

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - May 23, 2017

Hello All:

Last Saturday: On Saturday we rode our 8th Grand Tour trainer -- Potrero. I believe we had 11 riders. Phil Whitworth took this photo at the start:



From left to right, that's Thomas Knoll, Mel Cutler, James Carter, Stan Alvidrez (barely visible behind me), Me, Terry Neff, Sheila Szymanski, Gary Murphy, David Williams, and Josh (whose last name I still don't know). Four riders chose to do the route backwards, but to my mind, that defeats the purpose of the ride which is to test our legs against the climb up Potrero. The rest of us were up to the challenge. A couple of us (including me) stopped to rest in the middle of the climb, but all made it to the top. Gary Muphy took this shot of David Williams coming up the hill and I think it captures the steepness of the climb:



Once in Hidden Valley Gary took this shot of baled hay:



Seeing that reminded me of my childhood on the farm. I was impressed by how close all the bales were, which would indicate the hay was very thick. I don't remember our hay ever being quite so thick. Although it was a long day and the climb up Potrero wiped me out, it was a good ride.

Sunday: On Sunday the club ride was "South Bay Typical" starting in Torrance. To use a phrase from another sport, I was unable to answer the bell. My mind was willing, but my legs were not. Fortunately, I had a report from Bill Faulkner. Bill said there were only 4 riders: Nancy Domjanovich, Jacques Stern, Bob Wyman, and Bill. They all started off on the medium route, but Bob later went off to do his own thing. The other three basically completed the route although since they had all ridden to the start, at the end they simply went back to the coast to make their own way home. Sounds like it was a good day. i wish I could have been there.

Additional Saturday Photo: I didn't get any photos from Sunday, so here is another one from Saturday sent in by Mel Cutler. As usual, Mel had found his own lunch spot -- the Ladyface Alehouse in Agoura and sent this selfie:



I was curious what a "Tax Determination Tank" is, but if you Google it, there are plenty of entries which will explain it. In short, brew pubs which both make and sell beer on site need to have a way of measuring how much beer they make so that it can be taxed and that's where the tank comes in. Apparently the regulations require that it actually be labeled "Tax Determination Tank."

Next Weekend: Next Saturday our 9th trainer should be the "Two Terrible Tujungas Tour" but Little Tujunga Canyon remains closed, so we have modified the ride to be the "One Terrible Tujunga Tour." Actually the one Tujunga isn't so terrible because we will be riding down that one. But the route still retains the ride out to Acton and then the tough climb up Aliso Canyon and the continuation of the climb on Angeles Forest Hwy up and over Mill Creek Summit. Just last Saturday the Tour of California went over this summit. They made it look easy. Maybe we will be able to find a discarded water bottle or two. The modified route is a few miles longer than the original and, surprisingly, doesn't cut off very much elevation gain.

Sunday we will meet at the Zoo for the "Sierra Donut Ride." These routes are fairly short as they travel up to Sierra Madre and back (the short only goes to Montrose). I am hopeful to be there and use it as a nice recovery ride from the Saturday trainer. Of course, that didn't work out last week, but hope springs eternal.

Thursday Adventure: Last Thursday the Triple Dipper group diverged from their usual ride in Palos Verdes to take a ride out to Malibu and tour the Adamson House. Here is a photo from Phil Whitworth of the group viewing some of the ceramic tile for which the house is famous:



Fast Food Wars: I was interested to see on the news that after several years at number two, Five Guys has finally taken over the number one spot from In And Out in an annual Harris poll of fast food popularity. Here's a link to the poll results: <https://www.simplemost.com/five-guys-americas-best-burger-2017-harris-poll/> For those interested in trying the new number one, we usually stop at a Five Guys on the July 4th ride. I was surprised to see Shake Shack in the number three spot. Only a few weeks ago I tried a Shake Shack for the first time (there is one near the Pantages Theater). I thought the burger was only fair and the fries were shockingly poor. Maybe they are famous for their shakes (since it's in their name). I'll be going up to the Pantages in June to see "Book of Mormon" so maybe I can try a shake then.

We are a full service club -- restaurant reviews and all.

See You On The Road,
Rod Doty, VP