



# LOS ANGELES WHEELMEN SCHEDULE



NOVEMBER 2024

**VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.** Each week the routes offered will be available on the Web. Go to [www.LAWheelmen.org](http://www.LAWheelmen.org) and click on "Upcoming Rides." Download the routes and bring them with you to the ride.

**NOTE: Recent CDC pronouncements indicate that cycling is safe without a mask for **VACCINATED** people. Most club members have already been vaccinated. We urge all potential riders to become vaccinated before riding with us.**

## **Sunday, November 3 – 8:30 a.m. ALHAMBRA – BURBANK**

**CAPER** (Long 45 mi & 2800 ft, Medium 39 mi & 1700 ft, Short 31 mi & 1500 ft) Today, after a ride from Alhambra to Burbank, all three routes return back through Griffith Park. We don't actually have many rides which go through the park, so in honor of this relatively rare event, here is a little information about the park. I had originally thought it was named for D. W. Griffith who was largely responsible for bringing the film industry to Los Angeles, but I was wrong. It was named for Griffith J. Griffith, a successful investor who had purchased a large chunk of land in the area. In 1896 he donated about 3000 acres to the city for the park. A few years later he was convicted of shooting his wife (not fatally) and his requests to make additional improvements to the park were denied, but I guess they let the park keep his name. Additions to the park over the years have brought it up to 4310 acres making it one of the largest municipal parks in the country. The park contains many attractions including the Los Angeles Zoo, the Autry Museum, Griffith Park Observatory, the Greek Theater, Travel Town Railroad Museum, Los Angeles Live Steamers, Bronson Caves and the Griffith Park Merry-Go-Round (currently closed). It formerly also had a pony ride area and the Heritage Tree – a tree planted in memory of George Harrison which died (ironically) due to a beetle infestation. We will be passing many of these sites today. All three routes start with the trip from Alhambra to Burbank. The long and medium go further north than the short which turns back sooner. As mentioned, all three routes go through the park on the return. The short and the medium skirt the east side of the park, but still manage to pass the zoo, the Autry museum and the former pony ride site. The long takes the scenic trip up and over through the park. This is definitely a climb, but the road is closed to cars for most of it, so it's a pleasant ride. The long will pass the Live Steamers, Travel Town, the Observatory and the Greek Theater. All routes come back together after the park to have lunch and to return to the start. So why not come out today and see the sights in Griffith Park **START: ALHAMBRA PARK in ALHAMBRA.** From the San Bernardino Frwy (I-10), off & north on Fremont 2 miles, R- Alhambra Rd to 4 blocks to Park. Park on Raymond on East side.



**Regrouping in the parking lot at the Griffith Park Observatory on today's long route**

**Thursday, November 7 – 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 **Nancy Domjanovich** [nancydomx@icloud.com](mailto:nancydomx@icloud.com) for details.

**Sunday, November 10 - 7:30 a.m. BEACHES TO BREA CANYON CENTURIES** (full century 100 mi & 2900 ft, metric century 66 mi & 1300 ft) Today we ride our centuries of the month for November. **NOTE THE EARLY START.** Daylight Saving has ended and the days are getting shorter, so the earlier start on this one makes sense. We want to take advantage of all the daylight we can. Usually for our centuries this time of year I would start carrying my lights with me. I rarely needed them, but you never knew when you might have a flat or some mechanical problem that would cause you to run late. Of course I was never a super fast rider. You would have to gauge your own riding ability to decide whether it would be smart to carry lights or not. I'm just saying a little precaution never hurts. Or you can do what I will probably do this year and ride the metric. Daylight shouldn't be a problem on that route. Today's routes provide a nice mixture of terrain. Along the way we ride beaches, river trails and a canyon. You can't beat that. The century starts by heading down to Long Beach to ride the Long Beach Bike Trail and then up the Coyote Creek bike trail about 9 miles. We work our way over to Brea and ride up Brea Canyon before the downhill on Pathfinder. Then it's on to East Road and West

Road which is always fun. After lunch in Whittier, it is back along the river and a long stretch on Del Amo Blvd. There are some ups and downs (including a short but sweet climb on 190th St.) but most of the climbing is spread throughout the ride and is usually not very steep. The metric century is much the same as the full century but cuts out the center portion of that route. This cuts out the trip up Brea Canyon and the ride over East Road and West Road, but leaves you with a fairly easy route as far east as Buena Park and back. So, set your alarm a little earlier this morning and come out and join us. **START: POLLIWOG PARK in Manhattan Beach.** From San Diego Frwy off and West on Manhattan Beach Blvd (Inglewood Blvd Exit). Go 1.4 miles to park. Park on the street near the east side of the park.



