

LA Wheelmen VP Report - November 1, 2016

Hello All

Sunday: The weather report on Sunday was for scattered showers. Not very promising, but I thought I would take a shot, so I drove over to the Zoo for the start of "David Does Descanso." Two other brave riders showed up -- **Jacques Stern** and **Ann Trank**. With the threat of rain supposedly rising in the afternoon, we decided to only do the medium route. We made it to lunch without a drop of rain. The climb through Mount Washington was as pretty as ever. With only 9 miles left to go after lunch and most of that being downhill, I thought we could take time for a quick lunch. I regret that decision now. It started to rain the minute we left lunch. I thought maybe we would ride out from under it, but that didn't really happen either. It wasn't real bad. Not a soaking rain by any means. But it was enough to wet the roads and the spray from my wheel soaked my shoes. We all got back in good shape and of course once it was done, I was glad we had ridden. Since only 3 of us showed up, I'm thinking of re-scheduling the ride early next year. Maybe David can join us then. [David -- what day would be good for you in February or March?]

Ann took a couple of photos at the end. You can see we were a bit wet, but still smiling.





Next Sunday: Next Sunday we will be out in Redlands for our ride up to Oak Glen for apple pie. Yes, Redlands is a long drive, but this is a classic ride. The climb up to Oak Glen is difficult (actually very difficult) at times but the routes are fairly short so don't worry if it takes you a while to get there. Remember, it's a fast ride back to the start. Also, we return to Standard Time this weekend which

means you get an extra hour of sleep Saturday night. That means you should easily be able to get up a bit early for the long drive out to Redlands. I hope to see a lot of you out there.

Triple Dipper Event: Last Saturday the regular Triple Dipper riders had a real treat a couple of days early for Halloween. Dipper **Emma Pham** currently works for Clay Lacy who is an aviation pioneer and entrepreneur. He is now 84 and flew his first plane at age 12, so he has quite an impressive history with aircraft. You can read about him at his Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clay_Lacy

Mr. Lacy currently operates a major jet charter business at the Van Nuys Airport, where he has also amassed quite a collection of vintage aircraft. One of these is a DC-3 which he maintains in flying condition. For information about the DC-3 see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_DC-3

Mr. Lacy graciously offered to take the Dippers for a short flight around the LA area in the DC-3. So, on Saturday, 9 of us gathered at the Van Nuys airport for our flight.

Here's a photo of our plane (taken by **David Williams**) It was formerly in service for United Airlines and still has it's markings.



Here's the group:



From left to right: **David Williams, Gary Murphy, Jacques Stern, Emma Pham, Nancy Domjanovich, Clay Lacy, Terry Neff, me, and Phil Whitworth.** Phil's wife took the photo.

Once we got over the thought that we were flying in a plane that was built before any of us were born and it was being flown by a pilot who was born before that, the flight was great. We flew north to the Oxnard area and then south along the coast past Malibu. Then we flew over downtown LA where we made a nice circle and then back out to the valley.

Here are a couple of shots taken inside the plane. You can see that the interior has been renovated and is very plush. The first shot was taken by Emma and the second by Phil.





Finally, there were many photos taken out the windows of the landmarks we flew over. Here is only one taken by Terry.



I include this one because in two weeks we will be riding up to the top of the Hollywood Sign. The only other way to get a closer look than this. After our flight, we toured the hanger where many of Mr. Lacy's other jets are stored. Amazing! He has a couple of early Lear Jets. These were once the darling of the private jet world, but compared to today's Gulfstream jets, they were small. You were basically flying in a 5 foot diameter tube which you practically had to crawl in and out of. The Dippers want to thank Mr. Lacy for his generosity in taking us for the flight and to Emma for arranging it.

Cubs: When the Cubs fell behind 3 games to 1 in the World Series, it looked bleak. But tonight the Cubs tied up the series and it all comes down to tomorrow's game. I don't know what the odds makers are saying, but as a Cubs fan, I've got to think the Cubs have a slight edge just from momentum. But we shall see.

See You On the Road

Rod Doty, VP