

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report

1 message

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Hello All:

Here is tonight's music to accompany my discussion of last Sunday's ride to Bronson Caves. I didn't pick it for its great lyrics. I picked it because about half way through the video there is actually a shot of the exit from Bronson Caves (although somewhat dressed up).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kK4H-LkrQjQ>

Sunday: On Sunday our regular ride started from the "Corner" and went to Bronson Caves. There were 6 riders. I took this photo at the start:



That's **Mitch Friedman**, **Gary Murphy**, **Mario Solano**, a newcomer whose name I did not get, and **Rafi Karpinski**. **Jacques Stern** showed up late and didn't make the photo. Jacques rode the medium route and the rest of us set off on the long. Although we did wait a good while at the top of the first climb, we eventually assumed the newcomer had turned back. Mario and Rafi had ridden on ahead. Mitch rode with Gary and me for a while, but he too went on ahead. I was not having a great day and was grateful that Gary hung back with me. In fact, after the caves, we cut the route a bit short. Despite my troubles, it was a very nice day. Very clear. Gary took this photo of downtown from Mulholland Dr. It looked much more clear in person than it does in the photo.



Before the caves, we road around the Hollywood Reservoir which is always a nice traffic free few miles. Gary sent me this photo which I took with his camera from the top of the dam



Rafi included this photo of the reservoir in his Strava post:



Unfortunately, when we got to the caves, they were closed. We didn't care too much since we had walked through them before. I took this photo of the entrance.



I looked on the web and apparently they have been closed due to a danger of falling rocks. Too bad. Anyway, it was a nice ride, although a bit harder than I remembered.

Newcomer Ride: On Sunday there was also a monthly newcomer ride. **Mel Cutler** sent me a report which I think I will just quote here:

The second Westside pandemic newcomer ride was held today. The route was an enhancement of the September version, which was based on the club Thanksgiving ride. This route added some Pacific Palisades neighborhoods and the Will Rogers State Park and polo field to the Mt Holyoke overlook and eliminated the junk miles from the Thanksgiving ride, totaling 20-21 miles but over 1200 ft of climbing. Unfortunately only 2 Newcomers showed up, likely due to it not being mentioned in the VP weekly report. In addition, our sponsor from Blueys Cafe has left the organization and we did not have the usual welcome. We will likely look for another location for 2022 newcomer rides. Worst of all, however **Alice Doyle** took a spill on the back road from Sunset to the polo field at Will Rogers State Park and injured her wrist. When she decided that she couldn't ride safely we realized that all of the riders- the Doyles, David Williams, Dale, and Hoy had ridden from home and no one had a car nearby. Mike proceeded to ride home, pick up the car, and return to get Alice. This pretty much ended the ride as I stayed with Alice and Dale took the other riders on a shorter route back to the city and returned to the park. When Mike returned about 2 hours later, Dale and I had a late lunch in Santa Monica and rode home. The sun was setting as Dale reached home which brought home how much earlier sunset is!

Mel included this photo of the group which looks like it was taken on the back road up to the polo grounds, presumably before Alice fell. We hope her wrist is feeling better.



From the left: **Mel Cutler, Alice Doyle, Michael Doyle, David Williams, and Hoy Quan.**

Other Ride. On November 7th, member **Tom Parkes** with friend **Joe Leon** were bike escorts for the Orange County Half Marathon. They escorted the lead male through the race. Tom sent this photo.



I believe Tom is the third from the left and his friend is on his left.

This Sunday: On Sunday we will be riding "Apple Blossom Time" (which at this time of year is really "Apple Picking Time") which starts out in Redlands. The long and medium both head up to the apple area at Oak Glen. This is a very pretty ride, but also a difficult climb. On balance, I think it is well worth the drive since we don't do this one very often. The way I have been riding lately, I was thinking maybe I wasn't ready for this, but since I am the one who scheduled it, I feel some obligation to show up. So I'll be there, but maybe I'll just do the short (which doesn't go up to Oak Glen), or bail out before reaching Oak Glen. Either way, I hope to see a few of you out there.

Monthly Meeting: This Thursday at 7 p.m. is our monthly meeting. As it has been for over a year and a half now, it will be on Zoom. Please attend. It's always better when there is a group on the line. The log-in information is the same as in the past. If you need this, contact me or our host **Mel Cutler** (cutlerme@earthlink.net) but please do not wait until the last minute to do so.

Trivia Question: I don't have a parting photo tonight, but I thought I would give you a trivia question. Here it is: **How far is it from Bronson Caves to Gotham City?** The answer is in this e-mail. I wish I had prizes to give away, but in next week's e-mail I will post the names of the first 5 people to answer correctly/

See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP