



Jacques Stern &lt;jsupernova1@gmail.com&gt;

## Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report

1 message

Rod Doty &lt;roddoty@roadrunner.com&gt;

Tue, Dec 26, 2023 at 9:57 PM

### Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - December 26, 2023

Hello All:

It was Christmas yesterday so I suppose I should use a Christmas song for our theme music tonight. On yesterday's ride at the break in Chinatown, there was a man playing music and sometimes singing. He played this song, which has become a Christmas classic now, and he sang along with it. My thought at the time was that Mariah would prefer to keep it as a solo, so here it is without the man singing along:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXQViqx6GMY>

I have two rides to report on this week.

**Sunday:** The ride was "North Orange County Trek" which started in Fullerton and headed east. It was Christmas Eve and I wouldn't have been surprised if no one had shown up, but, what do you know, we had 5 riders. I took this photo at the start:



That's **Kit Gray, David Nakai, Bob Bacin** and **Gloria Nafel**. David, Bob and Gloria did the medium route while Kit and I rode the short. The short was a nice route, but simply looped around the area and I didn't see much that I thought worthy of a photo. I did see this one house where the owner has gone overboard with inflatables. The photo doesn't even show them all - there were more on the side of the house.



The medium is more scenic. It goes through the former dairy area near Corona and I had meant to tell David to be sure and take a photo of the cows if there are any left. I forgot to tell him, but he did it anyway.



Actually, I don't see any udders and they look a bit young, so I think they are more correctly called heifers. These are mostly Holsteins, but there appears to be one Brown Swiss who somehow snuck into the herd. It was a beautiful day after a week of rain, and Christmas Eve or not, the rest of you missed a nice ride.

**Yesterday:** Of Course yesterday was Christmas and we were riding our annual Christmas Day ride from the corner. We had 9 riders, which is up from last year. I took this photo:



From the left: A rider whose name I did not get, **David Nakai**, **Sandy Weiner**, **Ann Trank**, another rider whose name I didn't get (sorry), **Lora Chen**, **Russ Brynes**, and **Tony Broughman** (a former member who lives in Santa Barbara and actually drove down just for this ride). I didn't think I was up for the climb up Benedict, so I had put together a different route which went through Hollywood to rejoin the main route at the top of Cahuenga. I rode it alone to test it out. I thought maybe Christmas day would be a good time to actually ride down Hollywood Blvd and I was right. Here's a photo I took of Grauman's Chinese Theater with only a smattering of tourists looking at the footprints.



I think I will make this an official option next year. The rest of the riders started off on the standard route. Lora sent me this photo of the group riding along Mulholland Drive.



However, there was considerable attrition as the ride went along. I waited for the group at our usual bathroom break in Elysian Park and when the group got there it was down to 2. We went on to Carroll St. where we usually take a group shot, but with only 2 other riders left, here it is:



That's Tony and David. We then proceeded to Chinatown for our break. At that point we lost David who went off to look for a lunch location and it was only Tony and I returning to the start. All in all, a nice day and next year when the shorter/easier version is offered, maybe even more riders will show up.

**This Week:** We actually have 3 rides this week. First up on Sunday is "Corner Caper - Phase II" which starts from the Corner. The long and medium go out to the Valley and then head east with the long making it all the way to Pasadena and the medium only going to Glendale. Both return by riding Mulholland and then down Franklin Cyn. The short stays in west LA and supposedly passes a number of star's homes but this ride is so old, all but two of the stars listed are dead and I doubt those two still live in the houses indicated. But you are likely to see some nice houses anyway. It will be New Year's Eve and, like last week, I don't know if anyone will show up. I hope to ride, but again, I will only be doing the short because I will want to get home early.

On Monday, New Year's Day, we have two rides. First there is the usual Rose Parade Ride. This is a very short ride (14 miles) from Alhambra over to watch the parade and back. The best thing about this route is that it takes you down Orange Grove Avenue where the floats line up for the parade and you can see them at very close range before the parade even starts. We will be joining **Hoy Quan's** meet up group so there should be quite a few riders.

Also on Monday is our usual "Kick Off Century" starting from Malibu. This year we are offering the full century, a metric century and a half century. All head north along PCH (which is fairly quite on New Year's Day). The long goes all the way to Ventura, the metric stops in Camarillo, and the half century only goes to Point Mugu. I plan to ride the half century.

**Patch of the Week:** I forgot to put this in the last couple of weeks, but it's back. I have a new contributor -- **Nancy Wedeen**. Here is one she sent me. I'm not familiar with **this** event and the patch doesn't indicate a date or who sponsored the event. But it's a nice patch in its simplicity and I like the unusual shape.



**Parting shot:** David also sent me this photo of cows, but these cows are all fake: Here is also an enlargement of the sign on the left of the photo





Perhaps they are getting ready for the day when there are no more real cows in the area.

See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP