

**Cactus Flower Ride**  
**Sunday, March 11 – 10:00 am**

We've got a new ride on the circuit this year hosted by Ronnie Bryant & Nanette Lindsay. This ride covers territory from I-35W to Denton to Justin. That may sound like a long way, but there are three routes to choose from ranging from 27 to 50+ miles to satisfy your distance preference.

We'll start at 10:00 am at the Cactus Flower Restaurant at I-35W and Westport, near Alliance Airport. The restaurant is on the northwest side of the intersection. If you are a breakfast eater, Ronnie says the restaurant serves a good, home-cooked style breakfast. (Sounds like the voice of experience.)

When asked to describe the ride, Ronnie says, "There are some hills and some flats." For more information (if you think you can get it), call Ronnie or Nanette at 817-267-3485 or you can always call Ride Coordinators, Roane & Juanita Logan at 972-620-1882.

**Congratulations!**



**Mr & Mrs John & Sandy Henbest**  
**February 17, 2001**

## **New Member Ride** **Sunday, March 25 – 12:00 noon**

The 2001 New Member Ride is scheduled for 12:00 noon on Sunday, March 25. We discussed changing the location this year, but settled once again on staying at our familiar location – White Rock Lake. Joe & Mary Messina are again hosting this important annual ride.

This is a ride to greet our new members and everyone should plan to attend. ALL members are encouraged to come on out and welcome the newcomers. You older (we mean long-term) members should each call a team you haven't seen in a while and remind them to come. Don't accept excuses! The route around the lake is about 10 miles with pretty scenery. You can go around as many times as you like. You could probably even exaggerate how many times you went around and no one would know the difference!

We'll ride first, and then dine on hot dogs, or something similar in the cook-out food group. We will meet at the Big Thicket Building on the east side of the lake. RSVP via email to Mary at [marymessina@carrollco.com](mailto:marymessina@carrollco.com) or call Joe or Mary at 972-238-8334 so they know how much food to buy. Plan to join us for a nice ride, good company, and of course, food. We'll see you there!

## **DATES Membership Renewal for 2001**

Have you renewed your DATES membership for 2001 yet? If not, this will be your **LAST** issue of DATES-LINE.

Can't remember if you've renewed or not? Check the mailing label on this issue. "2001" printed on the label indicates that DATES membership records as of February 25, 2001 (following the Annual Meeting) show you as renewed for 2001.

If not, send your **signed** renewal form along with your check for \$18 payable to DOUBLE DATES to membership coordinators:

Franklin & Tricia Kemp  
3004 Pataula Lane  
Plano, TX 75074-8765

## **DATES Business Meeting & Social** **Sunday, April 1 – 5:30 pm**

Join us for the first Business Meeting & Social of the 2001 cycling season at 5:30 pm Sunday evening, April 1 at the newly remodeled home of John McManus & Brenda Cole. John & Brenda will provide the main course of lasagna. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to round out the menu. RSVP via email [john\\_j\\_mcmanus@flashcom.net](mailto:john_j_mcmanus@flashcom.net) or call them at 214-321-6085 to let them know what you plan to bring.

John & Brenda live at 922 Easton Place, Dallas, TX 75218. Directions from North and East of White Rock Lake: Heading east on LBJ (I635), exit at Church Street / Plano Road which brings you to a stop sign on Church. Turn left and go a short block to a signal light. Turn right (South) on Plano Road. Go through two red lights (Kingsley and Northwest Highway). Note that Plano Road changes name to Lake Highlands when you cross Northwest Highway. At the third (next) stoplight (Easton Road) turn left. Go up the hill (1/2 mile) and turn right on Easton Place. Stay to the right of the island on Easton Place. 922 is the second house on the left.

For directions from other places, consult Mapsco or call John or Brenda. Come and get involved in your club. We need everyone's participation!

**Think Spring  
Think Easter  
Think Texas Hill Country!**

Although not officially a DATES event, many of our members join hundreds of other cyclists every year for the Texas bike clubs Hill Country weekend. This will be the 28<sup>th</sup> year for the Hill Country event and many of us already have B&B or Motel Reservations made. Camping is also available. Although the ride headquarters is in Kerrville, most DATES members ride out of Fredricksburg.

The big attractions are spring weather, an excuse to ride in Texas' most unique cycling area and wild flowers, primarily blue bonnets.

Registration material for the event should be in area bike stores by the time you're reading this article. To find out where the DATES members will be riding contact either Herb Bloomer (972-492-2727) or John McManus (214-321-6085).

**Grapevine Ride  
Sunday, April 8 – 8:00 am**

Tom & Diane Glenz are hosting a ride from Dove Elementary School in Grapevine on Sunday April 8. We'll have bagels, donuts and juice at 8:00 am and start riding at 8:30. The route will take us through Grapevine, South Lake, West Lake, Roanoke and Keller, all on back roads. The speed limit is 30 mph on 95% of the route. Never over 45 mph. We will bike for the first 30 miles on winding roads and hills. Then we will stop at the Marriott in Solano for a "buffet brunch." After brunch, we will ride an additional 8 miles back to Dove Elementary School.

**STOKER**

Weatherford court house – Mansion on the hill – Horses – Brazos River – Wild Flowers – Lipan – Three Mile Hill – Country Roads – Tolar & Pie – Emus – Road Commissioner's Hill – Nuclear Plant – Fording the Creek - Paluxy River Valley – Fording the River – Dinosaurs – Glen Rose – Champagne, Poetry & Proposals

**APPRECIATION**

May 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Weatherford to Glen Rose and return, about 60 miles each way. SAG van. No ride fee. Limit 20 teams. Captains RSVP to Tom Shaddox, 972-517-4534 or [ljshaddo@gte.net](mailto:ljshaddo@gte.net) for sign up and a list of places you can stay in Glen Rose. If you have replied and haven't heard back from me, call or email again. Thanks!

**~2001~**

**Recruit a New Team in 2001**

Several meetings back, it was suggested that we publish the New Member Application so when a team bought a fancy new bike and sold their old, used tandem, they could give the application to the buyer team and encourage them to join us. So here it is. It is also available on our website [www.doubledates.com](http://www.doubledates.com) and at Plano Cycling & Fitness and Richardson Bike Mart.

Even if you're not lucky enough to get a new bike this year, why not make it an objective to recruit a new team. When you're out riding and you see a tandem team you don't know, go introduce yourselves and strike up a conversation. You obviously already have a lot in common. Tell them about DATES and the fun we have. And encourage them to join us. Invite them to a ride and/or meeting to get to know us and suggest they check out our website [www.doubledates.com](http://www.doubledates.com) for information about the club, details about upcoming events and a membership application.

## Southwest Tandem Rally 2001

Spring and Southwest Tandem Rally are both "right around the corner". Don't forget SWTR dates, April 20-22, 2001. If you haven't already done so, send in that registration form (available at [www.swtrally.com](http://www.swtrally.com) or SASE to: Team Watson, HC 70, Box 116, Ardmore, OK 73401) and make your lodging reservations. Lake Murray Lodge (1-800-257-0322) rooms are full, but they still have plenty of cabins near the lodge that sleep 4 to 12 and range in price accordingly. Be sure to mention SW Tandem Rally or Group #8000 when making reservations. If you are planning to camp, there are hundreds of beautiful, full service sites on the lake and many close to the lodge. No reservation needed. For additional lodging - there are floating villas on the lake that sleep 8-12, B&B's and motels within 10 miles. Email ([cw7540@aol.com](mailto:cw7540@aol.com)) or call the Watson's (580-223-8180) if you would like a map of campgrounds/lake area or other lodging contact information.

