

March 24, 2020

## **Dear Western Wheeler,**

The Western Wheelers Board of Directors is continually monitoring the situation with the coronavirus and what it means for our club activities. This is an update to my earlier message sent March 16, 2020.

### **The Sequoia**

The earlier message mentioned the board was delaying a decision on this year's Sequoia, hoping for some improvement in the situation. Since then, the news about the coronavirus has grown increasingly dire and the restrictions on the public more strict. Sequoia Chair Randall Braun and the board now believe there is little chance of sufficient access to all the necessary permissions and resources needed to provide our event. Key Sequoia locations such as Foothill College are cancelling all events through May, a trend that will assuredly continue longer. With great sadness, **we decided to cancel The Sequoia for 2020**. The Sequoia will be back in 2021, better than ever!

Making this decision now gives our many volunteers, captains, and registered participants as much notice as possible. We are offering registered participants three options for their paid registration:

1. **Defer Registration** to the 2021 event, scheduled for Sunday June 6, 2021. (This is the default if we don't hear back.)
2. A **Full Refund** of their registration fee
3. Allow us to **donate their registration fee** to the Coastside Charities we've been supporting: [Puente.org](https://www.puente.org/) and the [La Honda Vol. Fire Brigade](https://www.lahonda.org/).

An email is being sent to the Sequoia registrants with the cancellation info and a link to a page where they can select an option.

### **Regular Club Rides**

My earlier message indicated we were suspending club rides through to April 7, 2020. **We anticipate an extension of our current suspension of group rides to correspond with state and county directives**. Information on regularly scheduled group rides will be coming out periodically via email and posted on the ride calendar. Expect another email on this in the next 10 days.

Because of the additional planning and preparation needed for LDT weekend events, we are going a step further for those. In addition to the previously cancelled LDT-Pacific

Grove weekend (March 27-29), **we are now cancelling the LDT-Paso Robles weekend (April 17-19), and the LDT Cazadero weekend (May 1-3).**

### **Club Events and Classes**

My earlier message mentioned we were cancelling club events, including movie nights and yoga classes through April 10<sup>th</sup>. We also postponed the April 4<sup>th</sup> bike skills 101 class to a date to be determined. **We are sad to announce that we are also cancelling the Spring Picnic originally planned for April 26.** This is another event that needs significant advance planning and preparation and it doesn't make sense to go forward with that work.

Once the restrictions on public gatherings due to the coronavirus are lifted, we can plan a new event to celebrate our bike club and reconnect with our club friends.

Note at this time, **we have not cancelled the May 15 movie night. Nor have we cancelled the bike skills classes planned for May 3.** Those activities are still in plan. We will continue to evaluate the situation and decide about those activities at a later time.

We are sad to have to take these actions, but are acting to protect the health of our members and to cooperate with directives for protecting public safety. I hope all our club members stay well and safe. We look forward to getting back to normality and going out to ride with our club friends.

David Schorow  
President  
Western Wheelers Bicycle Club

March 16, 2020

**Dear Western Wheeler,**

The Western Wheelers Board of Directors has extensively researched and discussed the effect of COVID 19 on our club events and whether they should continue as planned. The board takes our responsibility to protect public health and the health of our members seriously, especially in light of the older demographic makeup of our membership.

Recently, both San Mateo and Santa Clara counties established restriction on public gatherings. These restrictions were dramatically increased with orders issued on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> 2020 establishing a shelter-in-place directive for San Mateo County, Santa Clara County and four other Bay Area counties. These orders disallow any gatherings outside a household and even any activities outside of one's home that are not essential.

**At this time, we are suspending our club rides, including the LDT rides, through April 7<sup>th</sup> 2020, at which point we will review updated guidance and determine how to move forward.**

In addition, all indoor club events including movie night and yoga have been cancelled through April 10<sup>th</sup>. We are also postponing the April 4<sup>th</sup> bike skills 101 class. We will announce a new date once scheduled.

The Sequoia Century is still 3 months away. The board has made no decision on canceling the Sequoia as of now. The board has decided that in the event of cancellation due to COVID 19 all registration fees paid will be fully refundable to registrants. We have begun efforts to lock down improved health/food serving procedures for the event. We will look more closely at the possibility of cancellation as the date approaches.

The club will reexamine our policies on a regular basis and follow closely local and national developments as necessary. If you have any comments or questions on our policies please contact me directly at [president@westernwheelers.org](mailto:president@westernwheelers.org).

David Schorow  
President  
Western Wheelers Bicycle Club

References:

[San Mateo County press release](#) and [county health officer's legal order](#).  
<https://www.bicycling.com/news/a31469228/cycling-during-coronavirus/>  
<https://www.usacycling.org/article/usa-cycling-statement-on-covid-19>