LOS ANGELES WHEELMEN SCHEDULE

JANUARY 2026

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, January 1 - 7:00 a.m. (full century) & 8:00 a.m. (metric & half centuries) 2025 KICK OFF CENTURIES (full century - 101 mi & 3100 ft, metric century – 67 mi & 2300 ft, half century – 52 mi & 2200 ft) It's the start of a new year. The slate is clean. You can set the tone for your cycling year on day one. You can resolve to ride more this year and at least for today, you can keep that resolution. If you ride the full century today, you will be on pace to ride 36,500 miles for the year. Well, no one expects you to do that, but it does feel good to get a nice ride in on the very first day. This has been a New Year's Day tradition now for 23 years. Over the years we have added the metric century and half-century options so that even more riders can kick off the new year with a bang. Whatever your distance, it makes you feel like there is nothing you can't do on a bike in the coming year. For a first ride of the year, we don't make this particularly difficult. All routes are simply a trip from Malibu north up PCH and back. The full century adds a loop around the Ventura/Oxnard area to make up the miles with a lunch stop in Ventura. The metric rides into Camarillo for lunch and then returns back down the coast. The half century simply rides to Point Magu and returns, stopping for lunch at Neptune's Net on the way back. January 1st is a fairly quiet day on PCH – everyone has a hangover or stays home to watch football. Kick the year off with a century, metric century or half century and you won't regret it. Be sure to report your century or metric century for the club's Century Challenge in 2026 and get the club kicked off to a good start as well. **NOTE:** We are suggesting a later start time for the metric and half centuries because otherwise you may arrive at lunch locations too early and who wants to get up earlier than you have to on New Year's Day anyway. **START: MALIBU CIVIC CENTER**. Take the Santa Monica Frwy west to the end and then PCH north to R on Webb Way and R on Civic Center Way.

Century riders two years ago taking a break at Neptune's Net

Thursday, January 1 - 6:30 a.m. ROSE PARADE RIDE (14 mi & 400 ft) If you are not up for the centuries above, we have another way to start your year that is really hard to pass up. Unlike the centuries, this is the shortest and easiest ride we offer all year and allows you to participate in a New Year's Day tradition enjoyed by millions of people around the world – watching the Rose Parade. Unlike most of those millions, who will watch it on TV, you get to see it in person. Believe me, TV does not do the floats justice. The colors are more vibrant and the sounds are clearer than on TV. And there is a spirit in the air which simply does not come through on TV. You live in Southern California, so you really owe it to yourself to see the parade in person at least once. Lots of people travel thousands of miles just to do that and all you have to do is ride a bike 14 miles. Plus, you don't have to battle the traffic either before or after the parade and there is no parking problem. Simply drive to Alhambra and the parade is just a short easy 7 mile bike ride away. Not only do you get to see the parade, but the route takes you down Orange Grove Avenue where the floats all line up prior to the parade and you

David Nakai with the Illinois (my home state) float in the Rose Parade last year

get to preview the floats up close and personal. Take a selfie with any float that strikes your fancy. Even the thousands of other people watching the parade in person along the route can't do that. So, if you want to see the parade, I don't see how you can pass this up. The ride is incredibly easy. It's a fairly flat 7 miles followed by a rest of a couple of hours as you watch the parade and then an easy 7 miles back. Even if you are suffering from a hangover from last night, how bad can 7 miles be? **START: ALHAMBRA PARK**. From San Bernardino Frwy (I-10), off & North on Freemont, R - Alhambra Rd, R – Palm Ave to Park. **NOTE: we are starting on the West side of Alhambra Park rather than the East side as we usually do.**

Sunday, January 4 - 8:30 a.m. EXPLORING THE ENVIRONS (Long 57 mi. & 3700 ft; Medium 51 mi. & 2800 ft; Short 24 mi. & 1300 ft) Today is the last week of regular season games in the NFL. It's January – it used to be the Super Bowl was played about now, but the Super Bowl is in February this year. In the future, the football season may end the same week that the baseball season starts. Anyway, it's a tight season this year and several playoff berths may not be decided until today. I know some of you may want to stay home and watch a game or two, but today's rides are short. You could probably ride and still get home before the end of the early games and before the start of the later games. So why not come out and ride. For short routes, you get to see a lot. On the long and medium routes we get to see West Los Angeles, the Santa Monica Mountains, the San Fernando Valley, Topanga Canyon and the beach. That's a wide variety to terrain for just 50 odd miles. Both the long and medium make a loop hitting the locations mentioned above, but by different routes. The long goes over Beverly Glen, while the medium uses Sepulveda. The long goes west through the Valley via a somewhat hilly route while the medium uses a flatter route. The long goes to the coast via Old Topanga, the medium uses "New" Topanga. Meanwhile, the short never goes to the valley at all. It goes up Franklin Cyn to the nature center (exploring the environs in another sense). Take your time and enjoy the changing vistas. Even if these routes are old hat, you might see things you never saw before if you pretend it is all new. And if you really want to see all of the football games, that's what they invented DVRs for. **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.

A view we saw two years ago on this ride and which we may well see again this year.

Thursday, January 8 – 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, January 11 - 8:30 a.m. NORTH ORANGE COUNTY TREK (Long 70 mi & 2800 ft, Medium 53 mi & 2600 ft, Short 41 mi & 1800 ft) Based on the title, you might expect that we will spend the day "trekking" around Orange County, but that's not quite true. Although the routes start in Orange County (Fullerton actually), the long and medium spend a lot of time traveling through both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. That's where the real trekking takes place. That's where we boldly go where we seldom have gone before (about once every two years). We see places we don't often see like Norco (Horsetown, USA), the once extensive dairy farms of Chino, the Chino Men's Prison, and portions of the Santa Ana River we seldom see. Having grown up on a dairy farm myself, I was always interested in the dairy farms near Chino . At one time they were quite extensive, but every year it seems like more and more of them disappear to be replaced by housing. I can remember riding these routes in the summer when between the smell, the flies and the terrible roads, It was a tough few miles to get through. Today, the smell is pretty much gone along with the flies (particularly in January) and the roads have been improved.

From 2023: Some of the last cows to be seen on this route

Still, we should see a few cows along the way. From the start in Fullerton, both the long and medium head east through Santa Ana Canyon to Corona The long continues east all the way to the edge of Riverside. The long then makes an interesting loop back through Norco (where horses seem to outnumber cars) to rejoin the medium route for lunch in Chino Hills. The two routes return together through Carbon Canyon, finally re-entering Orange County on the downhill side of that canyon. The short stays in Orange County as it heads to Yorba Linda and the Santa Ana Canyon area before returning. So why not join us today and see some scenery we seldom get to ride. **START: CHAPMAN PARK** in Fullerton. From the Orange Frwy (57) off and west on Chapman, L - Commonwealth, L - San Carlos to Park.

Thursday, January 15 – 8:30 a.m. TRIPLE DIPPER SOUTH BAY RIDE -- See January 8nd for details.

Sunday, January 18 - 7:30 a.m. CAMARILLO CENTURY (full century 100 mi & 5200 ft, metric century 62 mi & 4900 ft, half century 54 mi & 3700 ft) Today is our monthly century, metric century, and (new this year) half century rides. For many years our January centuries have always been the Janus Sequential Centuries, but over the years, attendance at these rides has dwindled down to 2 or 3. They started way out in Thousand Oaks where it was often bitterly cold in the morning and they were somewhat difficult centuries for the short days of January. So, I've decided to pull the plug on the Sequential Centuries and have substituted today's rides. In truth, the full and metric centuries do almost the same amount of climbing as the Sequential Centuries, but today's rides start in nearby Brentwood, so you don't have to get up so early to drive to the start. Also, even though they do have nearly the same amount of climbing, I think today's routes are actually a little easier than the Sequential Centuries. It's still a full day of riding for the century and the days are still short, so we have an early start time and if you question your ability to finish in daylight, bring lights or simply ride the metric or half centuries. All routes start in Brentwood and stay together for the first 25 miles as they ride up the coast to climb over Topanga and Old Topanga to Calabasas. They continue a few more miles together over to Agoura where the full century splits off. The full century continues to Westlake and along Santa Rosa Road to Camarillo for lunch. Then it's a trip to the coast and back down the coast (with hopefully a tailwind) to finish the day. The metric and half centuries stop for lunch in Agoura and then jog over to Mulholland Hwy on Cornell Rd. where they split. The metric rides Mulholldand west up the Rock Store hill to Kanan Dume Rd. and takes that down to the coast where it rejoins the full century on the return down the coast. The half century turns left at Mulholland and rides over to Malibu Canyon which it takes to the coast to rejoin the other routes. **NOTE:** These routes formerly started from San Vicente and Gretna Green in Brentwood, but that location is used as a farmer's market on Sunday, so we have moved the start down the road a bit on San Vicente. **START: CORNER OF SAN VICENTE BLVD & 26th ST.** in Santa Monica. From San Diego Frwy (405), off & west on Wilshire, R - San Vicente to 26th Street. You should be able to find parking near the intersection and then simply group at the intersection.

A sight often seen in Topanga Canyon on today's route

Thursday, January 22 – 8:30 a.m. TRIPLE DIPPER SOUTH BAY RIDE -- See January 8nd for details.

Sunday, January 25 – 8:30 a.m. LEGG LAKE (long 57 mi & 1500 ft, medium 55 mi & 1500 ft, short 41 mi & 1500 ft) OK, I think I have mentioned this before. Legg lake is named for Herbert Curtis Legg, a former county supervisor, who was instrumental in the development of the Whittier Narrows area and the creation of the lake. But whenever I see the name, I always think of the pantyhose, even though the pantyhose company spells it with an apostrophe and an "s" as in "L'eggs" Not sure what the apostrophe is for – maybe it is a shortening of "Leg Eggs" since they formerly packaged the pantyhose in plastic eggs. But why would a lake be named for a pantyhose company? Well, maybe the founder of the L'eggs brand was fishing in the Whittier Narrows one day and he was wondering how he could market his new product to make it different from similar items and he happened to see some duck eggs in the reeds and he thought "That's it – eggs!" He later related this story to the county supervisors and they decided to name the lake in honor of this innovation in marketing. Ok, so that's quite a stretch, but it could have happened. Anyway, all our routes today head to the Whittier Narrows area. Only the medium and short riders go into the park to actually see the lake, but the long riders ride past the entrance. The long and medium head through San Marino and Alhambra to the San Gabriel River which they take to the Whittier Narrows area for lunch. The long continues the river north to the Santa Fe dam for a long loop back. The Medium takes a shorter route back after circling Legg Lake. The short simply takes a more direct route to Whittier Narrows where it joins the Medium for the tour of the lake and the return. The three routes today are close to the same in distance and elevation gain, so it might be hard to make a choice today. Bring all 3 routes sheets to the ride and see how you feel at the start of the ride and what the

A nice view of "suicide brige" near the Rose Bowl at the start of today's ride

other riders are doing. **START: BROOKSIDE PARK - just south of the Rose Bowl.** From Ventura Frwy (134) or Pasadena Frwy (110), off & north on Orange Grove, L - Rosemont, L - Seco and L- Arroyo to Park on left. Meet near the Aquatic Facility / tennis courts.

Thursday, January 29 – 8:30 a.m. TRIPLE DIPPER SOUTH BAY RIDE -- See January 8nd for details.