

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report

1 message

Rod Doty <roddoty@roadrunner.com>

Tue, Apr 6, 2021 at 11:03 PM

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - April 6, 2021

Hello All:

Last Week: Last weekend, as it will be for the next 12 weeks, we had rides on both Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday we had the first Grand Tour trainer of the season, which, by tradition, was the "Canyon Lakes" ride. This beautiful ride takes us up Bouquet Canyon and then down Lake Hughes Road. I started early and rode alone for a while, but eventually other riders passed me and I heard about other riders who were out there. First to pass me was **Lee Meller**. We hadn't seen her on a ride in a while. Then **Gary Murphy** caught me and we rode most of the rest of the ride together. Gary told me he had started with **Greg Analian** but I must not have realized it when he passed me. Then **Phil Whitworth** caught us and told us that **Nancy Domjanovich** and **Chris Hedberg** were on the ride but were cutting it a bit short by going down San Francisquito Cyn. I was later told that **Stan Alvidrez** was on the ride on an electric recumbent along with two friends. I remember them passing us, but hadn't recognized Stan--maybe because he was wearing a mask and maybe because I wouldn't have been expecting him on a motorized bike. Finally, I was also told that someone had spotted **David Williams** out on the course. That makes 9 total that I know of. Not bad, but this ride used to attract a lot more.

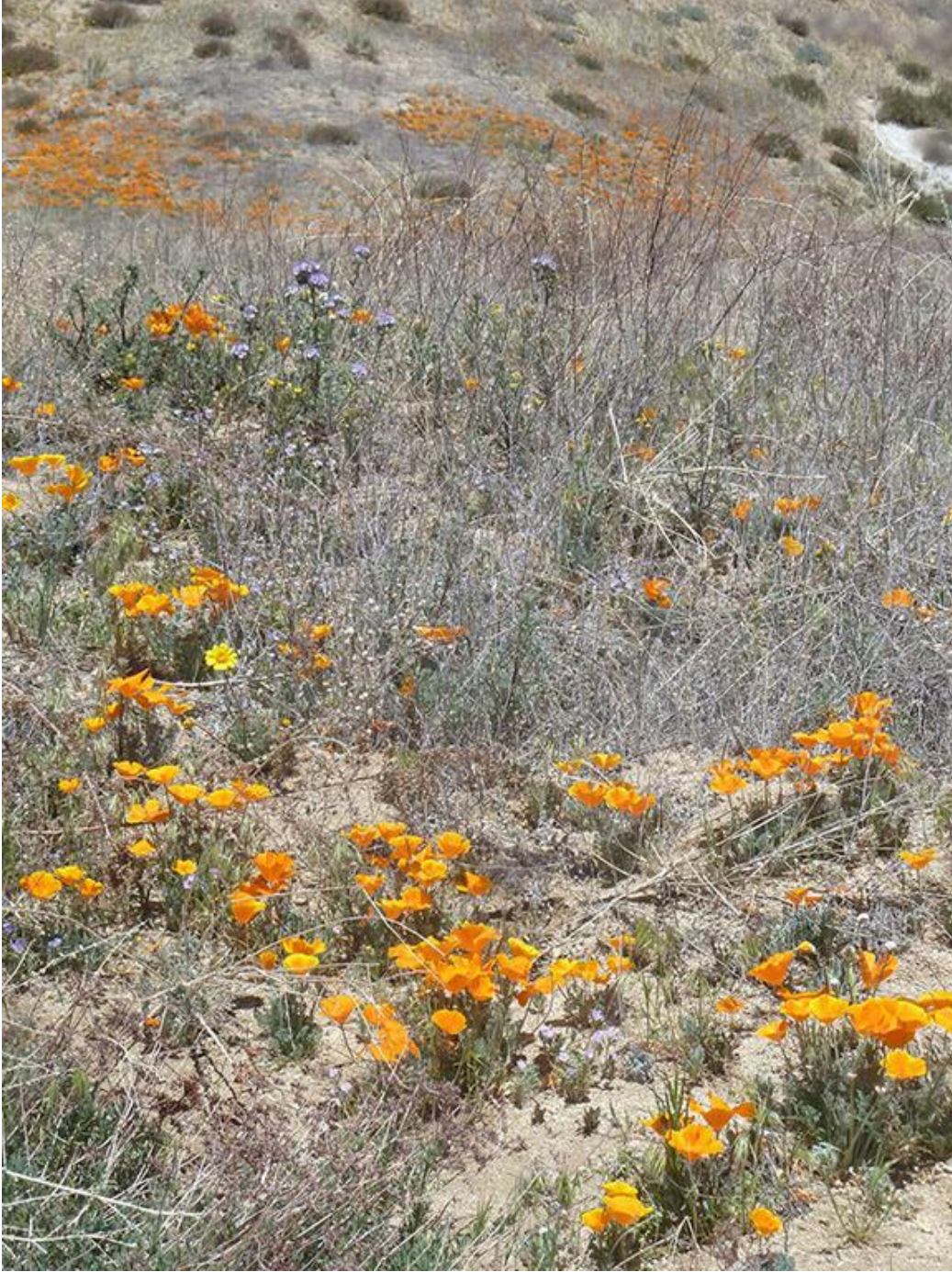
Phil did catch a photo of Nancy and Stan



