

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - June 3, 2025

Hello All:

Last Sunday our ride was entirely out in the Valley and that brought to mind this song. It's probably Frank Zappa's most successful song and that's his daughter Moon Unit Zappa on the recording. She was 14 when she recorded this, but just to make you feel old, she is now 57.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5Q1yVLSR3I&list=RDR5Q1yVLSR3I&start_radio=1

Sunday: We were riding "Valley Venture" which started from Reseda Park. There were 5 of us at the start and **Dale Aaronson** took this selfie of the group:



That's **Dale, Jacques Stern, David Williams, Bill Faulkner** and me. It turned out two more started a bit late. **Edwin Dair** sent me this selfie:



That's **Edwin** and **Rafi Karpinski**. Dale and David did the long I'm guessing so did Edwin and Rafi. Jacques, Bill and I rode the short. The main feature of the long route is the extremely difficult climb up Escalon and Encino Hills. Here's a shot from Dale which shows just how big a struggle it was:



David looks like he's really suffering. But they made it. Here is a shot from Dale of them at the top.



Not sure who took this unless Edwin and Rafi had caught them, but there was no mention of that. This photo is interesting because it seems the two of them had very different ideas of what the weather was like. I can tell you that for those of us on the short, it started out pleasant enough, but by the end of the ride it was pretty warm -- well, hot actually.

An interesting thing happened on the short route. I found an error on the route sheet. There was an "L" (left) which should have been an "R" (right). Fortunately, the route downloaded into my Garmin was correct. One of the reasons I really encourage the use of Garmins (or similar devices). But it got me thinking. That error on the route sheet could have been there for over a decade. No one ever seems to ride our short routes so it was never discovered. Who knows how many errors there are on some of our short route sheets. Since I have been riding the short routes lately, I haven't discovered any other errors, but I have been able to replace the estimated elevation gain based on the RideWithGPS software with what I think is a more accurate measure based on the barometric altimeter in my Garmin. At some point I hope to get back in shape enough to start riding the

medium routes, but for now, it's nice make sure some of our short routes are still good.

This Week: On Sunday we will be riding "Arcadia & Stuff" which starts from Alhambra. We haven't ridden this in 6 years because the highlight of the long route is a trip up to Chantry Flats and road has only been intermittently open in the past 6 years. But it's open now and **Bill Faulkner** told me he drove up there for a hike only a few weeks ago, so we are good to go. Actually, only the long route goes up there. It's a fairly tough 5 mile climb, but only the first mile or so is really steep. Before heading up to Chantry, the long does a loop over to the Rose Bowl and back to Arcadia. Lunch is almost immediately after coming down and then it's a short trip back to the start. The medium route follows the long except that it doesn't go up to Chantry. The short is an abbreviated version of the medium. I hope to do the medium because I like the lunch stop on the medium and the short doesn't go there.

Chinese Characters Identified: Last week I included a photo of a rock with some Chinese characters carved into it and I asked if anyone could interpret them for me. Thanks go to 4 members who responded: **Dennis Miller, Mario Solano, Lora Chen** and **Kit Gray**. They all agreed that the characters meant "community" or "neighborhood." Lora, of course, was the only one who didn't need any help. The others used Google. It occurred to me that I could have used ChatGPT and when I tried that, it came up with the same answer. My only question now is why would someone carve the word "community" on a rock.

Parting Shot: For several weeks I kept passing some painted words on the beach bike path (on the bluff by the hang gliding location) but I always passed so quickly I could never read them. So last week I stopped to take this photo:



From top to bottom I believe it says "Kingdom of Epstein" "Epstein escaped to Norway" "google 'Crown Princess Epstein'" and "Stop Stealing our Children!!" I did what it said and googled "Crown Princess Epstein." Google says this refers to a controversy surrounding Crown Princess Mette-Marit of Norway and her friendship with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. She apparently had met with him on several occasions even after his conviction. Although Epstein was convicted of child sex trafficking, I didn't see any allegations that he was stealing children from Norway. Also, Epstein has been dead now about 6 years and did

not escape to Norway. Maybe this is all some elaborate conspiracy theory, but why spray paint it on the bike path now?

See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP

Attachments area

Preview YouTube video Frank Zappa, Moon Zappa - Valley Girl



