

DATES NEWS**ZUZU's Urban Adventure, Sunday May 4th**

Meet at the Albertson's parking lot on the SE corner of Abrams and Mockingbird in Dallas. We will enjoy urban riding in the neighborhoods around White Rock Lake, Ridgelea, Lake Highlands, and Lakewood. The ride will start 9:00AM, with the after ride meal at the ZUZU's on the same corner. For more information, contact Tom or Grace Hogan at 972-867-9252.

PBA/DATES MEMORIAL DAY RIDE & BBQ

Monday May 26th, 8:00 AM Ride

It is time to mark your calendar for the 1st annual PBA/DATES Memorial Day bike ride and BBQ. We will gather at Bob Woodruff Park in east Plano for a bike ride at 8AM, followed by lunch at the North Pavilion. There will be rides of 20, 40 and 60 miles, each with a ride leader. Ride maps may be available. Everyone should bring a side dish or desert to share along with beverages for yourself. FYI, alcohol is not allowed in the park. The PBA will provide the meat to grill. This event is for PBA and DATES club members and their families. RSVP by Friday May 23rd to ensure an accurate count via email to pba@planobicycle.org

CRASH THE B.A.S.H. May 17th

The annual 90-mile ride from Austin, San Antonio, or Houston to the Spoetzi Brewery in Shiner, Texas. At the brewery it's party time - enjoy food, drink and music. The party's over at 4:00 and busses take you back to your start point. Presented by Sun and Ski Sports and Shiner Bock benefitting the Shiner Chamber of Commerce and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. For more information contact John McManus at 214-321-6085 or John_J_McManus@yahoo.com. Or visit the web site: <http://www.shinerbash.com/routes.html>.

Leakey Tandem Weekend 2003 May 23-26

The Frio Canyon Lodge in Leakey Texas is reserved for tandem teams during for the Memorial Day Weekend. More information is available from edward@brykerwoods.org or on-line at <http://www.txinfo.com/leakey.html>.

SOUTHWEST TANDEM RALLY

John McManus

While we're participating in Southwest Tandem Rally 2003, some of us are already thinking about the Southwest Tandem Rally in 2005. Double DATES will host this rally.

For those of you new to DATES, the first DATES leaders, Bill and Debby Bailey, originated SWTR. DATES also organized the rally in 1993, 1996 and 2000. In addition, DATES members Rick and Kay Watson have organized the rally in Ardmore, Oklahoma in 1995 and 2001

For 2005 – **the 15th anniversary** – we have set high objectives: ***To plan and conduct the best SWTR ever.*** We will accomplish this by:

- A longer rally – all day Friday and Saturday and half day on Sunday.
- A unique location – Fredericksburg in the Texas Hill Country.
- A more varied menu of activities.
- Higher quality in every aspect – mementos, food, activities, entertainment.
- Providing more opportunities to get acquainted with other tandem teams.

An initial team has been assembled to do the initial planning:

- Cole/McManus – Overall planning and coordination, budget
- Carlson – Advertising and Graphics
- Mashburn – Food and Entertainment
- Vinson – Registration, Mementos and Web Site

Planning and conducting an event of this magnitude is a big event. To pull off the great success we plan will take the participation of the whole club. We're counting on you, DATES members. Additional opportunities will be available in the coming months, but now there are two positions open.

June 2003 DATES-LINE Schedule:

Mailed by: May 29, 2003

Notices & Articles due by: **May 25, 2003**



SWTR WANTS YOU!

EVENTS COORDINATOR: Responsible for planning the daytime events including Friday, Saturday and Sunday rides, Friday and Saturday lunch, and afternoon activities. The Team will be part of the initial SWTR planning core group. Planning experience is highly desirable, but enthusiasm is a good substitute. Email resume to John_J_McManus@ yahoo.com or call 214-321-6085 to discuss.

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Responsible for producing a logo, jersey design and overall web site look. Professional experience as a Graphic Designer is highly desirable. Send resume and sample portfolio to Chuck Carlson at c.carlson@sbcglobal.net. Or call to discuss at 972-248-8481.

DATES Business Meeting & Social

Sunday, June 1 5:30 PM

The next business meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm Sunday evening, June 1st at the home of Brenda Cole & John McManus, 922 Easton Place, Dallas 75218. Brenda will provide Lasagna or some great main dish and drinks. Please bring your favorite salad, side dish or dessert. Please RSVP to 214-321-6085.

Directions:

1. From LBJ: Go East to Plano Road. This exit will bring you to Church Street. Turn left on Church and then right at the light on Plano Road. Go through the first two stoplights. Note: at the second stop light (Northwest Highway) the road name changes from Plano Road to Lake Highlands. Go to step 3.
2. From Northwest Highway: go east and turn right on Lake Highlands. Go to step 3.
3. On Lake Highlands, from Northwest Highway, the next stoplight is Easton Road. Turn left. Go to the top of the hill. Turn right on Easton Place. Stay to the right. 922 is the second house on the left.
4. If you get lost, call 214-321-6085.

Feature Articles & Ride Reports

Pilot Point Ride – March

Comments by Chuck Carlson

Unlike our arrivals at most club rides, we were the first ones there. And if it weren't for our devoted ride leaders, Sandra and Herb Bloomer, we'd have been the only ones there. Where were the rest of you?

With minimal debate about should we or shouldn't we, we all decided that we would. So we quickly set off for the day's first stop -- two-tenths of a mile down the road to Johnny Joe's 66 station. With our first rest stop under our belts, we then headed out of town.

Two minutes later, we were out of Pilot Point riding east, or was it west? Without the sun to align us, Kris and I were turned around. Looking at the map, I now see that we rode in a counter-clockwise circle, starting east and ending west. The further we rode, the warmer we got and the better we could appreciate the route.

Sandra and Herb had set a course that covered mostly smooth roads frequented only by the occasional pick-up, which without fail was equipped with dual wheels. Herb informed us that virtually all of the pick-ups out near Pilot Point are "duallies" because they often pull horse trailers. Although wide, they managed to miss us.

Other than the cool temps, this ride had only one other sticky part. And it was really sticky. As we neared the Lake Ray Roberts dam, below the dam we followed a gravel road. Except it wasn't entirely gravel and had soaked up lots of water during the recent snow/sleet storm, which we discovered when we got off our bikes to push them through a maze of puddles leading up to a chain we would lift our bikes over. By the time we walked back to more gravel, we were all a couple of inches taller because of the clay stuck to our shoes. And our bike tires were fat with goo. Fortunately we found sticks to scrape off the muck. Had we been less adventurous, we could have taken the paved, busier, dam-top road.

Leaving the gumbo behind, we rode to a scenic overlook of the dam, the lake, and surrounding towns. The sun was out now and we were definitely getting warmer, as we shed a layer for the ride back to town. Along the way, we rode by some huge homes, including one with a 6-car garage. By the time we arrived back at our cars, we had about 36 miles on the odometer and an empty feeling in our stomachs, which we filled with BBQ and pie at Clark's Outpost in Tioga (home of Gene Autry). Thanks Sandra and Herb for a great ride!

SAR 2003

Written by Pete Holverson

The morning was chilly, but the stoker's always right,
 So we had to depart without warmers or tights.
 Tom and Brenda arranged us a tail wind again,
 So briskly we started, pampered stokers and men.
 Laura decided she was wildflower guide:
 "There's phlox and there's paintbrush!" She pointed
 with pride.
 And before we could get to the end of this sonnet,
 She pointed out plenty of fields of Bluebonnets.

A fine navigator, she led us to boot,
 Arranging a detour, in fact a new route!
 We weren't alone; no we had quite a pack
 And when the road turned to gravel, no one turned
 back.
 The smart would have left us, but I knew we were mad
 When I heard someone ask "Are we close to Baghdad?"
 But with help from Ronnie and a gate-mending man,
 We eventually found the stop at Lipan.

We bought the last rubber chicken and Mojoes galore.
 (Don't know what they think of us down at that store.)
 Tollar Café has closed, so we had to ride by
 Without a fresh slice of their Vinegar Pie.
 We saw some coyotes, a warning we guessed,
 Strung up to deter any such passing pests.
 So we tried to ride friendly and not give offense:
 We don't want to see tandemists up on a fence.
 At each water crossing, the captain was fool,
 Wanting to ride through, but he got overruled.
 Then we rolled into Glen Rose at last.
 Ready for drinks and a hearty repast.
 Laura, my stoker, you rode well today,
 Even on rough stuff, when we went astray.
 When my single is calling, I'm up to the test,
 For you know that I love to ride with you the best.

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 need assistance in signing up, e-mail Warren Casteel at warren@casteelsign.com.

**No Wine-ing from the Back,
 Lone Oak Winery Ride and BBQ**

Contributed by Tom Hogan

The body may not have been prepared for riding over cattle grates, but the dozens who made the trek north of Denton to the Lone Oak Winery enjoyed the ride.

The day was perfect – blue skies, about 72 degrees and no wind. Our ride hosts Larry and Nancy Gingerich had all the details worked out including maps, refreshments at the mid-point, complete with Easter humor, and lovely views of Lake Ray Roberts. It was a perfect 35 miles of rolling hills and pretty, Texas country vistas. It is clear why they chose to live in the area.

