
LA Wheelmen VP Report

1 message

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Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - January 21, 2020

Hello All:

Last Weekend: Last Saturday and Sunday we were riding the Janus Sequential Centuries. I started early on Saturday and never saw any other riders. However I had a report from **Phil Whitworth** and he reported that there were 3 riders at the start. He took this selfie:



That's **Dale Aaronson, Mario, and Phil Whitworth**. It is usually very cold at the start of this ride and in the first mile I was regretting not bringing my warmer gloves, but then I was hit by a warm gust of air. This was good news and bad news. The good news was that it meant the Santa Ana winds were blowing which would make it warmer than usual. The bad news was that the Santa Ana winds were blowing and that could make it very hard to get over Grimes Canyon. Turns out I wasn't wrong about that. The closer I got to the top of Grimes, the worse it got. It was hard to hold a straight line. The downhill wasn't any better. It twists and turns so much you never knew which way the wind would blow you. Phil reported they had the same problems. There was more good news however. I remembered from past years that when I had trouble getting through

Grimes, those same winds would be at my back all the way to Santa Paula. That proved true. It seemed like I hardly had to pedal a stroke mile after mile. The winds weren't really a factor going over Dennison and down into Ojai or on the way down to Ventura and south to Oxnard. The weather was nice and it was a beautiful day (see photos below). But in the back of my mind I knew Potrero was coming up and if the winds hadn't died down or shifted direction, I could have a headwind going up the worst hill I know. That was enough to put a chill down my back. As I turned onto Potrero, my worst fears were realized -- it was going to be a headwind. In the hardest portion of Potrero there are places where the twists in the road hid me from the wind, but in other places it was right in my face. Somehow I made it to the top -- I don't know how. Phil and Dale encountered the same winds and near the top they were forced off their bikes and walked the last little bit. Makes me feel even more lucky that I made it. Except for the two climbs into the wind, it was really a nice day. I took this photo from the overlook which looks down into the Ojai Valley



Dale sent me some photos. In this one I'm not sure I recognize this stretch of road, but I would guess it is in Grimes Canyon



I had hoped to go back out on Sunday and do the metric century, but my legs were just too achy to get out of bed. Based on a Strava report, **Rafal Karpinski** may have been the only rider on Sunday. He reported that it was very windy that day as well, but if he was doing the Sunday route, he would have been riding in the opposite direction, so he might have had a tailwind in Potrero and going over Grimes, but he would have had headwinds for much of the rest of the course.

Next Sunday: This Sunday we will be riding "Wandering To Whittier" which starts in Alhambra. The long and medium go to Whittier for lunch but make a loop through Altadena first and the long adds an extra loop to the east before joining the medium in Whittier. The short sort of does its own thing. These are all pleasant routes with not a lot of climbing. The long does go over Colima, but this isn't really a very steep climb. Sounds like there is a possibility of rain, but it's too far off right now to know. As usual I won't make a decision to ride or not until Sunday morning. I hope to be out there and I hope some of you will join me.

Barbara Heughins I have been informed that former member **Barbara Heughins** passed away on January 10th. Most current members probably don't remember her but she was active in the club in the 70s and into the 80s. She was the club secretary for a few years. Although I was a member back then I didn't ride a lot with the club until the mid 80s so I don't really remember riding with Barbara on club rides, but I knew her well during the years I was a Co-Chair of the Great Western Bicycle Rally where she was a regular staff member. I remember her as a fun-loving person who was always interested in new experiences.

Meeting: There is a club meeting this week. It is at the home of club treasurer **Ira Kuceck** who lives on Balboa Island. Yes, that's a long drive, but look at it this way -- how often do you get to visit someone who actually lives on Balboa Island? Information is in the schedule on the club web site. It would be nice to see some of you there.

Parting Shot: I don't really have anything special here, but here is another of Dale's photos from last Saturday. This is in Oxnard shortly before they hit Potrero. Looks pretty nice at this point. Who knew what was coming up. I can remember some years when there was snow on those mountains in the background.



See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP