

**DATES NEWS****Labor Day Ride – THIS MONDAY!  
Melissa Ride and Pool Party  
Members Only Ride for DATES and PBA  
(Plano Bicycle Association)  
September 1, 2003**

Join Rusty and Belinda Nail and Marc and Susie Mumby for a holiday ride on quiet country roads. Meet at the Nail's home in Melissa for the ride start at **8 AM**. Mapped routes of approximately 25, 40 and 60 miles will be offered. If you would like to join us after the ride for goodies from the grill, please bring a side dish to share + lawn chairs and RSVP by email: [bgnail@ranail.com](mailto:bgnail@ranail.com) or phone: 972-838-2768. The pool & hot tub will also be open for a dip after the ride, so bring a swimsuit and towel. Some soft drinks will be provided. Because of the huge turnout last year and part of the expense of the party is paid by the clubs, this event is for members only.

Directions: The ride start is located at 1613 Grandberry Drive in Melissa. Take US75 to SH121, exit # 45, 8 miles north of McKinney. Head east and turn right at first traffic light, Berry Road (CR 339, land-marked by Kim's Fudge Factory, Texaco). Look for Berry Farms subdivision 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.

***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. The 25 mile ride will be followed by a swim and the next business meeting. Ride starts at 8:00 AM. You don't have to ride to join us for the brunch business meeting which will begin around 11:00. The agenda includes the annual meeting, SWTR 2005 and more!

Please bring a salad or dessert to accompany deli sandwiches. Please RSVP to ensure sufficient drinks and meats are available. 972.867.9252

2200 Woodburn Corners in Plano, near Park and Coit.

**Collin County Ride  
Sunday, September 7th – 8:30 am**

Kevin and Linda Vinson will host the Collin County Ride on Sunday, September 7th. The route includes part of the Collin Classic course and features plenty of challenging hills on country roads in peaceful countryside. We will start at Erwin Park in McKinney and ride approximately 30-40 miles (2 routes/distances will be available).

To get to Erwin Park in McKinney: From US 380, head north on FM1461 (about 7.1 miles east of Preston Road, SH289 and 2.4 miles west of US75). Go approximately 1.9 miles on FM1461 and turn right onto CR162 and then another quick right onto CR164. Go 1 mile and turn left onto CR1006. Follow CR1006 approximately 0.3 of a mile and make a right into Erwin Park. Follow the road through the park until you come to a T and then turn left. Continue on until you see the sheltered picnic area and restrooms.

If anyone has questions, please contact Kevin or Linda at 972-625-6110 or via email at [linda.vinson@eds.com](mailto:linda.vinson@eds.com)

Look forward to seeing everyone on the 7th!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tandem Only Century**

Sunday September 28<sup>th</sup>

After the success and excitement of last year, we have a repeat of the DATES Century Ride in North Texas. Whether you choose a half, metric or full century ride it is sure to be a fun ride in lovely north Texas roads. See page 7 of this newsletter for registration information.

**In Memoriam**

Our prayers and condolences go to Danny Baca and HATS club members. Donna Baca passed away on June 30th after having suffered a series of strokes caused by a recently diagnosed brain tumor.

**October 2003 DATES-LINE Schedule:**

Mailed by: September 26, 2003

**Notices & Articles due by: Sept. 20, 2003**

## MELON PATCH TOUR WEEKEND!

### Ride Summary in 2 Parts

#### Part 1, Welcome to Town, now Ride!

Contributed by Team Hunt

The town of DeLeon, TX is a town out in the middle of nowhere southwest of Ft. Worth about 3 hours drive from Plano. Each year, they host an event they call the Peach & Melon Festival and one of the best bicycle rallies of the year. The town is so small, there isn't a place to stay, so we always book a room in Stephenville and invite the rest of DATES to join us and make a weekend of enjoying the pleasures of small town fun.

These folks really like to have the cyclists show up and ride. In fact, the mayor of DeLeon spoke to us at the start last year and told us that the money the cyclists bring to town makes the whole festival possible. They give tandems a price break on the registration fee and they let tandems lead the pack out of town. This year, they intended to have the tandems for each distance lead each pack out, but it seems that D'Ann and I were the only ones who caught that fact. When we stepped up to the line for the 40 mile group, were the only team in sight. All the others left with the 70 mile riders.

When they turned us loose to start our ride, the course took us to Main Street for a quick run through a portion of the booths and shoppers before we headed out to the country roads of the course. We were the first bike in the 40 milers to hit Main Street and people clapped and cheered for us. We were already through the crowd and headed out of town when we heard the brass band start playing for the main group of riders behind us. We were feeling strong and fast **and** inspired by that point, so we kept the pressure up to try to chase down the back end of the 70 mile group. I stole a quick look in my mirror and saw we were pulling a long pace line of smiling single bikes as we pedaled on, looking for the pack in front of us. When we caught the 70 mile pack, we powered back to catch our breath and sent our fast single bikes on to continue the chase. They thanked us for the pull and took off.

We soon came upon the first rest stop where we finally caught up with some of our DATES group. (Each rest stop on the Melon Patch tour has a box from which you draw for prizes, so we never skip a rest stop on this ride.) They waited long enough for us to check out the goodies at the rest stop and pull our door prize tickets from the prize box. Then, we mounted up and took off to ride with teams Vinson, Hering, and Metcaff. Mark & Debra Metcaff are new members to DATES and they are riding a recumbent tandem. We soon discovered that even though our average speeds were pretty much the same, they were faster than us on the downhill and we were faster than they were going up hill.

We continued to ride more or less with each other around the 40 mile course until we got to the final 10 miles or so. Then, team Metcaff took off on a chase to demonstrate to a half bike that recumbents "ain't necessarily slow". We continued to ride along with the other two teams until suddenly they took off, too. I'm still wondering if they got faster or we just got slower. In any case, we chugged on in to the finish area as the first gust of a terrific West Texas thunder storm blew in. The wind was so cool that people were actually starting to look for sweatshirts and jackets! We just loaded our bike in the van, checked out the door prize table for our winnings, and then went inside for our post ride pasta lunch. It rained while we ate and stopped just when we finished. Just about perfect!

### EXPECTATIONS OF A DATES RIDE

By Don Hunt

I am reminded from time to time that we have club members who may not feel confident in joining us for a ride because they may not know what is expected of them nor what to expect from us. This is a casual club focused on providing opportunities for people with a common interest in tandem cycling to get together and enjoy that activity. People should expect to be welcomed on a ride by club members and they should know that the club will make sure that everyone has successfully completed a ride before we all leave. Having said that, I should also let it be known that this club does not always ride in a pace line or a pack. Each bike is expected to ride at the speed they find comfortable, which means that we are often pretty spread out by the end of a ride. It also happens that several tandems on a ride discover they all ride at about the same speed, so they ride more or less as a pack and visit with each other along the way.

With a group so loosely organized, and rides hosted by team members that do not include vehicles patrolling the route, it is important that each tandem carry enough emergency gear to handle foreseeable problems. Flat tires and dropped chains are foreseeable problems and each bike is expected to be prepared to deal with those sorts of things on their own. You'll find, however, that the club members generally consider your flat tire a dandy opportunity to take a break and discuss repair techniques. If you are the last bike on the course though, it may be a while before anybody knows you have a problem.

You are not expected to know the names of all other tandem teams in the DFW area. You should be working at it though! Whether on a club ride, a pay ride, or a ride of your own, when you see another tandem, ride up and introduce yourself. Chances are they're DATES are members too! If not, tell them about the club, tell them about the web site, [www.doubledates.com](http://www.doubledates.com) and invite them to join. They'll be glad you did.

## DATES DISPATCHES AROUND THE WORLD ....

### Up Close! By Gail Spann

Jim and I set off for our honeymoon to France on July 3rd. We had signed up with a tour run by Aussies. What a great trip! We literally shipped our Co Motion Al Capp tandem over and we assembled it upon arrival. Our first hotel was less than a mile from the Eiffel Tower and we went and rode amidst Paris traffic without a single incident; they are much more cyclist friendly in France than we had ever thought! Our tandem was a big hit in the land of romance, and we had many a compliment on riding together. We set out on buses with a trailer behind that held numerous bikes in a fashion that we admired; they all hung with pads and rails to keep them safe. Our tandem was the only one in the group and we had space in the van following behind. Off we went to ride the Tour de France race course each day. We rode prior to the race and having three retired TdF racers in our group (one being "Stevo", a stage winner) we had certain privileges others did not get to enjoy. We were riding the same roads that the racers would race on that very day! The temps were exceedingly hot, and it had been over 200 years since they had a summer heat like we experienced there. The tar was literally bubbling on the roads! Needless to say we had to be extra careful of the gooey conditions. We rode through villages in the Champagne district, saw huge fields of sunflowers...lavender, corn and wheat. The outdoor cafes offered wonderful lunches along the routes. We headed for the Alps and went to the top of Mont Blanc near Italy on a day of rest by way of gondola/cable car. The glaciers were spectacular to see! Each day offered a different view, and the tandem was ever popular. Many locals were very pleased to see us riding and we often had encouragement as we climbed endlessly up to the Alpe D' Huez! Jim and I worked well as a team and learned to say fun things in French to the locals. These people adore cycling, and often had American flags in offer of support of Lance Armstrong. We had nothing but great treatment from the French.

Viewing the races each day was incredible, seeing the speeds these men maintain was just phenomenal! We would bring along loaves of French bread, cheeses, fruit and water, often a whole chicken and carry it on the bike and set up a picnic area to watch the race.

Shipping the tandem was no easy feat. We had Plano Cycles help with the packaging ( we bought our tandem there) and they were most helpful in finding a company to do so. The airlines would not take the bike as the measurements were too long for them, and FED EX and UPS would not either. We finally found Emery and they had an office in Paris so we had it shipped to the hotel directly...but alas, French customs snagged it and charged us 131 Euros (about a \$150) to hold it. We had to send someone to get it out of hock for us! We shipped the tandem sans wheels, saddles, computers and pedals. We had packaged those to come with us on the plane home. We're crossing our fingers that the frame makes it back to us!

We got autographs from George Hincapie as well as others. Saw Lance many times and Jim and I snuck into the press area and enjoyed the privileges until a gendarme asked to see our papers. We smiled and said "we are outta here!" (Can't go to Europe without SOMEONE saying "Papers please? " !!!) We climbed many hills, mountains and enjoyed it all. We also got to descend FAST...so we had added a drum brake for the stoker to control and we are SOOOO glad we did!

We give France a big thumbs up for their ability to make cyclists feel as though they are a part of the normal traffic routine, and quite frankly the people were nothing but nice! If you want details of this yearly tour for the TdF, please contact us at [BikinGail@aol.com](mailto:BikinGail@aol.com)

**RICHARDSON**

---

**BIKE MART**

---

**Your Source for Santana, Ibis,  
Burley & Trek Tandem**

**Expert Tandem Repair & Service**

See us at our big, new shop,  
SE corner Coit & Campbell, Richardson  
(972) 231-3993

**FRESH DATES**

*Team Feagins*

Richardson, TX

**Captain:** Brian Feagins

**Stoker:** Kelley Feagins

**Joined DATES:** July 2003

**How long have you been cycling?**

**Captain:** 14 years

**Stoker:** 3 years

**How long tandeming?** Since May 2003

**Why did you start riding tandem?** So we could exercise together

**What kind of tandem do you ride?** TREK T2000

**How often do you ride?** Twice/week

**How far?** 20-30 miles/ride

**Usual route/area?** Varies

**Favorite Ride?** We haven't found a "favorite" yet

**Where/How did you hear about Double DATES?** Plano Cycling & Fitness

**Anything else you'd like us to know about you?** We will be attempting our first 100 mile ride in the 'Hotter n Hell' on Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>.

*Team Metcalf*

Arlington, TX

**Captain:** Mark Metcalf

**Stoker:** Debra Metcalf

**Joined DATES:** July 2003

**How long have you been cycling?**

**Captain:** 3 years

**Stoker:** 6 months

**How long tandeming?** 5 days

**Why did you start riding tandem?** I kept losing her.

**What kind of tandem do you ride?** Angletech Rans Screamer Recumbent

**How often do you ride?** 3-4 times a week

**How far?** 15-20 miles, but have gone 50 in events on singles.

**Usual route/area?** Arlington

**Favorite Ride?** Lancaster

**Where/How did you hear about Double DATES?** Internet

**Anything else you'd like us to know about you?** We're looking forward to meeting everyone at the event in DeLeon. We are booked into the hotel with the other members. We'll see you there. Oh, and by the way, we got married one month ago.

**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. Click on "Join This Group" on the web [groups.yahoo.com/group/DATES1](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DATES1), then click on "Sign Up Now" to reach the sign up page.

If you need assistance in signing up, e-mail Warren Casteel at [warren@casteelsign.com](mailto:warren@casteelsign.com).

**Plano Cycling Mechanical Tip of the Month**

**BAR TAPE**

Bar tape has very little to do with how good your bike functions mechanically. It does however have an impact on the long-term health of your bike. Bike riders sweat and this sweat is often absorbed into the handle bar tape. It settles into your levers and begins to corrode your cables and bars, and levers. I have seen tape, that wasn't that old but a little beyond it's prime, snugly containing enough sweat residue to corrode a small battleship. This is difficult to recover completely since the sweat penetrates into areas that are difficult to clean thoroughly enough. New bar tape is such an easy thing to do yet it is often overlooked. Most riders wait until the tape is torn at least twice before it gets replaced. I think everyone should treat themselves to new bar tape before every big event. It makes your bike really feel better about itself around the other bikes and new tape always feels better to ride. Professional road teams will change tape after almost every stage at big stage races. Changing you tape every day or two is a bit extreme for most riders but every couple of months during the season is ok.

