

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report

1 message

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Hello All and welcome to 2021

Last Week: Once again we had two rides last week. The first was our annual New Year's Day century and metric century. I took off a little early and never saw any other riders until the end when I saw **David Nakai** who had actually ridden a RUSA route, but it covered much of the same territory as our century. However, before I took off, a few other riders had shown up. They were **Nancy Domjanovich, Phil Whitworth, Jacques Stern, and Rafi Karpinski**. Everyone did the full century and Rafi rode to and from home giving him close to 140 miles for the day. Wind was the dominant weather feature of the day. The winds were swirling around in different directions on the trip up the coast, but once I got to the Oxnard area, there was a 7 mile stretch directly into the wind on the open plain with nothing to slow it down. That was a tough section. Normally you can count on a tailwind on the return down the coast, but while I didn't experience much of a headwind, there definitely was no tailwind coming down the coast. Our usual lunch stop at The Habit was closed. I went to In-N-Out a few miles further along the route. I'm not sure where the rest of the riders went. Despite the wind, I think everyone had a good day and it always feels good to get a full century in on the first day of the year. I didn't take any photos, but Phil included a few with his "Relive" video. Here is one he took of his shadow early in the ride.



I'm impressed that he can take the photo while riding. I would be too worried that I would drop the phone. Here is another photo taken near the end of the ride showing the sun going down.



A nice finish to the day.

The second ride of the week was "Will Rogers Park" which started at the "Corner" There were 7 riders at the usual time. These were **Gary Murphy, Russ Brynes, Chris Hedberg, Rafi Karpinski, Ann Trank, Jaimie Lee** and me. I hadn't ridden this one in a while and it turns out it was much hillier than I remember. I thought the only climb was up to Will Rogers Park, but the route wound around to find just about every hill on the West Side. Fortunately, it was short route. As I thought, they were NOT playing polo at the polo grounds in Will Rogers Park. But if you thought the park would be deserted, you would be wrong. The parking lot was full -- hikers I would guess. We did encounter some deer crossing the road in the park. I got this photo, but by the time I got my phone out, they had moved into the trees where it was harder to see them. I'm pretty sure there were 3 of them, but it's hard to see the third.



Later in the course, Gary took this shot of one of the large Ficus Trees along La Mesa Drive which runs parallel to San Vicente Blvd. in Brentwood. I'm always amazed at the size of the roots on these trees.



Next Week: This week we return to having only one scheduled ride for the week. This is "Alhambra & Bikeway." These routes start in Alhambra and the bikeway in question is the Rio Hondo which we take north to it's end. One of the nice things about these routes is that all 3 routes stay together until lunch in the South Pasadena area and then split so you don't really have to choose your route until after lunch.. From lunch the short just rides a couple of miles back to the start. The medium and long add a loop over to La Canada with the long adding a trip into the hills above the Rose Bowl. If it's a clear day, there are some nice views up there.

2020 Personal Ride Stats. As promised, I will report here any 2020 riding stats which are given to me. Although I had a low year, I managed to ride just over 4000 miles -- more than half of that in the last 3 months. I'm shooting for another 10,000 mile year in 2021.

I got a report from **Phil Whitworth**. He had a great year. He rode 10,934 miles in 153 rides and he climbed a total of 487,778 feet. That's not far from climbing a vertical century. One reason for his impressive totals is that he began riding Latigo Canyon every week. He rode it a total of 39 times during the year.

Lewis Singer passed his goal of 8000 miles in the year. He says he will probably never reach that number again if we are allowed to travel once more. So the pandemic actually boosted his riding. I imagine that is true for many riders.

I had preliminary totals from **Mel Cutler** and **Dale Aaronson**, but they were still adding to them in December, so I'll wait and get their final numbers. If anyone else would like to report their numbers for the year, please send them in to me.

Parting Shot: **Phil Whitworth** was not on the ride this past weekend, but I took this photo to show that we were thinking of him;



It occurs to me that many of our members could probably find a street with their name somewhere in Southern California. I know there is a Doty Avenue in Hawthorne. Maybe it would be interesting to collect a group of street sign photos with member's names. So, if you see one or know where one is (whether it's your name or someone else), take a photo and send it to me. I checked a few names on Google maps and some of them are tough. I couldn't find a Karpinski or a Domjanovich street anywhere. There is a Nancy Street however, right near her home.

See You On The Road (someday)

Rod Doty, VP