

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report

1 message

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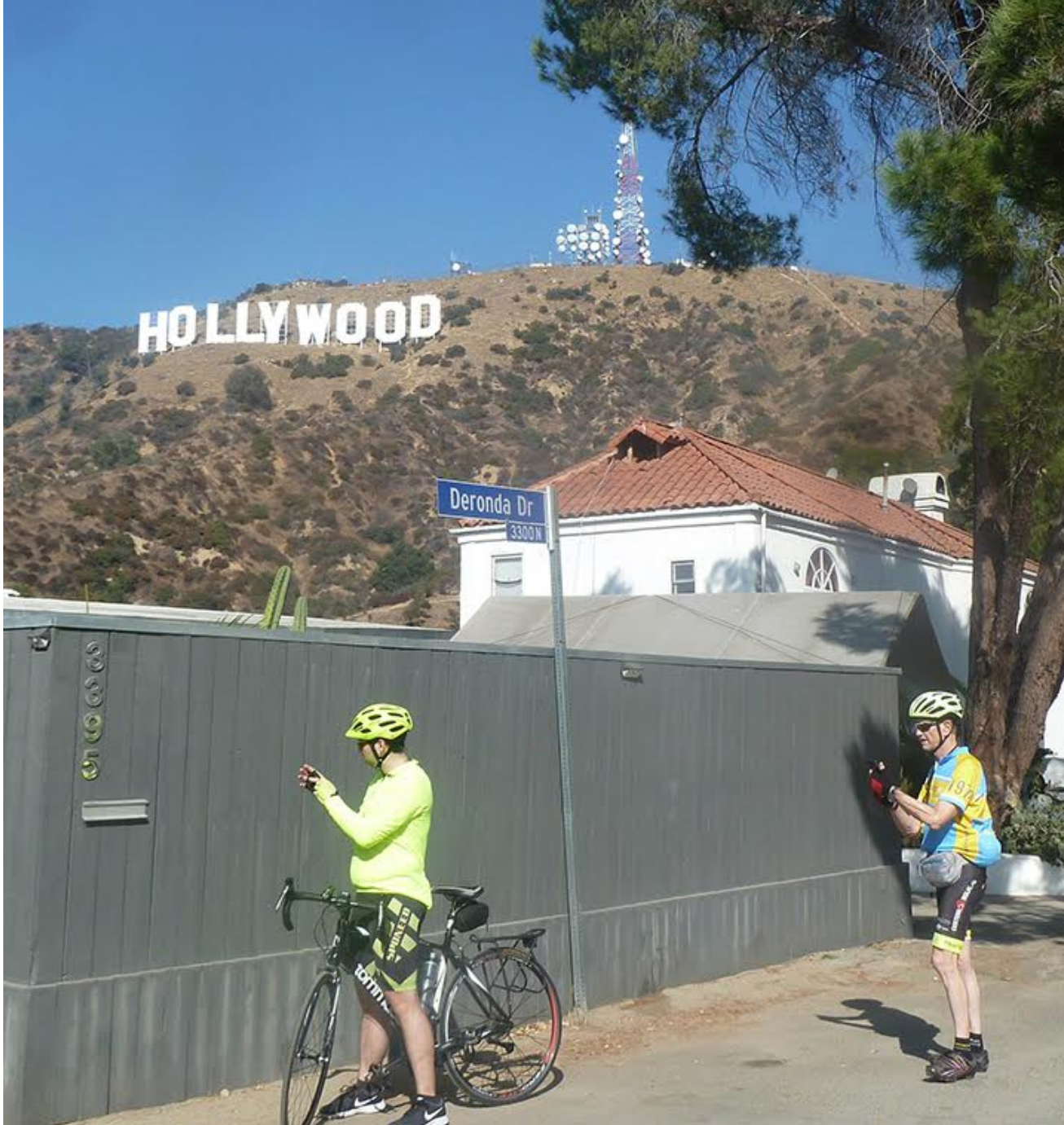
Hello All

Sunday: Sunday we were riding from the Corner up to the Hollywood Sign. I think there were 9 riders. I took this photo at the start:



From left to right: **Russ Brynes**, **Thomas Knoll**, a newcomer named **Chris**, **Sheila Szymanski**, and **Gary Murphy**. **Kit Gray** was also at the start but was still getting his bike ready when I took the photo. Two more were late to the start, but we saw them up on the climb: **Ravel Karpinski** and **Jacques Stern**. Even though it was only 10 miles to the top, it's a tough climb and most of us were content to just do the medium route which returned directly back to the start. Thomas and Sheila's vehicles were still at the start when we got back, so I'm guessing they did the long. It was a nice day for the climb -- not too hot and not too cold. The sign is really an international attraction. On the way up I think I heard walkers speaking at least 4 different languages (not counting English). Gary took a few shots on the way up. It seemed like the sign was always in front of us as we approached.





Thomas sent me this photo from the top where we were looking down on the top of the sign. You can see the Hollywood Reservoir to the right and the buildings downtown sticking up through the fog.



They were still mopping up the Barham Fire which had started the day before and as we stood on the top of the hill we could watch several water dropping helicopters make repeated trips to the fire. One would fill up from the Hollywood Reservoir. The others would land on the top of the hill with us, but on the other side of the antennas and buildings at the top so that we couldn't see them, but there must be a way they could fill with water from that location. It made for an interesting trip to the sign.

Next Sunday: Next Sunday we will be riding "Cruise and Climb in Claremont." These routes start in Claremont and tour much of the eastern San Gabriel Valley. Don't take the word "climb" in the title too seriously. Yes, there are some hills such as Grand Avenue and Brea Canyon, but these aren't too difficult and only the long route does them all. They are some pleasant routes and should provide some nice autumn riding. This is yet another route where I have switched the lunch stop away from Carl's and to a newly built Habit Burger almost next door. Riders seem to like the Habit more. I hope to see you there.

Kit Gray Videos: On the ride Sunday Kit was riding with a camera which takes a 360 degree video. He has posted a couple of film clips on YouTube. The first is a normal clip. You can rotate the view 360 degrees by using the arrows in the upper left corner.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4frOxwsd3o&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3sCFNJ8zgnupySaJvem3QbEF5eY95DBT3V_iJLkLThViG7N_SVM8DiakY

The second video uses some of the same footage, but Kit uses some sort of technique that warps the picture into balls or other shapes. DO NOT WATCH THIS VIDEO WHILE ON DRUGS.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iq7bOm8Xmq4&feature=youtu.be>

Vacation Photos: As mentioned last week, **Mel Cutler** is in Japan. He sent me some photos from Kyoto. Here is one that shows the nice fall colors they have there.



Parting Shot: At the top of the Hollywood sign I noticed that people are starting to leave locks on the chain link fence up there. I guess these are supposed to be so called "love locks." Couples inscribe their names on a lock and then lock it to a location and throw away the key to show that their love is eternal. The most famous example of this was a bridge in Paris which grew so heavy with the all the locks that officials had to finally cut the locks down. There the lovers would throw the keys into the Seine.



I'm not sure the people putting the locks on the fence above are clear on the concept. Many of the locks I looked at had no names written on them. Also, many of the locks were combination locks so there was no key to throw away. Not sure that symbolizes eternal love. In any case, it looks like it will be years before there are so many locks on the fence that authorities have to cut it down.

See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP