

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report

1 message

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Hello All:

Last Sunday: On Sunday the scheduled ride was "Looking For Leona" -- our century and metric century for the month. I know of 4 riders, all of whom did the full century (or more by riding from home) There may have been riders on the metric, which starts from a different location, but I had no reports of this. Three of the 4 were at the scheduled start and **Phil Whitworth** sent me this selfie:



That's **Rafi Karpinski** and **David Nakai** with phil. **Mel Cutler** had bike trouble on the way to the start and got there too late to ride with the group. I had reports from just about everyone. Apparently they all had some serious headwinds coming back down Bouquet Canyon. Even though that is mostly downhill, a headwind can make that a pretty tough ride and of course there is the first couple miles of up-hill as you leave Leona Valley. That is apparently where the winds were the worst. Here's a photo Mel sent me at the start of Bouquet Canyon just after leaving Leona Valley



Mel also sent me this photo of the Bouquet Reservoir, which looks fairly full



All in all, sounds like it was a tough day. Phil referred to it as a "two 7-11 stop ride"

Other Rides: I finally have started riding again, but only short rides until my arm feels better. On Thursday I rode to Marina del Rey to meet the Triple Dipper group at the start. Then I rode home for a whopping 11 miles. I did take this photo of the group



Mel Cutler indicated that they were joined by others at the break in Palos Verdes making for the largest group they have had in a long while at the break.

Mel and **Dale Aaronson** did their usual Saturday training ride, but this time they were joined by **Gary Murphy**. They rode the "Decker Canyon" trainer. Mel reported that the first portion of Decker was steeper than he remembered and really took a lot out of him. Gary sent this photo of Mel on this stretch



Gary also took this unique selfie in one of those mirrors people sometimes put up at the end of their driveways so they can see if traffic is coming.



That must be Dale in the back.

I got this photo from **Ken Nishioka**. That's the bike bridge across the San Gabriel river near Encanto Park. The river bed sure looks green.



Finally, **Kit Gray** mistakenly rode next Sunday's ride last Sunday and sent this photo from Turnbull Canyon. As many people know, Kit is often late to the rides, but this time he was a week early. At least he was able to give a preview of what riders will be seeing this Sunday



This Sunday: Speaking of which, this Sunday we will be riding "Valley Rally" which starts in Whittier and heads to points east. There are 4 routes. The long and medium go over Turnbull Canyon, but the long does it on the way back while the medium does it on the way out. Probably easier to do the main climb of the day early in the ride rather than near the end. The long also adds several other smaller climbs which the medium route misses. The two shorter routes travel around Turnbull rather than going over it. I don't know if Kit plans on being there again. You know it might be nice if we had a tradition of someone riding each route a week early so they could report any road problems etc.

Meeting: This Thursday is our monthly members meeting. Once again we will be doing it by telephone conference. If you want to participate, you can contact **Ira Kucheck** (ikucheck@gmail.com) and he will put you on the list. We will be discussing plans to perhaps run the Grand Tour as a "virtual" double century. Riders would do the ride alone or in small groups and submit their Strava track for credit. (Again, I feel the word "virtual" is misused since riders will actually be riding a double -- maybe something like "self supported double" would be more accurate. -- But that's just me)

No Parting Shot: There have been a number of news stories about how wild animals are taking over areas abandoned by humans during the pandemic. The pool at my condo has been closed for the duration and last week a noticed a couple of ducks swimming in it. According to the Condo Facebook page, they have apparently moved in permanently. I had hoped to get a photo of them for this spot, but I haven't seen them in the pool since my first sighting .

Soon to See You on the Road

Rod Doty, VP