

DATES NEWS

Joint PBA/DATES Melissa Ride & Cookout
Sunday, October 7th – 8:00 am

This joint ride for the Plano Bicycling Association (PBA) and DATES is brought to you by sponsors Rusty & Belinda Nail and Marc & Susie Mumby. Meet at the Nail's new home in Melissa for the ride start at **8 AM**. Mapped routes of approximately 20-something, 40 and 60 miles will be offered. If you would like to join us after the ride for hot dogs or chicken from the grill, please bring a side dish to share + lawn chairs and RSVP by email: rnail@kana.com or bgnail@ranail.com or phone: 214-336-6348. The pool & hot tub will also be open for a dip after the ride, so bring your swimming gear. Some soft drinks will be provided.

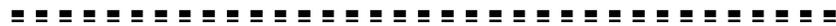
Directions: The ride will start at 1613 Grandberry Drive in Melissa, TX. Take US75 to SH121, exit # 45, 8 miles north of McKinney. Head east and turn right at road 339 (land-marked by Kim's Fudge Factory, Texaco). Look for Berry Farms subdivision just about 200 yards on your left. Turn left into the subdivision and make the second right on Dewberry and then next left on Grandberry. The Nails' house is on the right about an 1/8th of a mile down with circle drive and separate garage.

Tour de Plano (West) for Geezers
Sunday, October 21st – 9:00 am

Join John & Sandy Henbest for the first (and possibly last) annual Tour de Plano (west) for GEEZERS. Others welcome, but ride at your own risk. Enjoy a fabulous tour of west Plano on city streets, sidewalks, and bike paths. SEE Windhaven Hill (it just goes down). SEE Fort God (Prestonwood Baptist Church). SEE ferocious bobcats living at the Auburn Hills Nature Preserve (well, maybe you won't see them, but they are there). SEE Texas Tacky (gaudy million dollar houses.... some nice ones too). SEE Rock City (oops, wrong ride).

On Sunday, October 21, we will start at the Le Peep restaurant on the NW corner of Midway and Parker in Plano (about 500 yards west of the tollway) at 9:00 am, ride majestically (slowly, after all this is a geezer ride) for about 11 miles, then back to Le Peep for Brunch, then 13 more miles thru different neighborhoods back to Le Peep. This is an urban ride thru mostly residential areas, stop lights, some light traffic, some sidewalks, etc.

If the weather is bad, we'll eat breakfast and skip the ride. Questions, call John & Sandy (972-625-5244)



HALLOWEEN OVERNIGHT RIDE UPDATE
Saturday – Sunday, October 27 & 28 – 7:45 am

We currently have about 10 teams signed up for this ride, so we still have some openings. The Fairfield Inn in Tyler is very busy that weekend, so they would not extend the hold on our block of rooms beyond Sept 27. But give them a try anyway (903-561-2535). Or try another motel on the loop in Tyler. The La Quinta Inn Tyler is right in that same area.

We'll all meet at 7:45 am at OP Norman Junior High School in Kaufmann, TX. Take Hwy 175 from Dallas to Kaufmann, exit Oak Grove (FM 1388) and turn right on 1388. Go about 1/2 mile to the 4-way stop; the High School is on the left, OP Norman Junior High School (green roof) is past the High School also on the left.

Long route (80+ miles each way) riders will leave from OP Norman Junior High School at 8:00 am. Short route (65 miles each way) riders will put their luggage in the van, listen to Warren's inspirational pre-ride pep

talk and then drive on to their starting point. This is a self-paced ride with maps and SAG support provided. Lunch on Saturday will again be at the Garden Valley Resort. Sunday we'll have the popular box lunches from Jason's Deli. Saturday night, we will walk the 2 blocks to Mercado's Restaurant for gourmet Tex Mex.