If you attended SWTR V in 1995, you already know what a great riding place you will find at Lake Murray and South Central Oklahoma. If not, we encourage you to come experience the low traffic paved roads, rolling hills, lakes, trees, wildflowers and historical buildings.

Friday afternoon, April 20th, is registration, settling in and the Ice Cream/Cookie Ride of 26 miles. Followed that evening by socializing with old and new friends and a casual dinner cookout on the lodge patio. Saturday will start with a full breakfast buffet, a variety of distances/routes to Southwest Historical Museum for lunch and touring the museum (optional), return to the lodge via any route choice from 10 to 50 miles and get ready to take part in the SWTR traditional Bike Games.

The Saturday night buffet promises to fill your big biker appetites. Our Mystery Entertainer is a professional billed as "Amazing, Hilarious & Unbelievable"! Sunday we part company after another full breakfast buffet and a variety of rides to please any ability or timetable. The scenic 25 mile loop around the lake is recommended. Lake Murray also offers wooded off road trails that range from beginner to technical - so bring those mountain bikes if you want to extend your experience.

## Tandem Shorts – Take I

**The Venables Return:** Rumor has it that Jeff & Lindy Venable, former active DATES members (DATESLINE editors and significant contributors as ride leaders, organizers and prolific article writers) are returning to the Metroplex. We look forward to riding with them again as well as experiencing Jeff's zany humor.

## Southwest Tandem Rally 2001 Post Tour

Immediately following the Southwest Tandem Rally 2001, the Teams Watson and Cole-McManus will lead a seven-day "Post Rally Tour" in the Ouachita Mountains of Oklahoma and Arkansas. "Ouachita" is derived from an Indian tribal name. The tour starts at the Beavers Bend State Park's Lakeview Lodge, 175 miles East of the tandem rally site.

On day three, we'll have the opportunity to climb one or two mountains, Winding Stair and Rich Mountain, on the Talimena Scenic Byway. Spanning the highest mountain range between the Appalachians and the Rockies, the 54-mile Talimena Scenic Byway opens a showcase of natural beauty. One breathtaking panorama follows another as this national forest scenic byway winds along the crests of forested mountains between Mena, AR, and Talihina, OK. We'll spend the night in Queen Wilhelmina Lodge, high above the clouds, on the steep and winding highway 88.

Day five of the tour is a rest day at Mountain Harbor resort on Lake Ouachita. Nestled in the hills of the Ouachita National Forest, where no homes are allowed, Lake Ouachita has over 1000 miles of shoreline and over 200 islands where you can find your own private beach. One area of the lake features one of the largest crystal veins in the world. This lake is a scuba diver's haven with crystal clear water featuring rare jellyfish (non-stinging) and sponges found in very few of the cleanest freshwater lakes, not to mention world class striped bass abound here as do most types of freshwater fish.

A similar tour last year attracted 18 couples from across the US and Canada. This year, we are restricted to 12 teams on a first come, first serve basis. Several slots remain, so if you're interested contact John McManus or Brenda Cole immediately at 214-321-6085.

### **WebMaster Changing of the Guard Thanks Team Parker – Welcome Team Vinson**

Thanks to our long time WebMaster, Mike Parker, for maintaining our website all these years, getting our very own "doubledates.com" address and helping us to keep up with technology. We appreciate all your efforts!

And Welcome to our new WebMasters, Kevin & Linda Vinson. They have already taken over responsibility for updating the website and are getting to know it.

They welcome your input. If you have:

- Updates to any of the information that appears on any of the regular pages;
- Photos you would like to share on the Club Photos page;
- Suggestions for improvements or changes;

Or any other thoughts about our website you care to pass along, let them know.

