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**Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report**

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Hello All:

**Last Week:** We had two rides last week. The first was our traditional Christmas Day Ride. There were 6 of us that started at about the same time. They were **Ann Trank, Russ Brynes, David Nakai, Heather Baroff, me** and I apologize, but I can't remember who the 6th was. Heather left us at the top of Benedict Canyon, but the rest of us completed the entire course. It was a beautiful day. I was able to see the ocean from up on Mulholland Dr. which I don't think happens very often. I took this photo of downtown from Mulholland.



We made our usual stop up on Carroll Street to view the restored Victorian houses there. We usually take a group photo, but declined to do so this year. I took this photo of one of the houses just to show we were there.



Normally Olvera Street is hopping on Christmas morning, but this year it was empty. Our usual stop in Chinatown is usually busy as well, but this year it was quiet. Here is a shot Ann took of two of us taking a break



So it was an unusually quiet Christmas ride, and that made it all that much nicer.

Our second ride was "John's River Ride" which started down in Anaheim. I think there were a total of 8 riders, but we didn't all start together, so I'm not sure. Those I know were on the ride were: **Nancy Domjanovich, Phil Whitworth, Rafal Karpinski, Jacques Stern, David Nakai, Ben King, Kit Gray**, and me. The weather was very gray in the morning and I really thought we would never see the sun -- especially since they were predicting rain coming in that evening. But, surprisingly, the sun came out in the last portion of the ride and it turned out to be a pleasant finish to the ride. Rafal rode 40 miles to the ride which meant he got a very early start. Here is a photo he took of the dawn. I believe he was checking out the camera on his new iPhone 12



The only major climb of the day was the trip over Skyline Drive in the Tustin Hills. This is a nice climb with a lot of very nice houses. Phil took this photo of two of our riders as they made their way up this climb



For our last ride of the year, it turned out to be a very pleasant day.

**Other Rides:** **Mel Cutler** did the same RUSA 100K permanent 4 times in a row in order to reach 3000K in RUSA rides in the year. The route was convenient because it started and ended close to home, but now Mel says he is tired of it.

**This Week:** This week we again have two rides. The first is our traditional New Year's Day century and metric century. This is a relatively easy century which simply goes from Malibu up to Ventura and back (or to Camarillo for the metric century). The bulk of the climbing is in the hills along PCH which you ride both directions. It's always nice to get a century in at the start of the year -- it makes you feel like your year is off to a good start. Of course, that's how I started 2020 and in February I broke my arm and then there was a pandemic. So I guess it's not a guarantee of a great year. Nonetheless, I intend to start 2021 with a century and we'll see how the year goes. The days are still short, so I will be starting at first light, but if you are faster than me, you can start a little later and catch me. Normally we would also have a ride to the Rose Parade, but no parade so no ride.

Our second ride of the week is "Will Rogers State Park" which starts at the "Corner." These are short routes and there is only a medium and short. I scheduled these because I thought not everyone would want to do a century to start the year. These short and easy routes allow you to ease into the new year. This would be perfect if you haven't been riding much in 2020 but have resolved to ride more in 2021. Both routes head to Will Rogers Park and the polo grounds there. Usually they are playing polo when we go there, but I have my doubts about that this year. Actually though, polo should be a fairly safe sport in terms of social distancing. The players never really come in contact with each other.

**Parting Shot:** Last year I took a lot of photos of what I termed "Dead Santas" which were inflatable lawn Santas which had been allowed to deflate during the day. On Sunday's ride we came across this truly dead Santa:



**Happy New Year:** This will be the last weekly e-mail of 2020. It goes without saying that 2021 has got to be a better year than 2020. So, I have a lot of confidence in wishing you all a happy new year. I look forward to a time when we can all ride together again just as it used to be.

See You Next Year:

Rod Doty, VP