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Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report

1 message

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Hello All and Happy New Year:

Since it's the new year, a New Year's song would be appropriate for our theme tonight. I've already used Auld Lang Syne and another new year's song in past years, but I found this one by ABBA. The lyrics are not quite as celebratory as you might expect, but they do sing "Happy New Year." See what you think. BTW, they apparently wrote this for New Year's Eve of 1989.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Uo0JAUWijM>

Last Week's Rides: I actually have 3 rides to report on this week. First up was our Sunday ride which was "Corner Caper II." I had intended to go and ride the short, but it was New Year's Eve and I was planning on attending a party that night and I really wasn't sure anyone was going to show. Two people who had said they might come e-mailed me that they wouldn't be there. So, I didn't go. But it turns out a few riders did. **Jacques Stern** showed up to do the short, but ended up doing a modified version of the short. He included this photo of the coast and the Santa Monica Pier in his Strava Report.



Dale Aaronson and I think a few others showed up to ride the medium route. I didn't get a report, but Dale did post a few photos on Strava. Here is one of a home on Benedict Canyon which always has an elaborate holiday display. Apparently they wanted to protect some of it from the rain.



Now that I know some riders did show up, I'm kicking myself for not going.

On New Year's Day, we had our traditional ride to the Rose Parade. This is now combined with the "Meet Up" ride put together by **Hoy Quan**. I don't know if anyone from the

club actually showed up for the ride (other than Hoy), but he had a good crowd for the Meet Up ride -- he thinks it was between 40 and 50 riders. He took this photo of most of the group at a break in the ride.



.He only sent me one photo of a float, so here it is.



The blue sky shows you that they did have great weather for the parade.

The other ride on New Year's Day was our traditional Century. I went out to Malibu expecting to ride the half century. But no one else showed up, and I didn't feel like being the only one on the road that day, so I went home. On Strava, I discovered that 4 riders started from Manhattan Beach and essentially rode the half century route, but by starting in Manhattan, they got in a full century. **Phil Whitworth** posted this photo from their start.



That's Phil, **Chris**, and **Mario Solano**. They were joined by **Edwin Dair** and here's a photo of all 4 at their lunch stop at Neptune's Net



I wish I had known they were out there. I couldn't maintain their speed, but at least knowing there were other riders out on the course might have encouraged me to ride.

This Week: Our ride this Sunday is the "Amazing Maze" which starts in Tustin and heads east. All routes have lunch together and all ride the "maze" in Villa Park (it is not really much of a maze any longer), but other than that, all 3 routes are somewhat different. I hope to attend and at least ride the short, but the weather is not real promising right now, so I'll have to wait and see.

New Member: Welcome to **Sherry Rendel** who had just joined the club. I look forward to seeing her out on some of our rides in 2024.

Patch of the Week: This week's patch was sent to me by **Will Carey** and is a fairly rare patch. It's for the Orange County Wheelmen's former Godzilla Double Century. It's rare for two reasons. First the Orange County Wheelmen did not run a double century for very many years. Second, I believe they were contacted by the company which owns the rights to "Godzilla" and were asked to refrain from using that name for their ride. So, it was only called the "Godzilla Double" for one or at most two years.



2023 Riding Stats: At this time of year, I always ask members to send in their mileage totals for 2023 (and their elevation gain if they have it) for reporting here. I few members have already done so, so here are the first few:

First -- me (Rod Doty). I had one of the worst years in a long long time with only 2559 miles and 81,300 feet of climbing over only 62 days of riding.

Steve Benoff: Steve reported only 2488 miles but a whopping 335,653 feet of climbing. That's more than 100 feet per mile ridden and presumably half his mileage is coming back down. He must do nothing but climb on his rides.

Dale Aaronson: Dale reported 8638 miles and 524,452 feet of elevation gain in 109 days of riding. Another amazing amount of climbing. In fact, it's only about 400 feet short of a vertical century (100 miles of climbing).

Please send in your totals for the year. They don't have to be impressive totals. We would just like to know how well our members are doing.

Parting Shot: Phil Whitworth's century on New Year's Day took him past his favorite restaurant sign with their weekly fish-related puns. They had this New Year's message:



Guppy New Year everyone.

See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP