

## Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report

1 message

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Hello All:

**Last Weekend:** We had two rides scheduled last weekend. First up was our annual Christmas Day Ride on Saturday. The weather leading up to Christmas was not good and it looked iffy for Christmas day. But I woke on Christmas morning and checked the weather app and it looked like we were going to have a window of clear weather most of the day. So I put on my cycling clothes and rode over to the "Corner" for the ride. Here is a selfie of everyone who showed up:



I had thought at least **David Nakai** would show up. The Christmas ride is really meant to be ridden as a group, so I went home. I did get 10 miles in riding to and from the "Corner" and Sunday promised to be a better day.

On Sunday, the scheduled ride was "Valley Rally" starting in Whittier. As promised by the weather people, the day was sunny and clear. It was the best weather we had experienced in a week and it would probably be the best day we would have for the rest of the year. I thought for sure several riders would show up. Well, it was better than Christmas day, but only two other riders came. Here they are:



That's **Jacques Stern** and **Rafi Karpinski**. We all did the long route. It was such a nice clear day I was sure we would get some great views of snow covered mountains. However, the route didn't really provide us with many such views. The best was probably about half way up Turnbull Canyon near the end of the ride, but I hate to stop in the middle of a climb, so I passed up the chance to take a photo. I had also hoped there would be a great view of downtown LA from the top of Turnbull, but we hit it late in the day when the usual haze had developed. Rafi took this photo, but you have to strain to see the tall buildings.



Actually, in person, it was much clearer. I guess even the latest iPhone cameras can't dispel the haze. Rafi also took this photo of Jacques as he reached the summit of Turnbull.



Interestingly, at the top of Turnbull we only needed a few feet more elevation gain to go over 3000 and with about 5 miles to go we thought we would probably pick that up somewhere. However, from the top of Turnbull back to the start we did not pick up a single foot of gain. It truly was downhill all the way back. We often say things like "It's all downhill from here" but it is rarely literally true.

**This Weekend:** This weekend we actually have 3 rides. On New Year's Day (Saturday) we have both the Rose Parade Ride and the Kickoff Century. The rides are practically polar opposites. At only 14 miles, the Rose Parade ride is probably the shortest ride we ever offer. It is designed to simply get you to the parade route from Alhambra and back with a pre-parade trip down Orange Grove where the floats are parked prior to the start of the parade. It's a great way to see the parade while avoiding traffic hassles and you get to see the floats up close before the parade even starts.

On the opposite end of the spectrum is our Kickoff century (and metric century). Although obviously much longer than the Rose Parade ride, these are among our easiest centuries. Starting in Malibu, the metric century simply rides up the coast to Camarillo and back while the full century adds a loop around Ventura before heading back. The roads are usually fairly quiet on New Year's Day and the predicted weather is supposed to be pretty good. It's a great way to start your year with a bang. I plan to be at the century. I may start a little ahead of the 7 a.m. posted start time, but most riders should catch me.

On Sunday we have our first regularly scheduled Sunday ride of 2022: "Corner Caper II." Starting from the "Corner" the long and medium both climb over to the Valley and head east. The long adds a loop up to Pasadena before coming back down to rejoin the medium route in Glendale. The routes end with a trip along Mulholland and a descent down Franklin Canyon to the finish. For those familiar with these routes, please note that I have moved the lunch location. Guess where. The short route stays on the west side of LA. I would like to say I am going to be there, but if I ride the century on Saturday, I can't make any promises for Sunday.

**Guest Rider Needs a Bike:** We have been contacted by **Steve Offutt** who was visiting LA last fall and rode with us several times. He will be back in LA for about a month in January and would like to join us for some rides again, but needs a bike. He is hoping he can borrow a bike while he is here. He says he is 5'9" and usually rides a 54 frame. If you can help him out, you could contact him directly at [steve@offuttemail.com](mailto:steve@offuttemail.com) or through **Nancy Domjanovich** at [nancydomx@icloud.com](mailto:nancydomx@icloud.com)

**Parting Shots:** This was the last week in which we could probably take photos of holiday decorations. My observation is that inflatables continue to grow in number and if there is a trend, it is in size. Inflatables seem to be getting bigger and bigger. As examples, I give you this first shot which I took last Sunday and the other two photos from **Gary Murphy** which he took on a solo ride this week:



The Rudolph inflatable appears to be about as tall as the house.

See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP