

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - April 16, 2024

Hello All:

Once again it appears Sunday's ride was rained out. So once again I thought of rain songs for tonight's theme. This one is sorta melancholy and captures my feelings at not being able to ride (although actually the lyrics are about lost love). It was released back when I was in 8th grade, so some of you may not remember it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQstQST1GiM>

Sunday: It was not raining when I woke up, but the reports seemed pretty sure about some rain starting in the early afternoon. So I didn't go. And I had done my taxes the night before just so I could ride with a clear conscience. Oh well, at least that way I had a free Sunday without worrying about that filing deadline on Monday. No one else reported doing the ride, so I'm guessing no one else showed up either. Maybe I'll reschedule the ride in May before it gets too hot to do an inland ride.

Other Rides: I don't have many photos tonight, but here is one I got from **Ira Kuceck** who is still touring in Europe. He is in Italy now and this was taken in San Salvatore, which I couldn't find on a map, but he says it is just outside Rimini (which I could find). It's nice to see him flying club colors in Italy.



This Sunday: Good news -- there is no suggestion of rain this weekend. Our scheduled ride is our monthly century and metric century, but more good news -- I've created a half century version of this ride for those who don't feel up to a century or metric century. So there is no reason to stay away. The ride is "East Road / West Road, All Around Downtown" and it starts from Culver City. All routes start with a trip through Downtown LA with a ride along Broadway which once had the largest concentration of movie theaters in the country. The theaters are still there, but not all of them are showing movies any longer. All routes continue east, but only the full century goes far enough to ride the title East Road and West Road. The metric and half century turn back earlier and meet up again for lunch and the return back through downtown. These routes are nicer than you may think, but you probably won't believe that until you see it -- so come out and see it for yourself. I plan to ride the half century and if I can do that, you probably can too.

No Meeting This Month: It has been decided to skip the April meeting which would have been held this week. No one had anything to discuss and we just had the Awards Lunch which could be counted as a meeting since 4 out of 5 board members were there and more members than we ever get at our other meetings.

Since we now hold meetings every other month, our next meeting will be in June.

Injury Report: Sad to say, but on April 7th, **David Nakai** had yet another accident when he hit an unseen puddle of water and went down. Unfortunately, this required a hip replacement, which means he has now had both hips replaced. Understandably, he will be off the bike for a while, but vows to ride again. From his hospital bed he sent this photo of the meal he was having while we were having our sumptuous Awards Lunch. Doesn't seem fair, does it. I'm sure we all wish David a speedy recovery.



Additional Eclipse Photo: **Kit Gray** has posted a YouTube video he made while watching the eclipse last week. It's a 360 degree video so you can rotate the image around to view the other people watching the eclipse with Kit and hear some of their comments. You use the controller in the upper left corner to move the image. You may have to tilt it up to see the sun. It was taken without the sort of filter that would have allowed you to see the sun slowly disappear. Instead, it seems to disappear almost in an instant and then several minutes later suddenly re-appear. When I looked at it just now, it only had 62 views, so let's get that count up.

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

Patch of the Week: It's April and that is when the extremely popular Wildflower Century offered by the San Luis Obispo Bike Club is held. I have many patches

from this event from several members, but I thought I would just use one of my own collection tonight because it has an interesting story.



As you can see, it is from the event held in April of 2007 and it indicates that it was 96 degrees that day. But how could they have known what the temperature was going to be when they ordered the patches made, you might ask. It turns out, the San Luis Obispo club had decided to discontinue patches that year, but there was such an outcry to this decision that they went ahead and ordered patches after the ride and mailed them out to participants. It had indeed been a very hot ride that day-- probably unprecedented for this event. I remember that in the last 20 miles, every time I came to a tree, there would be a small group of cyclists standing under it in the shade waiting for a sag to come pick them up. The sag cars were so overworked, the wait could be quite a while. That's probably the only reason I kept riding. The event is still being held, and I believe

it is this weekend, but it used to sell out, so I don't think you could register at this late date.

Parting Shot: Once again, I have no photo for this spot. I don't even have the usual photo of the sign at the Reel Inn which **Phil Whitworth** usually posts because he has been off the bike for a while. However, I did see on Strava that he did do a short ride today, so the good news is that he's back on the bike now. He will probably make it to the Reel Inn next week.

See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP