

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - May 13, 2025

Hello All:

Sunday was Mother's Day and I looked for fitting music for that holiday, but I didn't like any of the choices. Then it occurred to me that the day's ride went through Camp Pendleton and on to Oceanside where a lot of Marines live, so I went with this song. Most people only know the first verse, but this has all the verses if you are interested

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5kCqvsO_7c

Sunday: We were riding "Capistrano Caper" on Sunday which started in Capistrano and headed for points south. There were only 3 of us at the the start which might have been just as well because there was no parking to be found at the start for even one more car. There has always been a ton of parking available at this location so I was mystified. Lots of cars, but no people. Turns out there was some sort of event going on in the area, but far enough away that we couldn't hear it or see it. Maybe it was some sort of Mother's Day event. I will never schedule this ride on Mother's Day again. Anyway, **Phil Whitworth** took this selfie of the three of us:



Behind Phil, that's **David Nakai** and me. Phil and David were doing the long which would take them all the way to Oceanside, while I did the short which only went as far as the San Onofre power plant. We were together for a while and our first order of business was finding a restroom. We found a port-a-potty at a Dana Point park which had this sign next to it.



So they are thinking of building a permanent restroom in the park. It's nice of them to ask -- I guess our vote would be "yes." My turnaround point was San Onofre, so I took this photo to prove I got that far



Phil and David eventually rode the freeway through Pendleton for the last few miles to Oceanside. Phil took this selfie on the freeway.



I was thinking the best way to ride that stretch would be to get in behind an 18-wheeler and ride it "Breaking Away" style. But from the photo, it doesn't appear there were any big trucks to draft behind. David had actually started in Oceanside, so he left Phil there to ride back alone. When I finished, all the cars were still there, so whatever the event was, it was lasting all day.

This Week: This Sunday we will be riding to the Hollywood Sign starting from the "Corner." There are only two routes but both start with the 10 mile trip up to the Hollywood Sign -- a little above it actually. The shorter route simply comes back down and goes back to the start. The longer ride tacks on a loop out to the Valley and back which adds quite a few miles and some additional climbing. The trip up to the sign is the main thing however. Full disclosure -- a good chunk of that climb is very steep. The last 1.3 miles is on a closed road, so you don't have to worry about traffic, but the road is not in great shape and you spend some of your time dodging potholes and the many hikers also headed to the top. But it's a great view from up there and I always enjoyed the satisfaction of knowing I had ridden up there. That said, I'm not ready for that kind of climbing yet, so I won't be there. If anyone is interested, I would like to do an easier ride in the 50 mile

range without much climbing. Contact me if you have any ideas and would like to join me.

Second Meeting Notice: Just another reminder that on Thursday, May 22 at 7 p.m. we will be holding a bi-monthly club meeting at the home of **Gary Murphy**. I will be sending out a more complete notice later but keep it in mind.

YouTube Video Update. Two weeks ago, I noted that the YouTube Video I used at the top of that week's e-mail only had 4 views, at least one of which was mine. I urged you to watch the video just to get this YouTuber's numbers up. I checked today and it is up to 18 views. I would guess a lot of that was from us. I'm sure the person posting the video is happy.

Free Metrolink Rides: **Mike Ebeerts** sent me a note that this Thursday, May 15th, in honor of Bike Day, all riders with a bike ride for free on all Metrolink trains. I thought this was pretty good until I realized it was Metrolink and not Metrorail. Still, if you are interested, here's a link for information:

[https://metrolinktrains.com/bike-day?
j=30769807&sfmc_sub=685312174&l=4718102_HTML&u=497626569&mid=524
000233&jb=25004](https://metrolinktrains.com/bike-day?j=30769807&sfmc_sub=685312174&l=4718102_HTML&u=497626569&mid=524000233&jb=25004)

Parting Shot: As mentioned, I rode down to San Onofre on Sunday. The plant has been closed for years now, but I still wonder about residual radiation. They say it is safe, but then I took this photo of a passing cyclist with the special X-ray iphone filter turned on.



See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP

Attachments area

Preview YouTube video Marine Corps Hymn (all verses)

The Halls of Montezuma

From the Halls of Montezuma,
To the shores of Tripoli;
We fight our country's battles;
In the air, on land, and sea;
First to fight for right and freedom.
And to keep our honor clean.
We are proud to claim the title.
Of United States Marine.