Post ride we sampled the Lone Oak reds and other Texas white wines and had delicious Rudy's barbecue served up by the Lone Oak Winery proprietors Robert and Jamie. Followed by a tour of the vineyard and wine cave. For those who weren't able to make it, weekend wine tastings and special events are available at the vineyard - - Lone Oak Vineyards, 4781 E. Lone Oak, Valley View, TX 76272 phone 940-637-2612.

To top off the special day Lone Oak Winery and DATES members contributed the 20% case savings on wine purchases to Larry's fund raising efforts for the Leukemia Society Team in Training Ride. GO LARRY!

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Texas Hill Country 2003

John McManus

DATES had good representation at the annual Hill Country Easter Weekend. For those who didn't go, you missed a lot. The wildflowers, particularly Bluebonnets, have never been better.

We did our standard routes – Willow City, Comfort (“Cattle Guard Ride”) and Luckenbach. But as the miles, the hills and the partying increased, participation decreased. We had approximately 20 tandems Friday, 10 on Saturday and 5 on Sunday. Some people, who will remain anonymous, partied so much on Saturday that they couldn't ride on Sunday. For the brave and hearty few who rode all the miles, we got in over 140. And probably climbed 6,000 feet. The big challenge was on the Cattle Guard Ride. Jim Hoyt had warned us that a low water crossing had flooded out. But we're hard headed and went to see anyway. We decided to wade rather than add five miles.

In addition to riding and seeing old friends, it is interesting to watch Fredericksburg change year after year. In spite of the changes, most of us ended up at our best restaurants, Fredericksburg Brewery and Bella Pasta. On Saturday, the Mashburn's and Dempsey's hosted a cookout at the house they rent each year. We had a good turnout from DATES as well as some fun loving Austinites.

We remember seeing the following DATES teams – Bloomer, Bryant, Carlson (captain only), Dixon, Hoyt, Cole/McManus, Dempsey, Holverson/Roberts, Neu, Hudson/Croy, Mashburn, Schreoder, Watson and Becky/ Wilson. Surely, there were others.

Next year Easter is on the 11th, which will be a pain for those in the tax preparation business. But which is more important? Paying taxes on time or enjoying one of life's most precious weekends – the Easter in the Texas Hill Country? 'See you there.

More Hill Country photos on www.doubledates.com.



Inquiring Minds

Last month inquiring minds question: Innie or Outie?

The results for April's question was skewed due to low sample size, therefore no definitive perspective towards either approach. *Two cross-carriers!* One team only puts the bike inside when they are running too late to get the rack on the wagon. And the other team it depends on whose car they're taking. An innie with the Van and an outie on the KIA.

Here's another question to spur participation.

Inquiring Minds want to know . . .

**Is your Stoker a Drag Queen?
With a brake that is.**

Let us know whether you ride or have ridden with a drag brake. Share your auxiliary brake tips or a favorite story. Visit the DoubleDates web site at: <http://www.doubledates.com> to share your Inquiring Minds responses. DATES Team Input and another Inquiring Minds question will be published in the next newsletter.



“Drat, I forgot the waders!”
Hero Herb Bloomer assisting Susan Waldron and Brenda Cole wading the creek.

FRESH DATES

Team Zajac

Coppell, TX

Captain: Barry

Stoker: Karen

Joined DATES: February 2003

How long have you been cycling?

Captain: 27 years

Stoker: 19 years

How long tandeming?

Captain: 3 years

Stoker: 7 years

Why did you start riding tandem? We knew people with tandems (and spares for us to borrow) and got hooked.

What kind of tandem do you ride? Meridian (the sparkly one)

How often do you ride? We ride bikes 3-4 times a week, at least once a week on the tandem.

How far? We like to do miles. 50-100 is worthwhile.

Usual route/area? Airport area, Argyle, Los Colinas, Carrollton

Favorite Ride? We enjoy riding in Hill Country

Where/How did you hear about Double DATES? Meeting tandemers on the road.

Anything else you'd like us to know about you? We got our tandem for our engagement. It's a way bigger commitment than a little ring.

RICHARDSON

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April Business Meeting & Social

by Kris and Chuck Carlson, Secretaries

Sunday, April 13th at the home of Tricia and Franklin Kemp. Eleven teams represented. All officers present except for Ride Coordinators Team Henbest, who, we are sad to report, are moving out of state, and Team Hogan DATES-line editors. Team Glenz has assumed the role of Ride Coordinators for the remainder of the year. Don formally acknowledged ride leaders for their recent efforts: Teams Bloomer (Pilot Point ride), Dixon (McKinney ride), McManus/Cole (Lancaster ride), Shaddox (Stoker Appreciation Ride), and Gingerich (Lone Oak Winery ride).

PBA will conduct a bike ride in conjunction with the ribbon-cutting event held by the city of Allen to celebrate the opening of Bethany Road on the west side of Hwy 75 on May 3rd.

A reminder to ride leaders, funds are available for ride expenses beyond the normal \$25 but need to obtain prior approval from Team Hunt or Team Boggess for added expenditures.

OFFICER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Team Boggess' budget report noted that YTD, the club is showing a balance of \$1600 due to under spending in budgeted expenses categories. Team Kemp's Membership report noted that we currently have 104 teams. John McManus and Kevin Vinson are working on putting ride maps on the web. Stay tuned for an announcement on how to access them.

NEW BUSINESS

\$100 was authorized to be spent on advertising at SWTR 2003 to inform the tandem community of our 2005 SWTR dates, 4/22-4/24 2005.

John McManus, chair of the 2005 SWTR committee, led a brainstorming session on activities for the 2005 SWTR. You are encouraged to contact John with any ideas you have for activities/seminars/games, etc. to be offered as a part of SWTR 2005.

It was decided that we would not honor a request from Texas Trails Network for \$25.

The best way to expand club membership is member marketing. Be sure to say hello if you meet tandem teams that are not already DATES members. Mention the web site or give them a card and encourage them to come to a meeting or ride. You can get DATES cards from DATES officers.

2003 Double DATES Rides & Activities

RIDE	DATE	START TIME	START PLACE	RIDE HOST	PHONE # / E-MAIL	DISTANCE	DETAILS
A Good Day's Ride in the Country	Sunday May 11	9:00 AM	Mabank, Texas	John McManus & Brenda Cole	214-321-6085 John_J_McManus@yahoo.com	70 miles	See Article
Two Flags Ride in Springtime	Sunday May 18	8:00 AM	Grayson County Courthouse downtown Sherman, TX	Herb & Sandra Bloomer	972-492-2727	48 miles	See Article
Ray Roberts Trailway Ride	Sunday June 1	8:00 AM	Ray Roberts Greenbelt Parking Lot Hwy 380 approximately 22 miles west of McKinney and 3 miles east of Denton	RD & Lynn Vanderslice	H 972-771-5465 W 972-771-6234 therwflash@ msn.com	32 miles	Larger tires recommended See Article
North by Northwest Ride	Sunday June 8	8:30 AM	Valley View Town Square Valley View, TX	Ronnie & Nanette Bry- ant	817-680-9404 Rbryant@ imagin.net	35 or 60 miles	See Article
DATES Campout & Riding Weekend	Fri - Sun June 13-15		Tyler State Park Tyler, TX	Roane & Jua- nita Logan	972-620-1882 juanita@ airmail.net		RSVP \$20 per couple See Article

Upcoming Area Pay Rides

RIDE	DATE	START TIME	START PLACE	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
13th Annual Blackjack 100	Saturday May 10	8:30 AM	Downtown Cumby, TX	www.cumbyfiredept.com/
TNT Poker Rally	Saturday May 10	8:00 AM	Winfrey Point, White Rock Lake Dallas, TX	www.pokerrally.org/
Cross Timbers Classic	Saturday May 17	7:30 AM	Parker Square Flower Mound, TX	http://www.flowermoundrotary.org/classic_main.htm
MADDer N' Hell Bike Rally	Saturday May 24	8:30 AM	Pilot Point Middle School Pilot Point, TX	(940) 387-8814
Mesquite Rodeo Bike Ride	Saturday June 7	7:55 AM	Resistol Arena at Rodeo Center 1818 Rodeo Dr, Mesquite, TX	Tandem Start and Tandem Discount www.mesquiterotary.org/bikeride2002.html
Collin Classic	Saturday June 14	8:00 AM	Collin County Youth Park, CR 166 @ CR 168 10 minutes from US 75 @ FM542	Tandem Discount www.collinclassic.com/
Tourd'Italia	Saturday June 21	8:00:00 - 9:00 AM	Italy High School Italy, TX	home.att.net/~lscyclists/

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 **Last Tuesday** of the previous month. Notices and Articles must be received a week prior to the mailing date 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 ddateseditor@aol.com or mailed on a 3.5 diskette to the editors Tom & Grace Hogan at 2200 Woodburn Corners, Plano, TX 75075-3507.

Advertising Rates (per issue): \$10 - Business card size ads; \$35 - 1/4Page ads; \$50 - 1/2Page ads

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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HOT-LINE	_____ Dallas Area _____	214.352.7446 (b)	
	_____ Out of Town _____	1-800-875-5662 (b)	
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