

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - July 8, 2025

Hello All:

Last weekend was the 4th of July and we had our usual ride on that day. I wanted to use an appropriate song for the date and I found this one called "On Independence Day." I like the song, but if you follow the lyrics, you'll see it isn't really about celebrating the birth of our nation. But then the movie "Independence Day" isn't really about the 4th of July either.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkDQ4uslrzq>

Last Week: We had two rides. First up was the "Firecracker Special" which is our annual 4th of July ride. We had 8 riders at the start and I took this photo of the group:



That's **Edwin Dair, Rafi Karpinski, Bill Faulkner, Gary Murphy, Jacques Stern, Chris Hedberg and Russ Brynes**. Although we all started out on the same course, we quickly split into a faster groups and a slow group. The highlight

of the ride is usually the trip up to the top of Signal Hill where we take a group photo. I believe all but Jacques went up the hill, but because of the split in the riders, there was no group shot this year. Instead there were two. Rafi sent me the first one below of the faster group. (Although Rafi sent it to me, I suspect it was taken by Edwin). I took the second photo of the slower group



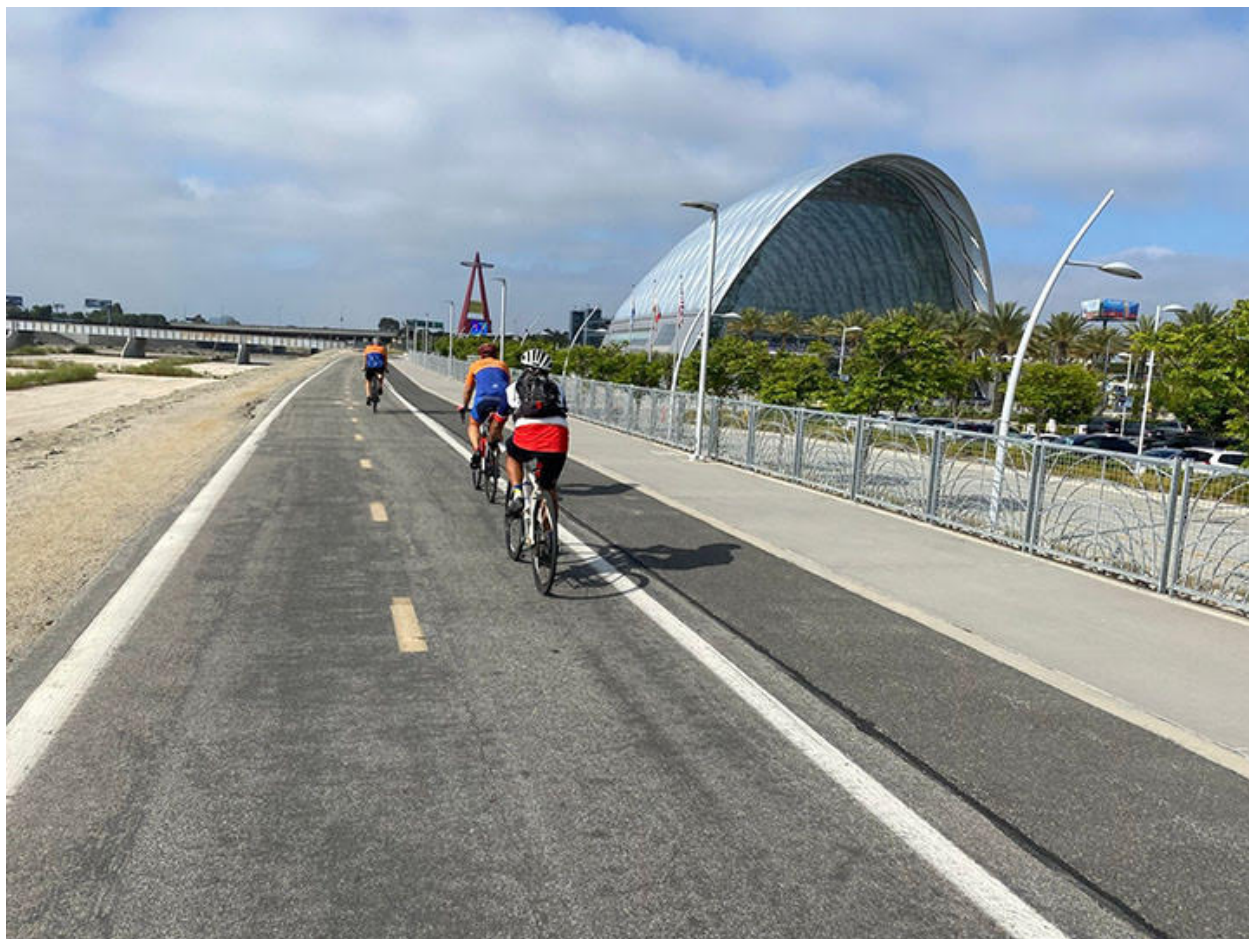


All in all it was a nice day unless you are a Dodger fan because they lost 18 -1 that day. Not sure the fans were in the mood for fireworks after the game.

Our second ride was "John's River Ride" on Sunday and which started from Boysen Park in Anaheim. We had 6 riders and **Phil Whitworth** took this shot:



That's **Me**, **David Nakai**, **Bill Faulkner**, **Rafi Karpinski** and **Mario Solano**. David had ridden a nighttime ride up to Mount Baldy and back only the night before and yet he showed up for the day's ride. Just like last week when he rode the Grand Tour the day before the Sunday ride. Retirement sure must agree with him. Bill and I did the medium ride and the rest rode the long, although Rafi and Mario extended their ride by starting from Long Beach. We all rode the Santa Ana River Trail which is the river in the title of the ride. Here is a photo from Phil as the faster long riders passed the Anaheim train station with the "Big A" in the distance. A few years ago this area was full of homeless encampments, but now it is completely empty



Despite doing more miles, the long riders finished shortly before Bill and I came in. I guess that's the way it should always work out.

This Week: On Sunday we will be riding "Off To The Races" which is our annual ride down to the Manhattan Beach Grand Prix where we can watch some of the racing. All routes start from the "Corner." The short simply goes down to Manhattan Beach and back. The medium adds a loop into Palos Verdes for lunch at Golden Cove before returning to the races. The long follows the medium to Golden Cove but then climbs up and over the peninsula and down into Torrance for lunch before heading to the races. It is usually a pleasant day of riding and they hold races all day, so no matter when you get there, you can probably watch a little bit of it.

Meeting Reminder: Just a reminder, our next club meeting will be on Thursday, July 17th at 7 p.m. and our host will be **Nancy Domjanovich**. I'll include full information next week, or you can check out the information in the ride schedule sent to everyone a couple of weeks ago.

Parting Shot: **Mario Solano** sent me this shot of his Garmin while riding the Balboa Ferry last Sunday. Old style bike computers only showed your speed if the wheels were turning, but with GPS you can see your speed while not riding but simply moving on the ferry. As you can see, the ferry got up to a little over 4 mph.



That's nice, but what has got me wondering is the Grade in the lower left corner which is 0.6%. I always thought sea level was flat.

See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP