

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report

1 message

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Tue, Apr 12, 2022 at 11:02 PM

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Hello All:

The Weekend: We had three rides last weekend, so let's get to them. But first, our song of the night. I had one picked out, but then on Sunday's ride I found myself on "Easy Street" in Simi Valley and that reminded me of this song which fans of "The Walking Dead" will remember from several seasons ago.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwlaGDyzYpo> In the TV show it was played over and over as a means of torture.

On Saturday we had our 2nd Grand Tour Trainer -- "Fernwood." Unfortunately, I had a bad night and Saturday morning was in no shape to ride. As far as I know, there were only 3 riders: **Lee Meller**, who started from Topanga Canyon, **Phil Whitworth**, who started from his home, and **Gary Murphy**, who was the only one actually starting from the designated start location. Gary did the "lite" version, while the other two did the full route. Phil sent me this selfie from Topanga.



He caught Lee near Cornell and they had lunch together at the Rock Store. Phil sent me a photo of the Rock Store which showed that there weren't as many motorcycles there as in the past, but Saturday was never as big as Sunday at the Rock Store. Near Cornell, Lee took this shot of a peacock.



It's not so unusual to see peacocks in Southern California, but it's rare to catch them with their tail displayed that way. Then again, it is spring and probably mating season.

After lunch, they had to tackle the hill by the Rock Store. Phil sent this photo of Lee as she neared the top of that climb



Although it was a warm day, it looks like they had a good time. I wish I had been there.

On Sunday, our regular weekly ride was "Reseda Park - Phase II" which headed out to Simi Valley. I was feeling better and anxious to make up for missing the trainer by doing the dreaded Box Canyon climb. There were 4 riders: **Nancy Domjanovich**, **Jacques Stern**, **Rafi Karpinski** and me. Nancy started out early to do the medium, but turned back after reaching the top of the Santa Susana climb. She may not have got her climbing legs back after her accident last fall. Jacques did the medium and Rafi and I did the long. Box Canyon was every bit as tough as I remembered, but I made it. The three of us came together at lunch and more or less finished together (although I lagged behind to take an extra break before returning over Santa Susana). I took this photo at the finish since I had forgotten to take one at the start:



Our third weekend ride was the Newcomer Ride on Sunday. **David Nakai** sent me this photo from the start.



Looks like they had another good turn-out for this one. **Mel Cutler** led a short 10 mile ride but only had a few takers for that. Here is a selfie with his group



The remainder did a longer 40 mile ride taking them up to the Rose Bowl and other sites around Pasadena. They stopped at the Southwestern Academy where Mel took this photo of the group in front of a replica of Abraham Lincoln's birthplace. (Mel had joined the longer group after finishing the short route)



I've seen the original in Springfield, Illinois, although I think Illinois must have stolen it because Lincoln was born in Kentucky. Looks like another successful Newcomer Ride.

This Week: On Saturday we have our 3rd Grand Tour trainer. By tradition, in the 3rd week we lengthen the trainer out to a century, but keep it a relatively easy century. This year we will be riding "Bike-ways of Orange County" which spends a lot of time on bike trails and only has a couple of significant climbs. There is a metric century as well and it cuts out those climbs. Despite spending most of the day in Orange County, the routes start in Long Beach so it's not such a long drive. These are also the century and metric centuries of the month for April.

Sunday is Easter which means we will be riding our traditional Easter ride -- the "Funny Bunny Ride" which starts from the Corner. These are short and relatively easy routes so I have high hopes of riding both Saturday and Sunday. Another good reason the routes are short on Sunday is that taxes are due on Monday, so you won't be too tired as you work on your taxes Sunday night. I did mine today, which is pretty amazing for a procrastinator like me.

Changing Face of Double Riders: Rafi Karpinski spent last Saturday volunteering at the Mulholland Double and Mulholland Challenge (century). On Sunday he mentioned that he thought there was a shift in the current crop of double riders. He thought many were less prepared than in the past and that there seemed to be more emphasis on riding light and not carrying anything. He thought some did not even appear to be carrying extra tubes. He also said there is a higher percentage of non-finishers. The Grand Tour used to have about a 90% finish rate which is pretty good for a difficult ride. It doesn't sound like doubles are achieving that rate these days.

Parting Shot: Again I don't have much to add tonight. I can never go through Box Canyon without stopping to take a photo of the flying pig. I must have half a dozen photos of the same thing from past years. In fact, I used one of them in the April Schedule. In any case, here is this year's shot:



Although the pig looks pretty good in this photo, I thought his paint job was getting fairly faded. I hope they redo his paint before we go to Box Canyon again.

See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP