

**DATES NEWS****MELON PATCH TOUR WEEKEND!****August 8-10, 2003**

Hosted by Team Hunt

The Melon Patch Tour is a really fun bicycle rally held in De Leon, Texas each August in conjunction with the De Leon Country Fair and Peach & Melon Festival. This year will mark the 89th year for the Peach & Melon Fest. Many DATES teams have made the Melon Patch Tour an annual event just because it's so much fun. The DATES agenda is detailed below. Team Hunt will be your DATES ride hosts again this year, and we plan to do things pretty much the same way this year as we did last year **EXCEPT** for the hotel reservations:

This year DATES will make Melon Patch Tour 2003 headquarters at The Best Western Cross Timbers of Stephenville (located on U.S. Highway 377). Cross Timbers is recognized by the Stephenville Empire-Tribune as one of *The Best of Erath County 2000*. The Cross Timbers is locally owned and operated by Jerry Robinson, a fellow bicyclist and planning team member for this year's Stephenville Firecracker 100. Over the past 3 years the Robinsons have remodeled all their rooms. Jerry is very enthused about hosting DATES club members for this year's Melon Patch Tour. Check the web at [http://www.bestwestern.com/prop\\_44192](http://www.bestwestern.com/prop_44192).

If you are reading this after July 28, 2003 the DATES' room block and guaranteed room rate has expired. However you can still call Cross Timbers and Jerry will offer you a room if he has availability on a first-come first served basis. (Sorry, but you will not be eligible for the free room prize that was part of the DATES room block.) If you don't have your Melon Patch Registration in, you can still do that, too. Registration at the Senior Citizens Center in DeLeon will be available the day before (8/8/03) or even the morning of the event (8/9/03). And best of all, we'll be happy to include you in the DATES Friday evening fun and dinner at Pastafina and on the Sunday ride.

**September 2003 DATES-LINE Schedule:**

Mailed by: August 26, 2003

**Notices & Articles due by: August 20, 2003****YOUR ACTIONS for MELON PATCH WEEKEND:**

1. Call Cross Timbers at (254) 968-2114 to book your room for Friday (8/8/03) and Saturday (8/9/03).
2. Submit your Melon Patch Tour registration. You can print off a registration form for the rally by visiting the following web site: <http://www.deleontexas.com/biketour/>.
3. Contact Team Hunt ([d2h@airmail.net](mailto:d2h@airmail.net)) and let us know:
  - a. If you made your reservation at Cross Timbers using the DATES block of reservations in order to be eligible for one of the free room prizes
  - b. If you will be joining the group for supper Friday Night at Pastafina in Stephenville at 7:00 PM so we can make reservations for the right number of people.

Note: We prefer contact via email at [d2h@airmail.net](mailto:d2h@airmail.net), or you may call us at (972) 442-6622.

For those who have never gone on this mini vacation with us, here's the plan:

Friday, 8 Aug

- Leave work early and drive to Stephenville (S.W. of Ft. Worth). It will be about a 3-hour drive from Plano.
- If you get to Stephenville early enough, drive on down to De Leon to pick up your packet for the ride, and stop at Dublin to tour the oldest Dr. Pepper bottling company on your way back to the motel. See <http://www.dublintexas.com/>.
- Return to Cross Timbers and hang out at the motel pool or catch some shut-eye until about 7:00 PM when we will go to the Pastafina restaurant in Stephenville for a group dinner. (Last year, we had about 32 people!)

Saturday, 9 Aug

- The Melon Patch Tour starts at 8:00 in De Leon, so you'll need to plan 30 minutes of drive time from the motel plus whatever time you need to get ready to ride.

After the ride, a spaghetti lunch in air-conditioned comfort at the start/finish is offered for \$6 per adult. (Sign up for spaghetti on your ride registration if you plan to eat at the finish line.)

- Bring your own towel and a change of clothes, so that after the ride you can stop by the football field in De Leon to shower and change.
- Walk through the Peach & Melon Festival in downtown De Leon where there is a variety of street vendors and maybe an antique auto show. (See <http://cctc.cctc.net/~pmdeleon/> or <http://www.deleontexas.com.>)
- At 5 PM they bring out flat bed trucks loaded with chilled watermelon and start cutting them and giving them away on the main drag as the final event of the festival. They always have enough to give everyone at least a quarter of a watermelon. (Bring your own fork!)
- Saturday night, the county fair cranks up in De Leon and it includes a national, unlimited class tractor pull that is well worth a visit if you have never seen such a thing. The really big, multi-engine, custom built, monsters don't get started until 11:00 PM or later. (You'll want earplugs!)

Sunday, 10 Aug

- We meet in the motel parking lot at about 8:00 AM for a DATES ride. There will be a 30-mile course with an 18-mile short cut option.
- After the ride, we get cleaned up, check out, and see if anyone will join us for lunch before leaving Stephenville for home.

We look forward to seeing lots of DATES teams for the 2003 MELON PATCH TOUR. As always, if you have any questions do not hesitate to send us an email or give us a call.

*Congratulations* to Bobby and Jane Ross as they brought their future cyclist Miss Madison Kylie Ross into the world on July 08, 2003 at 2:14am. Mom and baby are doing great.

## Inquiring Minds

Inquiring Minds want to know . . .

**Suggestions to maintain a cycling lifestyle with a new baby and sleep deprivation!**

## Hotter 'N Hell Weekend

Hosts Team Goins (Jim & Janice)

August 23 & 24

By now hopefully everyone has their lodging booked and is in great condition to "enjoy" another Hotter N Hell. Online registration, lodging information, and any other information you could want can be had at [www.HH100.org](http://www.HH100.org).

PLEASE NOTE: Tandem start time is 6:50 A.M.

This year there is an After Ride Party from noon until 7:00 at a local Irish Pub, The Iron Horse, to offer you a place to unwind, relax, and share war stories of the days ride. There will be no cover charge but there will be a small charge for food and drink. The Iron Horse is located at the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Lamar just a few blocks from the Events Center downtown. For those who want to keep the party going, a "headlining" band, yet to be announced, is scheduled to start playing at 8:00.

Saturday evening we have reservations at 6:00 at the Oxford Street Restaurant and Pub for Dates members and their guests to enjoy all the good food and libations they can stand. Oxford Street is located on Maplewood Ave right across the street from Sikes Center Mall. (To the east) Oxford Street has a fairly varied menu but specializes in steaks, seafood, chicken etc. They seem to be able to handle large groups quite well.

Sunday morning at 8:30 A.M. join Team Goins for a "relaxed pace" ride in the country. We promise smooth roads, no traffic, and tailwinds on routes of either 20 or 40 miles. The ride will start from the Girls and Boys club parking lot, which is located at the corner of Maurine St. and N. Beverly. From I-44 (Central freeway) turn west on Maurine (around LaQuinta & Herb Easley Motors) and go seven tenths of a mile to N. Beverly. The Girls and Boys Club will be on the right. From our starting point it will be around 1 mile to get out of town and on to quiet country roads. Janice and I will lead the short group and son Bryan will lead the longer group. Maps will be provided and routes will be well marked.

This should be a great cycling weekend packed full of things to do, so load up your bike and your biggest Camelback and join us (and about 8,000 of our very closest friends) for a fun time at the HHH.

Email us with any questions or comments at [sodypop@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sodypop@sbcglobal.net)

***DATES Business Meeting & Social***

September 14<sup>th</sup> Ride and Meeting

Join Team Hogan for a ride around Plano to Frisco on recently completed sections of road that few cars have discovered. A swim and the next business meeting will follow the ride. Ride starts at 8:00 AM, business meeting around 11:30. Be sure to join us as we discuss the SWTR 2005 hosted by DATES!

2200 Woodburn Corners in Plano, near Park and Coit.

**Collin Classic 2003**

By Don Hunt

The Collin Classic has long been recognized as one of the better rallies to attend in the local area. It is usually well attended by DATES couples, and 2003 was no exception. The night before the ride, we heard weather forecasts promising severe thunderstorms at day break, so we went to bed expecting that we wouldn't really ride. To our surprise, the next morning was clear and comparatively cool with very little wind. It was just about perfect for a long ride on the bike!

The start of the ride was at the new high school in McKinney and from our prospective; traffic control to get into the place was the best we've seen in a long time. They had people directing traffic from the time we first exited Hwy 75. The high school provided a great facility for handling the crowd of about 2000 riders getting ready to ride. It also proved to be a very comfortable place to feed the group at the end of the ride. I'd give Collin Classic an A+ for facilities this year.

We elected to ride the 55-mile route and spent most of the time riding with or around teams Vinson, Hering, Hudson/Croy, Carlson, and half of team Seggerman. We saw several of the fast crowd just leaving the second rest area as we were rolling in. As a loose group, we mostly rode and chatted and kept up with each other, but occasionally someone would "feel the need for speed" and hammer for a short distance. What was really funny about that was that each time that happened, the fast team would eventually slow back down to join the group again and continue to visit. It was a really good day out cycling with friends.

