

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report

1 message

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Hello All:

Sunday: Last Sunday we started at the "Corner" to ride "Exploring the Environs." I believe there were 11 riders. I didn't get a photo at the start. Three of us (**Bill Faulkner, Mel Cutler** and me) did the short route which included a trip up Franklin Canyon. It was my first significant climb since returning to riding and I was apprehensive, but I did make it. (I have a triumphant thumbs up photo of myself that Mel took at the top, but I don't care for the way I look in it and the nice thing about being the author of this weekly e-mail is that I can decline to include unflattering photos of myself.) Here is a selfie we took in front of the Upper Franklin Canyon Reservoir.



You can see that it was a nice day. The remaining riders did the long route which took them out to the Valley. I had reports from **Nancy Domjanovich, Gary Murphy** and **Dale Aaronson**. They all agreed that it was hot hot hot. Except for **Thomas Knoll** who rode on ahead, the group stayed together which is always nice. The route makes the very steep downhill on Encino Hills Drive and here is a photo Dale sent of Gary starting the descent.



After lunch, the route climbs over Topanga to the coast. Here is a photo Gary sent of **Nancy** and **David Nakai** making that climb.



The three riders I haven't mentioned yet were **Phil Whitworth**, **Rafel Karpinski** and **Mario Solono**. Nancy did mention that it did get a lot cooler when they finally got to the coast and that it was even a bit overcast. That must have been a relief.

Next Sunday: Next Sunday we will be riding the "Tri-County Safari" which starts in West Covina. All three routes start out together as they head towards Claremont. The short splits off to return via a trip past Puddingstone Reservoir. The long and medium continue southeast to Chino Hills for lunch. After lunch they split. Only the long actually hits the third county but they both do some climbing after lunch. I plan to be there and again I plan to ride the short route. I do feel like I'm returning to form and maybe I will graduate to the medium route in a couple of weeks. But for now, it is still the short for me.

Sad News: I have been informed that long time member **Bob Wong** has passed away. Many may remember that back in the 80s or early 90s Bob used to lead a ride every Sunday from Griffith Park to Santa Monica and back. When I wasn't doing the regular Sunday ride I sometimes joined them and it was quite a group. I remember he also

organized the "Bike Week" rides from Griffith Park. He would make these route sheets with neat little hand drawn maps (sort of an early low-tech Garmin). I also remember once he was picked to be a cyclist in some commercial. He was quite a rider who continued to ride well into his advanced years.

Parting Shot: I don't have anything this week, so, against my better judgement, here is the photo Mel took of me at the top of Franklin Canyon:



See You On the Road

Rod Doty, VP