

## Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - May 26, 2026

Hello All:

Sunday's ride was in Orange County, site of the recent potential toxic chemical spill, so I was looking for toxic chemical songs. I came up with this one by Britney Spears simply titled "Toxic." It's not about a toxic chemical spill. It sounds more like it's talking about a toxic relationship, but now that I've read the lyrics a second time I think it might be more of a metaphor for addictive drugs. Anyway, here it is:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dm0ndgjk9V4&list=RDdm0ndgjk9V4&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dm0ndgjk9V4&list=RDdm0ndgjk9V4&start_radio=1)

**Sunday:** The ride was "Revel the Rollies From Redhill" which started from Tustin. None of the routes traveled through the exclusion zone of the chemical disaster, but it was on the minds of potential riders. News reports like this couldn't help:



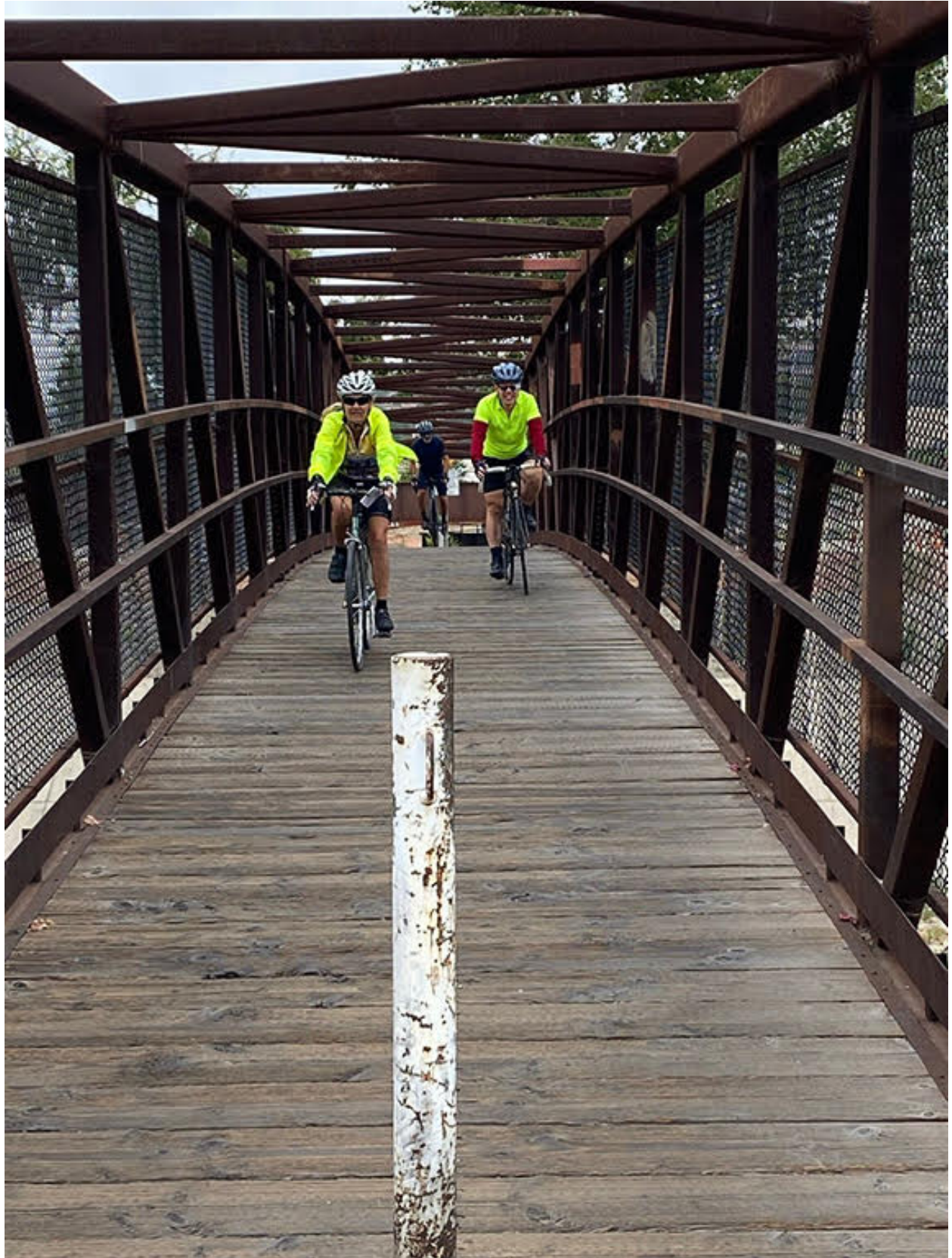
There was a series of text messages between potential riders and at last 4 brave riders decided to ride. As he drove to the ride, **Phil Whitworth** must have been having second thoughts as he passed closed exits off the freeway



But the 4 intrepid riders did show up and Phil took this shot:



That's **Chris Hedberg, Mario Solano, Edwiin Dair** and **Phil**. They all did the long route which only prolonged their time in the danger zone -- well, adjacent to the danger zone, but you never know -- the winds could shift. The ride took them down to Capistrano where they rode this well known wooden bridge.



I've never noticed this sign before, but apparently you are not supposed to ride on the bridge.

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE  
ONLY  
BICYCLIST MUST WALK  
BICYCLES ACROSS

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SOLAMENTE PUENTE  
DE PEATONES  
CICLISTAS CAMINEN  
SUS BICICLETAS

But they were already risking horrible death by toxic fumes, so they weren't going to let a silly sign stop them. On they went through Dana Point.



And then on to lunch:



(This last photo is from Edwin -- the rest were all from Phil) They all returned to the start safe and sound. The tank never blew up and even though now two days later there is still a possibility of a toxic event, it didn't happen on Sunday. The bravery of our 4 riders was rewarded with a good ride.

**This Week:** This Sunday we will be riding "La Tuna Melt" which starts from the Zoo Parking lot. All routes ride up to the Pasadena area and meet for lunch in South Pasadena. The long takes a roundabout route taking them up Tuna Canyon (for which the ride is named) and then on to the Rose Bowl area. The medium takes an easier route up to the Rose Bowl where it joins the long route for the rest of the day. The long and medium then ride over to Altadena to ride up the famed Christmas Tree Lane. They then ride down to Pasadena and on to lunch. Note that they will be passing through the Altadena burn area during this portion of the ride. The short takes an even easier ride up to the Rose Bowl area and then heads directly to lunch where it meets up with the other two routes. All three routes return to the zoo together. Hopefully on Sunday there will be no smoke or toxic fumes to worry about.

**Bicycling Quote of the Week:** "One of the most important days of my life was when I learned to ride a bicycle." *Michael Palin – member of the former comedy group Monty Python*

**Parting Shot:** I wish I had more to say here nothing comes to mind. Here's a photo Phil took on last Sunday's ride. It's a photo I would have taken myself if I had been on the ride



I always enjoy election time in Orange County because of all the lawn signs. Some are even a bit funny. I never seem to see as many lawn signs in LA County.

See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP

Attachments area

Preview YouTube video Britney Spears - Toxic (Lyrics)

Preview YouTube video Britney Spears - Toxic (Lyrics)



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