

Los Angeles Wheelmen VP Report - December 31, 2024

Happy New Year Everyone:

The appropriate music to accompany tonight's e-mail would be "Auld Lang Syne," but I think I've used that before, so here is a song with almost the same title that I have always liked:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwtkZ7oTv1o>

Last Sunday: On Sunday we were riding "Ring Around the Valley" which started from the Zoo. We only had 5 riders and I took this shot at the start:



That's **Mark Rubin**, **Phil Whitworth** (taking his own selfie of the group), **Mario Solano** and **Edwin Dair**. That's my blue car barely visible in the center and it was only about 20 feet away. Funny thing -- as I drove to the start, when I came through the tunnels on the Pasadena Frwy, I drove out of the fog and into a nice sunny day. But then by the time I got over to the Zoo, I was back in the fog and it was thicker than ever. All of us rode the long route, but the other 4 were faster than me and I was content to ride alone. The good news was that after only about 4 or 5 miles we were out of the fog and the day was very nice the rest of the way. Phil took this shot as the group stopped at the San Fernando Mission and you can see that the sun was out.



We all passed the Los Angeles History Mural where Phil took this shot of the title marker (which I don't remember ever seeing before)



When I got there I stopped to take a shot of a portion of the mural. We pass this mural every year and I wanted to take a picture of a portion I hadn't photographed before. This depiction of Thomas Edison caught my eye.



This mural is supposed to be a history of Los Angeles and I associate Edison with Menlo Park, New Jersey. The mural would almost have you believe he invented the light bulb here, but he didn't. In fact, I looked it up and Edison never even visited Los Angeles. Apparently, the reason he is on the mural is that he was sort of responsible for the creation the movie business and the movie industry was unquestionably a big part of Los Angeles history. But it seems like it would have been more appropriate to put someone like D.W. Griffith (who first started making movies in LA) on the mural, or any of the early big studio moguls Anyway, Phil was still in the parking lot when I got back, but he said Mario and Edwin had gone off to do some extra miles by riding through Griffith Park to the Observatory and back around to the Zoo. Hope they had a good ride. I was just happy to have done the long route for once.

Rides This Week: Tomorrow (Wednesday) is New Year's Day and we have our two traditional rides. First, for those who want to see the Rose Parade in person, we have a short and easy route that will get you there. From the start in

Alhambra, it's only 7 miles over to the parade route and you get to ride (well, walk really) down Orange Grove Avenue where the floats are all parked prior to the start of the parade. This is really the best way to see the parade. No traffic or parking hassles and you get a little exercise to boot.

Out in Malibu we also have our January 1st "Kick Off Centuries." These include a full century, a metric century and a half century. All routes head north up PCH and back. The full century makes a loop in Ventura before returning while the metric only goes as far as Camarillo and the half century turns around at Point Mugu. The routes are fairly easy and traffic on PCH is usually light on the holiday. The full century is scheduled to start at 7 a.m. to get you back before dark, but the metric and half century are scheduled to start at 8 so that you don't get to lunch too early. I plan to ride the metric, but I may get out to Malibu by 7 to see who is there, but I probably will wait until 8 to get started.

Sunday, we will be riding our first regularly scheduled Sunday ride of 2025 which will be "Revel the Rollies III" which starts from Old Town Irvine. The long and medium make their way over to Capistrano and on down to Dana Point for lunch. They then head north along the coast. The medium cuts inland at Laguna Canyon while the long continues further north to cut inland at Newport Coast Drive. The short simply tours the Irvine area. I hope to be there and will be riding either the long or medium.

Minutes of the Meeting: The minutes of the meeting held December 19th are attached. We actually accomplished a few things this month.

Save the Date: We will once again be having a post-holiday party for club members as we did last year. It will be on Saturday, January 25, 2025 and held in the recreation room at my condo complex (as it was last year) in Culver City. More information will be given out later, but for now, mark your calendars.

2024 Riding Totals: As I have for the last several years, I would like to publish your riding totals for the past year. Please send them in to me. I'll start them off with my own: I did not have a great year, riding only 72 days for a total of 3245 miles and a total elevation gain of 118,400 feet. That's an average of 45 miles per ride, which isn't bad, but I should have ridden many more days.

Steve Benoff: Steve Benoff has already sent me his totals. He rode 2576 miles but climbed 355,014 feet. Fewer miles than me but a lot more climbing so those were quality miles.

Patches of the Week: These are again from **Laverne Boethling** and are for New Year's Day rides. I wasn't aware that there ever was a patch for New Year's Day, but here they are:





Parting Shot: This is another license plate shot from **Phil Whitworth** taken out in Malibu



I'm guessing this is a reference to "Moon Doggie" from the Gidget movie but this is "Bu Doggy" because the owner lives in Malibu (the Bu).

I'm about ready to end the "Patch of the Week" feature, but I would like to replace it with something. I was thinking of something like "odd or interesting license plate of the week." So often as we ride around, we see unusual plates. Take a shot of them when you see them and send them to me.

See You On The Road

Rod Doty, VP