

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - February 14, 2017

Hello All:

Happy Valentine's Day. Today we should all take time to think of our loved ones. Whether they have been with us a long time or are relatively new in our lives, I'm sure their companionship will mean a lot to us in the coming days. So, whether their names are Moots, or Trek, or Cannondale, or Bianchi, or (in my case) Specialized, we should do something nice for them. Buy them something bright and shiny, like a new chain or new bar tape. They will appreciate it.

Last Week: Last Saturday we had our century of the month down in Orange County. Terry Neff and I started early, but I'm told at least 5 others started at the scheduled time. Only Phil Whitworth and Jackie Burneson caught us at lunch. I believe the others either did the metric version or a shortened ride. The weather was not promising at the start and that probably accounts for a relatively low turn-out. It had rained the night before and the roads were very wet at the start. Although it remained overcast most of the morning, it never did rain. By afternoon the roads had dried and we had sun maybe half the time. So it turned out to be a nice day. The route was designed to use a lot of the bike trails in Orange County and I was a little worried about the trails being closed due to high water. It turns out they were all open. There was only one spot I was really concerned about where the Aliso Creek trail crosses the stream on a metal plate only a few inches above the water. When we got there, water was running over this plate, but only by about half an inch. I was a little concerned about the current sweeping my wheels out from under me, but the alternative was getting my feet wet by walking across. After debating a little, we rode across with no problem. The rest of the bike paths were well above the stream levels, but I've never seen so much water in the Aliso Creek or in the San Diego Creek. Usually they are almost dry. I only got one photo from the day. Phil sent me this one of us as we entered the bike trail which parallels the 405 freeway.



On Sunday we were riding from the Corner. I got up, put on my cycling clothes and then sat down and decided I didn't want to go. Too tired from the century I guess. But I had reports from Jacques Stern, Mel Cutler and Ann Trank. Numbers vary -- Jacques said there were 9 or 10, Mel said there were 12 riders and Ann thought it was closer to 16. Either way, it sounds like a good turn-out. The weather was certainly much nicer than on Saturday. Although there were some newcomers and/or visitors, all agreed to do the long route. There were brief separations, but it sounds like they all came back together for the return, or at least until some split off to go directly home. I wish I had summoned the energy to join them. All three reports mentioned that Dave Wyman took a bunch of photos, but he has yet to respond to my request for some of them, so I've got nothing.

Ann's report was more like a full blown article (reminiscent of the Gooseneck). Since she put so much effort into it, I have attached it to this e-mail so you can read it in its entirety.

Next Sunday: Next Sunday we will be riding "Valley Rally" which starts in Whittier and rides some of the San Gabriel Valley. The start in Whittier naturally means we will be riding Turnbull, but actually only 2 of the 4 routes does it. The long does it coming back and one of the 2 medium routes does it going out. Other than that, these are relatively easy routes. Right now the weather sounds a bit iffy, but it looks like it might clear by Sunday. If it does, I hope to be there. No Saturday century to tire me out this time.

Meeting Minutes: This Thursday is our monthly meeting. As I usually do, I have attached the minutes of last month's meeting here so that those planning to attend this week will know what transpired last time.

Grand Tour Staff: Ira Kuchek, the staff coordinator for the Grand Tour, has asked me to include this request for volunteers for this year's event:

Our team is putting together the staff for this year's Grand Tour (June 24th). As you know it's a phenomenal ride and it's due in large part to the great volunteers who support it. If you, your family or friends are available please take part in this great event. Click on this link for more info and to sign up - [GT 2017 Staff](#) If you have any questions about volunteering please email or call Ira – ikuchek@gmail.com or 949.759.2975

Great Western Bicycle Rally Discount: I have been asked to inform the club that the Great Western Bicycle Rally (May 26 - 29) will give a 15% discount on registration to club members. Simply use the code WHEELMEN15 when entering your registration. Be sure to use all CAPS. For information about the Rally you can go to www.greatwesternbicyclerally.com

I'm sorry I only have the one photo this week, so here's one I got two weeks ago after Groundhog Day. It has nothing to do with cycling. It's from my home town of Woodstock, Illinois. After the movie "Groundhog Day" was filmed there, they started having their own celebration every year which is modeled on the one in the movie.



The only reason I include it here is that the little girl is my grand niece and I'm a little proud that she got chosen as Little Miss Woodstock. I am concerned however that starting in beauty pageants at this early age might lead to her becoming the 5th or 6th Mrs. Trump down the road.

See You On The Road
Rod Doty, VP