



LOS ANGELES WHEELMEN SCHEDULE



DECEMBER 2024

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. Each week the routes offered will be available on the Web. Go to www.LAWheelmen.org and click on "Upcoming Rides." Download the routes and bring them with you to the ride.

NOTE: Recent CDC pronouncements indicate that cycling is safe without a mask for **VACCINATED people. Most club members have already been vaccinated. We urge all potential riders to become vaccinated before riding with us.**

Sunday, December 1 – 8:30 a.m. -- WINDING ROADS OF ORANGE COUNTY

(Long 61 mi & 3000 ft, Medium 53 mi & 3000 ft, Short 32 mi & 800 ft) Today there is a climb (only on the long) which takes us up past Soka University. I've always been suspicious of that place. Does anyone actually know someone who went there? It's a big campus that sprung up overnight, perhaps for some nefarious activities by an unknown group. Oh sure, if you look it up on Wikipedia it will tell you the school was founded by peace loving Buddhists, but isn't that the perfect cover? They have the convincing appearance of a normal school. They even have sports teams, but if they were truly American, wouldn't they play football? They don't. Well, I won't say any more, but if you do ride the long today, when you pass the university, maybe you should watch your back. Other than the risk of falling into a nest of spies, today's routes are very pleasant. Winding around Orange County is pretty much what today's routes do. They twist and turn around Orange County without really going any place in particular. The climbing is mostly long gentle grades so you won't be working too hard. All three routes stay together for the first 17 miles, so you can wait and see how you are feeling before deciding which route you want to finish. The long and medium are similar but the long adds a loop and a hill (to Soka) in the middle before rejoining the medium. The short makes its own way back to the start. The riding is pleasant on mostly wide roads. So come on down and wind around with us today and if you don't want to risk mixing it up with the Secret Organization to Kill America (SOKA), just do the medium route. **START: PINE TREE PARK in TUSTIN.** From Santa Ana Frwy (I-5) in Tustin, off & east on Redhill, L- Bryan one block to park.



Ride start in 2022 before Pine Tree Park was renovated. It's much nicer now

Thursday, December 5 – 8:30 a.m. TRIPLE DIPPER SOUTH BAY RIDE Meet on the bridge at end of the Ballona Creek Trail in Marina Del Rey. Riders usually go south to Palos Verdes on the bike path and then do some riding on the Peninsula. There are optional climbs including the 3 "dips" which give the ride its name. The group usually stops for a break at the Golden Cove shopping area. Occasionally the group will decide to vary the route and explore specific sites elsewhere in the city. A typical day is 40 - 50 miles but often individual riders either cut the day short or add extra miles as desired. Contact **Nancy Domjanovich** nancydomx@icloud.com for details.

Sunday, December 8 -- 7:30 a.m. (full century) and 8:30 a.m. (metric century and half century) FOOTHILL FOOTIE CENTURIES

(Century 92 mi & 3700 ft, Metric Century 66 mi & 2400 ft, Half Century 51 mi & 1800 Ft. It is a well established December tradition now that our Centuries for the month are today's routes. This will be the 15th consecutive year we have run this one and I have ridden every year. This year we are adding a half century to the mix. The century route itself is nothing extraordinary – a fairly urban route through the San Gabriel Valley, but there is a real holiday vibe to it that I like. The route passes Christmas tree lots in action; many houses have their decorations up; and holiday music can be heard as you pass many stores. I used to play a game to see how many cars I could count with Christmas trees on their roof and I always look forward to seeing what the latest thing in home



One of the many inflatables you may see on today's century

decorations are each year. Inflatables have been the big thing the last few years, but now the latest thing seems to be giant inflatables – not just a normal six foot Santa, snowman or Christmas tree, but twelve foot versions. Bigger seems to be better. The century is so named because it roughly parallels Foothill Blvd (sometimes actually riding Foothill) from La Crescenta east through the San Gabriel Valley all the way to Claremont and back. Although the route has a lot of short ups and downs, there are no mountain climbs, and that makes for a fairly easy ride. Most of the roads should be familiar to anyone who has ridden with the club a lot or who rides the San Gabriel Valley often. **NOTE:** The metric century and half century have a separate start time and start locations. In order to give metric century and half century riders the best portion of the full century, they are starting from Victory Park in Pasadena (metric century) and Encanto Park in Duarte (half century) and riding the center portion of the full century route out to Claremont and back. So come on out and enjoy looking at the decorated houses and the miles will just fly by. **FULL CENTURY START: LA CRESCENTA PARK in Glendale.** From the Foothill Frwy (210), off and south on Pennsylvania, R- Honolulu to Park (on left) at Frederick St. **METRIC CENTURY START: VICTORY PARK in Pasadena.** From the Foothill Frwy (210), off & north on Sierra Madre Blvd to a left on Paloma St. one block to park (park at east end of park near restrooms). **HALF CENTURY START: Encanto Park in Duarte.** Take 605 Frwy north to end, off and R (east) on Huntington / Foothill Blvd 0.6 mile, L Encanto Parkway (before crossing river) to park on Left.

