



LOS ANGELES WHEELMEN SCHEDULE



MARCH 2025

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. Each week the routes offered will be available on the Web. Go to www.LAWheelmen.org and click on "Upcoming Rides." Download the routes and bring them with you to the ride.

Sunday, March 2 – 8:30 a.m. SOUTH BAY SURPRISE (Long 68 mi & 1200 ft, Medium 41 mi & 1000 ft, Short 27 mi & 900 ft)

Once again I am postponing the ride I had originally scheduled for today because it travels close to the Eaton Fire area and I'm concerned the ongoing clean up in the area may impact the streets we would be riding. So, instead I have scheduled this ride which was scheduled back in January but was rained out that day. It will give us a second chance to stop at Knott's for their famous chicken (see photo). Only the long route goes there and these days, we usually do not stop for chicken, but it is still an option. You might ask which came first – the chicken or the amusement park? The answer is the chicken. First there was the berry farm and a stand where the Knotts sold berry products. Then in 1934, to generate a little extra income, Mrs. Knott began to offer chicken dinners to patrons of the berry stand. The chicken became so popular that often people would stand in line for hours waiting to be seated. In order to give the people something to do while they waited, Knott began to construct little historical displays. One of these grew into a replica ghost town which I believe is still part of the park. Soon they were offering diversions such as pony rides for the kids and this grew into the amusement park we know today. As for today's routes, they all head east from the start in Torrance and then cut south to circle back to the start through Long Beach. While the long makes it all the way to Knott's, the medium and short each cut off a little earlier, rejoining the long route along the way. All of these routes are fairly flat. That is actually the "surprise" of the title since these routes were created by **Ralph Boethling** who was known for creating hilly routes. As mentioned, the long passes Knott's and offers an option lunch stop there. However, over the years a few of us have come to believe that, famous or not, the chicken just isn't that good for the price they charge. So we have added an alternative lunch on the long besides Knott's. But some still like the stop at Knott's so you can take your pick. **START: Paradise Park** in Torrance. From San Diego Frwy (405), off & South on Hawthorne 3.5 miles. R - Torrance Blvd 0.5 mile, L - Anza one block, R - Lee to Park. We usually park on the West side of the park by the school.

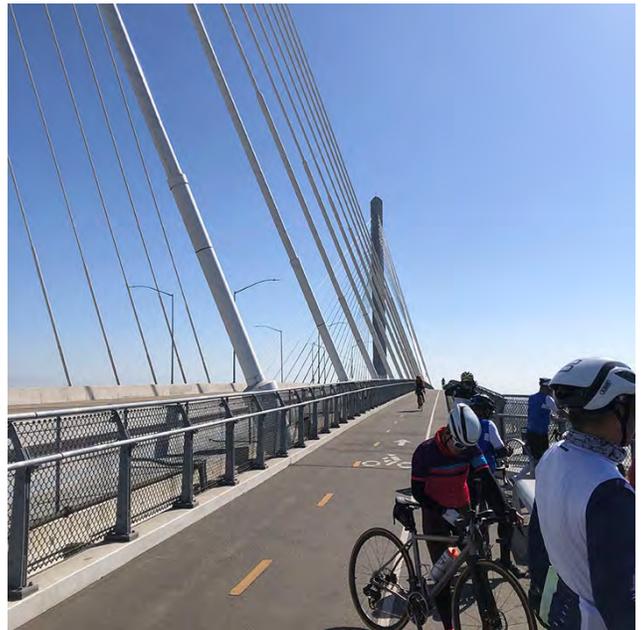


Optional Chicken lunch stop at knotts on today's long route

Thursday, March 6 – 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 **Lewis Singer** lewissinger@gmail.com for details.

Sunday, March 9 – 8:30 a.m. GATEWAY BRIDGE & QUEEN MARY (Long 71 mi & 1300 ft, Medium 59 mi & 1000 ft, Short 27 mi & 800 ft) This is a brand new ride which takes in two locations which no other ride in our library visits: The new International Gateway Bridge in Long Beach and the Queen Mary. All three routes will visit these two places today. The ride starts with a ride over to the bridge. The Gateway Bridge, which opened a few years ago, has a separate bike path alongside the road, so you won't be battling traffic (see photo below). Unfortunately, currently bikes can only go halfway across the bridge and then must turn around and return. There are some benches to rest on and regroup at the top. Even if the path went all the way across, it would only put you on Terminal Island and there is no way off the island for bicycles except to come back across the Gateway Bridge. The view from the top is spectacular. After the bridge, we will ride over to where the Queen Mary has been docked for decades now. You will get to see the

ship up close. There is also a former Russian submarine tied up next to the Queen Mary. All routes then return to downtown Long Beach and ride the Long Beach Bike Path south. The short route stops here for lunch and then simply returns up the San Gabriel River back to the start. The long and medium routes are provided mostly for those who want more miles on the day, but mostly travel familiar areas which other routes in our library visit. Both the long and medium continue south on PCH. The medium goes as far south as the Santa Ana River which it takes north to Garden Grove where it stops for lunch. The long goes all the way to Newport Beach and makes a complete circle of the Back Bay before returning west to the Santa Ana River where it rejoins the medium route. Although the long has an early lunch option, it can also wait and stop at the lunch location on the medium route. After lunch the two routes continue west together, mostly on Lampson, back to the start. It's always fun to explore someplace new, so I hope a lot of riders will come out for this one. The routes are fairly flat and easy, although the climb up the bridge is a little more strenuous than you might think. **NOTE: Daylight Saving started last night.** Reset your clocks or you will arrive at the start an hour late. **START: EL DORADO PARK in Long Beach.** From San Diego Frwy (405), off & North/East on Studebaker 1 mi. to Park. Park in Library lot on right just before Spring St.



Top of the Gateway Bridge

Thursday, March 13 – 8:30 a.m. TRIPLE DIPPER SOUTH BAY RIDE -- See March 6th for details.

Sunday, March 16 - 8:00 a.m. OAK RIDGE

RIDES (full century 102 mi & 4200 ft, metric century 67 mi & 3200 ft, half century 49 mi & 2600 ft, quarter century 26 mi & 1500 ft) Between the fires and the continued closure of the landslide area in Palos Verdes, I'm having trouble scheduling our centuries of the month. We rode this one only a year ago, but my records show only two riders showed up that day because of a threat of rain. In any case, this is our century and metric century of the month for March. But it's more than that. A lot of you will say, "Well, I can't ride a century or a metric century." But today we offer two additional shorter routes – a half century and a quarter century. So there is no reason to stay away. This is a ride for all levels. All routes head west from the West Valley and return. It's just a question of how far west you go before turning around. The quarter century turns back in Simi Valley. The half century makes it to Moorpark before turning back and the metric makes it to Camarillo. The full century goes all the way to Oxnard. All routes do Santa Susana pass in both directions, which might be more climbing than usual for the short route, but it's never too steep and if you are only doing the short route, you can take your time and ride easy. Besides Santa Susana, the long adds some climbing along the Oak Ridge west of Moorpark, but this is no more difficult than Santa Susana and you do get to see the alpacas (see photo). We moved the start location of these routes to the Winnetka Recreation Center a few years ago and that has worked out well. **NOTE THE EARLY START TIME:** I have moved the start time to 8:00 because it is March and the days are still somewhat short, but actually it's almost the equinox so there should be about 12 hours of daylight and we did start daylight saving last week. There should be no problem getting these routes in before dark. **START: WINNETKA RECREATION CENTER (on Winnetka Ave just north of Roscoe).** From Ventura Frwy (101), off and north on Winnetka Ave 3.5 miles to park on left.



Alpacas on the long route last year

Thursday, March 20 – 8:30 a.m. TRIPLE DIPPER SOUTH BAY RIDE -- See March 6th for details.

Sunday, March, 23 – 8:30 a.m. AWARDS LUNCH PRE-RIDE.

(31 mi & 1200 ft) Today is our annual Awards Lunch (formerly our Installation Lunch, but since the officers haven't changed, we will dispense with their installation and just focus on awards). As usual, we will have a short ride prior to the lunch. The awards lunch will be held at the same location as last year, and this is the same route we rode as our pre-ride for last year's Awards Lunch. There are several highlights on the route. It gives you the option of climbing to the Baldwin Hills Overlook for the view. It rides through the USC campus and downtown past the Crypto.com Arena, Grand Park and the Disney Concert Hall. You also get a close-up look at those half-completed skyscrapers covered in graffiti which were in the news last year and I don't think they have figured out what to do with them yet. The route starts and ends at our lunch

location and is a relatively simple loop taking us downtown and back. We start by riding down to Ballona Creek and take that east a few miles. We get off to do the climb up to the Baldwin Hills Overlook. This is the only significant climb of the day and it's optional (the 1200 feet of elevation gain for this route includes this climb). We then continue east to the USC campus and on to the downtown area. Sunday is the best time to ride downtown since traffic is minimal. After a brief tour of downtown, we head back west mostly on Beverly Blvd, 4th St. and Venice Blvd. A short jog over to Washington Blvd and we are back at the park and ready for lunch. Even if you do not ride, we hope you will come to the lunch. It will start at noon with awards being given out after lunch but before we cut the cake. **RIDE START & LUNCH LOCATION: CULVER WEST ALEXANDER PARK in Culver City** (4162 Wade Ave., Culver City, 90066). The park is at the end of Wade Ave. which is a dead end street which can only be accessed from Washington Blvd. Take Washington Blvd west from the 405 to a few blocks past Centinela Ave. Turn left on Wade Ave to end. **NOTE:** there is very limited parking at the park and on Wade Ave. You can also park on Moore St on the west side of the park or on McConnell Blvd on the east side of the park (and access the park through a walkway. **We recommend parking on Moore St.**



Phil Whitworth receiving the Jack Flynn Award last year

Thursday, March 27 – 8:30 a.m. TRIPLE DIPPER SOUTH BAY RIDE -- See March 6th for details.

Sunday, March 30 - WESTLAKE-POTRERO (Long 76 mi & 2800 ft, Medium 45 mi & 2300 ft, Short 30 mi & 1400 ft) Potrero Canyon has always been special to me. It's one of the most difficult climbs I know and there was a time when I liked to ride it at least once each year, just to prove to myself that I still could do it. Those days are gone. I haven't ridden up Potrero in years now and I seriously doubt I ever will again. But that is UP Potrero. I can still go DOWN Potrero with the best of them, and that's what today's routes do. Not that going down is so easy and doesn't require skill. It's such a steep downhill that you have got to be careful negotiating all the turns as you go down. Just make sure you have good brakes and don't let your speed get too high. Now that I have probably scared half of you away, I would like to say that these routes are otherwise pleasant and travel areas we don't ride very often. After all, the Potrero downhill is only one mile out of the entire ride. The long and medium routes start with the fast descent of Potrero and on to the Camarillo area. The two routes split here with the long continuing to the coast and then north to Ventura before turning east and heading back to Camarillo. Here it rejoins the medium route and they both have lunch in Camarillo. Together they continue east to the Moorpark area and over the ridge back to the start. The Short skips all that and tours the Westlake area with a trip up to the top of Moorpark ridge. We don't ride out in this area very often so you should make the effort to join us. Westlake isn't such a long drive – I usually get there in less than 40 minutes. So join us for this unique set of rides. **START: WESTLAKE PLAZA** in Westlake Village. Go North on Ventura Frwy (101) to Westlake, off and L on Westlake Blvd., L on Agoura Rd. and L into shopping center lot. Park near Southwest corner of the parking lot (near intersection of Westlake Blvd and Agoura Rd)



Beautiful Lake Sherwood which the long and medium routes pass today