

DATES NEWS**Christmas Lights Ride**
Sunday December 8th – 5:30 pm
Snider Plaza

Meet at Snider Plaza (one block west of Hillcrest and Lovers Lane in Dallas) on Sunday, December 8, 2002 at 5:30 pm and leave promptly at 6 pm. Scott & Mindy Mashburn will lead us through Highland Park for approximately 1 hour enjoying the lights and decorations. Feel free to decorate your bike and wear a holiday outfit. **Bicycle lights are required!** Everyone must have a headlight and (preferably flashing) tail lights.

After the ride, we will gather at Penne Pomodoro Italian Bistro, 6815 Snider Plaza Blvd. near the corner of Milton St., where we will have dinner. There will be appetizers, salad, choice of pasta, chicken, or salmon entree, and dessert for \$18.95 per person. Drinks are extra. If you don't want to ride, just come for dinner at 7 pm! Don't forget to bring your "white elephant" gift to dazzle, delight (or disgust?) the lucky recipient!

We'll also have a "mini-meeting" to discuss the details of the annual meeting.

Please RSVP to Scott and Mindy Mashburn at 214-904-9189 or e-mail scott.mashburn@globalknowledge.com so we can get a head count for dinner. Come and wish your fellow DATES "Happy Holidays!"

DATES Membership Renewal

Another year has passed (can you believe it!) and it's time to renew your Double DATES membership. Please fill out the enclosed membership renewal form, sign the Liability Release, and send it along with your check for \$18.00 payable to Double DATES to Membership Coordinators:

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

4th Annual New Year's Day Ride
Wednesday, January 1, 2003 – 10:00 am
Home of Don & D'Ann Hunt

Meet at 10:00 AM; ride starts at 10:30 AM
Route length: approx. 25, 19, or 15 miles
Start point: 1480 Lucas Road in Lucas, TX
(About 7 miles east of Allen, TX)
Ride Hosts: Don & D'Ann Hunt - 972-442-6622

Start the New Year out right - and what could be better than on a tandem surrounded by your fellow DATES! Join Team Hunt for the annual New Year's Day Ride! We'll ride about 30 miles -- plus or minus a few. The route will be between Lucas and McKinney on back roads of residential Collin County. After the ride D'Ann will be serving "Mom's Good Soup". Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Ideas: relish tray, 3-bean salad, salad of any sort, corn bread, any kind of dessert.

Email d2h@airmail.net or call 972-442-6622 (after 6 PM) to RSVP and to find out what other teams plan to bring. We'll probably need card table(s) and chairs too, so let us know if you can offer any!

Directions: Take Hwy 75 to the Bethany exit in Allen, TX. Go east about 6.1 miles to the intersection with FM 3286 at Lucas Foods (gas, food, bait shop, ice, etc.). (Along this 6-mile stretch Bethany becomes Bandy Lane, West Lucas Road, and then FM 1378. Stay basically straight (Eastward) until you get to the intersection with FM 3286 at Lucas Foods.) Turn left (East) onto FM 3286 and continue going east for another 1.4 miles. The Hunt House is hidden behind a 4-rail wooden fence on the South (right-hand) side of the road. Look for the DATES poster by the black mailbox at the end of a long paved driveway. Drive on around to the back of the house where Don will have you park on the "South Acre." BTW: If you get to the bridge, you have gone too far.

*Happy
Holidays!*

DATES Annual Meeting & Dinner

Saturday, February 8, 2003
Baby Doe's in Dallas

Mark your calendars now for the 2003 DATES Annual Meeting on Saturday, February 8th at Baby Doe's in Dallas. Join us for a scrumptious dinner buffet as we nominate and elect next year's club officers, beg for Ride Host volunteers and give away fabulous door prizes.

Details on buffet selections and price, time, how to RSVP and driving directions will be provided in the next newsletter or you may contact Linda Vinson at 972-605-4103 (work) or 972-625-6110 (home) or via email at linda.vinson@eds.com

Electronic DATES-LINE

Receive Notification via DATES Email List

Last month we alerted you to the fact that DATES-LINE is now available electronically, if that's how you choose to receive it. You may have noticed that the DATES Membership Renewal Form now includes a place for you to indicate if you want an electronic only version of DATES-LINE. Each month when the newsletter is posted to the DATES website, you will be notified via the DATES Email distribution list that the newsletter is available for viewing and/or printing. If you are not already on the DATES Email distribution list, sign up today (details on page 8 of this newsletter or on the website).

If you elect to receive the newsletter electronically only, you will no longer receive the newsletter via US mail. You will be notified when the newsletter is available (earlier than you would receive it by US mail) via the DATES Email list. You can then read it online (with photos in color!) or print it from the DATES website. You'll have the most up-to-date info on what's going on and save the club the expensive postage costs.

13th Annual Southwest Tandem Rally

April 25-27, 2003
Tulsa, OK

Details are finalized, the website is up and running and registrations are being accepted. Now is the time to make your hotel reservation at the Doubletree Downtown in Tulsa, OK (918-587-8000 - mention SWTR to get the special rate of \$79 + tax per night) and send in your registration for the rally. Get all the details on their website: <http://www.tulsabicycleclub.com/Tandem%20Rally/SWTR3003.htm>

Halloween Ride THANK YOU's

Once again we enjoyed a wonderful Halloween Weekend Ride to Tyler thanks to Team Casteel. Warren and Audre Casteel have organized this ride for at least the past 5 years (that's how long we've been members – so it's probably been much longer.) They'd like some help – so if anyone is willing to sign on as a Halloween Ride apprentice, they'd love teach you the ropes.

Plano Cycling & Fitness also deserves special recognition. Again this year, they provided their van that gave us SAG support both days of the ride and the driver, Dana, who is a qualified bicycle mechanic and a super nice guy. Plus they donated a number of gift certificates that were given out at the Saturday night get-together. It was a wonderful ride and DATES appreciates the extraordinary efforts of Plano Cycle and Fitness to make it happen!

DATES Officers Elections

Nominations are still open for DATES Officers for 2003. Our new slate of officers will be elected at the Annual Meeting in February and we still have a few vacancies to fill. In particular we are looking for willing and able candidates for the DATES-LINE Editor and Secretary positions. Please volunteer your team or nominate others for these or any of the officer positions listed on the back page of this newsletter. Send your nominations to John or Sandy (Team) Henbest at 972-625-5244 or via email at jmhenbest@attbi.com

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Feature Articles & Ride Reports

2002 Halloween Ride

by Harry Thompson

Saturday, October 26, 2002, nine teams assembled at Norman Jr. High in Kaufman for this annual ride. The plan was to ride to Tyler, spend the night and ride back on Sunday. This was the starting point for the long option, and some of us would opt for shorter routes. This ride has long been hosted by Audre and Warren Casteel (Warren thinks for 10 years, but was not sure after being asked after margaritas that evening). Two teams caravanned to nearby Prairieville for the official short route, and two teams made their own route by driving to the lunch stop and riding back to meet parts of the group. This may have been the best supported ride of all time, with three vehicles; Audrey driving her Pathfinder, Warren in the Casteel Company Van, and Dana with the Plano Cycling and Fitness van.

It was a nippy 52 degrees and overcast to start. We weren't sure of the rain, but everyone was optimistic. At the short start, I knew exactly where to go without consulting my map. However, I immediately went the wrong direction with Warren hollering to turn around. Naturally my stoker has not let me live that down. It was us and the Carlsons on our way. We missed the first turn and were hopelessly off the cue sheet. Not to worry, we had Warren's excellent map and figured how to get back on the route without retracing our five miles.

We rode through typical East Texas for 41 miles to lunch. Tall pine trees, fresh cut hay, lots of dogs, and sometimes, bad road. The weather held and it turned out to be a great day for cycling. After we got lost, Audre was waiting for us in Canton. With a quick reprimand, she directed us to the planned rest stop. There we met up with the group on the long route even though they had ridden 18 more miles.

Lunch was at the Garden Valley Golf Resort at 41 miles. They had prepared a nice buffet with the best homemade cookies. After lunch we were all anxious to get to Tyler. There were two major hills between us and our destination. The first was on a new portion of the route that was on a winding part of the road. It was a significant warm-up for the beast of the Tyler Beauty and the Beast Ride fame.

Once at the hotel, many went to the hot tub, some retired to their rooms to watch ball games, and some just took naps. We had ridden 67 miles and the long

route was 84. Thanks to John McManus we knew that we had climbed 2510 feet.

Dinner was at the usual place, Mercado's across from the Hotel. There were no complaints about the Mexican food or the margaritas. After dinner we had a ride meeting and passed out door prizes. We also discussed ride options for next year.

It was pretty gloomy Sunday morning. Just before our start it began to mist. As we were riding off, it began to rain. It alternated between rain and mist for the first five miles and then cleared up. We had the option of sagging, but everyone rode. It wasn't too bad. We had several nice rest stops and there was a support vehicle at every turn (probably because of two teams getting lost the day before). Lunch was at Purtils Creek State Park at 45 miles, catered by Jason's Deli.

From lunch it was a short 16 miles to Prairieville and our car. Wouldn't you know it, about five miles before the finish, the rain started again? We could have sagged, but gutted it on in. Total daily mileage for us was 63 miles and 2034 feet elevation gain. The long route was 83 miles. Jim Yuhn rode from lunch on the long route stoker-less.

Our thanks to Rick Gurney of Plano Cycling for furnishing us with a support van and to Dana Files, the new service manager, for being there for any mechanical problems. Also, Plano Cycling donated gift certificates for door prizes, along with Express Products. Due to their generosity, every team got a door prize.

Special thanks to Audre and Warren Casteel. They put a lot into making this work. They went above and beyond the call of duty for ride leaders. They not only made sure that we all were on the right route, but that we all got plenty to eat (love those Nutter Butters).

Despite the rain and wrong turn, this was a great weekend. We had not put much mileage on the tandem since HHH and it was a terrific getaway for us. We have done this ride several times and I suggest that you put it on your calendar for next year, the fourth weekend in October. The routes are good, everything is planned perfectly, and you won't find a better-supported ride, commercial or otherwise.

HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

John McManus

I was really looking forward to this tour. The idea of cycling out of New York City was exciting. I couldn't imagine what it would be like.

After assembling our tandem in the basement of the hotel on Manhattan's Upper West Side, we took a test ride in Central Park. I've been to New York many times, but have never been to the park. It was neat. On a bright and sunny Saturday morning in October there were thousands of runners and hundreds of cyclists. By convention, all go in the same direction. There is a separate lane for runners. There is no traffic. The park is heavily wooded and very well maintained.

On Sunday our group of 20 leaves the hotel. We go two blocks north and turn left. For some unexplained reason, NYC cyclists turn left from the right lane. Three more blocks downhill and we're on a bike path on the East Side of the Hudson River. We go up the river a couple miles then have to climb to the entrance to the George Washington Bridge. We use the pedestrian path across the bridge. Two miles further and we turn into a park. We're now on a parkway - no cars - heavily wooded - very hilly alongside the Hudson. The parkway is probably 10 miles long. You certainly couldn't be on roads like this after leaving downtown Dallas.



John & Brenda in New York

For the remainder of the day we're on lightly traveled roads through small towns. We're obviously on the favorite bike roads because there are many cyclists out. We have lunch at a bakery and coffee shop in the town of Nyack. The coffee shop has bike racks on both sides of the street; large water can outside to fill your water bottles and even a tire pump for your use. The cafe was packed and 80 of the customers were cyclists. The first night's accommodations are in the Thayer Hotel on the grounds of West Point.

On day two we cycle to the resort of Mohonk. The day ends with a four-mile climb. We spend day three hiking the trails of the resort. From Mohonk we ride to

Woodstock. All of the first four days are basically going north on the West Side of the Hudson. Woodstock, of course, is most famous for the 1960's concert, even though the concert was 60 miles away. But the town is as hippie as ever - there are some really weird people there, cyclists included.

From Woodstock to Tannersville where we spend an extra night so we can ride up into the Catskill Mountains. Hopefully we'll find more fall color there. Unfortunately it begins raining and most of us don't ride very far on the rest day.

But we must ride to Hyde Park the next day - 57 miles in the rain. At Hyde Park you can visit many historical sites including a Vanderbilt Mansion and Franklin D. Roosevelt's home. We're now heading back south on the East Side of the Hudson. We spend the last night at a lodge in Bear Mountain State Park. Then we ride back into Manhattan the same way as we left.

This tour was not perfect. In addition to the rain and mostly lack of fall color, we had too much traffic on a couple of the return days. This was the first time for this tour and the leader learned a lot. She's already looking at alternative routes for the future.

Post-script: This article was written in Bowie, Md. during the sniper-scare. My niece's house is about 1.5 miles from where the 13-year-old boy was killed.

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PLANS

Don Hunt

A lot of you will remember that D'Ann and I planned to do some cycling on the Natchez Trace before and after the Southern Tandem Rally. I know this because a lot of you have asked me how it went. Well, we had a great time! But, I have to admit that almost nothing went according to plan.

The plan started with an early departure Wednesday morning to get to the Oak Square Plantation and ride with some other DATES couples. We got a late start and arrived at Oak Square just as Teams Boggess and Young returned from their ride. They had a good ride, we had a pleasant drive, and all 6 of us enjoyed an evening of story telling over dinner.

The next morning, we had breakfast as a group in the plantation house and had such a good time that it stretched out for close to two hours. Then, the other two teams had to get on the road and we spent nearly another hour talking with Mrs. Lum, the plantation owner. Her Aunt was 20 years old when the Civil War transformed the life style of the region, and Mrs. Lum remembers all the stories her Aunt used to tell her about that time. I would have enjoyed spending the entire day just listening to her oral history of life in the south.

It was somewhere around 11:00 before we finally got on the bike to ride the route the other two couples had ridden the day before. We were surprised to discover the road was blocked by mounds of dirt to prevent automobile traffic about 5 miles into the course. The others hadn't mentioned anything about that! Well, we went around the blockade and discovered that half the road had washed out and fallen into the river just a little further on. The remaining half of the road was plenty wide enough for us and we enjoyed the lack of auto traffic for the next several miles.

Our route took us past a nuclear power plant with a huge cooling tower that continually put gigantic cotton balls of steam into a perfectly clear sky. My brother would have called it an eyesore, but I thought it made an interesting backdrop to the countryside we rode through. It was sort of like a big, totally silent lava lamp. We toured a little park full of exhibits and rode past big cotton fields that were ready for harvest. It was a really good ride that brought us back to our starting point at what should have been lunch time, except we started the ride at 11:00.

We ate a late lunch and blew off the planned afternoon ride in favor of a little automobile touring. Daylight was getting short and I wanted to find a place I read about called Rodney – a booming town on the Mississippi River during the Civil War. But then the river moved and the town died. We drove some little back roads to find the place and sighted 11 deer along the road in ones and twos by the time we got back to the Oak Square Plantation that night. Rodney is not a town any more.

Friday thru Sunday went just as planned. We had a terrific time at Southern Tandem Rally as reported by Kevin Vinson in the last DATES-LINE. The roads were flat, there was very little wind, and the sights were beautiful. The people were

great. We made more new friends. It really was an exceptionally good weekend.

After the rally, Reggie and Linda Bowers (TROLS) joined us for a couple of nights at the Rosswood Plantation B&B for some more riding on the Natchez Trace. That was the plan, but a front moved through as we drove and we were in and out of rain for most of the drive. When we arrived, there were 5 deer grazing on acreage in front of the ante-bellum mansion. We checked in and elected to drive into the town of Natchez for dinner about 30 miles away and hope for improved weather for a ride the next day.

Dinner was great, our room at Rosswood was impressive, and breakfast in the mansion was an elegant and tasty affair. Breakfast was followed by a guided tour of the mansion and a little history of the area and the people who built the house. By the time we finished all that, it was pushing mid morning and the weather was still misty and damp. We have ridden in worse weather, but our hosts offered us the opportunity to use their metal detector and look for Civil War relics on their plantation, so we did that instead. The Bowers found a chunk of metal that we believe was left over from a cotton gin that used to be on the plantation.

As we walked back to the mansion after our "treasure hunt", we noticed that a Backroads tour group was having a picnic lunch by the pool. We stopped to talk with them and ended up getting a free lunch out of the deal. By the time we finished, the weather had improved a little, but now the daylight was short and the threat of rain was still in the air, so we all got in the car and drove the planned bike route. The car option kept us dry and allowed us to get to the places we wanted to visit with enough time to actually tour them once we got there. The area is so rich in history, you really need to plan a little time to take some of it in. The day ended with a personal tour of the Springfield Plantation Mansion and dinner in a haunted restaurant in Natchez.

Back at Rosswood that night we met up with another guest of the B&B and sipped wine and told ghost stories we'd picked up during our tours of the last week. By the time we went to bed, we were all so spooked that we were sure we'd be visited from "the other side" by morning.

It didn't happen. Breakfast was again an elegant, relaxed event as we all shared the big table in the formal dining room. We drove home full of memories of really good times, but we never actually rode our bike on the Natchez Trace. I still think my plan to go and ride on the Natchez Trace is a good one, and I can hardly wait to try again to do it some time. But if all my plans fall through the way they did this time, I'll consider myself a really lucky, happy guy.

HATS MINI-RALLY*John McManus*

When I heard HATS was hosting a rally in Fayetteville, I thought "Good. We can drive to Arkansas and stay with Jay & Becky." Then I learned it was Fayetteville, TX – not Arkansas. I'll be damned; never heard of it.

To get to Fayetteville, you go to Waco and then take state hwy 77 south for 125 miles. That gets you to Lagrange, which is close. Two more farm-to-market roads and you're there. On the map Fayetteville is mid-way between Houston and Austin. Ice cream lovers can find it by driving 60 miles south from the Blue Bell Creamery in Brenham.

Fayetteville is in Fayette County in Central Texas. We rarely ever cycle in Central Texas and that's a shame. It's great cycling country. In the car you may think it's flat. But there are little hills – lots of 'em – they're everywhere. On Saturday's 67-mile route, we climbed more (2,700 feet) than we did on the 84-mile Halloween Ride to Tyler (2,500 feet). Although Central Texas is mostly open farm and ranch land, there are plenty of trees for variety and shade. And there are a lot of lightly traveled farm roads and paved county roads. HAT's organizers Chris and Bennee Curtis did a great job of locating multiple routes for Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday morning.

Twelve of the tandem teams stayed in the small hotel on the town square. On Friday night everyone took food and drink to the Gazebo on the square, across the street from the hotel. Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday was in the second-floor hallway of the hotel, occupied exclusively by tandem teams, where tables were set up with juice, coffee, bagels and quiche. Saturday's lunch and dinner were catered at the S.P.J.S.T. hall.

Which prompted me to ask: "What does S.P.J.S.T. stand for?" The answer isn't easy. S.P.J.S.T. comes from Slovanska Podporujici Jednota Statu Texas. So Germans weren't the only Europeans to migrate to Texas in the 1850's. So did the Czech's. And many of them ended up in Fayette County. The S.P.J.S.T. or the Slavonic Benevolent Order of the State of Texas was created initially as an insurance cooperative.

In addition to Czech culture, we discovered a really neat auto museum in Warrenton. We passed it on our ride and drove back Saturday afternoon. The museum, owned by a Toyota car dealer in Houston, contains 80 cars, mostly from 1900 thru the mid 1950's. Every one has been restored to new condition and is drivable. The displays also have very detailed information on the cars. A second museum is under construction and will house "muscle cars" from the 60's and 70'.

We'll definitely go again next year. HAT's November mini-rally has been added to our list of great Texas tandem weekends: DATES Stoker Appreciation Ride, Easter Hill Country weekend, Southwest Tandem Rally, TROLS Weekend and DATES Halloween Weekend.

A Book Review – The Masked Rider*By Kevin Vinson*

I have been meaning to write up this review for the DATES Newsletter since Linda and I first joined DATES. Let me set the stage for this book and, in particular, the author of this book. The book is titled "The Masked Rider" and was written by Neil Peart. The ISBN number is 1-895900-02-6. Mr. Peart is a renowned drummer for the power rock trio out of Canada called Rush. I have been a fan of Rush since the release of their first album in 1974. As the primary lyricist for the band, Mr. Peart is not your typical rock-n-roll musician. Rush has always been referred to as "the thinking man's band" due to the lyrics from Mr. Peart.

An avid reader of such philosophers as Ayn Rand, Mr. Peart gets a lot of his inspiration from such philosophers, his personal experiences, and his own perspective of society. One of Mr. Peart's interests is cycling. It is has been documented in biographies of the band that Mr. Peart will cycle from city to city while on tour. Another interest of Mr. Peart's is cycling in other countries. That brings us to the book, *The Masked Rider*. This book covers his tour through the country of Cameroon in West Africa. Mr. Peart learned of this tour through a cycling group called Bicycle Africa.

Here is an excerpt from the introduction: "Cycling is a good way to travel anywhere, but especially in Africa. You are independent and mobile, and yet travel at 'people speed' - fast enough to move on to another town in the cooler morning hours, but slow enough to meet people: the old farmer at the roadside who raises his hand and says, 'You are welcome,' the tireless women who offer a smile to a passing cyclist, the children whose laughter transcends the humblest home."

Here is a press release from Pottersfield Press, the publishers of the book. "So begins the text of Neil Peart's extraordinary journal about riding a bicycle on the roads and off the beaten track in West Africa. This is a meditative, thought-provoking book by a perceptive and compassionate Canadian who finds himself far from the usual comforts of home. Neil Peart is the drummer and lyricist of the legendary rock band Rush."

"Masked Rider is about the bike trek and people who travel along with the author, including literary sidekicks Aristotle and Vincent Van Gogh. Sometimes it's the story of 'the bike ride from hell' as he suffers pains of dysentery and stares down the muzzle of a drunk soldier's machine gun. Others it's a journey of exalted discovery and African adventure of the highest caliber."

I found this book to be very captivating. I had a hard time putting it down once I began reading it. Linda has also read the book and loves the writing style of Mr. Peart. The book provides an up-close perspective of life in West Africa along with in-depth perspectives of society as a whole from the eyes and mind of a very deep person.

FRESH DATES

Team Ford Grand Prairie, TX

Captain: Dan Ford
Stoker: Nancy Ford
Joined DATES: September 2002
How long have you been cycling?
Captain: since 1989
Stoker: since 1989
How long tandeming? Since 1995
Why did you start riding tandem? Tandem riding is such a good use of time. You get healthier while spending time with the one you love.
What kind of tandem do you ride? Burley Samba, Longbike Duplex Recumbent Tandem, Trek T100 (large for sale - \$700)
How often do you ride? We ride in spurts. For a while we ride "not at all" and then we ride several times a week. Dan is a bicycle commuter and rides to his teaching job almost every day that it is not raining.
How far? Our typical tandem ride is 24 miles. Dan rides 10 miles round trip to school each day.
Usual route/area? 4 miles from South Grand Prairie to the dam at Joe Pool Lake and then laps back and forth across the dam.
Favorite Ride? Ridgway to Ouray Colo, Grand Junction/Grand Mesa Colo, I-70 bike path east of Glenwood Springs, Glen Rose Texas, Big Bend National Park, Zion National Park, North Rim Grand Canyon
Where/How did you hear about Double DATES? Richardson Bike Mart
Anything else you'd like us to know about you? We are both schoolteachers with the summer off. We also like hiking, camping, and kayaking.

Team Handy Arlington, TX

Captain: George Handy
Stoker: Susan Handy
Joined DATES: October 2002
How long have you been cycling?
Captain: 20+ years
Stoker: 3½ months
How long tandeming? 3½ months
Why did you start riding tandem? So we could ride together and still have a good time!
What kind of tandem do you ride? A blue Trek
How often do you ride? 2 or 3 times a week (in season)
How far? 30-50 miles
Usual route/area? Roads south of Joe Pool Lake
Favorite Ride? Any and all!
Where/How did you hear about Double DATES? Originally through Jim Hoyt
Anything else you'd like us to know about you? I (George) am the ride coordinator for the Lone Star Cyclists club. I like to lead rides, and will do so when the weather warms up again. I've been riding around North Texas since 1980 and used to ride with Scott & Mindy Mashburn before they were married! Looking forward to making new friends in the cycling community!

Team Pond Wichita Falls, TX

Captain: Larry L. Pond (Bubba)
Stoker: Nancy E. Pond (Lilly)
Joined DATES: October 2002
How long have you been cycling?
Captain: 1st season (2 yrs on a half bike)
Stoker: 1st season
How long tandeming? HH100 was the first real ride. We rode a few times together on a half bike and preferred a whole bike, tandem style.
Why did you start riding tandem? To spend precious moments together and some not so precious! Cycling is a great sport, good exercise and tandem helps us stay together!
What kind of tandem do you ride? Cannondale RT3000 (2002)

How often do you ride? 2 to 3 times per week
How far? Twenty to thirty miles each ride
Usual route/area? Wichita Falls country roads and FM roads mostly
Favorite Ride? HH100
Where/How did you hear about Double DATES? Jim and Janice Goins of Wichita Falls told us about the club and I came home and looked you up on the Internet. Logged on and printed out information and want to be a part of a lively group that enjoys the outdoors and good fun.
Anything else you'd like us to know about you? We have been married 31 years. We also ride Harley's in our spare time. We have a son and daughter happily married and all family members ride road and mountain bikes. We enjoy good friends, good food and good wine. We are volunteers for Hospice of Wichita Falls and attend Grace Church.

Team Wessels Arlington, TX

Captain: Mark Wessels
Stoker: Liz Wessels
Joined DATES: September 2002
How long have you been cycling?
Captain: 15 years
Stoker: 12 years
How long tandeming? 4 years
Why did you start riding tandem? Friends of ours had a tandem. They got us hooked on purchasing one.
What kind of tandem do you ride? Santana Arriva
How often do you ride? 4 times a week
How far? 70 to 100 miles on the weekend
Usual route/area? Joe Pool Lake. Bike south to Waxahachie, Venus and back to Joe Pool Lake area.
Favorite Ride? We ride singles mostly, but we do like to ride our tandem once a week. Our favorite ride is biking in Palo Pinto. We have a good 100-mile route – no traffic!
Where/How did you hear about Double DATES? Ronnie & Nannette Bryant
Anything else you'd like us to know about you? No – we just want to ride!

DATES TREATS**More Proof that "We Ride To EAT!"****Laurie's Apple-Cranberry Crisp
with Oat Topping & Cheddar Cheese**(Served at October 13th DATES Meeting)

4 large, sweet, firm apples, such as Braeburn, peeled
cored, & sliced (about 2 pounds)
1# fresh cranberries, rinsed well
1 cup roughly chopped walnuts (we used pecans)
1½ cups granulated sugar
2 Tbls fresh orange juice
2 tsp grated orange zest
1½ tsp ground cinnamon
¾ tsp grated nutmeg
1½ cups rolled oats
1½ cups packed light brown sugar
¾ cup all-purpose flour (we did not use)
12 tbls unsalted butter, cut into pieces
Dried cranberries
1½ cups grated white cheddar
Vanilla Ice Cream, as accompaniment

Preheat the oven to 375° F.

In a large bowl, combine apples, cranberries, walnuts,
sugar, orange juice, orange zest, 1 tsp cinnamon & ½ tsp
nutmeg, and toss well to combine.

In a separate bowl, combine oats, brown sugar, flour (we
omitted this ingredient), remaining ½ tsp cinnamon, and
remaining ¾ tsp nutmeg. Blend butter into dry ingredients
using fingers until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs.

Pour the fruit mixture into a 9" x 13" baking dish.
Sprinkle the crumb mixture over the top and add dried
cranberries. Bake for 15 minutes. Lower the temperature
to 350° and continue baking until bubbly and apples are
tender, 35 to 40 minutes. Remove from oven and sprinkle
cheese over the top. Return to oven and bake until cheese
is bubbly, about 6 minutes.

Remove from oven and let rest 10 minutes before serving
with vanilla ice cream on top.

Yields 12 servings.

Jan/Feb 2003 DATES-LINE Schedule:

Mailed by: January 14, 2003

Notices & Articles due by: Jan 7, 2003**Sign up for DATES Email Distribution List**

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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@casteelsign.com and he will assist you.

WEB Page: <http://www.doubledates.com>

2002 & 2003 Double DATES Rides & Activities

RIDE	DATE	START TIME	START PLACE	RIDE HOST	PHONE # / E-MAIL	DISTANCE	DETAILS
Christmas Lights Ride	Sunday Dec 8	Meet 5:30 PM Ride 6:00	Snider Plaza one block west of Hillcrest & Lovers Ln Dallas, TX	Scott & Mindy Mashburn	214-904-9189	Short	Lights Required. White Elephant Gift optional RSVP. See Article
4th Annual New Year's Day Ride	Wednesday Jan 1, 2003	Meet 10:00 am Ride 10:30	Home of Don & D'Ann Hunt 1480 Lucas Road, Lucas, TX	Don & D'Ann Hunt	972-442-6622 d2h@airmail.net	25, 19 or 15 miles	RSVP Bring a side dish or dessert to share. See Article
DATES Annual Meeting & Dinner	Saturday February 8, 2003	TBD	Baby Doe's Dallas, TX	Kevin & Linda Vinson			Details to follow in next newsletter See Article
13th Annual SouthWest Tandem Rally	April 25-27, 2003		Tulsa, Oklahoma				http://www.tulsabicycleclub.com/ Tandem%20Rally/SWTR3003.htm

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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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	Out of Town _____	1-800-875-5662 (b)	
	Night (Warren & Audre Casteel) _	(972) 596-8206 (h)	___ wacasteel@attbi.com
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