

## Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - December 3, 2024

Hello All:

Last week was Thanksgiving so I was looking for a Thanksgiving song for our theme tonight and found this one. The singer is Mary Chapin Carpenter which is a name I remember from a number of years ago. She is mostly a country singer and I don't listen to country music much so it must have been a cross-over hit which I am remembering, but I can't remember what it was. Anyway, here is her Thanksgiving song. The video images with the song are nice

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NSQLMPUK-8>

**Last Week:** We had two rides last week. First was our annual Thanksgiving Day ride. We had a very good turn-out with 14 riders showing up at the "Corner." I took this shot:



From the left: **Jacques Stern, David Williams, Ann Trank, Lora Chen, Chris Hedberg, Russ Brynes, Dale Aaronson, Rafi Karpinski, Sandy Weiner, Lewis Singer, Howard Wedin, Gary Murphy and Edwin Dair.** Phil Whitworth and his son left from home and joined us on the route which made a total of 16 riders. Here's a shot they took from home:



I think we all rode the long route and stayed pretty much together to the usual re-grouping at the bluff in the Palisades for the annual photo



I'm not sure who took this because I received it from several sources, but I think it was Lora because she is not in the shot. There was some discussion of the live turkeys we formerly would see on this route near where the shot above was taken. I looked back through my photos and found this one from 2016



Unfortunately, they disappeared when the homeowner sold the house. All in all, a nice day -- you can see the fine weather we had in the group photo above.

On Sunday we were riding "Winding Roads of Orange County" starting in Tustin. We only had 5 riders for this one. **Phil Whitworth** took this shot



That's **Mario Solano, Rafi Karpinski, Me, and David Williams.** I started out on the medium, but my legs were having trouble just going over freeway overpasses and I knew there were bigger hills to come, so when I came to where the medium and short routes diverged, I took the short route and finished that. The rest did the long. That meant they took the risk of going past Soka University. If you read my description of the ride in the schedule, you know I think this just a cover for some sinister anti-American organization. Phil took this shot of their entrance.



You tell me if the symbol in the center doesn't look like a submarine-launched missile breaking the surface of the water. Oh sure, they will say it's a stylized lotus which would go with their cover story of being a Buddhist founded university, but who are they kidding? Fortunately, our riders made it past without being abducted. Like Thursday, it was a beautiful day for a ride and it's too bad more people didn't show up.

**Patch of the Week:** Almost since forever, the club has run a September Century (because September formerly was considered National Century Month) but our century has gone by different names over the years. Currently we call it the "Grand Tour Lite" but there were a few years when we called it the "Petticoat Century." I believe it was meant to be an easy century which would be attractive to our female members. It wasn't a "women only" ride, but they were encouraged

to ride. So here is the patch from one of the years we ran it under that name. Of course it is pink and has an old fashioned female rider on it.



**Parting Shot:** Phil Whitworth took this photo on last Sunday's ride. I thought it was the quintessential Southern California holiday shot: A fully decorated Christmas tree by a small lake on a beautiful fall day with people in their shirt sleeves gathered under it. That's about as Christmassy as we get here in LA.





See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP

Attachments area

Preview YouTube video Thanksgiving Song - Mary Chapin Carpenter

