

LA Wheelmen VP Report

1 message

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Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - June 11, 2019

Hello All:

Last Week: On Saturday we were riding our 11th Grand Tour trainer -- "Angeles Crest & San Gabriel Canyon" This is generally considered the toughest trainer and this year it was made even more difficult due to a detour on Angeles Crest Hwy which added about 9 miles and 1000 feet of climbing. I would guess the added difficulty scared a lot of our usual riders away because we only had 3 riders that I know of. **Dale Aaronson** and I started early but **Thomas Knoll** started at the scheduled time and he said he didn't see anyone else. Although starting at different times, we came together at lunch at Newcombs Ranch and I took this photo:



It was the first really warm day of the season and I think that made the ride just that much more difficult. The extra ride up Upper Big Tujunga just about did me in. I had thought maybe I would offer this year's detour route as an extended version next year, but if I do, I can say right now, I'm not going to ride it. Nonetheless, all 3 of us persisted and made it through the ride. I took this photo near the top of Hwy 39 looking down San Gabriel Canyon. Quite a view when you know all you have to do is ride down that canyon to the finish.



Dale sent me this photo of the San Gabriel Reservoir near the bottom of the San Gabriel Canyon. You can see that all the rain we have had has nearly filled the reservoir. A couple of years ago, this portion was completely empty.



Finally I saw this sign up near Cloudburst Summit which I thought was interesting.



I didn't see any evidence of a fire, controlled or otherwise. But what if there was a real uncontrolled fire and I didn't report it?
On Sunday we were riding "Balboa - Newport" which started in Tustin. There were 6 of us and I took this photo at the start:



That's **Kit Gray**, **Alice Burston** (visitor & friend of Kit), **Jacques Stern** and **Gary Murphy**. **Bill Faulkner** was just off camera to the right -- Sorry Bill -- I'm a lousy photographer. For once we actually split among all 3 routes. Kit & Alice rode the short, Bill did the medium, and Jacques, Gary and I did the long. Kit sent me this photo of a coffee shop apparently named for him



I was so tired from Saturday's ride, I hardly remember anything from Sunday's ride. It was the first ride of the year on which I never wore my jacket at all and I came home with a patch of sunburn on the back of my neck to show for it. But I got to have lunch at Pick-Up-Stix where they were having a double points week, so that was good. Only a few more points and I get a free entree.

This Week: Saturday is our final Grand Tour trainer. This one is a bit easier than the last few weeks and simply travels from Brentwood down to Palos Verdes and back. But while in Palos Verdes, it makes a lap around the peninsula including 3 trips to the top so it's not completely easy. It's a last chance to polish your fitness before the big day, so I hope to see several of you Grand Tour riders out there.

On Sunday we will be riding "Pasadena Passion" which starts in Pasadena. These routes make an extensive tour of the San Gabriel Valley, but are not particularly difficult. I hope to be there. If I could do both rides last weekend, I certainly should be able to do it this week.

Monthly Meeting: Just a reminder -- Our meeting this month will be on WEDNESDAY the 19th (not Thursday as usual) and will start at 6:00 P.M. (instead of 7). The different day and time is to accommodate the preparation of the packets for Grand Tour Riders which will be the principle activity of the meeting. NOTE ALSO, this meeting is in Room C at the Culver City Veteran's Memorial Building and not my home as it has been the past few years.

Covered Trees: Last week I included a photo here of orchards out near Fillmore which were covered with netting and I wondered why they were covered. **David Nakai**, our club expert in this area, got back to me on this. It turns out, they cover the trees to keep bees from pollinating them so that they produce seedless fruit. It seems to me that bees are having a hard enough time as it is without keeping them away from those sweet sweet blossoms.

Parting Shot: Last week on the Thursday Triple Dipper ride, they were holding CPR training on the Manhattan Beach Pier. They have done this for at least the past 3 years. Some of our riders took the training and **Gary Muphy** took this photo:



As Gary pointed out, this was a training ride of a different kind.

See You On the Road

Rod Doty, VP