

## Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - April 23, 2024

Hello All:

Last Sunday's ride was "East Road, West Road, All Around Downtown" which was created by **Gary Murphy**. I've never asked Gary about the title, but I always assumed it was a play on the old song. Here it is as our theme tonight-- you can decide. There are a lot of versions -- I chose one by Nat King Cole.

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

**Sunday:** Whether related to the song or not, the long (century) route on Sunday went through downtown and then later rode East Road and West Road. However, no one did that route on Sunday. Five riders showed up and we all did the half century route, which did ride through downtown (twice) but did not get to East Road or West Road. I had thought there might be more riders because **Hoy Quan** had posted this ride on Meet Up, but he had only done it a couple days earlier so I guess that was not enough lead time. I took this photo at the start:



I couldn't keep up with the other 4, so I rode it mostly alone except briefly when I

caught them after they had a flat tire. Nonetheless, I really enjoyed the ride. There were so many interesting things to see. First we went through downtown past some of the newest buildings such as Crypto Arena and the three incomplete hi-rises which have been in the news lately for all the graffiti on them. **Julie Shishino** took the first photo below of these buildings and I took the 2nd one showing the graffiti in more detail:





BTW: I heard Rick Caruso (developer and one-time mayoral candidate) say that these buildings would not be worth the cost of finishing them I find that hard to believe -- most of the work has been done and I noticed several other hi-rise residential buildings going up downtown, so there must be some demand. What's the alternative to finishing them -- just tear them down? that seems crazy, but what do I know about these things?

Continuing the ride -- we also went past some of the oldest buildings downtown including all the historic theaters on Broadway. We also passed through Chinatown on our way to Alhambra and points east. On the way back we rode a portion of the Rio Hondo, which had more water running in it than usual. On the

return pass through downtown we rode past Little Tokyo and the flower district and the garment district. These last two are very colorful -- especially the garment district. I took this photo.

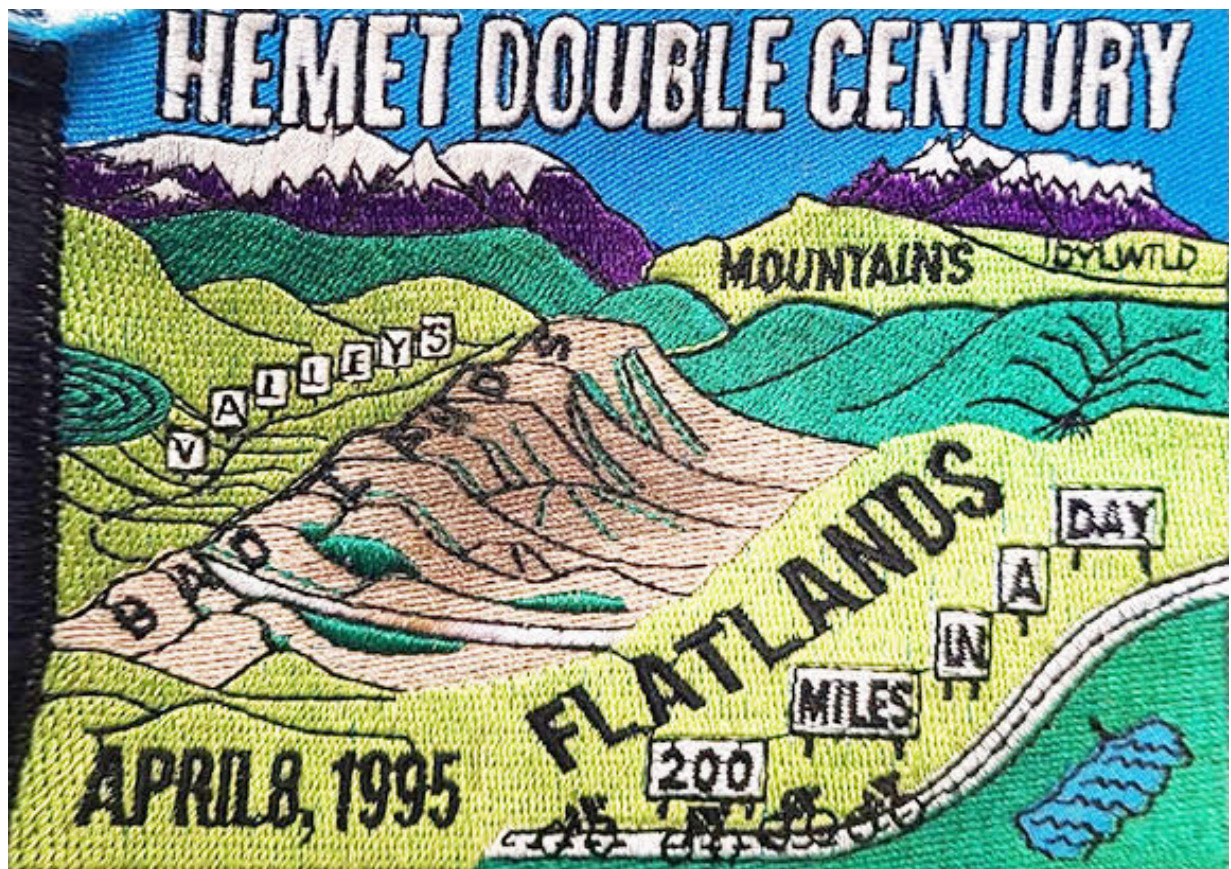


At the end was a surprise -- the route picked up a few blocks of CicLAvia in Culver City. All in all a pleasant day

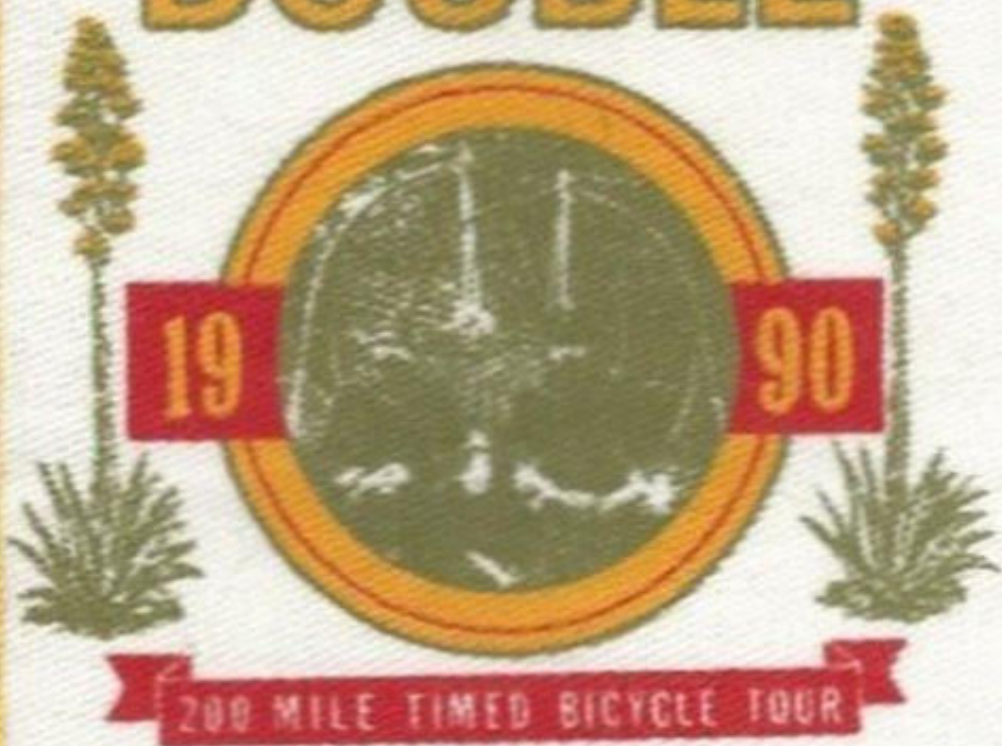
**Next Sunday:** On Sunday we will be riding "Canyon Lakes" which is one of the most popular former Grand Tour training rides which last year I converted to a regular Sunday ride by the addition of a medium and short route. The highlight of all 3 routes is the ride up Bouquet Canyon, which is very pretty. The short route

stops at the top, takes in a view of the reservoir, and then returns back down the canyon. The medium and long do a second shorter climb over Spunky Canyon to a break at Green Valley. From the break, the medium takes San Francisquito Canyon down back to the start. The long goes up San Francisquito to the top -- the final mile of this climb is fairly steep. From there the route cruises Lake Elizabeth road, usually passing hills covered with poppies. After a 13 mile downhill on Lake Hughes Road, there is a final climb up around Castaic Lake and then an easy return to the start along the Old Road. Only the long gets to see the poppies but I have heard that this year they are not so numerous as in past years. I won't make it that far anyway. Last year I only made it up to the reservoir and I think that might be the best I can do this year. If I'm feeling good, I might go for the trip over Spunky and down San Francisquito, but we will have to see about that.

**Patches of the Week:** Last Saturday was the Hemet Double which, after our own Grand Tour, is the 2nd oldest double century in California (and maybe the country). I found 3 Hemet patches sent to me by members. The first below is from **David Nakai**, the second from **Will Carey** and the third from **Dennis Miller**.



# HEMET DOUBLE



19

90

200 MILE TIMED BICYCLE TOUR



Despite the sun on the last patch, Dennis said it was so cold and rainy that day that he and a lot of others quit after the first 100 mile loop.

**Parting Shot:** Every spring along Ballona Creek these flowers spring up. I call it



"Allergy Alley" because if you have a bad pollen allergy, you would be taking your life in your hands to ride down this stretch of bike path.





Maybe they leave them up for the bees, because they usually cut them down after they die and turn brown. Too late for pollen sufferers however.

See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP

Attachments area

