

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - December 25, 2024

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah everyone:

I was so busy yesterday with other things that I completely forgot to send out the usual e-mail on Tuesday. But the good news is that by sending this out a day late, I can include today's holiday ride rather than waiting a week for that.

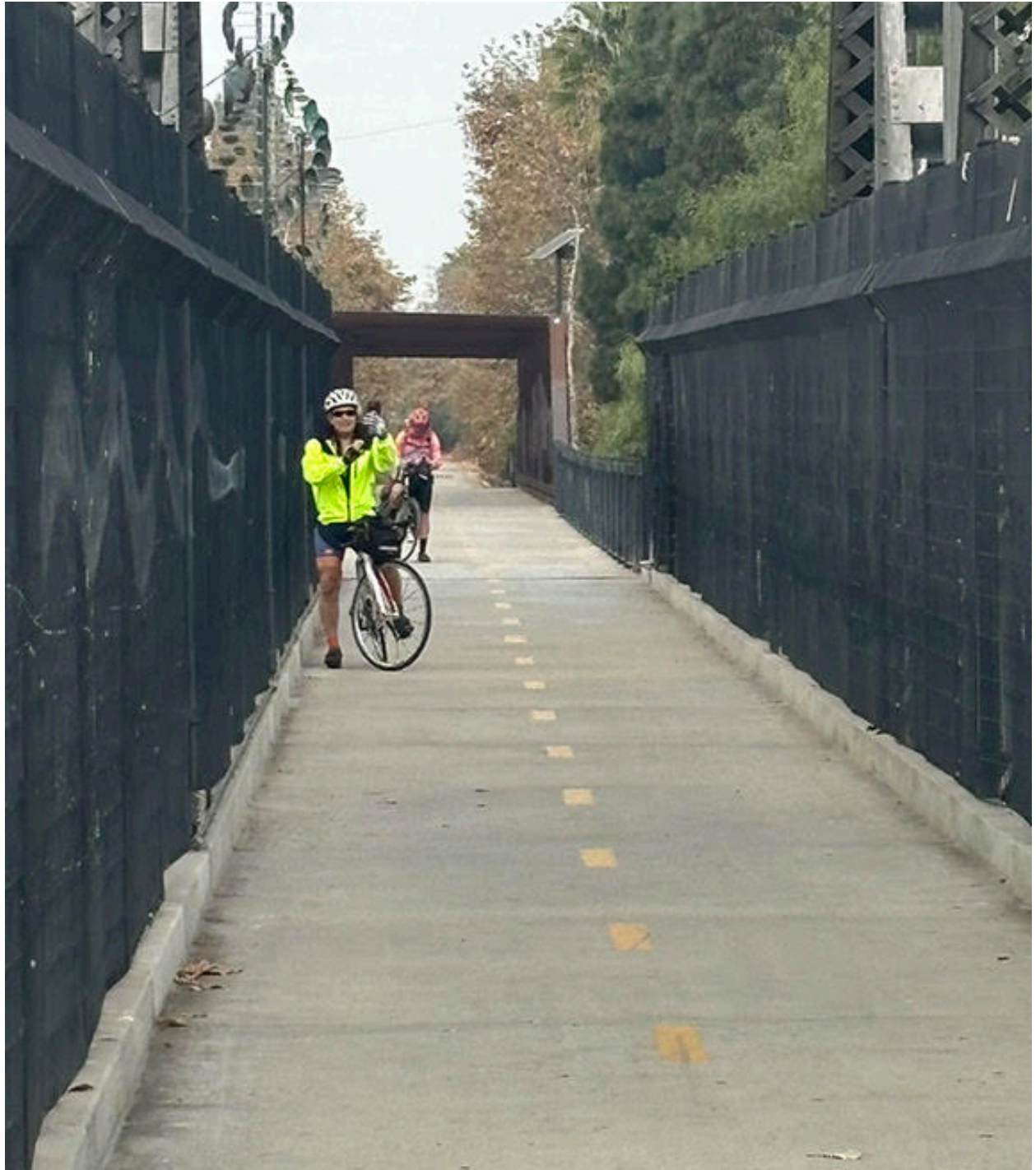
Since today is Christmas, I thought I should use a Christmas song for our theme music tonight, but I wanted something different and modern. so I searched under "Taylor Swift Christmas Songs" and came up with this. It's nice, but I had never heard it before.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ozk8xq0Lp1g>

This Week's Rides: On Sunday we were riding "Wandering Thru Whittier" which started in Alhambra. We only had 5 riders, but for a holiday week ride, maybe that's not so bad. **Phil Whitworth** took this selfie of the group



That's **Dale Aaronson**, **Mario Solano**, **me**, **Jacques Stern** and **Phil**. Jacques and I rode the medium while the others rode the long. We all rode the Whittier Greenway trail which includes a ride across an old railroad trestle. I took the first photo below looking back at Phil and the second photo is from Phil looking forward to me (in the distance).





Somewhere I recently commented that I thought the new trend in home holiday decorations was giant inflatables -- not just the usual normal sized ones. Here is an example of what I was talking about which I saw on Sunday:



All in all, a good ride but I guess I made the right choice only doing the medium because I finished a little after the long riders.

Today: Of course today was our annual holiday ride which starts from the Corner and rides downtown and back. We only had 5 riders this year. I took this shot:



That's **Tony Broughman** (visiting from Santa Barbara as he did last year), **Sandy Weiner, Ann Trank** and **Russ Brynes**. This year we offered two routes. The medium climbs up to Mulholland and takes that east to Cahuenga. The short climbs only up to Hollywood Blvd and takes that east to Cahuenga. The two routes are the same after that as they ride through Griffith Park, Elysian Park, past the restored Victorian houses on Carroll St and on to Chinatown for a break. Sandy and Ann only planned to ride up to Mulholland, but not to complete the route. They took Tony with them and I'm not sure if he completed the route or not. That left only Russ and me to do the entire route. We stopped for the usual group shot up on Carroll Street, but it was a far cry from a few years ago when we had 10 to 15 riders in the group



Our usual break location in Chinatown is back to a "B" rating, but I had a can of coke and I don't see how they can screw that up. Once I brushed off the mouse droppings, it was fine. (just kidding) Here's an interesting thing: On the ride we saw at least 6 self-driving cars. They are becoming more and more common. Russ noticed that they did not come to a complete stop at stop signs. I guess the concept of a "rolling stop" is built into their programming.

This Week: On Sunday we will be riding "Ring Around the Valley" which starts at the zoo. There are 4 routes and each makes a different sized circle around the valley ranging from 53 miles down to 19. All routes pass by the history mural in

the Tujunga Wash and all are relatively easy -- just right for a ride in the middle of the holiday period.

January 1st: Don't forget that next Wednesday on January 1st we have two rides: The Kick Off Centuries out in Malibu and the very easy Rose Parade ride starting in Alhambra.

Patches of the Week: These are a few of the Christmas Ride patches given to me by **Laverne Boethling:**









Parting Shot: As we passed Grauman's Chinese Theater on today's ride, I noticed there were a few tourists there even on Christmas and even a couple of the costume players were out. That's Spiderman and I believe Jesus (with his

back to the camera) in the lower right. I wonder what those two would have to talk about.



See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP

Attachments area

Preview YouTube video Taylor Swift - Christmas Tree Farm (Lyric Video)

