

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report

1 message

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Hello All:

Sunday: We had two rides last Sunday. The first was "Exploring the Environs" which left from the "Corner." I was having a hard time coming up with some theme music for this ride, but then I found "Topanga Canyon" by John Phillips -- part of his solo career after the Mamas and the Papas broke up. I didn't know he had a solo career and I gather neither did many other people. Anyway, since our ride took us through Topanga Canyon, I thought the song was appropriate. Here's the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGUDpZLL008>

I think we had at least 10 riders. **Phil Whitworth** took this photo at the start:



From the left: **Gary Murphy, Me, Jacques Stern, Nancy Domjanovich, Russ Brynes, Rafi Karpinski, and Chris Hedberg.** Not in the photo were **Thomas Knoll and Robert Fullum.** Phil, Rafi and I rode the long route, but I can't ride their pace, so I ended up riding the route alone, which is just as well, since I took a lot of rests. The rest did some version of the medium route. It was a beautiful day. I took this photo at the top of Encino Hills Dr. (the highest point along Mulholland Dr). The Valley is rarely that clear.



There had been predictions of some winds, but when they did spring up, it turned out they were mostly at our back, so that worked out well. Since I didn't ride with the others, I don't know much about how their ride went. For my part, the long proved to be much harder than I remembered. Now I know why we don't ride up Beverly Glen more often -- It's very nicely paved and has a wide parking lane all the way to the top, but it is significantly steeper than Benedict Canyon, which we often take. And that was just the start of the day. The long route threw in several other short but steep climbs. I kept telling myself it would build character, but I don't know. I didn't get a lot of photos, but here is one from Rafi:



This is at the intersection of Old Topanga and "New" Topanga. I only include it because a while back one of our members fell at this spot because their wheel got caught in a crack in the pavement. I wanted to show that it is now being repaved.

The other ride last Sunday was our monthly Newcomer Ride. This month it left from the Zoo parking lot. **Hoy Quan** sent me this photo from the start:



I count at least 21 riders. Hoy and Mel have been using "Meet Up" to attract riders to this monthly event and it sure seems to be working.

This Sunday: This coming Sunday we will be riding "Flintridge Express" which starts from Monterey Park. Of course this Sunday is also Superbowl Sunday and the Rams are in the game. But the game doesn't start until 3:30 p.m. so you should be able to get the ride in and still see all or most of the game. Here's how I see it: The short is a relatively easy 30 miles which you should have no trouble completing in time to see the kickoff. The medium is a somewhat more hilly 38 miles, but even with a lunch stop, most riders should make it home for the game, or at least be in their cars driving home at kickoff time. The long is a very hilly 56 miles. If it wasn't for the hills, I would say no problem finishing in time for the game, but those hills are pretty steep and you might end up missing the first quarter. But most of the playoff games have been decided in the last few minutes, so missing the first quarter shouldn't matter. So, I hope to see some of you out there. I plan on doing the long -- I figure all the climbing I did last Sunday should help me get up the hills on this one.

Parting Shot: I don't have anything else to add tonight. I will close with this photo which **Phil Whitworth** took on last Sunday's ride:



This was taken on Old Topanga Rd. and that's **Chris Hedberg**. The question is "who's leg is that in the window.?"

See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP