

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report

1 message

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Hello All:

I'm sending this out a day early because tomorrow night I'll be at a New Year's Eve Party.

Christmas Day: Last Wednesday was our usual Christmas Day ride. I had all but given up on the idea of riding that day because the forecasts were not encouraging. But, when I got up that morning, they had pushed the predicted rain back to the afternoon and I thought maybe we could at least get part of the ride in. So, I rode over to the start, even though I thought there was a chance no one else would show up. I guess I shouldn't have been surprised that **Mel Cutler**, **Dale Aaronson** and **Rafal Karpinski** showed up -- they are real troopers. I took this photo at the start:



As the day progressed, it seems like they kept pushing the rain back further and further. By the time we got to Griffith Park, it was pretty clear that we would probably be able to finish the ride before the rain came. I particularly wanted to make it to Carroll Ave for our traditional photo op there. Usually it's a group photo, but Rafal had gone on ahead and it was only the 3 of us, so Mel took this selfie



I cut the loop to Chinatown off, but the sun was shining on the way home so I don't think Mel or Dale encountered any rain on their way home either. In fact, I don't think the rain started until after dark. So, it was another successful Christmas Day ride -- just wish more people had made it.

Sunday: On Sunday we were riding "Life Begins at 8:30" which left from Westwood Park. There were 6 of us (an improvement over Christmas). I took this photo at the start:



That's **Rafal Karpinski**, **Sheila Szymanski**, **Gary Murphy** and **Phil Whitworth**. **Jacques Stern** arrived just after the photo was taken. Both routes went out to Malibu and inland on Malibu Canyon. Rafal, Sheila and Phil did the long which went left at Mulholland Hwy and returned via the coast. Gary, Jacques and I did the medium which turned right at Mulholland and returned through the Valley. It was a pleasant day of riding. I didn't get any photos and only took this one myself which shows Gary arriving at the top of the last hill on Mulholland Hwy.



The only really memorable thing from the ride was the incredibly long line of cars waiting to get into the Getty. Maybe all those people from Wisconsin and Oregon here for the Rose Bowl wanted to get in a little culture before the big game.

New Year's Day: This Wednesday is New Year's Day and we have two traditional rides. First, we have the ride to the Rose Parade. This is absolutely the best way to see the parade. The entire ride is only 14 miles and that's 7 to the parade and 7 back. The weather promises to be great. You get to see the floats right up close as you ride down the street where they line up before the parade starts. I've done it a couple of times and I plan on doing it again in a few years when the parade is held on January 2nd again because the 1st is on a Sunday.

The reason I won't be going to the parade this year is that I will be doing our other ride that day -- Our January 1st Century. I've always believed that if you start the year off with a century, it will set the tone for the entire year. Don't know if that has always proved to be true, but I keep saying it. We offer both a full century and metric century. Both start from Malibu and head up the coast. The metric century turns around at Camarillo while the full century continues on to make a circle around Ventura before returning back down the coast to Malibu. Neither route is very hilly beyond the usual hills along the coast. If you are not at the parade, I hope to see you out there in Malibu.

Sunday: Our first regular Sunday ride of the new year will be "South Bay Surprise." These routes leave from Paradise Park in Torrance and head east into Orange County. The long makes it all the way to Knott's Berry Farm where we formerly stopped for lunch. You can still stop there if you wish, but many of us usually continue on down the road to an alternative lunch site. The long route then returns back through Long Beach and on to Torrance. The medium and short routes are really just shorter versions of the long. They each turn off a bit earlier and then rejoin the long route on the return. The "Surprise" of the title is how flat these routes are, so if this is your first ride of the year, we are starting you off easy. You can build from there.

Holiday Party. I want to remind you about the club Holiday Party on January 11th. You should have received the e-vite last week. I checked today and not many of you have RSVP'd yet. Please do so. This is always an enjoyable evening and a chance to see and talk with many of our members you don't see often.

Parting Shots: Last Thursday Mel Cutler and Dale Aaronson were the only ones to show up for the weekly Triple Dipper ride. The rest of us didn't show because the weather was "iffy." Mel gave us a hard time about it. I think the word "wimp" was used. But look at these photos. The first is a selfie Mel took on Thursday



OK, he's in the sun, but look at that ominous sky behind him. The 2nd photo is a shot Gary Murphy took the next day when a lot of us decided to do the Triple Dipper ride a day later



What a beautiful day to ride. Now which day would you rather ride on?

Happy New Year everyone and please -- Resolve to ride more in 2020. You won't regret it.

See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP