

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report

1 message

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I didn't have a song to go with last weekend's ride, but I thought since Christmas is in a few days, maybe I should put in a Christmas song for tonight's theme. But I didn't want to use one of the songs we hear everywhere these days. Then I thought the Nutcracker is a holiday standard you don't hear much, and that led me to think about this song which was popular in 1961 -- so a lot of you have probably never heard it. Enjoy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfYnq-qasiU>

Sunday: The Sunday ride was "Arcadia - La Tuna Canyon" which, as the title suggests, starts in Arcadia and rides over to and down La Tuna Canyon. Five of us were there at the start when I took this photo:



That's **Mario Solano, David Nakai, Thomas Knoll** and **Jacques Stern**. I later got an e-mail from **Lee Meller** and apparently she was there a bit early and because it was so cold, she started riding ahead of us. She rode the long route and unfortunately we never saw her. David and Mario also rode the long route. David wanted to try his legs on the climb up Lake Ave which is only on the long route. Jacques, Thomas and I did the medium, skipping the tough Lake climb. Once it warmed up, it was a pleasant day of riding and I was looking forward to the 4 mile downhill in La Tuna Canyon. However, most of the canyon was in the shade all morning and it was definitely cold on the downhill. Took a lot of the fun right out of it. We explored a new lunch location (switching Carl's for The Habit) which might be why we never saw Lee. The new lunch location was definitely nicer and there were other options there. There was also outside seating which was unavailable at the Carl's. So I believe that this will be the official lunch stop in the future.

Saw plenty of holiday decorations. I wish I had taken photos. In particular there was one home that must have had about 6 inflatable Santas, a couple of snowmen, maybe a reindeer or two -- all deflated. It looked like a massacre -- a regular holiday blood bath. Sorry I didn't stop for that one.

I don't have any other photos tonight, but David sent me a few from the ride (although not on the route). The first is where he stopped for breakfast before the ride. It happened to be "Rod's Grill" which I mentioned a couple of weeks ago in this e-mail. He had quite a breakfast.



The second is his lunch. He had to cut the route short in order to get home before dark and went to his own lunch -- a place called the Monta Factory. According to Wikipedia a monta is a sort of dumpling popular in the Caucasus, Balkans, Central Asia and Afghanistan. He had 40 of them, but he said they were small.



This Sunday: As I'm sure you know, this Sunday is Christmas. Therefore our regular Sunday ride will be our annual Christmas Day ride which takes us from the "Corner" to downtown LA for a break in Chinatown and then returns. Along the way we ride the crest of Mulholland, ride through both Griffith Park and Elysian Park and along Carroll Ave to view the restored Victorian houses there. They are talking about absolutely fantastic weather this Sunday so it should be a great ride. I hope to see a lot of you out.

Ben King Update: We heard from Ben King who recently had a pacemaker implanted. He reports he is feeling better and after a test in late January, hopes to have the go-ahead to begin riding again. He plans to start slow, but hopes that with the pacemaker his climbing will soon be as good as ever.

Minutes of the Meeting: The minutes of the meeting held last Thursday are attached. Nominations for officers opened at this meeting. Although most officers are willing to serve another year, **Mel Culter** indicated he will not be running for Treasurer again. Therefore, we will be looking for someone to take his place.

No Parting Shot: I really wish I had stopped to take that shot of the holiday massacre, because I have nothing else tonight. I've got to learn to slow down and smell the roses, and take photos. It's usually because I just don't want to stop that I miss some great shots.

See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP