

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - November 6, 2018

Hello All:

Sunday: Last Sunday we started in Tustin and were riding "The Amazing Maze." We had six riders at the start. I took this photo:



From left to right: **Lee Meller, Jacques Stern, Terry Neff, Nancy Domjanovich** and **Phil Whitworth**. We all started on the long route which took us south and through Santiago Canyon and on to Yorba Linda for lunch. At that point, everyone but me decided to cut the return short. I completed the long route which gave me a nice sense of self-satisfaction and maybe a slightly smug feeling of superiority. To be fair, I think Phil would have completed the long route if he hadn't broken a spoke. For me there were only about 25 miles left after lunch, but they included about 2000 feet of climbing (mostly in the Anaheim Hills) so I paid for my smugness. Last week I was looking for Halloween decorations. This week they were all gone, but the most popular lawn decorations were now campaign posters. Some blocks in Irvine seemed like they were one continuous string of posters for all sorts of offices. I felt bad for the realtors who had put up "open house" signs because I think they were lost in the forest of campaign lawn signs. While I was stopped at a light I took this photo of one cluster of signs:



This wasn't the largest cluster I saw, but the only one I caught on camera.

Next Sunday: Next Sunday we will be riding our century and metric century of the month which will be "Circling San Fernando." Both routes start in West LA and ride over Sepulveda before beginning their circle of the San Fernando Valley. The full century and metric century stay together for the first 43 miles as they circle to the north valley. At that point, the metric cuts the circle short and returns back over Sepulveda while the long continues to circle to the west then heads out to the coast via Mulholland Hwy and Malibu Canyon to return back to the start through Santa Monica. Since both routes stay together so long, you don't have to decide which route you want to do until late in the ride, so bring both route sheets and see how you feel. Like I did for the last century, I may start early, but I'll probably see most of you somewhere on the route.

Meetup.com: The club is now posting its rides on Meetup.com which is a web site that facilitates users in finding activities in which they might want to participate. By posting our rides on the site, we hope to attract new riders to our club rides. There has already been significant interest, but so far this hasn't translated into actual riders showing up at the rides. One problem may be that when users look at an upcoming event, the site shows the number of people who have already indicated they plan to attend and for our rides, this number is often just one or two. That does not encourage newcomers to show up. So, what we are asking club members to do is to sign up on meetup.com and indicate that you intend to ride each event. Of course we particularly want those who are actually planning to ride to do this, but frankly, even if you don't plan to ride, it wouldn't hurt to indicate you will be there just to make our events look more attractive. So, please, go to www.meetup.com and sign up. It's free and doesn't take any time at all. About all they ask for is your e-mail address and let's face it -- the Russians already have that. Once you are signed up and have indicated your interest in LA Wheelmen events, they will send you an e-mail for each ride we schedule and all you have to do is click that you plan to attend. Easy-peasy.

November Meeting: Our November meeting of members on Thursday, November 15th will be at **Mel Cutler's** home. Information is in the schedule on the club web site. However, Mel wanted me to tell you that if you plan to attend you have to RSVP to him at least one day in advance so he can get the list to the guard. If you RSVP on the day of the meeting, it will be too late.

Travel Photos: Speaking of Mel, he sent me some photos from Lodi where he was riding the Giro d'Vino last Sunday. This wine themed ride visits 8 wineries in a flat 40 miles. Here he is at the ride.



Behind him is his brother, and behind him is their designated driver, Stan.

Member News: Club Treasurer **Ira Kuccheck** recently attended the wedding of his daughter. Here is the proud father and the bride:



Congratulations, Ira!

Final Shot: I rode my bike to my polling place to vote today which made me feel doubly virtuous for both voting and using alternative transportation to get there. Here's a shot of my bike at the polls.



Full disclosure: My car is in the shop, but I might have ridden my bike anyway because it was on my way home from my usual Tuesday ride.

See You On The Road
Rod Doty, VP

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - November 13, 2018

Hello All:

Sunday: Last Sunday we were to have been riding our monthly century: "Circling San Fernando." However, the fire in the Malibu area put a crimp in our plans. It totally blocked the full century route which would have returned through Malibu Canyon. The metric century route remained open, but smoke in the Valley could definitely have been a problem. Consequently, I don't know if anyone rode the route that day. On Friday, I took this photo of the smoke plume.



This was taken from along Ballona Creek. The streak of smoke coming in from the right was coming from a short lived fire near the Zoo in Griffith Park

I was determined to get a century in for myself, so Sunday I rode the "Coastal Cruise Century" which heads south. I had invited a number of our usual century riders, but had no takers. It turned out to be a nice day for that century. I did take a couple of photos along the way. I've often seen Adopt-a-Highway and Adopt-a-Street signs, but this is the first time I've ever seen an "Adopt-a-Channel" sign.



Here's a shot of the actual channel:



It looks pretty clean, but of course everyone knows the Disney Channel is pretty clean.

Next Week: Next Sunday we will be riding "Apple Blossom Time" which starts out in Redlands which is a long way from the current fires. Let's hope some new fires don't spring up out there. It's a long drive out to the start, but these are unique rides well worth the trip. The long and medium head up to Oak Glen where it is apple picking time -- not apple blossom time. We have run these routes both in the spring and the fall, and I think it's much nicer in the fall. You get that crisp fall air, and the area is much more active with apple pickers and other harvest activities (there might be a corn maze). There is a lot of climbing to get up to Oak Glen, but as I always say (because it's true) -- take your time and you can make it. I hope to see a lot of you there.

Meeting: Just a reminder that there is a club meeting this Thursday at the home of **Mel Cutler** (details in the schedule on the club web site). If you plan to attend, you must contact Mel no later than tomorrow (Wednesday) so he can put your name on the access list.

Triple Crown News: For you double century riders there is good news. In the past you had to complete 50 lifetime Triple Crown doubles to make it into the Hall of Fame. But they have now created a sort of Hall of Fame Lite award when you complete 25 lifetime doubles. For some of you, 50 may have always seemed out of sight, but maybe 25 is possible. This will give you an easier goal to shoot for. They have created a new jersey for those achieving this goal. Here is the design



It looks nice. There aren't many predominately white jerseys out there so it should stand out.

Final Shot: Here is a photo **Phil Whitworth** sent me a couple of weeks ago since he knows I'm a Cubs fan.



I'm guessing it is in reference to the Cubs winning the World Series 3 years ago now. It was the first win in over 100 years, so I think that's worth memorializing on a license plate.

See You On The Road
Rod Doty, VP

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - November 20, 2018

Hello All:

Sunday: Last Sunday we were out in Redlands for our ride up to Oak Glen. Six hearty riders made the long drive. I took this photo of the group.



From left to right: **Terry Neff, Sheila Syzmanski, Gary Murphy, Thomas Knoll and Lee Meller.** I believe we all road the alternate long route. It turned out to be a beautiful fall day for this ride. There was some wind on the way to Beaumont, but once we started the main climb up to Oak Glen, it was gone. We paralleled the main rail line on the way to Beaumont and were passed by 3 long freight trains -- two going east and one going west. I imagine those containers were filled with ipads and iphones on their way to the Midwest in time for the holiday rush or maybe whatever toy is popular this year and is impossible to get. Gary sent me this photo of 3 of us on our way.



I can't quite place this location, but it must have been early because after a while Terry and I were left behind. We did come back together at the village up in Oak Glen but by the time we got there the others were almost finished with lunch. It was the week before

Thanksgiving and a busy time up there, so Terry and I opted to have lunch back down the hill in Yucaipa. Lee sent me a couple of photos from their lunch in Oak Glen. The first is of their waitress who appears to be in the holiday mood.



The second is of Thomas and Sheila making some repairs on Sheila's bike



All in all, a nice ride. The climb was a bit tougher than I remember, but we got there. It took us about 4 hours to get up to the top but only about an hour or less to get back, so it was a nice ride back.

This Week: This Thursday we have our annual Thanksgiving Day ride from the "Corner." This is a fairly easy ride out to the Palisades for a view from the bluffs and then a trip down to the Marina for a break before we all head home. Usually a very pleasant ride. Currently there is talk of rain, but it is supposed to be clearing Thursday morning. I just got a brand new rain jacket so if it is just a little drizzle in the morning with the promise of clearing later in the day, I'll be there. Heavier rain, and I won't.

On Sunday, we will be riding "Bike Trails Galore" which starts at Wilderness Park in Downey. These routes are almost entirely on bike trails which makes for pleasant riding. You can ride side by side and not have cars honk at you. The long makes a complete loop going up the San Gabriel River to the Santa Fe Dam and then jogs over to take the Rio Hondo and LA River down to Long Beach. A ride along the Long Beach Bike Trail takes us over to the San Gabriel which we ride back up to the start. The shorter routes are similar but shorter. I plan on being there.

MeetUp.com. I noticed that a few of you have started using MeetUp.com to post your intention to ride the club rides. That's good, but we need more. Our hope is that if enough people begin posting their intention to join us our our rides, then non-club members will be more likely to join us. So, please -- go to MeetUp.com, sign up (it's free) and locate the club rides on the site and click that you plan to attend (even if you don't).

Parting Shot: I was impressed by this home in Redlands last Sunday. A week before Thanksgiving and this home owner already had an impressive array of holiday decorations up. You can't see him in the photo, but the owner was on the roof putting up more lights.



See You On The Road,
Rod Doty, VP

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - November 27, 2018

Hello All:

Last Week: Last Thursday was our annual Thanksgiving Day Ride. I took this photo at the start:



I count 7 in the photo and with me that would make 8, but I think there might have been one or two more that didn't make the photo. We had a few newcomers in the group. We all did the long except the wife (I think) of one of the newcomers. She didn't think she would be able to keep up with her husband and didn't want to hold him back, so she did the short and met us at the break in the Marina. If her husband had ridden his own pace, she probably would have held him back, but he stayed with us and I'm pretty sure she could have ridden our pace. Newcomers never believe us when we insist that we are slow. Anyway, we all (but the wife) headed to the Palisades for our annual break there. I didn't take my usual photo there because I saw others taking pictures, but no one sent them to me. You'll just have to believe me that it was a very nice day looking out over ocean. We then went down to the Marina to meet up with the wife (her name was Kelly) and to listen to Christmas Carols as we took our usual Starbucks break. Starbucks has had their holiday cups since the week after Halloween and Coke has their holiday cans and bottles out, so it was very festive.

On Sunday we were in Downey at Wilderness Park for "Bike Trails Galore." I took this photo at the start:



From left to right: **Russ Brynes, Sheila Szymanski, Mel Cutler, Phil Whitworth, Jacques Stern, Terry Neff, Thomas Knoll, and Gary Murphy.** I'm pretty sure two more riders joined us after the photo. They were **Marc Spigelman** and a newcomer named **Topher.** That would make 11 total which is a pretty good number. We all did the long route except Mel who had ridden from home and only wanted to to the medium. With that, he probably still got in a century for the day. Normally the long stretch on the LA River down to Long Beach is into a steady headwind, but Sunday there was a slight Santa Ana condition and the headwinds weren't there.

That made for a very pleasant ride. Down in Long Beach Phil came across this on the bike path:



It was gone by the time I got there, but it looks to me like the largest snake I've ever seen out on the road. After lunch it was a short trip back to the start and we were on our way home before the real heavy post-holiday traffic clogged the Freeways (although I didn't take the 405 past the airport).

Next Sunday: This Sunday we will be in Whittier to ride the "Valley Rally." These routes head out the San Gabriel Valley and back with the long making it to the edge of Pomona. The long and one of the medium routes (there are two) go over Turnbull, but that's really the only major hill of the day. Oddly, the medium does Turnbull on the way out and the long does it on the way back. I suppose the creator of the routes figured long riders would be better able to do a climb late in the ride. We are getting into the rainy season so that means rides are always a little up in the air. Just remember -- 10% or less means no rain.

Parting Shot: I've got nothing else to discuss tonight. I guess that means the club is running smooth. On his way home last Sunday Mel took a few photos at the beach near sunset. I wish I could take photos that looked this good.





Pretty nice, huh?

See You On The Road,
Rod Doty, VP