

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report

1 message

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Hello All and Happy Star Wars Day

Last Week: On Saturday we were riding "Sand Canyon," our fifth Grand Tour trainer. Either everyone is already trained for a double or not many people are planning on riding the Grand Tour this year because as far as I know, we only had 3 riders. They were **Gary Murphy, Thomas Knoll** and me. Gary and I rode most of the route together and were passed in the middle by Thomas. I suppose the highlight of the ride is the climb up Sand Canyon to Bear Divide. Here is a shot Gary took near the top looking back down the canyon. That's me in the lower right.



By propping his camera up with a rock and using the timer, Gary took this photo of us at the top.



By the way -- the sign says "Picnic Area" but they have removed the tables and benches and the water fountain has been turned off for several years, so I don't think they are really encouraging any picnickers.

Just before the top I took this photo of the most elaborate roadside memorial I have ever seen. The photo doesn't do it justice, but it was a large metal heart with angel wings.



On Sunday we were riding "Ring Around the Valley" which started at the Zoo. We only had 4 riders for this one. The weather was nice -- even out in the Valley -- so I don't know why we are not getting more riders out. The four were **Nancy Domjanovich, Phil Whitworth, Jacques Stern** and me. We all did the long but got separated at lunch, so I rode the last half by myself. All routes ride past the LA History Mural in the Tujunga Wash. I've taken photos of that before, but this time I thought I would focus on the portion of the mural depicting LA history around 1945 -- when the LA Wheelmen club was formed.



No mention of the LA Wheelmen at all. Some history!!

Other Ride: I had a report from **Rafi Karpinski** who rode the Borrego Double last weekend. He did it as a virtual double which meant he could create his own route, but he had to get in 12,000 feet of climbing which is quite a lot. He got a big chunk of this elevation gain by doing this coming Saturday's trainer up to Baldy. He went almost all the way to the ski lift and turned around only because it was very windy up there. The amazing thing is that he did this portion at night. I would think it would be pretty spooky climbing Baldy Road and on up to the ski lift in the dark. Here's a shot he took as he neared the village



The weather might have been nice down in LA, but he said it was fairly cold and rainy up in the mountains. He came across this rattlesnake, but he said it was so cold, the snake was hardly moving.



After coming back down he rode over to Griffith Park where he completed enough climbing and got in the miles he needed. Congratulations Rafi!!

This Week: This week we have our 5th trainer on Saturday. This will be the Mount Baldy ride. We have two options. The traditional route rides up Hwy 39 to East Fork and takes that to Glendora Mountain Road which we ride up the Glendora Ridge which we take all the way to Baldy village. The other option takes us across the San Gabriel Valley to the base of Mount Baldy and takes Mount Baldy Road straight up to the village. The first option is longer and has more total climbing, but the Baldy Road option is much steeper. Both options return back on the Ridge Route all the way back down. This includes a really fun 9 mile downhill. Both options also have the further option of doing the 5 mile climb from the village up to the ski lift and then coming back down. This is a very steep 5 miles. I always hope to do the climb to the ski lift, but often wimp out. In fact, I've only done it twice. But I hope this will be my third time.

On Sunday we are riding "Arcadia - La Tuna Canyon" which starts in Arcadia. Both the long and medium ride to Montrose and on up to the top of La Tuna before the 4 mile downhill. The long adds an extra loop and climb before getting to Montrose. The short doesn't make it to Montrose, but goes down Chevy Chase to rejoin the other two routes on their return through Eagle Rock and South Pasadena. I hope to make this ride too, but if I go to the ski lift on Saturday, there is no telling how my legs will feel on Sunday.

Grand Tour 2021. The registration information for this year's "Virtual" Grand Tour is up on the club web site. If you are planning on riding it, please check it out. I hope to ride it. I would like to put together a small group to ride together. The problem is, the point of having a group is to ride together, but I'm slow which means anyone else in the group would have to also be slow or at least not mind riding slow. But if you think you might fit in, and you want to ride the Grand Tour, let me know. If we get enough riders, we might be able to convince someone to drive sag for the group. I'm currently thinking of riding the traditional route from Malibu so we don't have to drive far to a start location.

Parting Shot: I saw this shop on last Sunday's ride:



I put it up on Facebook and my question there was "What does it Mean?" Is the shop owned by aliens or are the intended customers aliens. The picture of the alien on the sign clearly means we are talking space aliens -- not undocumented immigrants. Or maybe it means the smoking material sold there is alien -- like dried leaves from that big green plant in "Little Shop of Horrors."

See You On The Road

Rod Doty