View from the beaches portion of today's ride

**Thursday, November 14 – 8:30 a.m. TRIPLE DIPPER SOUTH BAY RIDE -- See November 7th for details.**

**Sunday, November 17 - 8:30 a.m. PASADENA PASSION** (Long 63 mi & 2300 ft, Medium 51 mi & 1800 ft., Short 31 mi & 1100 ft) Back when I first took over the maintenance of the club's routes, many of the route sheets didn't have mileage on them – just rights and lefts. I was determined to put mileage on all of them. This was pre-computer mapping so the only way to get distances was to measure the route segments on a paper map and use the scale to convert to miles. This was not very accurate – especially on curvy roads. A better way was to actually ride the route and note the distances of the route segments using the bike computer. I began carrying a mini-tape recorder and recording the miles at each turn plus any other information about the route I thought might be helpful. Of course I could usually only do this one route per week as we worked our way through the club schedule, so until computer mapping came into being, many of our route sheets had mileage based on the inaccurate paper map method. Why am I telling you all this? Well, today's routes were the first I ever put mileage on by actually riding the routes with my recorder. I remember it well. I went out on my own a few weeks before the routes were actually scheduled and I rode both the long and the short in one day. It was smoggy in the San Gabriel Valley that day and by the time I finished, my lungs were burning. But at least we had accurate mileage on the route sheets. Air quality is better these days and hopefully the smog won't be so bad today because today's routes spend all of their time in the San Gabriel Valley. In fact we visit a total of 17 cities on the long route. Here they are in the order we pass through them: Pasadena, Sierra Madre, Arcadia, Monrovia, Duarte, Irwindale, Azusa, Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, Pomona, Walnut, West Covina, Baldwin Park, Temple City, San Gabriel, and San Marino. That's the long route, but the medium is similar except that it doesn't go quite so far east. The two routes are together for the first 25 miles and come back together for the last 18. The short stays closer to Pasadena and simply tours some of the nearby cities. These days I use RideWithGPS to get the mileage on the route sheets and I find this to be even more accurate than early computer mapping systems. Why not come out and see how accurate the routes sheets are. If they don't agree with your bike computer, it might be the fault of your bike computer.

**START: VICTORY PARK in Pasadena.** From the Foothill Frwy (210), off & north on Sierra Madre Blvd to a left on Paloma St. one block to park. **NOTE: THIS IS A SLIGHT CHANGE FROM THE START LOCATION IN THE PAST.**



Good Turn-out for Pasadena Passion in 2022

**Thursday, November 21 – 8:30 a.m. TRIPLE DIPPER SOUTH BAY RIDE -- See November 7th for details.**

**Sunday, November 24 -- SAUGUS SPECIAL** (Long 67 mi & 4100 ft, Medium 56 mi & 4000 ft, Longer Short 39 mile & 1800 ft, Shorter Short 26 mi & 1700 ft) Not sure what is so "special" about today's routes. They ride in the Santa Clarita area, but we do have a few other rides which get out that way, so that's not so special. The long and medium travel both San Francisquito and Bouquet Canyons, but we do that on a couple of other rides too, so that's not so special. It's not even the only ride which rides UP San Francisquito and DOWN Bouquet, although the other route that does that is a century and today's routes are not nearly so long. But there is something special about getting out in those canyons on a crisp fall day, and maybe that's reason enough to call today's ride "special." Why not join us today and see. Both the long and medium ride up San Francisquito and come back down on Bouquet Canyon, but the long goes further up than the medium. The medium will only go up as far as Green Valley (the medium lunch stop) and then cut over to Bouquet on Spunky Canyon. The long will go all the way to the end and cut over to Bouquet on Lake Elizabeth

Road (riding along the San Andreas fault) with a stop in Leona Valley for lunch. San Francisquito is the site of the famous dam which failed in 1928 – that's kinda special. But you have to know where to look these days to see any of the remains of the dam. On Bouquet you will see the picturesque Bouquet reservoir. If all this sounds too tough, there are two short routes which simply ride around the Santa Clarita area without doing as much climbing. So make your plans to join us. Maybe what makes any ride special is simply riding in beautiful countryside with friends. **START: PARK & RIDE LOT on Newhall Ave near Sierra Hwy in Newhall.** From the I-5 north take the 14 Frwy east for 2 miles and exit at Newhall Ave. Park & Ride lot is at bottom of ramp to the south. Toilets available at nearby Carl's

**Thursday, November 28 -- 8:30 a.m. -- THANKSGIVING DAY RIDE** (Long 39 mi & 1100 ft, Medium 37 mi & 1000 ft, Short 27 mi & 600 ft) Thanksgiving comes late this year leaving everyone only about 4 shopping weeks until Christmas. I suppose that is good in some ways. Less time for relentless holiday commercials. Less time hearing holiday music everywhere.

But I don't imagine the retailers are happy about it and cramming all the holiday shopping into 4 weeks means the malls will be just that much more crowded. Even the on-line shopping might be more hectic. Well, all this has little effect on us. We still have our traditional Thanksgiving Day ride today which we have been doing for over 50 years. These are short and easy routes, which will work up an appetite for a nice Thanksgiving dinner later, although not long enough to burn up all the calories you will probably eat. The long and medium head to the Palisades where the view is always nice. We usually regroup there for a photo (see photo below). After the Palisades, we head down to the Marina for a break before returning to the start. (The difference between the long and medium – one uses the bike path while the other uses streets.) The short skips the Palisades, and heads directly to the Marina. The break in the Marina is nice, but you don't want to ruin your appetite for dinner later. Maybe a snack would be OK. **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.



**Fall colors in San Francisquito Canyon in 2022**



**Regrouping at the Palisades – Thanksgiving 2022**

**Thursday, November 28 – NO TRIPLE DIPPER SOUTH BAY RIDE TODAY.** Instead of riding the usual Thursday Triple Dipper ride, we would prefer that you join the Thanksgiving Day ride above. The mileage and difficulty are about the same as the usual Thursday ride and the starting time is the same.