**News from the Texas Bicycle Coalition:**

Bike Path Funding in Danger!  
Call Congress Today

The House Transportation Subcommittee has voted to eliminate federal funding for bicycle facilities from the 2004 budget, redirecting that money to HIGHWAYS. If this plan succeeds, highway funding will receive \$34.1 billion (a \$2.5 billion increase over 2003) and bicycle/pedestrian projects will receive \$0 from Enhancements.

Governor Perry Signs Share the Road License Plate Bill Into Law!  
Bill to be effective Sept. 1, coming soon to Texas!



**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](http://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](mailto:warren@casteelsign.com).

## *July DATES Ride, Picnic, & Business Meeting Minutes*

**Location:** Isle du Bois State Park (Lake Ray Roberts)

### **Attending**

**Officers:** D'Ann Hunt, Kris and Chuck Carlson, Grace and Tom Hogan, Tricia and Franklin Kemp, Diane and Tom Glenz

### **Absent**

**Officers:** Don Hunt, Team Boggess, and Team Vinson

### **Attending**

**Teams:** Colleen and Tony Herring, Carol Croy and Bruce Hudson, Juanita and Roane Logan, Charlotte Harding & Rusty Tether.

D'Ann opened the meeting by thanking the Logans for allowing us to piggyback the meeting onto their ride and picnic. Minutes from the April meeting were reviewed.

## **OFFICER/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Treasurers** – In Team Boggess' absence, it was noted that the \$500 donation budgeted for the TX Bicycle Coalition has not been sent because we've not received the annual solicitation. In April, the club decided we might want to protect our budget reserves for possible SWTR 2005 needs.

**Team Glenz** reviewed the upcoming ride schedule, which will appear in the DATES-LINE. It was also noted that there is no ride scheduled for the weekend of 7/27 or 8/3. The Copperas Cove ride being organized by Team Heppler was discussed and it was agreed that this is not a DATES-sponsored event and therefore involves no liability concerns.

**Membership Coordinators** – Team Kemp's Membership report noted that there is a new club roster available that has been distributed to club officers.

**Secretaries** – No report.

**DATES-LINE Editors** – Team Hogan mentioned that Sean Thompson (former USA Cycling Head Team Mechanic) from Plano Cycling and Fitness is offering a repair and maintenance tip column expected to run regularly.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The SWTR 2005 committee requests for deposit approvals is being put on hold by Committee Chair John McManus until he can draft a budget that includes the aforementioned expenditures. The SWTR 2005 budget will be reviewed at the next club meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Tony Herring suggested that for security reasons the DATES-LINE not include travel dates when mentioning the upcoming trips being taken by club members.

**NEXT MEETING:** Sunday morning, September 14<sup>th</sup> at the club ride hosted by Grace & Tom Hogan. Details will be posted on the upcoming DATES-LINE.

Submitted by Kris and Chuck Carlson, Secretaries

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**DALLAS AREA TANDEM ENTHUSIASTS**

WEB Page: [www.doubledates.com](http://www.doubledates.com)

**PAGE**

**Double DATES Rides & Activities**

<b>RIDE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>START TIME</b>	<b>START PLACE</b>	<b>RIDE HOST</b>	<b>PHONE # / E-MAIL</b>	<b>DISTANCE</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>
<b>After Melon Patch Ride</b>	Sunday August 10		Watch for details in next months newsletter	Don & D'Ann Hunt			Stay on in De Leon and enjoy the festival with seed spittin', tractor pull, and an Old Fiddler's Contest. Check out the festivities at: <a href="http://cctc.cctc.net/~pmdeleon/">http://cctc.cctc.net/~pmdeleon/</a>
<b>Historic Waxahachie Ride &amp; Pool Party</b>	Sunday August 17	8:30 AM	Home of George & Ginger Cole 207 Rock Springs Drive	George & Ginger Cole	972-938-1874, GnGCole@aol.com	varied	Ride on the Gingerbread Trail past beautiful homes and the Chautauqua in Getzendaner Park. RSVP to the Cole's so they can plan food and provide directions
<b>Hotter N'Hell Weekend</b>	23-Aug-24	8:30 AM	8:30 Start on Sunday at the parking lot of the Girls & Boys Club	Jim & Janice Goins	sodypop@sbcglobal.net	20 or 40 miles on Sunday	After ride celebration at The Iron Horse, dinner at the Oxford Street Restaurant plus more riding. See this month's newsletter for more details.
<b>Labor Day/Melissa Ride and Pool Party</b>	1-Sep-03	8AM	Members Only Ride for DATES and PBA (Plano Bicycle Association)	Team Nail & Team Mumby	RSVP by email: bgnail@ranail.com or phone: 972-838-2768.	25, 40, 60 miles	Mapped routes on quiet country roads. If you would like to join us after the ride for goodies from the grill, please bring a side dish to share + lawn chairs
<b>Ride, Swim &amp; Business Meeting</b>	Sunday Sept. 14th	8:00 AM	2200 Woodburn Corners, Plano 1/4 mile east of Coit, 1/4 mile North of Park	Grace & Tom Hogan	972.867.9252	TBD	Ride from Plano to Frisco and back. Followed by a swim, lunch and Business Meeting. Bring a salad or dessert to share
<b>2nd Dates Century</b>	Sunday Sept. 28th	Course opens at 8:00AM	Packet pick-up begins at 7:00AM Course opens at 8:00 AM from downtown Van Alstyne, Texas	Tom Shaddox & Brenda Hurstin	res1rrzj@verizon.net	half, full and metric Century	Comments from last year: "The course is a perfect combination of hills, flats, country lane, ..." "...well supported century on a fabulous route"

**Upcoming Area Pay Rides**

<b>RIDE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>START TIME</b>	<b>START PLACE</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>
<b>Melon Patch</b>	Saturday August 9	8:00 AM	Watch for DATES Weekend Adventure in DeLeon	ROUTES: 71, 42, 29, 18 & 8 miles, <a href="http://www.deleontexas.com/biketour/">http://www.deleontexas.com/biketour/</a>
<b>Hot Rocks</b>	Saturday August 9	8:15 AM	Utley Middle School	ROUTES: 10, 20 43 and 62 Miles, Register on-line at: <a href="http://www.rockwallrotary.com">http://www.rockwallrotary.com</a>
<b>Hotter N' Hell 100</b>	Saturday August 23	6:50AM Tandem Start	Corner of Scott and Wichita Street, special start for Tandems and Recumbents	ROUTES: 100m, 100k, 50m, 25m 10k. <a href="http://www.hh100.org/">http://www.hh100.org/</a>
<b>Grand Prairie Grand Prix</b>	Saturday Sept. 20	8:00 AM	Lynne Creek Marina	Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce 972-263-1558
<b>Waco Wild West</b>	Saturday Sept. 27	8:00AM	Indian Spring Park, Waco Texas	ROUTES: 10, 25, 50, 62, 100 <a href="http://www.teamwbc.com/wacowildwest">http://www.teamwbc.com/wacowildwest</a>

Dallas Area Tandem Enthusiasts present:

# DATES Second Century!

DATES' second annual century ride just for TANDEM teams featuring half, metric and full centuries. Award winning route with country lanes, farms, small Texas towns, rolling hills; rest stops, maps and SAG support.

**When:** Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

Packets available 7:00AM. Course opens 8:00AM.

Registrations due by September 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Where:** Ride start is in downtown Van Alstyne, Texas – 48 miles north of Dallas city center via US 75.

**Cost:** Free for DATES members, non-members teams \$9

*Non-member teams, please see bike shops for registration form.*

DATES members please fill in the form below and mail to: DATES second century, 1325 Chicota Drive, Plano, Texas 75023-1903, or email to [res1rrzj@verizon.net](mailto:res1rrzj@verizon.net):

Stoker: \_\_\_\_\_

Captain: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

We plan to tackle the: \_\_\_\_\_ half century \_\_\_\_\_ metric century \_\_\_\_\_ full century

Ask anyone who rode it last year about this ride

**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](mailto: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 - ¼Page ads; \$50 - ½Page 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.

DATES COORDINATORS _____	Don & D'Ann Hunt _____	972.442.6622 (h) _____	<a href="mailto:d2h@airmail.net">d2h@airmail.net</a>
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MEMBERSHIP COORDINATORS _____	Franklin & Tricia Kemp _____	972.578.9093 (h) _____	<a href="mailto:pwkemp@comcast.com">pwkemp@comcast.com</a>
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SECRETARY _____	Chuck & Kris Carlson _____	972.248.8481 (h) _____	<a href="mailto:c.carlson@sbcglobal.net">c.carlson@sbcglobal.net</a>
WEB SITE _____	Kevin & Linda Vinson _____	<a href="http://www.doubledates.com">www.doubledates.com</a>	
HOT-LINE _____	<b>Dallas Area</b> _____	214.352.7446 (b)	
	<b>Out of Town</b> _____	1-800-875-5662 (b)	
	<b>Night</b> (Warren & Audre Casteel) _____	(972) 596-8206 (h) _____	<a href="mailto:wacasteel@comcast.com">wacasteel@comcast.com</a>
DATES1 Email Distribution _____	Warren & Audre Casteel _____	(972) 596-8206 (h) _____	<a href="mailto:wacasteel@comcast.com">wacasteel@comcast.com</a>



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