If you have never done this ride, give it a try. The teams registered now are evenly split between the shorter and longer routes, so everyone will have someone to ride with. You **MUST** register with ride leaders, Warren & Audre Casteel by sending them a signed Registration /Waiver form along with your check to DATES for \$50 per team. The form (included in the September DATES-LINE) is available on our website www.doubledates.com in the Ride & Events page. A link to the form is embedded in the calendar.

Costumes, decorations & Halloween spirit, WELCOME!

If you have any questions call Warren or Audre Casteel at 214-352-7446 or 972-596-8206, or e-mail at

wacasteel@home.com or warren@casteelsign.com .

DATES Business Meeting & Social – Main Topic: Planning the 2002 Annual Meeting
Sunday, October 14th – 5:30 pm

Please come to the next club meeting. Time to start work on the type of project we do best: Get together, eat good food, and sketch out plans for more cycling adventures. The annual meeting has all of that and more, but it takes planning to make it a great event.

The annual meeting of the general membership is held each year in the Jan-Feb time frame. We need to put our heads together to talk about what we liked or didn't like about meetings of the past so we can make the 2002 meeting the best ever. If you have ideas and suggestions, we really want to hear from you, and the best time to make your ideas known is at the DATES next business meeting and social, Oct. 14, 2001.

We also need to start thinking about club officers for 2002: DATES Coordinator, Ride Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Coordinator. These six (6) teams make up the Board of Directors of DATES. (Check the back of the newsletter for names of the current officers.) The annual meeting is when we elect officers. There were no changes in the club offices at the last annual meeting, so some of our officers are due to make room for others. We'll establish a nominating committee who will collect nominations, nominate, and qualify candidates for the club offices over the next couple months. Any member can nominate other DATES members or even themselves (i.e., volunteer) to be a candidate for a club office. Of course, at the

annual meeting additional nominations from the floor will be permitted. Members of the Board of Directors may not serve on the Nominating Committee, so we'll be asking for volunteers to make up the nominating committee.

Volunteers are also needed for planning the annual meeting location (usually a restaurant), food selection, and requesting/gathering door prizes. These are fun activities, and a great way to show your club enthusiasm (without incurring a year long commitment).

Our next club meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 14th at 5:30 PM at Carroll & Bobbie Mayhew's house, 3041 Stanford Drive, Plano, TX 75075. From 15th Street in Plano, just west of Independence Pkwy, turn south on Linda Lane, go several blocks and turn left on Stanford Drive.

Club meetings are a great opportunity to get to know other DATES members better as well as learn more about the club offices and what the officers do. So put October 14th on your calendar and plan to bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share. Call Carroll or Bobbie (972-596-5251) to RSVP and let them know what you plan to bring.

Come and get involved in your club. We need you, and we look forward to seeing you at the Mayhew's.

One cyclist mold is the next cyclist gold at the 1st Annual Richardson Bike Mart

STROLL & ROLL SWAP MEET!



Sunday, Oct. 14

(Rain Check date October 21)

Noon - 5:00 pm

**The Parking Lot of
Richardson Bike Mart
(S.E. corner of Coit & Campbell)**

Join Richardson Bike Mart and support the Texas Bike Coalition at the First Annual Stroll and Roll Swap Meet. Rummage through hundreds of bikes, parts and accessories. Reserve a table today by calling Richardson Bike Mart at 972-231-3993. Tables are \$10 each, 6' in length with one chairs. Hurry, only a limited quantity of tables are available! All bikes are welcome. For more information call 972-231-3993.

RICHARDSON
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Two Flags Ride
Sunday, November 18 – 9:00 am

Ride leaders Tom Shaddox & Brenda Hursin recently went up and checked the route and bridge and report that both are fine. Rumors of the old bridge's demise appear to be no more substantial than the old bridge itself. So our annual Two Flags Ride is ON!

RIDE: Two Flags

DATE: November 18th, 2001

START TIME: gather @ 9:00am, slap leather ~ 9:15

START PLACE: Grayson County Court House in downtown Sherman, TX

RIDE HOST: Tom Shaddox and Brenda Hursin

Contact: 972-517-4534, ljshaddo@gte.net (Tom)

DISTANCE: 48 miles

DETAILS: 5th Annual edition of the DATES riding season closer. Hot chocolate and amusing, fairly accurate maps. Award winning route is all paved, and 80% is on tiny country roads. Lunch in Oklahoma (just across the Indiana Jones Memorial Bridge over the Red River) at the Silver Dollar Grocery - restaurant - bait shop & dance hall.

RICHARDSON

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Make Your 2002 Tandem Rally Plans Now

In 2002 we are fortunate to have two regional tandem rallies within comfortable driving distance of the metroplex. The planning for both rallies is currently underway. Here's what we know so far:

SouthWest Tandem Rally 2002, April 12-14, 2002, Waco, TX: Hosted by HATS. Rally registration will begin late 2001, but you may make hotel reservations now at the two host hotels (150 rooms have been reserved). Both hotels are within walking distance of rally headquarters, the Waco Convention Center. When making reservations, mention the Southwest Tandem Rally to get the rally rate.

- Waco Hilton, 113 S. University Park (\$79/night plus tax). Contact Reservation Manager at 800-234-5244.
- Courtyard by Marriott, 101 Washington (\$82/night plus tax). Contact Marriott reservations at 800-359-1814 or the hotel at 254-752-8686.

Midwest Tandem Rally 2002, Aug 30 – Sept 2, 2002, Kansas City, MO: They are taking registrations and expect to have their website www.MTR2002.org available by the end of September. Primary hotels include Embassy Suites (816-891-7788) where packet pick-up and Saturday night banquet will take place, Homewood Suites (816-891-0703), AmeriSuites (816-891-0871) and Drury Inn and Suites (816-880-9700). When making your reservation, mention Midwest Tandem Rally to get the special MTR group rate.

Sign up for DATES Email Distribution List

Receive up-to-the-minute information about scheduled & impromptu rides and other events and matters of interest to cyclists in general and tandem riders in particular. Go to web page groups.yahoo.com/group/DATES1 and click on "Join This Group" in the upper right corner of the panel, then click on "Sign Up Now" to go to the sign up page.

If you have any trouble signing up, e-mail Warren Casteel at warren@casteelsgn.com and he will assist you.

November DATES-LINE Schedule:

Mailed by: November 3, 2001

Notices & Articles due by: Oct 27, 2001

Feature Articles & Ride Reports

COLLIN COUNTY RIDE

by Colleen Hering

Linda and Kevin Vinson's Collin County Ride at Erwin Park drew seventeen teams and one single rider to match this year's record for rider participation at a DATES organized ride. We welcomed several teams we hadn't seen at a DATES ride in quite some time including Russ & Kathy Anderson who recently returned from living in Australia, Rick & Ann Dixon, Herb & Sandra Bloomer, John & Sandy Althaus plus a team that hadn't ridden with us before, Arthur & Terry. Sunday, September 23rd smiled on us with 69 degrees and sunshine for the 26- and 37-mile routes.

After indulging in the Vinson's muffins, bagels, and orange juice, Linda and Kevin reviewed the fine points of the route and instructed us on how to access treats at the rest stop. They had parked a second vehicle loaded with Gatorade, water, and Famous Amos cookies about ten miles from the finish at the Weston Post Office. Don Hunt took center stage to remind us that we need to give motor vehicles the impression that cyclists want to help them along on their journey so that the legislature won't have to. Heeding his safety and ride-friendly tips, Team Vinson led the teams over the downhill path out of Erwin Park to the mostly flat fields of farm and grasslands of the two routes.

Linda had warned the stokers of an ambitious Dalmatian on FM1461 that liked to chase bikes, but we never "spotted" him. Instead, we saw lots of cattle, two herds of which actually seemed to run with us as we passed their pastures.

We were heartened to see many American flags draped along the country landscape in response to the terrorist attack of two weeks prior. The topic was on the minds and lips of many of us even as we enjoyed the beautiful rolling hills of Collin County.

We reached the rest stop to partake in refreshments and lavish attention on a friendly black Labrador when the postmaster rode up on her riding lawn mower and politely but firmly asked us to leave. She had restricted children from riding their bikes and skateboards on the property, therefore, had to enforce her rules globally. We promptly left as Kevin and Linda re-parked the rest stop vehicle at a nearby store.

Half way through the longer route one team had broken a spoke and was forced to release their rear brake in order to free the wobbling wheel to do its job. Three miles after the rest stop another spoke gave way and completely disabled the tandem. Team Vinson gallantly rode back to retrieve the rest stop vehicle and rescued the mechanically challenged team.

Everyone returned safely to the finish and re-indulged in leftover breakfast treats. Five teams decided to lunch at McKinney Square Meal and were delighted with delicious sandwiches and live music. Being closest to the piano-playing and guitar-picking duo and hard to ignore, the musicians catered to our oldies musical whims as we cheered them on.

Thanks Team Vinson for providing a safe, fun, and yummy first Fall DATES ride of 2001.

Happy Trails!

TROLS Big Adventure 2001 by Harry Thompson *(edited from the back seat by Janette)*

This was the fourth annual Big Adventure for our tandem friends in East Texas held in Jefferson, TX. We had never participated, but the reputation of this ride is legendary. After the catastrophic events of September 11, we were looking forward to a weekend of fun and relaxation with old and new friends. The

were large contingents from DATES and HATS, as well as teams from Austin, San Antonio, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Denver.

We were off from our house shortly after noon on Friday, and were registering in Jefferson with our hostess Linda Bowers about 4:30. The first day's ride was an out-and-back with ice cream at the turnaround. Because of our late start, we did not think we would have time to ride. Lo and behold, ice cream was served until 6:00. We beat feet to our B & B, changed clothes, aired our tires, and were off.

The ride took us to the Lake of the Pines. On the way out we passed scores of tandems on the way in. We had a great time waving and ringing our bells at old friends. About a mile from the end, we passed our DATES Coordinators (Team Hunt). They thoughtfully turned around and accompanied us to the rest stop. There our host, Reggie Bowers, treated us to the ice cream bar of our choice at a scenic overlook. We had a nice ride back into town. There was a little traffic as this was rush hour in Jefferson, but all the drivers were polite and friendly. We were reminded how much different the weather is in East Texas than in our homeland; without the ice cream, I don't know if I could have put up with the humidity.

For dinner, everyone went their separate ways as much as is possible in Jefferson. As far as I can tell, most everyone ate at one of two restaurants. This was our time to see old friends and tell lies about past rides and trips while trying to get others to plan future trips.

Saturday morning we had a group breakfast at the local barbecue joint. (We ate ham and eggs and

...and we'll
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field was limited to 50 teams and it was full. There

biscuits, not barbecue.) There was an 8:15 start. As usual, everyone seemed more interested in chatting than riding. There were three routes of 38.8, 56.8, and 64.5 miles. Due to the abundance of interest in the town of Jefferson, it seemed a disproportionate number picked the short ride. We initially decided on the mid-distance.

The ride went north and east mostly on farm-to-market roads with no shoulders. That was okay, as we had a pretty big group and there was little car traffic. The weather was mercifully overcast and it was not as humid as the day before. The terrain was typical East Texas; slight rolling hills, lots of pine trees, and dogs at every farm. At the turnoff for the long route, we were riding with Team Hudson-Croy. We had already decided to only go the mid-distance, but it was a 3-1 vote to go long. We rode the rest of the ride together and only saw two other tandems (Teams Carlson and Lewis-Williams) before the lunch stop. We would like to think we were the only four teams on that route, but probably we were so far behind that there was an entire pack somewhere down the road.

Lunch was at a rather quaint fishing camp, Tall Pines Lodge, about four miles from the finish. As usual, we were the last to pull in. However, there were a number of other teams relaxing with their box lunches. Both Reggie and Linda were there making sure everything was under control.

We finished the ride about 2:00 and went back to our B & B for some much needed R & R, as the social hour was scheduled for 4:30. Enroute to the happy hour, we came across John Griswold playing the game of Petanque, an interesting and unusual habit he picked up on a recent trip to France. We felt compelled to join in and discovered that Janette was quite good.

Dinner and the social hour were held in the Carnegie Library. The town of Jefferson is dry, but that didn't seem to matter. We had been warned and everyone had what they wanted to drink. Dinner was catered from the same barbecue joint where we had breakfast. Afterwards, Reggie Bowers was the master of ceremonies and gave away the door prizes. The entertainment was Jay Lewis giving away his infamous "Black and Decker" prizes.

Sunday morning we again had breakfast at the barbecue joint. Although there was an 8:15 start, many teams chose to leave early to get back before checkout at their lodging. The ride was 30 miles to Caddo Lake (the only natural lake in Texas). The terrain was much the same as the last two days, typical East Texas. After a few minutes rest and a bathroom break at the lake, we met up with another group of riders. That was great because we sucked the wheels of Teams Kaminsky and Griswold the entire ride back and really flew. Back in Jefferson, we

had hamburgers with a large group of riders, once again swapping stories about our riding prowess.

For Team Thompson this was a fabulous weekend. After a very emotional week, we were able to relax and blow off some steam. Don't miss next year. It is limited to 50 teams and I know it fills up fast. For me, it is more fun than a tandem rally as it is a smaller group and we really get a chance to catch up with old friends. Reggie and Linda Bowers did a terrific job and are to be commended.

Footnote: Due to unforeseen circumstances, Reggie and Linda ended up putting on the entire event themselves and didn't even get on their bike. That is real dedication.

OUT WEST - PART 2: Northern California

by John McManus & Brenda Cole

Between the end of our BAC Colorado Mountains and Brewpubs tour Aug 27 and the beginning of our BAC California Wine Country at Harvest Time tour September 15, we had time on our hands. What to do? Thanks to the Internet, we found "Good Rides California", the enterprise of a retired urban planner and long time cyclist. He will develop customized bike tours of Northern California charging \$100 for the first week and \$75 for subsequent weeks. We needed two weeks worth and completed his questionnaire. Geno mailed back a basic plan: 3 fixed-based tours, one out of Yosemite National Park (one of our requirements) and the other two out of old mining towns Murphys and Sutter Creek. When we agreed to this, he then mailed:

- An 18 page typed document that listed recommended accommodations and eating places at each site plus route descriptions and queue sheets for each of the 13 rides.
- Highlighted routes on maps of Central California, Yosemite and Central Sierra and four county maps.
- Brochures from motels and restaurants, wineries and points of interest.

I write this in the car as we drive across desolate Utah. We're looking forward to California and hope "Good Rides California" is appropriately named.

But first we have to get across Utah and Nevada. Never have we seen so much of nothing. 'Reminded me of the Saudi Arabian desert. Gas stations are 50 to 100 miles apart. You would drive slowly (35 - 45) on switchbacks through a small mountain range and then the road would open up and be straight as an arrow for as far as you could see. I'd set the Cruise Control to 90 until the next set of mountains. Two days of this. As far as I'm concerned, the Mormons can have Utah and the Gamblers Nevada (Slot machines even in grocery stores!). To Brenda, the only interesting part of Utah is the Canyon Lands. Although the mountains are all barren, the different colors in the rocks are magnificent.

Two weeks later: Segment 1: Yosemite National Park is absolutely beautiful. No wonder Ansel Adams spent so much time here. We are fortunate to arrive on Monday before Labor Day and get most of our riding in before the roads get crowded on the weekend. Our cabin is on Hardin Flat Road. Boy is this misnamed. In fact we rename it on the spot to 'Hardly Flat Road'. We immediately have a climb of 12%. No time to get into the Granny so we grunt up the hill. A little further and another, even longer, 13% climb. By the time we get to the main road (1.1 miles) we're warmed up. Which is good because it's uphill for the next 10 miles. Our destination is Yosemite Village. The closer we get, the more aware we are of the forest fire to the

southeast of the park. Actually there are five lightening created fires in the park. Smoke is in the air. And many vistas reveal only haze. In the valley, we are very close to some of the most famous large rock formations such as El Capitan but we can barely see them. We later learn that the smoke is much worse in the morning and it does improve for our return trip. The return trip requires another 10 miles of uphill pedaling, and it's harder. We use Granny for the first time. This was typical of our four rides in Yosemite. They're beautiful (better if you can see through the smoke), difficult and need to be scheduled when traffic is minimal.

Segments 2 & 3: Both Murphy's and Sutter Creek are funky towns in the gold mining country in the foothills of the Sierras. A funky town is one in which:

1. There isn't any non-edible merchandise interesting enough to buy.
2. You can't find the most basic things (like toothpaste).

Murphy's had the best restaurants and most wineries close by but Sutter Creek had the best cycling.

The terrain here is not mountains but it's damn hilly. We're at 2,000 feet instead of 5,000-7,000 feet in Yosemite. The vegetation is one of three types:

- Grasses that look as if they died many months ago.
- Wild land with dense shrubs. A couple of these were named "Sheep Road" but no sheep can live on this land.
- Vineyards. Red grapes in particular do well in this very dry land, which forces the roots of the plants to expand looking for water. A well-developed root system is what gives red wines their complexity. Whatever that is.

We're amazed at how much climbing we do in this terrain. On a ride to Calaveras State Park to see the giant Sequoia trees, we climbed over 3,600 feet in the first 19 miles. That's about the amount of climbing we'd do in a full day in Colorado.

Forest fires apparently are a part of life here in Northern California. The last night we were in Murphys, a fire on a hill East of town forced many residents into our hotel. The next morning we could smell smoke in our room and our van covered by a layer of soot. A few days later John was using the Internet in the Amador County Library when they announced that a fire was blocking a highway and alternate routes may be required on the way home.

Our main surprise is the temperature. Although it may be in the low 60's when we start the ride at 8:00, it is 95 or so by noon. It's actually cooler in Dallas! So we decide to cut the riding short in the Gold Mining

Country and head back to the higher elevation of Yosemite. We'll be hiking in the cooler weather.

Next segment: Part 3, Wine Country at Harvest Time.

Replace this page
current month Ride
Upcoming Area Pa

DATES-LINE is published monthly during the cycling season (*Ed. Approximately 10 issues/yr*) by and for members of **DOUBLE DATES**. Information contained herein is for the general good of the tandem community and may be copied without permission; credit to **DOUBLE DATES** and **DATES-LINE** is appreciated. **All comments and contributions are welcome. We reserve the right to edit all submissions.** Generally, Monthly Issues are mailed by the **1st Tuesday** of each month. Notices and Articles must be received by the **Last Tuesday** of the previous month to be included in the next issue. Exceptions to this schedule are published in the preceding issue of the newsletter. Machine-readable copy is required: either from MS WORD, text/ASCII or Word Perfect. Copy should be e-mailed to HudsonCroy@worldnet.att.net or mailed on a 3.5 diskette to the editors Bruce Hudson & Carol Croy at 8562 Sweetwood Dr, Dallas, TX 75228.

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DOUBLE DATES, the Dallas Area Tandem Enthusiasts, is a recreational club for riders of tandem bicycles. Membership dues are \$18 payable annually in January. If a team joins mid-year, the dues are: Jan – June \$18; July – Oct \$9. Teams joining in November or December pay \$18 and are paid up for the following year.

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