

JANUARY SCHEDULE

Week Ending Sunday, January 3rd -- KICK OFF CENTURIES (full century - 101 mi & 3100 ft, metric century – 67 mi & 2300 ft) It's a new year. 2021 has **GOT** to be better than 2020 so why not start the year off with a bang by riding a century in the first week. If you start off the year like that, who knows what you may accomplish in the year to come. Everything resets to zero this week. Your personal bike log, your annual cycling goals and the count in the club's century challenge. Ride a century or metric century this week and at least for a while you will be tied with those who will end up with 40 or more centuries this year. This is our 19th year riding a New Year's 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. Early January is a fairly quiet day on PCH everyone is watching football. Also, there is no Rose Parade this year to keep you away from this ride. 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 2021 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.

Week Ending Sunday, January 3rd – WILL ROGERS STATE PARK (Medium 35 mi & 2200 ft, short 29 mi & 1400 ft) It's the first week of the year and while we offer the century and metric century listed above for those who want to begin the new year with a bang, perhaps some would rather ease into the new year with something a bit easier. Maybe you have made a resolution to ride more in 2021, but you haven't been riding much in 2020 and you are not quite ready for some monster ride. These routes are for you. There are only medium and short routes. Both routes head to the polo grounds at Will Rodgers Park where they often are actually playing polo. You can stop and watch the action. I was recently watching the original (1968) "Thomas Crown Affair" which has a polo scene in it. However, I couldn't tell if it was filmed at Will Rogers Park. BTW: I have read that Steve McQueen learned to play polo just for the film. In any case, the short route pretty much just heads to the park and back. The medium takes a slightly more circuitous route there and a little extra loop on the way back with a little extra climbing thrown in. Both routes meet up at the park and for lunch in Santa Monica. **START: THE "CORNER", Olympic Blvd, 1 block west of La Cienega in Beverly Hills.** From the Santa Monica Frwy (10), off & north La Cienega 1.2 miles, L - Olympic 1 block to R- Le Doux.

Week Ending Sunday, January 10th -- ALHAMBRA & BIKEWAY (Long 54 mi & 2200 ft, Medium 45 mi & 1600 ft, Short 30 mi & 1000 ft) For those easing themselves back into cycling for 2021, we continue this week with a set of routes which are a little more difficult than last week, but still relatively short and easy. Not only that, but these routes all stay together for the first 28 miles until lunch at which point you can decide which return will suit your desires or abilities. All routes proceed from the start over to the Rio Hondo (the Bikeway of the title) and ride it north to the end. They then ride over to South Pasadena where they stop for lunch. After lunch, the short rides an easy 2 more miles back to the start. The long and the medium continue together on a loop over to La Canada. From there, the medium heads directly back to the start while the long adds an additional loop up into the hills above the Rose Bowl. If you are up for it, this climb gives you some nice views of the city. So there you have it – an easy first 28 miles for everyone and then you get to pick your poison for the return. It's not often our 3 routes work out that way so you should take advantage of it. **START: ALHAMBRA PARK.** From San Bernardino Frwy (I-10), off & North on Fremont, R - Alhambra Rd, R - Raymond to Park.

Week Ending Sunday, January 17th -- SOUP TO KNOTTS (Long 71 mi & 4300 ft, Medium 59 mi & 2600 ft., Short 31 mi & 600 ft) The long and the medium routes for this ride formerly stopped for lunch at the Yorba Linda Knollwood – home of the "World's Best Hamburger." Well, maybe the hamburger wasn't really all that great because the place went out of business last year (even before the pandemic). I gave some thought to re-routing the rides to a new lunch location, but there are other places to eat in the vicinity and maybe we should wait and see what takes the place of the old Knollwood. So, the routes remain the same. What are those routes? As mentioned, both long and medium routes head to Yorba Linda (La Palma near Imperial) for lunch but the long takes 10 extra miles getting there, including a trip over Turnbull Canyon, while the medium goes pretty much directly there. Both routes return together with some additional climbing in the Anaheim Hills. While this is going on, the short riders are touring northern Orange County on their own. If you find a really good alternative to the former Knollwood, report it to me and maybe we can make it the designated lunch stop for these rides in the future. **START: WILLIAM PEAK PARK in BUENA PARK.** From Artesia Frwy (91), off & South Knott Ave mi, L - El Dorado Dr. to Park.

Thursday, January 21 – 7:00 p.m. MONTHLY MEMBERS MEETING. Once again we will be holding our meeting on Zoom. Will we ever see one another again? Hopefully by now the vaccine starting to be distributed and the end will be in sight. Discussion will probably center around changes to club activities forced by the pandemic.

NOTE: Nominations for officers for the coming year close at this meeting. So if you would like to throw your hat in the ring, be sure to attend. Otherwise, it's always a chance to swap gossip and tall tales. So why not join us. We hope to see you there. If you would like to join the meeting, contact Mel Cutler at cutlerme@earthlink.net for the necessary information.

Week Ending Sunday, January 24th -- JANUS SEQUENTIAL CENTURIES (Day 1: Full Century 101 mi & 5100 ft, Metric Century 64 mi & 2300 ft, Day 2 Full Century 101 mi & 5100 ft., Metric Century 65 mi & 2600 ft.) These are two centuries and two metric centuries intended to be ridden on two consecutive days. However, many riders ride only one day and sometimes riders will ride a full century one day and the metric on the second day. You are free to mix and match as you wish. Of course, the original challenge was to ride two consecutive days. For over 20 years the club has offered this January challenge – ride a century on each of two consecutive days. To make it interesting, the two consecutive centuries are really the same century ridden each day, but in opposite directions. Each century consists of the same large loop around Ventura County, but on Day 1 we ride the loop in a counterclockwise direction and on Day 2 we ride clockwise. The course is essentially the classic Grand Tour Highland loop without Casitas Pass. Day 1 starts 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 the Day 1 route to be the more difficult because you climb Potrero (a very steep hill) near the end of the ride. Day 2 is the clockwise route. Its the reverse of Day 1 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. 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. Although more of the climbing is in the 2nd half of the ride on Day 2, 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 second day despite being tired from riding day one. **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. Check Parking signs.

Week Ending Sunday, January 31st -- LONG BEACH BIKE PATH (Long 53 mi & 800 ft, Medium 39 mi & 500 ft, Short 29 mi & 400 ft) The bike path that runs along the beach from Santa Monica down to Redondo is over 20 miles long. Now that is a long beach bike path. But that's not what the title of this ride refers to. No, we will be riding the bike path in Long Beach which is only about 5 miles long. However, it is a nicer beach bike path. It is a bit wider, there is a separate path for joggers and walkers and it's usually not as busy. Today, all routes get to ride this pleasant beach bike path. The long route makes a big loop almost entirely on bike trails by heading north on the San Gabriel River to Whittier Narrows, then south on the Rio Hondo/LA River trail, along the beach on the Long Beach trail and then back up the San Gabriel. Since its almost entirely on bike trails, you climb less than 1000 feet in the entire ride. The short and the medium both head to Seal Beach and then take the Long Beach bike path to the LA River and head up river before cutting across on streets back to the start. The only difference between the two is that the medium takes a more roundabout way to Seal Beach. Riding bike trails can be pleasant for club rides. The Long Beach path offers some interesting scenery too. There is the Queen Mary across the bay and the kite surfing area. So why not plan to ride these routes this week. **START: EL DORADO PARK in Long Beach.** From San Diego Frwy (405), off & North/East on Studebaker 1 mi. to Park. Park in Library lot on right just before Spring St.