



CHAIN REACTION

NOVEMBER 2014

ORANGE COUNTY WHEELMEN MONTHLY NEWS



From the Desk of the Prez.....

Paul D'Aquanni
OCW President

Orange County Wheelmen membership has grown substantially in the last 4-5 years. This has happened by a great team effort by the membership. Some things we have done to boost membership have really stuck. They have become part of the norm and are fast being woven into the culture of OCW. For you new members here are some of the things we have done. For you veterans here is a reminder of what seems to be working.

In 2010, we tried to boost membership by offering the Spring and Fall Metric as a "members only ride". Thought was, keep it simple, offer great service to the riders, have a good route, and give it to the members for free. Sort of a celebration ride!

That same year we started offering TS101 to the membership for free. We recognized that being safe and confident riding on the road might help get new folks to take up this wonderful sport that we all love. As a follow-up to TS101, Ride Like a Pro is a great way for new graduates to continue their learning of road skills with a personalized OCW League Certi-

fied Instructor.

We looked at our 2 signature rides, Amtrak & Ride Around the Bear and opportunities to improve them. We brought in 2 very prominent food suppliers to lend their name and product to these rides. Amtrak now has a much more festive environment at the finish, a DJ, more varied food offerings and riders can now board the train in precisely the car that they to wish to sit in. Ride Around the Bear, logically, has always been a challenge. Our relationship with Emergency Communication Services (ECS) has greatly helped. Befriending Big Bear Cycling has given us more insight to the mountain communities and closer ties with Caltrans. Not to mention, an OCW officer moving to the Arrow Bear community contributed as well.

Our PR efforts are focused on getting the OCW name attached to issues that help the entire cycling community. This comes back to OCW, with more people wanting to be part of this new OCW culture. A club that is a safe cycling club and likes to have fun.

We offer rides every day of the week in long daylight months of the year and 5 days a week year long. Our rides are friendly to the riders more then ever. We now recognize that all riders do not ride

at 20 MPH, so we will do more regrouping.

Our Folding Parties, as we search for a new name, are more popular then ever. Finding a host is no longer a problem. We are not fixed to a certain day of the week, so new faces will stepup and host them, and new faces will attend.

How about our new web site, which gives more opportunity for participation of the membership to constantly keep the information current real-time.

Chain Reaction has moved into the 21st Century, as it is now totally electronic. We have extended articles quarterly, with more brief information coming to you monthly, all with direct links to the website.

Voting annually is now being done electronically, very simple and efficient, not a big project!

We have embraced and supported what I like to call grass-root efforts from the membership with improved ideas to communicate with Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. These have helped get non scheduled rides a big boost in attendance. Some examples are RAB and Amtrak century training, metric training, GMR and Solana Beach, all of which proved to be very popular!

I expect that as the membership increases, the opportunity for continued improvement will be parabolic. So that being said, the future of OCW looks exciting as new ideas continue to flow.

Ride safe and have fun, Paul

OCW's Public Relations Update

Stacy Kline
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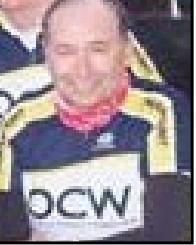
Bad Driving Behavior A Motorists Choice It's Time to Stop Condoning Bad Driving Behavior

As I write this monthly news blast, it is with great sadness after reading this morning about three 13-year-old girls who were killed by a hit-and-run driver allegedly driving twice the posted speed limit in [Santa Ana](#) while the girls were out trick-or-treating. The horrific details of this incident are difficult for me to wrap my mind around, especially as a teacher of middle school children in the Santa Ana Unified School District. In Cupertino, a 15-year-old boy was killed while riding to school in the bike lane by a tractor trailer who didn't even know he struck the teenager. In [New York](#), an 8-year-old girl was killed on the sidewalk just as she arrived at school. These events exemplify one of the real dangers we are faced with as a society. No boogeyman, no abstract threat, just the acceptance of bad driving behavior.

Bad driving behavior is a choice that motorists choose to make when they get behind the wheel. Impatience, anger, speed, fatigue, intoxication, whatever the reason, bad driving behavior is a choice. Drivers need to be held accountable for their actions with real-world penalties. Unfortunately, Governor Brown recently vetoed a law raising the penalty on hit-and-run offenses. Freeway-style infrastructure in cities continues to be a problem in California, supporting and encouraging aggressive driving, while other cities worldwide such as [New York](#), [Paris](#) and [London](#), are lowering their city speed limits to save lives.

Vulnerable-user protection laws, loss of a driver's license, strict liability, and a cultural change that dangerous driving will no longer be condoned are real solutions for a real-world problem.

OCW is Leading the Way in Safe and Legal Cycling!



News Items Worth Reading

Miguel Perea
OCW Vice President

Special Thanks to Lee and Cathy Painter for holding the October Folding (Brain Storming) Party!

Check the website for the next folding party!

The OCW General Meeting will be held on November 6, 2014, in the Community Room at the Irvine Ranch Water District. The featured speakers will be Greg and Stacy Kline, who will discuss introduction to Randonneuring. More information available at: <http://www.ocwheelmen.org/event/show/99371070>



OCW CLUB LINKS

HOME PAGE: www.ocwheelmen.org

CALENDAR: www.ocwheelmen.org/page/show/418357-calendar

OFFICERS: www.ocwheelmen.org/page/show/419328-officers

DIRECTORS: www.ocwheelmen.org/page/show/419332-directors

SUPPORTING MEMBERS: www.ocwheelmen.org/page/show/424483-supporting-memberships



Orange County Wheelmen's Holiday Party Sunday, December 14th, 2014

Come and join the fun on Sunday night, December 14, 2013 from 5:00 pm to 11:00 pm at the Huntington Harbor Yacht Club. Dinner will be served at 7:00 pm.

The yacht club is on the water (imagine that) and there should be lots of decorated boats passing by for our entertainment. The boat parade starts around 5:15 pm.

There will be a \$10.00 per person fee that will include a catered dinner with vegetarian dishes and lots of desserts. There will be a no-host bar available.

Please log onto www.ocwheelmen.org to make your reservations.

The club is located at 3821 Warner Ave., Huntington Beach. Phone 562-592-2186.

The club is next to the Fire Station, just east of PCH.

Please bring an unwrapped toy for a foster child. The toys will be taken to Hannah's House in Orange.

If you have any questions please call Irene Walker 562-943-9403.

Hope everyone had a wonderful time on our annual Fall Metric Century to Oak Glen. We had a great turnout, with great weather, great friends, great food, and, of course, great apple pie and cobbler! Greg and I were on a rando ride, again, or we would've been there because we wouldn't miss this ride for the world! **Please, please, please** share your photos and stories on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter!

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or @ocwheelmen
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