

## **JANUARY SCHEDULE**

**Wednesday, January 1 - 7:00 a.m. 2020 KICK OFF CENTURIES** (full century - 101 mi & 3100 ft, metric century – 67 mi & 2300 ft) It's a new year. It's a new decade. The last time we were in the 20's, it was the "Roaring 20's" so who knows what this decade will bring. Why not start it off with a bang by riding a century on the very first day. If you start off the year and the decade like that, who knows what you may accomplish in the year or years to come. Everything resets to zero today. Your personal bike log, your annual cycling goals and the count in the club's century challenge. Ride a century or metric century today and at least for one day you will be tied with those who will end up with 40 or more centuries this year. This is our 18<sup>th</sup> year riding a January 1<sup>st</sup> Century. The full century is pretty easy as centuries go just up the coast to Ventura and return. No hills bigger than those along PCH. The metric century follows the full century up the coast to Camarillo where it stops for brunch or lunch. It then simply turns around and retraces the route back down the coast to the start. There is no support on these centuries, but none is really needed. January 1st is a fairly quiet day on PCH everyone is watching football or has a hangover. Kick the year off with a century and you won't regret it. Be sure to report your century or metric century for the club's Century Challenge in 2020 and get the club kicked off to a good start as well. **START: MALIBU CIVIC CENTER.** Take the Santa Monica Frwy west to the end and then PCH north to R on Webb Way and R on Civic Center Way.

**Wednesday, January 1 - 7:00 a.m. ROSE PARADE RIDE** (14 mi & 400 ft) I've seen the Rose Parade in person and I've seen it on TV. TV has some advantages – you get multiple shots of the floats and you get to hear the bands play and commentators drone on with background information. But it still doesn't compare to seeing it in person. The colors are more vibrant and the sounds are clearer. And there is a spirit in the air which simply does not come through on TV. We are lucky here in Southern California because the parade is right in our back yard. We don't have to vacation to see it or even make a long drive. In fact, it is really just a short easy bike ride away. So if you have never seen the parade in person, you really should. This ride gets you to the parade and avoids all the traffic in and around Pasadena. You make an easy drive to Alhambra and then ride 7 easy miles over to the parade route. Not only do you get to see the parade, but the route takes you down Orange Grove Avenue where the floats all line up prior to the parade and you get to preview the floats up close and personal. Take a selfie with any float that strikes your fancy (See photo on last page of this schedule). Even the thousands of other people watching the parade in person along the route can't do that. So, if you have never been to the parade, I don't see how you can pass this up. We are often joined by riders from the San Fernando Club and from Orange County, so you should have company. The ride is incredibly easy. It's a fairly flat 7 miles followed by a rest of a couple of hours as you watch the parade and then an easy 7 miles back. Even if you are suffering a hangover from last night, how bad can 7 miles be? **START: ALHAMBRA PARK.** From San Bernardino Frwy (I-10), off & North on Fremont, R - Alhambra Rd, R - Raymond to Park.

**Thursday, January 2nd, 8:30 a.m. TRIPLE DIPPER RIDE** See "Every Week Rides" at [www.lawheelmen.org/wheelmen-weekly-rides/](http://www.lawheelmen.org/wheelmen-weekly-rides/)

**Sunday, January 5 - 8:30 a.m. SOUTH BAY SURPRISE** (Long 68 mi & 1200 ft, Medium 41 mi & 1000 ft, Short 27 mi & 900 ft) The surprise on this ride is that it is such a flat ride despite the fact that it was created by **Ralph Boethling** who was known for hilly rides. But for me, the surprise was always that the ride starts in Torrance and heads due east and ends up at Knott's Berry Farm. In my mind I always think of Orange County as being south of Los Angeles so you shouldn't be able to go east and end up at Knott's. But I've looked at the map and sure enough, a good portion of Orange County is due east of Torrance. Anyway, all routes start out together heading east into Orange County. While the long makes it all the way to Knott's, the medium and short each cut off a little earlier to circle back through Long Beach, rejoining the long route along the way. All of these routes are fairly flat. The long used to actually stop at Knott's for a lunch of their famous fried chicken. However, over the years a few of us have come to believe that, famous or not, the chicken just isn't that good for the price they charge. So we have added an alternative lunch on the long besides Knott's. But some still like the stop at Knott's so you can take your pick. There may still be a few residual out-of-state visitors here for the Rose Bowl game, so Knott's may be busier than usual for a January weekend. Other than that, this should be a nice post-holiday ride. **START: Paradise Park** in Torrance. From San Diego Frwy (405), off & South on Hawthorne 3.5 miles. R - Torrance Blvd 0.5 mile, L - Anza one block, R - Lee to Park. We usually park on the West side of the park by the school.

**Thursday, January 9th, 8:30 a.m. TRIPLE DIPPER RIDE** See "Every Week Rides" at [www.lawheelmen.org/wheelmen-weekly-rides/](http://www.lawheelmen.org/wheelmen-weekly-rides/)

**Sunday, January 12 - 8:30 a.m. VIVA SAN FERNANDO** (Long 60 mi & 2900 ft, Medium 56 mi & 2300 ft, Hilly Short 28 mi & 1400 ft, Flat Short 25 mi & 1000 ft) These routes (or something a lot like them) probably go back to the beginning of the club in 1945. It might be easy to envision those early members riding high-wheelers over to the Valley, but actually, derailleur shifting was invented in 1937 and internal hub shifting well before that. Our club members have always seemed to be on the cutting edge of bike technology, so many of those members first riding today's routes back in the 1940's were probably on bikes that didn't look all that different from today's bikes. Oh sure, today's bikes may be carbon fiber, and have 20 or more speeds, disc brakes and clipless pedals, but from 20 or 30 feet away, they would look similar. Just as today's bikes are similar to those back then, today's routes haven't changed much either. The long and the medium both go over to the Valley and back on streets that have been there since the 40's. Probably some of the homes you see date back to that time. The long returns via Topanga Canyon to the coast and back through Santa Monica while the medium comes back over Sepulveda. The two short routes both tour West Los Angeles – one with more hills than the other. So as we ride today, we honor our early members. As you ride, you might try to imagine how it looked to them back then and what changes have been made since then. It might make the ride more interesting. **START: THE "CORNER"**, Olympic Blvd, 1 block west of La Cienega in Beverly Hills. From the Santa Monica Frwy (10), off & north La Cienega 1½ miles, L - Olympic 1 block to R- Le Doux.

**Thursday, January 16th, 8:30 a.m. TRIPLE DIPPER RIDE** See "Every Week Rides" at [www.lawheelmen.org/wheelmen-weekly-rides/](http://www.lawheelmen.org/wheelmen-weekly-rides/)

**Saturday, January 18 - 7:30 a.m. JANUS SEQUENTIAL CENTURIES - DAY ONE** (Full Century 101 mi & 5100 ft, Metric Century 64 mi & 2300 ft) For over 20 years the club has offered this January challenge – ride a century on each of two consecutive days. I have a curious history with this ride. I think I have ridden at least one of the two days in almost every year it has been offered. When I was younger, I would ride both days and feel pretty good about it. Then as I got older, I started riding only one day and often not feeling all that good about it. But in the last couple of years I've adopted a new attitude towards riding and it has become fun again. I don't ride the full century both days, but since we have added the metric centuries, I now sometimes ride a full century one day and the metric on the second. I actually look forward to it again. It's all in your attitude. The ride is named for Janus, the Roman God of beginnings and endings and who is usually depicted with two faces looking both to the past and to the future. The month of January is named for him. In keeping with the idea of looking both directions, our two consecutive centuries are really the same century ridden each day, but in opposite directions. In truth, most riders only ride one of the two days, but every year a few hardy cyclists will take up the challenge of riding both days. Each century consists of the same large loop around Ventura County, but on Saturday we ride the loop in a counterclockwise direction and on Sunday we ride clockwise. The course is essentially the classic Grand Tour Highland loop without Casitas Pass. Today we start from Thousand Oaks with the trip over Erbes to Moorpark, then over Grimes Cyn to Santa Paula and then over Dennison Grade to Ojai. Then its down to Ventura for a swing through Oxnard and on to the final climb of the day Potrero. The metric century stays with the full metric for the first 7 miles over the initial hill but then cuts west to rejoin the full century near Port Hueneme and the final steep climb up Potrero and to the finish. Although this is subject to debate, I have always considered today's route to be the more difficult one because you climb Potrero (a very steep hill) near the end of the ride. See below for the reverse ride. The Janus Centuries are a challenge, but really – come with the right attitude and you can do it. **NOTE:** It is usually very cold at the start, so come prepared. **START: CROWLEY HOUSE PARK in THOUSAND OAKS.** From Ventura Frwy (101), off & north on Hampshire Rd, L - Thousand Oaks Blvd (at T) for mile, L - Oakview and L - Pleasant Way to Park.

**Sunday, January 19 - 7:30 a.m. JANUS SEQUENTIAL CENTURIES - DAY TWO** (Full Century 101 mi & 5100 ft, Metric Century 65 mi & 2600 ft) See above for background on these centuries. Today is the clockwise route. Its the reverse of yesterday so it starts with the downhill on Potrero. Then its on to Ventura and up to Ojai, over Dennison Grade to Santa Paula and over Grimes Canyon to Moorpark and back. Although more of the climbing is in the 2nd half of the ride today, it tends to be less steep than day one and I feel it is a little easier. In the years I rode both days, I usually had a faster time on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day despite being tired from riding day one. This is the official century of the month for January. The metric route stays with the full century for the first 32 miles and cuts straight over to the Moorpark area to rejoin the full century on the final few miles of the return. This metric century cuts out much of the climbing of the full century. **START:** The start location today is the same as day one see above.

**Thursday, January 23rd, 8:30 a.m. TRIPLE DIPPER RIDE** See “Every Week Rides” at [www.lawheelmen.org/wheelmen-weekly-rides/](http://www.lawheelmen.org/wheelmen-weekly-rides/)

**Thursday, January 23 7:00 p.m. MONTHLY MEMBERS MEETING.** Last year all our meetings were held at the Culver City Veterans Memorial Center, but the meeting rooms there are cold and impersonal and the predictability of having all the meetings in the same place didn't seem to attract any more attendees. So this year we are returning to holding our meetings at the homes of our members. **Nancy Domjanovich** has undertaken the job of finding willing hosts and I believe she has already found a different host for every month. It's not such an imposition when it's only once a year. So, our first host of the year is club Treasurer **Ira Kucheck** at his home on Balboa Island. We have met there a few times in the past. Yes, it's a long drive, but as I remember it, it is better than you might think. We are changing the venue, but the meetings are the same. We will prepare schedules for mailing, discuss club business and have refreshments. One unusual item -- At this meeting nominations for officers for the coming year will close. If there are no contested offices, the nominees will be declared the winners. To prevent this travesty of democracy you need to be present and prepared to run for office. So why not come and take part in running your club. Just allot a little extra time for the drive and certainly try to carpool. It should be fine. **PLACE: 120½ Agate Ave, Balboa Island.** Take the 405 Frwy south and transition to the 73 South in Costa Mesa. Exit and go right (south) at Jamboree Rd. Go 3.5 miles to the end and across bridge onto Balboa Island. Go Right on Park Ave. and Left on Agate to 120 ½ (blue house on left) Ira is in the upstairs unit. Meeting night directions: **(949) 394-4721.**

**Sunday, January 26 - 8:30 a.m. WANDERING TO WHITTIER** (Long 59 mi & 1900 ft, Medium 52 mi & 1500 ft, Shorter Medium 38 mi & 1000 ft, Short 35 mi & 1100 ft) As the crow flies it's only about 10 miles from Alhambra where we start today to Whittier. That wouldn't be much of a ride even when you include the 10 miles back. So if we are going to ride to Whittier today, we have to wander around a bit to make it a good ride. And of course, the longer our route, the more we have to wander. That pretty much describes our routes today. All routes start by heading in the opposite direction from Whittier. We first make a large loop north to Sierra Madre before heading towards Whittier. The long makes a loop around and over the hills while the medium makes a more direct approach before meeting for lunch in Whittier. The shorter medium doesn't actually make it to Whittier but does go as far as Whittier Narrows. The three routes all have similar returns on river trails. The short doesn't really head for Whittier, but does go to the north end of the San Gabriel River and returns through the Santa Fe Dam area. So, today's routes point up the fact that our rides are not so much about getting someplace – it's more about the journey. Come wander with us. **START: ALHAMBRA PARK.** From San Bernardino Frwy (I-10), off & North on Fremont, R - Alhambra Rd, R - Raymond to Park.

**Thursday, January 30th, 8:30 a.m. TRIPLE DIPPER RIDE** See "Every Week Rides" at [www.lawheelmen.org/wheelmen-weekly-rides/](http://www.lawheelmen.org/wheelmen-weekly-rides/)