

## Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - April 30, 2024

Hello All:

Sunday's ride was "Canyon Lakes" which is famous for its hills covered with poppies, but I had heard that this year, for some reason, there weren't as many poppies as in the past. That made me think of this song for tonight's theme, and, with wars raging in the Ukraine and Gaza, maybe not an inappropriate song for the times.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkTXcwc3zvK>

**Sunday:** As mentioned, the ride was "Canyon Lakes" which starts out in Santa Clarita and rides several canyons and passes by several lakes. I believe there were a total of 6 riders, but we started at different times, so I never really saw most of them. Starting early was **Dale Aaronson, Julie Shishino, and Edwin Dair**. Julie took this selfie at the start:



**Phil Whitworth** started after the first group, but before I arrived at the start.

**David Williams** was at the start when I arrived, but left a few minutes before I did. As far as I know, everyone did the long route except me -- I did the short which just went up to the top of Bouquet Canyon and turned around to come back down. On the way up I saw this, but didn't stop to take a photo. Fortunately Dale sent me this photo (although it would appear that Julie took it).



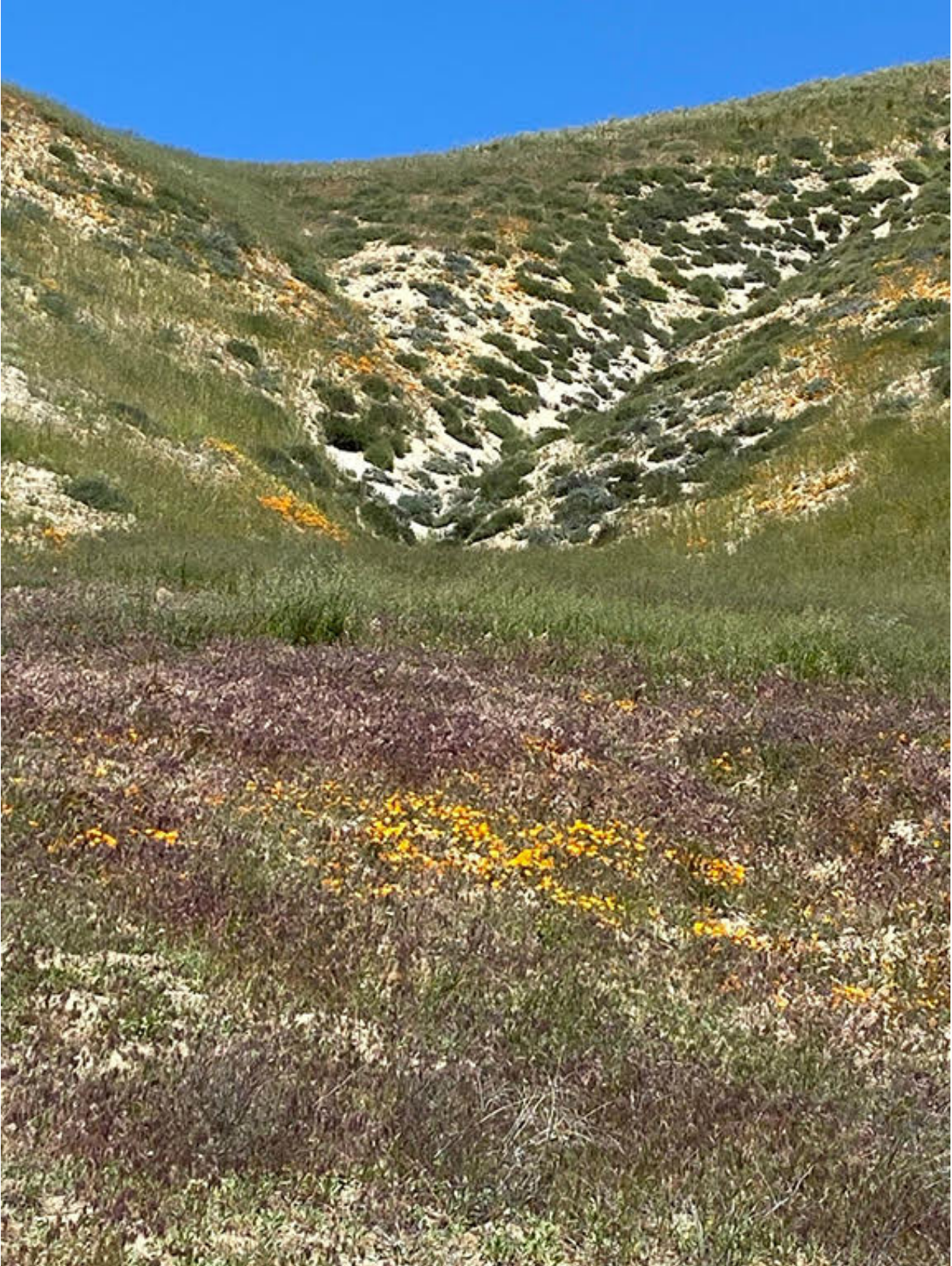
Not sure what it means, because it was in front of a horse ranch -- not a chicken farm. Considering the rain we have had this year, I was surprised at how low Bouquet Reservoir was. I took this photo where you can see the high-water mark on the dam.



This reservoir can be filled with water brought down from the north, so there must have been a decision not to fill it this year. The long route also travels around Lake Castaic. This photo from Phil shows that Castaic is much closer to full.



Castaic can also be filled with water from the north. As for the poppies, the reports a a poor flower year were apparently correct. Phil took this shot of the hills that in past years have been covered with poppies.



Obviously there are some flowers, but nothing like past years. It was a really nice

day for the ride. Took my jacket off early in the ride, but it wasn't too hot or windy. I did a little better than I did last year, and I'm hopeful that next year I will at least make it over Spunky Canyon.

**This Sunday:** This Sunday we will be riding "Turnbull Revisited" which, no surprise, travels over Turnbull Canyon. There are 4 routes, 3 of which do the canyon. The two short routes are similar but one goes over Turnbull, while the other goes around. The long and medium are the same except that the long makes a trip up Hwy 39 (San Gabriel Canyon) up to the East Fork and back down. Since I made it up Bouquet last Sunday, I should be good for Turnbull, so I plan to do the medium route, but I will probably be slow. I would love to go up Hwy 39 to see how full the reservoirs are up there, but that seems a bit much for me right now. It's May -- time to get in shape for summer -- so I hope to see a lot of you out on Sunday.

**LA Wheelmen Night at Dodger Stadium:** Something I've been thinking I would like to do is put together a group from the club to go to a Dodger game this summer. I would really like to see "Welcome LA Wheelmen" on the scoreboard at Dodger Stadium. I've talked with the group sales people at the Dodgers to get an idea of what this would entail. First, we need a minimum of 15 people to make up a group. So, I would like to gauge interest before I proceed. If you would be interested in being part of the group, let me know before next week. Right now I'm thinking it would be a weeknight game since so few of us have to get to work the next day and weeknight prices are generally cheaper. I'm thinking July or August. Apparently prices vary greatly anywhere from \$30 up to well over \$100, depending on where the tickets are, who they are playing and other factors. (Apparently they charge more on give-away nights, which makes me wonder if they know what "give-away" means.) We can settle on a price range and game date when I know we have enough interest. So e-mail me if you are interested and include how many in your party.

**Patches of the Week:** A couple of weeks ago I featured one of my Wildflower Century patches, but it is a popular ride which many of our members have ridden. **Dennis Miller** sent me this photo of his Wildflower Century collection. Fairly impressive.



**Parting Shot:** There may not have been many poppies on Sunday, but **Phil Whitworth** took this photo near his home in Manhattan Beach on his ride today. So the year is not a total bust.



BTW -- it would appear Phil is over his recent medical problems having ridden the long on Sunday and returned to his weekly Tuesday ride out to Malibu.

See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP

Attachments area

Preview YouTube video [Where Have All The Flowers Gone? \(Remastered\)](#)



