
Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report

1 message

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Hello All and Happy Groundhog Day

Last Week: Our scheduled routes last week were the "Long Beach Bike Path" rides. For some reason there were an unusually large number of cyclists out on Sunday. I passed several large groups on the San Gabriel River trail. I believe a large number of riders were out doing our ride as well. I didn't get an exact count, but I would guess it was around 15 or so. I'm not going to try and list names today because I'm sure I would miss some. The route took us north up the San Gabriel River to Whittier Narrows and then South back to the coast on the Rio Hondo/La River trail. Since it was almost all on bike trails, it moved right along. To help us along, we had a tail wind as we rode the long stretch down toward the coast. Usually that is a headwind. Not only that, but by the time we had finished lunch, the wind had turned around for the trip back inland. The rain a few days earlier had made for a picturesque ride with snow on the mountains in front of us on the trip north. **Gary Murphy** sent me this photo:



The same rain had apparently washed a lot of debris down the river which gave us this less picturesque sight (photo also by Gary)



On the trip along the Long Beach coast I noticed there were an unusually large number of ships anchored just off shore. Looked like an invasion fleet. I took this shot:



Back during a dockworkers strike ships piled up like this, but I don't think that's the case now. I think a lot of these ships were just idled by the economic downturn caused by the pandemic. There appeared to be a couple of cruise ships among them. A highlight of the ride for me (although not hardly for anyone else) was the chance to eat at Five Guys. I love their fries and I don't think I have been to one in over a year.

Other Ride: Gary Murphy went out last Thursday despite the risk of rain (it didn't rain) and sent me this photo of the sand piled up along the beach bike path after some strong winds earlier in the week.



We have been pretty lucky so far this year with respect to wind-blown sand. Some years it seems like it blocks the bike path every week in the early part of the year.

This Week: Our scheduled ride this week is "Riding Thru Whittier." These routes start from Alhambra and all head to Whittier. The short doesn't quite get there but the long and medium both travel through Whittier on the Greenway Trail. None of the routes go over Turnbull, so they are fairly easy. Like last week, the long spends a lot of time on bike trails.

Weather Report: It is my understanding that, despite the snow storms on the east coast, Punxsutawney Phil did see his shadow today indicating 6 more weeks of winter. And even if the groundhog had been here in LA, he would have seen his shadow today as well.

I don't really have anything else to add tonight.

Parting Shot: Since today was Groundhog Day, the Groundhog Day movie was running all day on AMC and I watched it once again. Here is a shot from the movie:



In the movie this is the main hotel in Punxsutawney, but in reality it is the Woodstock Opera House in Woodstock, Ill where I spent many many hours during my high school years and college summers working on amateur theater productions. Good memories. No wonder I like watching "Groundhog Day" over and over.

See You On the Road (soon I hope)

Rod Doty, VP