

## Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report

1 message

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Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 11:31 PM

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Hello All and Happy New Year.

It's been a little over a year since I began including theme songs in each of these e-mails. I have fun picking a song each week so I want to continue, but soon we will be repeating rides and I don't want to repeat the same songs. So, my selections may become a bit more esoteric and may have less and less to do with the week's ride. I'm saying this because last year for this week's e-mail I used the obvious song -- Guy Lombardo's version of Auld Lang Syne. It's the obvious song for this week too, but since I don't want to repeat songs, I've gone with U2's "New Years Day." the name is right, but if you watch the video, I'm not sure it's about celebrating New Year's Day.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeYCyCaK\\_5k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeYCyCaK_5k)

**The Weekend:** We had two rides this week. The first, on Sunday, was our annual Kick-off centuries. I drove out to Malibu for the ride but was the only one there. I discovered I had forgotten my Garmin. I could have ridden without it, but somehow that took the wind out of my sails and I decided to just pack it in. About this time, the only other rider showed up - **Edwin Dair** (I hope I got the name right) I took this photo



Having already given up on the ride, I still went home, so we only had one intrepid rider. I later heard from **David Nakai**, who did a different ride in the same area that the winds were really fierce. They weren't blowing in Malibu at the start, but I think they were much worse up in Ventura. So I'm a little glad I wimped out. I didn't hear from our solo rider. I hope he survived the wind.

Monday was our annual Rose Parade Ride. **Hoy Quan** had posted this as a newcomer ride on Meet-Up and there were about 50 riders. I had thought Hoy would send me a group shot, but I didn't get one. There were a few regular club members as well including **Gary Murphy**, **Chris Hedberg** and **Jacques Stern**. Riders seem to have really gotten fragmented. Hoy's group got started ahead of us, but we caught some of them on the gradual climb up towards Pasadena. When we finally found Hoy along Orange Grove, he seemed to have only a few of his original group with him. They were going to re-group further down Orange Grove but Gary and I decided to turn off sooner because the crowds were getting thick. Jacques had a mechanical problem and had to turn back. Chris had ridden from home and she headed back on her own. After viewing the floats along Orange Grove, I think some of Hoy's group turned back also. **David Nakai** sent a report in which he described how he shepherded a rider who was clearly not ready for even the short 4 mile ride over to Orange Grove. Gary and I decided to skip the parade since we had seen most of the floats and we wanted to get home in time to watch the USC game. (which, as it turned out, it might have been better to stay for the parade). Anyway, we did get to see the floats and take some photos.

Here are some of mine: I liked these bees on the first one



This second one is Gary in front of the Mutual of Omaha "Wild Kingdom" float. It had a lot of different animals on it. I'm not sure what the two behind Gary are supposed to be, but they look cute.



I liked this one with the chef on the motorcycle.



Gary Took this one showing the line-up down Orange Grove. That's me and Chris on the right



Finally, Gary took this one of the Grand Marshal's car. That's Gabby Giffords in the far rear seat next to astronaut/senator/husband Mark Kelly



I later saw them on TV at the coin toss for the Rose Bowl game. Despite now being a U.S. Senator, I notice that Mark Kelly still seems to like wearing his old NASA clothes.

**Next Week:** This Sunday the scheduled ride is Acton in Acton which starts out in Newhall. These routes head out Soledad Canyon towards Acton. The long goes all the way to Acton while the medium only goes as far as Agua Dulce. I always look forward to trying to view the lions and tigers at Shambala. I like this ride a lot and hope we can get it in. Frankly, the weather does not look promising. We will just have to wait and see.

**Holiday Party.** We did get enough RSVPs to meet the minimum number to hold our holiday party on the 19th. You can still RSVP. The initial invitation was just to make sure we had the minimum, but we can have more. So, if you want to join us. RSVP to Kermit. He would prefer you text him at **310 367-0458** or you could e-mail him at [kimkong@aol.com](mailto:kimkong@aol.com). I will probably send an additional invitation out when we know the last date on which we can add participants.

**2022 Achievements:** Each year I give members a chance to report their cycling achievements in the past year. So, please, send your 2022 results in. You can also include your goals for 2023.

Mine are 4710 miles with 182,500 feet of elevation gain. That's a pretty low year for me and I am vowing to do better this year, although since I missed the January 1st century, I'm not off to a very good start.

I also already have a report from **Steve Benoff**. He rode 3460 miles with 386,760 feet of climbing. That is an impressive amount of climbing for the miles ridden. Well over half a vertical century.

**No Parting Shot** Nothing much else to report and I have no parting shot. Saw some more dead Santas on the Rose Parade ride, but that's old news.

See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP