



LOS ANGELES WHEELMEN SCHEDULE



APRIL 2025

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.

Thursday, April 3 – 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 **Lewis Singer** lewissinger@gmail.com for details.

Sunday, April 6 – 8:30 a.m. CRUISE & CLIMB IN CLAREMONT. (Long 59 mi & 3300 ft, Medium 46 mi & 2700 ft, Hilly Short 35 mi & 2000 ft, Easy Short 26 mi & 1100 ft) When I was in high school (in Illinois) one of our science text books was published by Harvey Mudd College and we all thought that was a funny name for a college. At the time, I don't know if any of us knew where Harvey Mudd was located and little did I know that I would end up living most of my life just a short drive from the campus. Of course I now know that Harvey Mudd is just one of the 5 Claremont Colleges (Pomona, Scripps, Claremont McKenna, Pitzer, and Harvey Mudd) which are clustered together in Claremont. They each have their own campus but are contiguous with each other and sometimes share facilities. Today all of our routes ride through some of the campuses at the end of the routes, but there is a lot of riding before we get there. Don't be put off by the word "climb" in the title. A real climb in Claremont would take us up Mount Baldy, but we don't come close to doing anything like that today. Yes, there are some hills today, but they are each only a few hundred feet in elevation and the shorter routes skip many of them.



Harvey Mudd College – maybe on today's route

After each hill there is a nice downhill and that's where the "cruise" part of the title comes in. The long and medium are the same to lunch. They first head up San Dimas Canyon and then come down to climb up past Puddingstone Reservoir. After cruising down again they climb over Grand Ave. After some more downhill, we climb Brea Canyon to Diamond Bar Blvd. After lunch in this area the two routes split. The long adds a loop into Pomona before heading back to Claremont while the medium heads more directly back. There are two short routes. The hilly short does much the same route as the medium but cuts off some of the climbing. The easy short cuts out most of the hills. As mentioned, all routes end with a nice ride through some of the campus area of the Claremont Colleges. I don't know if we actually ride through Harvey Mudd, but I would like to think we do – I still think it's a funny name. **START: EL ROBLE JR. HIGH SCHOOL** at Harrison & Mountain in Pomona. From San Bernardino Frwy (I-10) off & north on Towne in Pomona for 1½ miles, R - Harrison a few blocks to Mountain.

Thursday, April 10 – 8:30 a.m. TRIPLE DIPPER SOUTH BAY RIDE -- See April 3rd for details.

Sunday, April 13, 8:30 a.m. ACTION IN ACTON (Long 51 mi & 3700 ft, Medium 35 mi & 3600 ft, Short 17 mi & 1500 ft) It occurs to me that today's routes take us past the filming locations of many films and TV shows. First there is Vasquez Rocks which is the site of many films going back to early westerns. It is more famous as the site used in many Star Trek episodes. The complete list of appearances in movies and on TV is too long to list here. Later, we often stop for lunch at the Halfway House Café. According to the IMBD web site, this café has appeared 49 times in film and TV. The last time I was there, they had a TV on the wall that was continuously playing clips from some of these. Finally, on the return along Placerita Canyon, we pass a fake western town obviously used for filming. Sort of makes you wonder what Hollywood sees in this area. Well, maybe you should come out today and see for yourself. Only the long gets all the way out to Acton. That route starts by riding for miles along an almost deserted Soledad Canyon. You pass a few summer camps or resorts (which seem almost abandoned now) a movie ranch (which you can't see but is another

filming location) a large county mental health facility and, of course, Shambala. Shambala is the place where Tippi Hedron has rescued a number of lions and tigers. We usually stop to see if we can catch a glimpse of them through the fence. The medium starts with the long on Soledad Canyon but cuts over at Agua Dulce to rejoin the long on its return. Both routes have an optional stop at Vasquez Rocks, both have lunch is at the Halfway Café on Sierra Hwy and both ride Placerita Canyon to pass the western town. So both the long and medium hit the 3 filming locations mentioned above. The short stays mostly in the Newhall area but still takes in some of the same scenery and includes the trip along Placerita Canyon and the movie town. For a fairly desolate area, I think you will see why it is attractive to Hollywood as a filming site. Bring your camera (who doesn't these days) and you may be inspired to take some photos of the area yourself. **START: PARK & RIDE LOT on Newhall Ave. near Sierra Hwy in Newhall.** From the I-5 north take the 14 Frwy east for 2 miles and exit at Newhall Ave. Park & Ride lot is at bottom of ramp to the southeast. Toilets available at nearby Carl's.



Disney Golden Oak Movie Ranch seen on today's routes

Thursday, April 17 – 8:30 a.m. TRIPLE DIPPER SOUTH BAY RIDE -- See April 3rd for details.

Sunday, April 20 – 8:30 a.m. -- FUNNY BUNNY EASTER RIDE.

(Long 44 mi & 1900 ft; Medium 34 mi & 1300 ft; Short 25 mi & 500 ft) Due to the somewhat arcane method of determining the date of Easter each year, I believe it can occur anywhere between March 22 and April 23. Last year it was March 31 and this year it is April 20, so in just one year we have almost hit the extremes of the possible dates. I've often thought the unfixed nature of Easter must cause headaches for a lot of event planners. For example, any major golf tournament or auto race normally occurring in April would have to keep juggling their dates in order to avoid Easter. I think maybe even some of the California Triple Crown Double Centuries move their dates around to miss Easter. Just



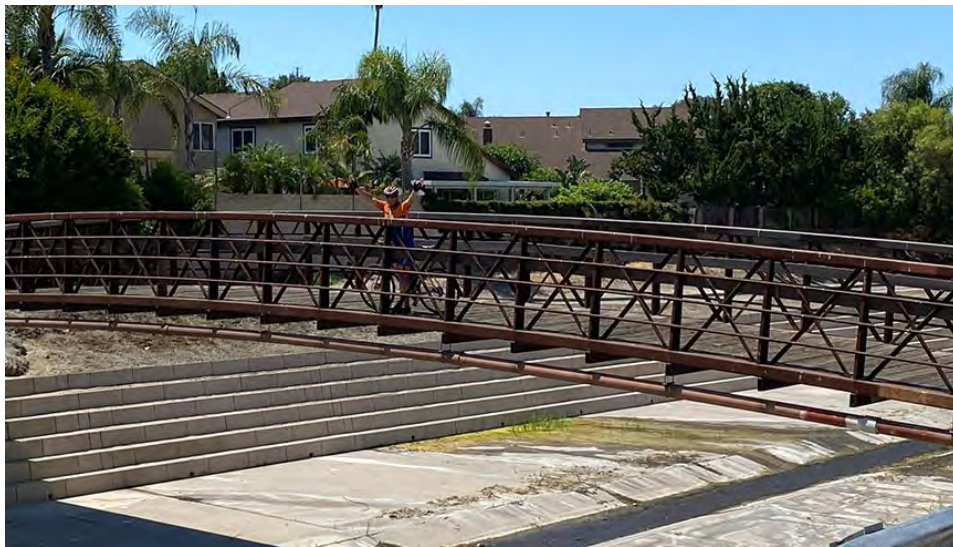
More and more homes are really getting into decorating for Easter

to make it more interesting, Passover also jumps around roughly the same time period. This year the last day of Passover is April 20, the same day as Easter. Fortunately, we don't have to juggle our calendar to miss Easter for today's ride. We always hold it ON Easter, whenever that might be. Not that there is any religious significance to today's ride. The routes are short to accommodate anyone who has holiday plans later, but that's about it. Otherwise, it's just another Sunday ride with the Wheelmen. As I said in last year's description, if you hear someone say "He has risen," it just means someone has just climbed a hill. If you hear someone call out "Hallelujah" it also probably means they have just finished climbing a hill. Speaking of hills, there are a few small ones today, but nothing major. They all head down to the Marina for brunch where we can dine al fresco and soak in the rays. The long and medium do a few small hills in Beverly Hills first (nothing real bad) before heading south to the Marina. The short skips the hills. The long takes an extra loop on the return for a couple of more hills and some extra miles. These extra miles take you past some very nice homes in the Holmby Hills area (including the former Playboy mansion), although many of them are behind walls. So come out and enjoy a typical ride with the Wheelmen which just happens to fall on Easter. **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

Thursday, April 24 – 8:30 a.m. TRIPLE DIPPER SOUTH BAY RIDE -- See April 3rd for details.

Sunday, April 27 – 8:00 a.m. - BIKEWAYS OF ORANGE COUNTY (Full Century - 95 mi & 2500 ft, Metric Century – 64 mi & 800 ft, Half Century – 52 miles & 700 ft) Today are our century routes for April. I had originally planned different routes for today,

thinking Topanga Canyon would surely be open by now, but as I put this schedule together at the end of March, it is looking like it might still be closed on this date. I don't want to take the chance, so I switched to these routes. Unfortunately, due to the closures along PCH and in Palos Verdes it is hard to find century routes that are still available. So we last rode these routes only last July, but they are pleasant enough that we shouldn't mind riding them again so soon. As an added inducement, I have added a Half Century route this time. While we often ride the Santa Ana River trail or the San Diego Creek trail in Orange County, these routes are designed to use some of the lesser known bike trails in the county. The principal trail (only on the full century) is the Aliso Creek trail. This is an interesting trail which follows Aliso Creek from near Cook's Corner down close to the ocean. It winds and twists a lot sometimes going through parks and other times running right down in the channel with the creek. Another oddity is that there is a break in the middle where you would need to get off the path for a short distance and then pick it up again. Today the full century rides most of that trail but in two pieces. After riding the first portion of the Aliso Creek trail from the north down to where there is the break in the trail, we leave Aliso Creek to go do a good climb or two thrown in for variety. Then we get back on the Aliso Creek trail near the southern end and ride up to a point near where we had to get off earlier. The metric version stays with the full century through some of the early bike trails and then cuts off to later meet up with the full century as it makes a 14 mile run back up the coast to the start. The metric century cuts off most of the climbing of the full century. The new half century route starts and ends with the other two routes, but cuts out the middle which means it misses most of the bike trails. It does hit a little bit of bike trail riding however. Besides Aliso Creek, the routes hit several other trails you may not have seen before. With much of the ride on bike trails, the course is relatively flat. The really good news is that you don't have to drive down to Orange County to do these rides. We start from El Dorado Park in Long Beach – about a half hour drive from West LA. **START: EL DORADO PARK In Long Beach.** From San Diego Frwy (405), off & North/East on Studebaker 1 mi. to Park. Park in Library lot on right just before Spring Street.



One of the many crossings over the Aliso Creek Trail on today's route