Technical Tips brought to you by:

Sean Thomson

Former USA Cycling Head Team Mechanic

Plano Cycling & Fitness

[seant@planocycling.com](mailto:seant@planocycling.com)

...and we'll buy our tandem at

**PLANO**  
Cycling + Fitness

(972) 423-4130

Co-Motion Litespeed Cannondale

[www.planocycling.com](http://www.planocycling.com)

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

**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>Labor Day/Melissa Ride and Pool Party</b>	Monday Sept. 1st	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 mlls	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>Collin County Ride</b>	Sunday Sept. 7th	8:30 AM	Erwin Park McKinney	Kevin & Linda Vinson	email: linda.vinson@eds.com	30-40 miles	Head north on FM 1461 off Hwy 380, 2.4 miles west of US75, aprox. 1.9 miles to CR162, turn right, then right again on CR164. Go 1 mile to CR1006, turn right to the park.
<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 Hursin	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"
<b>Las Colinas or SMU Ride</b>	Sunday October 5	8:00AM	Look for detail next month	Chuck & Cheryl Bobbit			Hills or no hills, that is the question we anticipate on the final choice of route
<b>Joe Pool Ride</b>	Sunday Oct. 12th	8:00AM	Look for detail next month	Team Patterson			
<b>Halloween Ride</b>	Sunday Oct. 19th	8:00AM	Look for detail next month	Warren & Audre Casteel			

**Upcoming Area Pay Rides**

<b>RIDE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>START TIME</b>	<b>START PLACE</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>
<b>Cotton Patch Classic</b>	Saturday Aug. 30th	8:00 AM	Exit 96 off I-30. Immediate left turn onto Bus Hwy 67 & 1.6 miles to Courthouse	Routes of 21, 31, 41, 47 & 63 miles in Greenville Texas <a href="http://www.omnisys-inc.com/cottonpatch.htm">http://www.omnisys-inc.com/cottonpatch.htm</a>
<b>Jackrabbit Stampede</b>	Saturday Sept. 6th	8:00 AM	The new high-school football stadium on South side of FM741	Routes of 15, 40, 62 and 74 miles in Forney Texas <a href="http://forney-texas.com/stampede/">http://forney-texas.com/stampede/</a>
<b>Cowtown Classic 2003</b>	Saturday Sept. 13th	8:00 AM	Crowley High School Complex in Crowley, Texas	Routes: 10 mile, 30 mile, 50 mile and 100K <a href="http://www.cowtownclassicbikeride.org/2003_ride.htm">http://www.cowtownclassicbikeride.org/2003_ride.htm</a>
<b>Grand Prairie Grand Prix</b>			<b>RIDE CANCELLED DUE TO ROAD AND NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION</b>	
<b>Waco Wild West</b>	Saturday Sept. 27	8:00 AM	Indian Spring Park, Waco Texas	ROUTES: 10, 25, 50, 62, 100 <a href="http://www.teamwbc.com/wacowildwest">http://www.teamwbc.com/wacowildwest</a>
<b>Autumn in Bonham</b>	Saturday Oct. 4th	9:00 AM	Start/Finish at I. W. Evans School Center (HWY 78) at 13th Street, Bonham, TX. Showers available post ride.	ROUTES: 11, 29, 39, 46, & 68 miles; Breakfast from 7 - 9AM, Tandem Start 9:00 AM, Stoker 1/2 price! <a href="http://www.bonhamchamber.com/autumn.htm">http://www.bonhamchamber.com/autumn.htm</a>
<b>Ride for The Roses Weekend</b>	Oct. 25 & 26	8:00 AM	Austin Texas	Events include the PowerBar Health & Sports Expo and the 10- to 100 mile Ride for the Roses. See <a href="http://www.laf.org/events/">http://www.laf.org/events/</a>

**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 - 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.

DATES COORDINATORS _____	Don & D'Ann Hunt _____	972.442.6622 (h) _____	<a href="mailto:d2h@airmail.net">d2h@airmail.net</a>
<b>DATES-LINE</b> EDITORS _____	Tom & Grace Hogan _____	972.867.9252 (h) _____	<a href="mailto:ddateseditor@aol.com">ddateseditor@aol.com</a>
RIDE COORDINATORS _____	Tom & Diane Glenz _____	817.490.9226 (h) _____	
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATORS _____	Franklin & Tricia Kemp _____	972.578.9093 (h) _____	<a href="mailto:pwkemp@comcast.com">pwkemp@comcast.com</a>
TREASURERS _____	Jerry & Laurie Boggess _____	972 .690.4051 (h) _____	<a href="mailto:jboggess@comcast.com">jboggess@comcast.com</a>
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>	



**Dallas Area Tandem Enthusiasts**  
 % Team Hogan  
 2200 Woodburn Corners  
 Plano, TX 75075-3507