One of the draws of this ride is viewing the hills covered with poppies off of Lake Elizabeth Road. It was kind of a bust this year. Below on the left is a photo from 2019 and this year on the right.



There were a few poppies. Gary took this shot of some:



Another point of interests on this ride is viewing how full the reservoirs are.

This photo by Phil of Bouquet Reservoir shows that it is fairly full



But this shot from Gary of Castaic Lake shows that it is down a bit from previous years.



All in all, a very nice day. It was opening day for Six Flags and as we rode back to the start you could see the roller coasters rolling. All I could think is that if the guy in the front car sneezes, everyone behind him in the train gets sick.

Sunday: Sunday was the "Funny Bunny Ride" -- our traditional Easter ride. I had hoped to go, but after the trainer on Saturday, I couldn't answer the bell on Sunday (as they say in the fight game). I had a report from **Ann Trank**. There were only 4 riders at the start. A record low turnout for this ride. The training ride is partly to blame, but this ride almost always follows a training ride. Anyway, Ann took this photo in front of the "witch's house" which is always a highlight of the route.



That's **Jacques Stern**, **Russ Brynes** and **Marc Spigelman**. Later on Facebook I saw a selfie posted by **Kit Gray** at the same site, so I suspect he was on the ride as well, but had started at a different time. Unfortunately, I had made a change to the course, but had forgotten to change one Left to a Right and the riders got lost. They got back on track, but only after riding a distance on Sunset which was a shame because the whole point of the change I had made was to keep the route off Sunset. Well, at least it is fixed for next year.

Next Week: This weekend we will again have rides on Saturday and Sunday. The training ride on Saturday is "Piuma" Not much difference in either distance or climbing from last week, but on this one most of the climbing is packed into the first half of the ride, which makes it a little bit more difficult. The big climb of the day is the 6 mile climb on Piuma which is off of Malibu Canyon Road. It's a pretty climb and I almost always stop to look down on the little dam in Malibu Canyon. There is an extended version which adds some miles in the Valley, but not much extra climbing. I plan to be there.

On Sunday the scheduled ride is "Winding Roads of Orange County I." These are pleasant routes starting in Tustin and which wind around Orange County. Not a lot of steep climbing, but there are some long grades. The long route does the same climb up past the vaccination site at Soka University which we rode past only a few weeks ago. It will be interesting to see if it is still going strong. Again, I plan to ride, but like last week, I may not be able to convince my legs to get out of bed.

Accidents: There has been a rash of accidents in the club recently. Besides **Mel Cutler's** accident a few weeks ago which is still keeping him off the bike, **Jaime Lee** was struck by another cyclist on a bike path and suffered a broken shoulder requiring surgery. I was also told that **Rick Burneson** collided with a pedestrian up on Glendora Mountain Road (where I wouldn't be expecting a pedestrian) and suffered unspecified injuries. I don't know if this is just coincidence or a sign that things are getting more dangerous out there. But it is a reminder that we are all participating in a dangerous sport.

Parting Shot: Tonight's parting shot is brought to you by **Mel Cutler** and is a sign spotted in Redondo Beach.



Makes me wonder what kind of people they have there in Redondo.

See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP