

## Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - July 1, 2025

Hello All:

Sunday's ride passed by Cook's Corner which is a well known motorcycle gathering place (See photo below) Seeing all those motorcycles got me to thinking about motorcycle songs and movies. Then I came up with this clip:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egMWID3fLJ8>

It was a fairly famous movie in its day and I think it was the first movie where people began to notice Jack Nicholson, even though he had been acting for several years.

### Last Week:

**Grand Tour:** Saturday was our annual running of the Grand Tour. I have not received any official information about how it went, the number of riders etc. But, I did get an e-mail from **David Nakai**, who, despite not having ridden a double in some time, rode it. Even more amazing, only a few days before the Grand Tour, his bike suffered a derailleur failure which could not be repaired in time for the Grand Tour. He quickly bought a new bike and rode that on the Grand Tour. He rode for a time with this year's Jack Flynn award winner **Tom White** and club treasurer **Ira Kuchek** and took this photo of the two



He also took this photo at one of the rest stops.





Sounds like he had a good day. I hope to have more information next week.

**Sunday:** Our ride on Sunday was "Revel the Rollies II" which started from Tustin. We had 6 riders at the start and **Phil Whitworth** took this shot:





That's **Edwin Dair**, **Rafi Karpinski**, **David Nakai**, **Bill Faulkner** and me. Yes, David Nakai -- one day after riding the Grand Tour, he was out to ride our Sunday ride.. Amazing. Rafi and Edwin actually rode from Long Beach in order to get a full 100 miles in for the day. Rafi, Edwin, Phil and David did the long route and Bill and I started out on the medium. It was pleasant riding at first, but quickly warmed up and as the medium climbed up to Cook's Corner, the heat finally got to me and I just couldn't face the coming hills as we rode through Santiago Canyon. We we turned around and had a mostly downhill ride back to the start. We got in almost as many miles as we would have if we had completed the route, but not as much climbing. While at Cook's Corner, I took this photo of the gathered motorcycles.





Actually, there seemed to be fewer motorcycles than usual. Not sure why. Rafi sent me this photo of him when the long riders reached Cook's Corner





I don't envy them the climbing they still had to do in the heat, but I'm guessing they did fine.

**Thinking About Motorcycle Gathering Places.** Seeing Cook's Corner reminded me that a few years ago there was talk that Cook's was going to close. That would have eliminated another gathering place for motorcyclists. In the past they have lost a place in Carbon Canyon, a place in the middle of Bouquet Canyon, the Hidden Spring Cafe on Angeles Forest Hwy and Newcomb's Ranch on Angeles Crest. The Rock Store is still there, but the rock store hill has been closed for several years and that was one of the big draws for motorcyclists. That leaves Cook's Corner and Neptune's Net. There must be a few places I'm not familiar with, but clearly motorcyclists who want to get together and show off their bikes are falling on hard times.

**This Week:** We have two rides this week. First up is our annual 4th of July ride which starts from Long Beach. These are relatively short and easy routes designed to get you home in plenty of time to rest up and then go out and see some fireworks. The routes have been changed a little to now stop at a Shake Shack instead of the now closed Five Guys, but otherwise are the routes we

have been riding for years. The highlight is the trip up to the top of Signal Hill for the view and to take a group photo. That's only on the long route, but the climb up the hill really isn't all that bad and most riders do it.

Our second ride of the weekend is our regular Sunday ride. This week we will be riding "John's River Ride" which starts from Boysen Park in Anaheim. All routes ride down the Santa Ana River trail with the long and medium going all the way to the coast and then riding over to Balboa and riding the ferry to the island. Both routes then head inland back toward the start. The long takes a loop through the Tustin hills which adds some climbing besides the extra miles. The medium makes a more direct return to the start. The short simply rides down the Santa Ana river, has lunch and then returns back up the river. It is supposed to be cooler this weekend, so hopefully the trip back inland to finish these routes won't be too bad.

**Parting Shot:** I took this photo of a street sign on Sunday.



I thought the name was sort of an oxymoron. Not only that but we came across this sign in the middle of the flat portion of Irvine where there is neither a ridge nor a valley to be seen. I would be interested in knowing what they were thinking when they named the street.

See You On The Road



Rod Doty, VP

Attachments area

Preview YouTube video Steppenwolf - Born To Be Wild (Easy Rider) (1969)

