the coast. The medium heads inland on Laguna Canyon while the long goes north to Newport Coast Drive (a good climb) before heading back. The short riders do their own thing, heading to the Back Bay. They are all good routes which take us to a few places in Orange County none of our other rides go. And the exercise should help you get ready for the holidays the rest of the week. **START: OLD TOWN IRVINE.** From San Diego Fry (I-5), off at west on Sand Canyon in Irvine. L - Burt St (1st left) to end and park in Lot 3.

Wednesday, December 25 8:30 a.m. CHRISTMAS DAY RIDE (44 mi & 2600 ft). We don't really celebrate Christmas on this ride. We are just taking advantage of the fact that most people have the day off and the streets are unusually quiet. What better day to ride Mulholland Drive or head downtown. Things are usually hopping on Olvera Street as we ride through and also in Chinatown where we stop for lunch or a break. But other than those two places, the stillness of the city is really something to see. And of course there is the ride along Carrol Ave with its restored Victorian homes, which we hit just before going downtown. Traditionally, we stop there for a group photo. You won't want to miss that. All in all it is a pleasant ride, and if you are celebrating Christmas, it should get you back in time for a nice holiday dinner. So why not join us. You've got the day off – use it! **START: THE "CORNER,"** Olympic Blvd, 1 block west of La Cienega in Beverly Hills. From the Santa Monica Frwy (10), off & north La Cienega 1 miles, L - Olympic 1 block to R- Le Doux.

Thursday, December 26th, 8:30 a.m. TRIPLE DIPPER RIDE See "Every Week Rides" at www.lawheelmen.org/wheelmen-weekly-rides/

Sunday, December 29 – 8:30 a.m. LIFE BEGINS AT 8:30. (Long 63 mi & 4200 ft, Medium 57 mi & 3000 ft, Short 30 mi & 1200 ft) This is our last ride of the year. If you have been riding all year, it's a fine way to cap off your year. If you haven't been riding much, it can be a chance to get ready for 2020 and then hit the new year running (or biking). For our last ride of the year, we have some nice rides. We start in West LA and both the long and medium head out to Malibu

and go over Malibu Cyn to Mulholland Hwy. The long heads west to Kanan and returns back to PCH for a coastal return. The medium heads east and returns through the valley and over Sepulveda. The Short riders miss all the fun by staying in the Palisades area. The long formerly stopped for lunch at the Rustic Canyon General Store and Grill near Mulholland Hwy, but it is gone now so we will be stopping either in Cornell or at the Rock Store. Since many of the training rides come through this area, it will be a good chance to check out the alternatives to the Rustic Canyon Grill. After the ride you can go home and start working on your resolutions for next year. We'll see you in 2020. **START: Westwood Park at Sepulveda & Ohio.** From San Diego Frwy (405), off and east on Santa Monica Blvd, Left on Sepulveda and L on Ohio and R into Park.