Thursday, December 12 – 8:30 a.m. TRIPLE DIPPER SOUTH BAY RIDE -- See December 5th for details.

Sunday, December 15 -- CORNER CAPER - PHASE I (Long 62 mi & 2700 ft, Medium 50 mi & 2500 ft, Short 34 mi & 800 ft) Today I had originally scheduled a new ride by **David Nakai** which he put together as sort of a farewell ride since he will be moving to Fallbrook after the first of the year. He intended to lead the ride, but circumstances forced him to cancel it. I don't want to run it without him. Fallbrook isn't so far away that he couldn't come up to lead the ride at a later date, so I have hopes we will be re-scheduling it in January or February. For now, I have scheduled a ride which leaves from the same location as David's ride: the "Corner." This is a fairly basic route out to the Valley and back and as far as I can tell, the club has been riding it since at least the 1950s when all of the club's rides started from the "Corner" (although back then the "Corner" was at Wilshire and Western before new construction forced the move further west). I suppose it was originally just titled "Corner Cap" without the "Phase I" Like World War I wasn't called that until World War II came along. On Jeopardy they refer to this as a retronym. Anyway, both the long and medium climb Benedict Cyn but descend into the valley by different routes. The medium makes a small circle in the valley with lunch in Reseda while the long makes it to the west valley with lunch out there. Both return back over Sepulveda. The short stays on this side of the hill and simply tours the west side and Culver City. So why not join us today? You might not understand Phase II if you don't ride Phase I. **START: THE "CORNER", Olympic Blvd, 1 block west of La Cienega in Beverly Hills.** From the Santa Monica Frwy (10), off & north La Cienega 1 1/2 miles, L - Olympic 1 block to R - Le Doux.



We DO go to Van Nuys today, but I'm not sure this is true

Thursday, December 19 – 8:30 a.m. TRIPLE DIPPER SOUTH BAY RIDE -- See December 5th for details.

Thursday, December 19 – 7:00 p.m. MONTHLY MEMBERS MEETING For our last meeting of the year, we once again have a brand new host: **Lora Chen**, who lives in the Raintree condo complex in Culver City. It's a somewhat important meeting because tonight we open nominations for next year's officers. I suspect most of the current officers will be willing to serve again, but we will need a new Treasurer. Hopefully we will be able to fill this important spot. Other topics of discussion might be the recent Dead of Winter Double, the upcoming holiday party and anything else that might crop up. Of course there will be refreshments. So why not join us. I have lived within about a half mile of the Raintree condos for over 30 years, but I have never been inside the complex. I'm looking forward to it. **PLACE:** We will be meeting in the poolside clubhouse at the Raintree condos in Culver City. You enter off of Jefferson Blvd at Raintree Circle which is about half a mile northeast from the intersection of Jefferson and Overland. You will need to contact Lora if you plan to attend so that she can give your name to the security guard at the gate. You can call her at 310-962-5886 or e-mail her at chen.lora@gmail.com. The guard can direct you to the guest parking and the clubhouse.

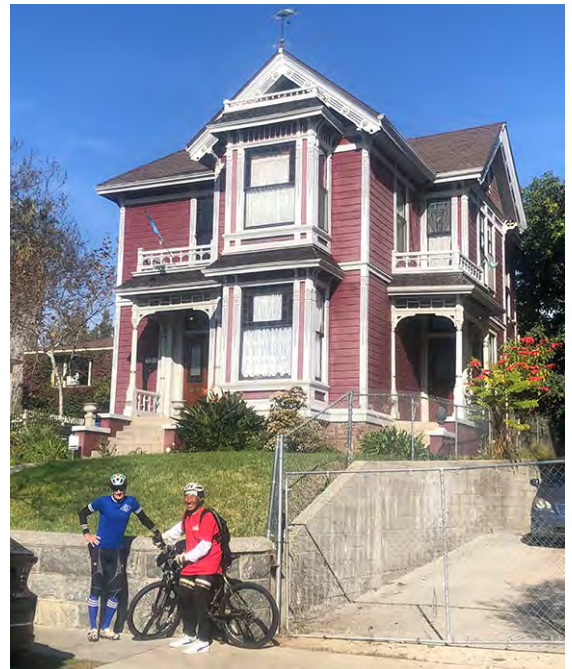
Sunday, December 22 - WANDERING THRU WHITTIER (long 65 mi & 1400 ft, medium 55 mi & 1200 ft, short 32 mi & 700 ft) Christmas is this week and Hanukkah starts the same day, so it's a busy time for a lot of people. With that in mind, I have scheduled a relatively short and easy set of routes for today. Enough to give you a little stress release and maybe a chance to get away from visiting relatives for a few hours, but short enough to let you get back to all your holiday chores. Today both the long and medium routes ride the Whittier Greenway Trail. If you have never ridden the trail, it's perfect for stress release. It follows an old railroad right-of-way for about 5 miles including crossing over one or two old trestles. It's well worth coming to today's ride just to do the trail. True to the title, the long and medium routes actually make two passes through Whittier today. One unusual fact about today's routes is that unlike most of our routes which visit Whittier, none of these routes go over Turnbull. In fact, today's routes spend a lot of time on bike trails. Starting in Alhambra, the long and medium stay together as they first head east to El Monte to pick up the Rio

Hondo trail south to Whittier Narrows. They make a first pass through Whittier riding the Greenway Bike Trail. They then loop south through La Mirada before returning back to Whittier for lunch. After lunch the long takes the San Gabriel River Trail all the way north to the Santa Fe Dam before returning to the start while the medium takes a more direct route back to the start. While the short never actually makes it to Whittier, it does go to the Whittier Narrows area before taking the San Gabriel River up to the Santa Fe Dam and returning to the start. So why not join us today. You should finish fully refreshed and ready to face those holiday relatives. **START: ALHAMBRA PARK in ALHAMBRA.** From the San Bernardino Frwy (I-10), off & north on Fremont 2 miles, R- Alhambra Rd to 4 blocks to Park. Park on Raymond on East side of the park.

Riding the Rio Hondo on the way to Whittier



Wednesday, December 25 – 8:30 a.m. CHRISTMAS RIDE (medium 44 mi & 2600 ft, short 34 mi & 1700 ft). This is our annual Christmas day ride, but as it so happens, Hanukkah starts this evening, so it's really a dual holiday ride. Oddly though, our destination today is a place that has no particular connection to either holiday: Chinatown. There is a reason for that. Downtown is unusually quiet on this holiday morning so it's one of the few times we can ride there without a lot of traffic, and Chinatown is a place where we can count on places to eat still being open. Today the basic route which we have been riding for many years starts with a climb up to Mulholland and a ride along that scenic street over to where we drop down into Griffith Park. After a trip through Elysian Park it's on to our ride along Carroll Ave with its restored Victorian homes, which we hit just before going downtown. We often regroup here for a photo (see photo at right). After a break in Chinatown, the return rides along 4th street with its many beautiful homes. So many nice things to see in one ride. How can you miss it? This year we have added a short route. The only difference is that it rides through Hollywood rather than up along Mulholland Dr. It is meant for those who want to skip the somewhat long climb up to Mulholland, which is really the only major climb on the standard route. The two routes come together at Cahuenga and remain together the rest of the day. Both routes are short, so if you are having a holiday celebration later, it should get you back in time for that. The group usually sticks together so don't worry about being left behind. **START: THE "CORNER,"** Olympic Blvd, 1 block west of La Cienega in Beverly Hills. From the Santa Monica Frwy (10), off & north La Cienega 1½ miles, L - Olympic 1 block to R- Le Doux.



Small group on Carroll Ave last year

Thursday, December 26 – 8:30 a.m. TRIPLE DIPPER SOUTH BAY RIDE -- See December 5th for details. It's the day after Christmas, but maybe some of the Thursday regulars will want to ride today, so I'm leaving this in the schedule.

Sunday, December 29 – 8:30 a.m. - RING AROUND THE VALLEY (long 53 mi & 1200 ft, medium 47 mi & 1100 ft, shorter medium 35 mi & 500 ft, short 19 mi & 300 ft) Like last week, we are in the midst of the holidays with Christmas a few days ago and New Year's Day coming up and Hanukkah continuing through the week. So, it would seem another short and easy ride might be called for. In fact, this week might be more hectic than last week. The house is a wreck after relatives visited. You have thank-you-notes to write or gifts to return. There are the after-Christmas sales to consider and traffic is terrible with all the out-of-towners coming in for the Rose Bowl. You may really need another round of stress release. Speaking of "rounds" these routes spend the day circling the valley with no major hills to speak of. The routes were created by **Richard Wedeen** and from short to long, each route



History mural in 2022 – but what is the animal on the left?

rides an ever larger and larger circle around the Valley. A primary feature of these loops is that they all pass by the history mural in the Tujunga Wash. That way you can get a little history with your ride. The short does a small ring primarily just to take in the mural. The two mediums are slightly larger counterclockwise loops around the Valley getting as far west as Balboa Blvd. The long makes the biggest ring getting as far north as Sylmar and as far west as Cal State Northridge. The routes are fairly easy and the scenery pleasant for an urban route so why not join us for stress release, week 2. **START: Los Angeles Zoo parking lot at the north end.** From Ventura (134) Frwy or Golden State Frwy (5), exit near Griffith Park at any exit marked by signs to the Zoo or to the Autry Museum. Follow signs into the park and to the Zoo lot. We will be meeting at the NORTH end by the "Camel" sign. Don't confuse us with other groups which sometimes start here.