Send your comments, suggestions, electronic photo files, etc. to Kevin at [kvinson@novell.com](mailto:kvinson@novell.com)

Or mail photos (with a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want them back) to:

Kevin Vinson  
7013 Fox Drive  
The Colony, TX 75056

### **Tandem Shorts – Take II**

Hints from Colleen: Tired of forcing those slippery too-big or too-small ice cubes into a 2-inch camelbak opening? Zuna Sports has developed the "Bikelce" Tray which facilitates what I call "tubular ice". One tray makes four 11-inch or eight 5-1/2 inch ice cylinders that slide easily into camelbaks and bike bottles. A luxury item, for sure, but spoil yourself or give it as a gift to the cyclist who has everything. Available at Plano Cycling & Fitness and Richardson Bike Mart for about \$13.00. Don't forget to get 10% off by asking for your DATES discount! By the way, read the "Helpful Hints" that accompanies the tray—you'll be glad you did. My own hint: don't fill the tray too full, because it's harder to remove the swollen ice. You'll get the hang of it.

## **2001 - A STOKER ODYSSEY**

### **by Captain Hunt**

Captains! *Get ready, and make reservations!*  
Just 20 will ride and express appreciations  
The ride has been scheduled for May 5 & 6  
We ride to Glen Rose which is out in the sticks

The town is quite small and even romantic  
It's great to ride there where life is less frantic  
With days growing longer, the flowers will bloom,  
but wait much longer, and you won't get a room

So, get on the phone and book a room fast  
Then call Tom and tell him you have started at last  
To get yourself ready to show her you care  
and give her your thanks for rides foul and fair.

Though this year Tom Shaddox has changed the ride's name  
I think that I know the rules are the same  
Each Captain will stand up and read his own rhyme  
Expressing his thanks to his stoker sublime.

Some poems are funny, and some of them not  
After one poem a pair tied the knot.  
Writing and reading your poem isn't scary  
But please remember: results often vary.

So get off your sitter and start getting ready  
cause time marches on, relentless and steady  
The ride will soon be here and you'll want to share  
that she's at her best when she sports helmet hair.

## **ON THE ROAD AGAIN: NEW ZEALAND**

## **John McManus**

Since I wrote two articles for DATES-LINE last year that had the theme “getting out of Dallas’ heat in the summer”, I naturally set out to write this article around “getting out of Dallas’ cold in the winter”. But there’s too much about cycling in New Zealand to take this approach. It stands on it’s own.

I knew very little about New Zealand prior to this tour. I knew it must be hilly because I’d heard Jim Hoyt say he had to buy lower gears when tandem touring there in the early 90’s. But I didn’t know much else. I’m not sure I knew that there was a North Island and a South Island. I surely didn’t know that most of the three million residents live on the North Island; or that there are forty-three million sheep. I still don’t know which island has the most sheep. I didn’t know that both islands have a mountain range running north to south called, respectively, the Northern Alps and the Southern Alps. I knew that New Zealand is near Australia but did not know it is dwarfed in size next to it. I didn’t know Australia has all of the ten most poisonous snakes in the world whereas New Zealand has no snakes. I didn’t know that, prior to the arrival of Europeans, New Zealand had only two mammals, both bats. I didn’t know that 17% of New Zealand is devoted to parks and preserves. Or that in the cities, like Christchurch, there is a park or preserve for every 8 acres of development.

So why did we do it? For one, our friend from Signal Mountain, Tennessee was the tour organizer for this Bicycle Adventure Club (BAC) tour and he’d been there at least four times previously. And, well, when you’re retired you have to do something!

Except to change planes in Auckland, we were only on the South Island. Here’s what we found:

- The West Coast is luscious because the Alps cause all of the Westerly fronts to dump rain there.
- Not many people live on the West Coast. In fact the bridges on the North-South route are all one-lane. Two even shared the bridge with trains.
- The East Coast is much drier – even desert in some places. The biggest city on the South island, Christchurch, is on the East Coast.
- The landscape, both geologically and botanically, have unequalled diversity.

Think of it this way: If you start with Colorado in the summer,  
Take away most of the people and almost all of the cars,  
Add oceans (Tasman Sea and Pacific Ocean) and beaches; add more lakes, put snow on the mountain peaks, add glaciers and rain forests and deserts. Make the people friendlier and the beer cheaper – And you have some idea of New Zealand’s South Island in January.



But this tour was more than just fantastic scenery. Unlike most BAC tours, this one had a commercial outfitter to conduct the tour. Pedal Tours, a New Zealand company, also put on the Hoyt tour many years ago. BAC had a special contract with Pedal Tours; it included sag support, a custom designed route, additional non-cycling activities and lower prices! The non-cycling activities we experienced in New Zealand added a lot to a standard bike tour. This is especially important on a three and a half week tour. On the third day, we had the option of white-water rafting to



the lunch stop – Brenda and I were in the raft that capsized and I participated in the rescue effort for the leader's paddle. We probably went on eight to ten hikes through wonderful rain forests (although no one has yet given me a good definition of a "rain forest") and to glaciers and remote beaches. John went jet boating. Neither of us went bungee jumping, even in Queenstown where it was invented. We also passed on a float trip in caves to observe glow-worms and on kayaking. We did tour the Albatross and Penguin preserves.



**John & Brenda at the 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel in New Zealand**

But mainly we rode our tandem. We got rained on a little on three days – not bad for 3 ½ weeks in a wet area. Most of the other days were sunny with temperatures in the 70's.

So New Zealand has a lot to offer the cycle tourist. Not to mention 800 miles of riding and sunburn in January.

## **DATES TREATS**

### **More Proof that "We Ride To EAT!"**

#### **Jeanie Waller's Pink Stuff**

(served at the August 20, 2000 meeting)

- 1 large container Cool Whip
- 1 large can cherry pie filling
- 1 large can crushed pineapple - drained
- 1 can Eagle brand condensed milk
- 1 cup tiny marshmallows
- 1 cup chopped pecans (optional)

Mix together. Put in 9 x 13 pan.

Refrigerate

Serve

Good as a salad or dessert



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# fresh dates

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## Team Bryant / Lindsay

**Captain:** Ronnie Bryant

**Stoker:** Nanette Lindsay

**Joined DATES:**

have been members before

**How long have you been cycling?**

**Captain:** 12 years **Stoker:** 12 years

**How long tandeming?** 10 years

**Why did you start riding tandem?**

Looked like fun

**What kind of tandem do you ride?**

CoMotion Big Al

**How often?** 4 times a week

**How far?** 100-200 miles a week

**Usual route/area?** Mid Cities

**Favorite Ride?**

Palo Pinto Glen Rose Hill Country

## Team BROCK

**Captain:** Ruth Brock

**Stoker:** Ed Brock

**Joined DATES:** January 2001

**How long have you been cycling?**

**Captain:** 30 yrs **Stoker:** 30 yrs

**How long tandeming?** 2 months

**Why did you start riding tandem?**

Not by choice. Ed is quickly going blind from rare eye disease diagnosed about 2 months ago. A tandem bike will be the only way to continue cycling.

**What kind of tandem do you ride?**

Rans Screamer

**How often?** 3-4 times per week

**How far?** 40 – 50 miles per week

**Favorite Ride?** One we took a couple of years ago. Several weeks unsupported through France

**Usual route/area?** We live on the northern edge of Flower Mound. We have half a dozen 15 mile loops to choose from – most through rolling hills and ranch land.

**Anything else you'd like us to know about you?** Ruth likes to weave and cook in spare time. Ed's favorite hobby is panoramic photography and eating whatever Ruth cooks. Ed just passed 48,000 on bike odometer. We've also bicycled through Israel, Egypt, Austria and India. Took our bikes to Kenya only to be talked out of cycling there because of personal safety issues.

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**April DATES-LINE Schedule:**

Mailed by: March 30, 2001

**Notices & Articles due by: March 23 , 2001**

