

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER DATES NEWS**Decatur Duathlon****Saturday, October 25th, 2003, 9:00 AM**

The Duathlon in this case is Riding and Eating!! Join Ronnie & Nanette on this great route that goes through Sunset & Forestburg. Meet at the 1st National Bank, 1 block west of the Court House on Business 51 in downtown Decatur. Routes of 63, 53, and 35 miles are available. We will eat at one of Decatur's fine eating establishments after the ride. This is a joint ride with the Ft Worth Bike Club. RSVP to ride hosts Ronnie & Nanette Bryant, (817) 680-9404.

DATES Business Meeting & SocialNovember 9th

The next business meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm Sunday evening, November 9th at the home of Brenda Cole & John McManus, 922 Easton Place, Dallas 75218. Brenda will provide a 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.

Be on the look out for details on the annual Meeting in February 2004!

January 2003 DATES-LINE Schedule:

Mailed by: December 24, 2003

Notices & Articles due by: Dec. 18, 2003***H oliday L ights R ide***Sunday Dec 14th at Chuy's on McKinney
www.chuys.com

Meet at Chuy's on McKinney Ave. at 5:30 for a 6:00 departure. We'll pedal around Highland Park for an hour or so and return to Chuy's for dinner. We'll have a "white elephant" gift exchange again at this year's event. Check out more info regarding menu options & route lists in coming weeks on the DATES web site.

Please RSVP to Brad or Tacey Heppler at (214) 343-8931, brad_heppler@hotmail.com.

DATES AROUND THE WORLD*Vicarious riding?! What happened to vicarious riding?!*

It is time to start planning those 2004 trips. DATES members need to hear about the beautiful areas cycled this year. Club members who cycled the globe, send in your comments about the trips. We look forward to hearing about the San Juan Islands, Oregon, Italy, and other perspectives on Ireland and France. Mail your vacation memories to ddateseditor@aol.com.

BIKE & BARGE TOUR**MAY 1ST TO MAY 14TH 2004**

Info from Donna Levy, MASCOTS

Have you been thinking of doing a reasonably priced cycling tour in Europe this spring? The MASCOTS (Moving Around Southern California on Tandems) have booked a bike & barge trip traveling from Amsterdam to Belgium from May 1st to the 14th, 2004. At present, we have 10 tandem couples from the Southern California Area already booked on this tour. The barge holds 13 couples, so we've got room for a few more cyclists to join us. We thought it would be fun to fill the barge with a group of cycling enthusiasts. Any questions, feel free to contact me at REVLEOTARD@AOL.COM

You can read full details about the tour company at: <http://www.bikebarge.com>

Laws of Riding the Roads

Contributed by Don Hunt

DATES supports a "share the road" approach to dealing with cars and bicycles on the roads of this state. If you are not sure what the laws are, or if you would like a refresher read, please take time to read them on the web at: http://www.biketexas.org/cycling_rules.html. There aren't very many, and it only takes a couple of minutes to read them all. In a nutshell, they say:

- you **do** have a right to be on the road,
- you must obey the road signs just like a car,
- you must ride to the right side of the road and in the same direction as the motor traffic,
- you can only ride two abreast so long as you do not impeding normal flow of traffic.

There are few more rules that you will see at that web address, but those are the big ones.

In addition to the Texas State laws, like it or not, we all support the laws of physics too. Regardless of the rules of the road, if a bike and an automobile occupy the same piece of road at the same time, the bike will be the heavy looser. When you're on a ride and you hear someone call out, "Car Back!" you need to do something. The phrase can be interpreted many ways, but in each case, you have actions to perform.

"Car Back" means, "There is a total stranger approaching you from behind with a lethal weapon!" This is no exaggeration. Most of the people in those vehicles wish you no harm, but some of them are inept and some of them don't even realize they are operating a device as deadly as any firearm. Your first action should be to make sure you are riding a straight line. Then look and see how much danger you are in and how much time you have left to react. If there are no other bikes around you, then you need to be sure there is not a road hazard in front of you that will cause you to move into the space that car will soon be occupying.

If you are not single file when you hear someone call, "Car Back", you need to work very quickly toward forming a single file line. Even on roads with sufficient visibility for the driver to safely pass you by crossing the centerline, you need to begin working towards a single file line. It's an act of courtesy; communicating that you understand the driver also has rights on the road and you are doing what you can to avoid impeding normal flow of traffic. It is also an act of self-preservation; drivers are impatient and prone to taking chances if they have to wait very long to get past you. If they take a chance and try to pass you when they really don't have enough room, you will be the one to suffer.

"Car Back" can mean, "Can we do something to help this car back here get past us more safely?" Some times you won't be able to. Don't ride dangerously close to the edge of the asphalt and tempt a driver to try to squeeze past you without crossing the centerline on a narrow road. Remember: some of the nicest drivers are still inept enough to hit you by accident if tempted into close quarters with you. If you can make room or can see that the road is clear ahead, signal the car to pass and wave "Thanks" to them when they do. A little good will goes a long way in protecting our access to Texas' roads and improving our safety while riding on them.

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, 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.

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DATES DISPATCHES AROUND THE WORLD

2,500 Miles—On the Wrong Side of the Road

End to End in 3 weeks, Weeks 2 & 3
from John McManus and Brenda Cole
photos.yahoo.com/john_j_mcmanus

By day eleven, we were in Scotland, and things got better. The grades were mellower; we could ride them. In the first 10 days in England and Wales, we walked dozens of hills. Over the next 10 riding days, we walked only two.

Day 21 - On the final afternoon to John o' Groats, Brenda decided to chase the fast group and I hung on her wheel. Scottish lass, who usually rode with the fast group anyway, joined the chase. She later told us she figured we were going to take the lead and unfurl the US flag as we rode to victory. That was not the plan as we didn't even have a Texas flag with us. It might have been appropriate as this was the day Lance was carrying the Texas flag at the Champs-Elysees. The lead group of British gentlemen got to within a mile of the goal, then went to a pub for a beer and to wait for the others. The group rode to John o' Groats together.

For the British riders – the Welsh and maybe even the Scottish lass – this was the culmination of a long-held dream. Four of the riders were 69 years old. Alan, for instance, first rode his first 100 miles in 8-hour century when he was 14 years old and now he was riding the ultimate British challenge – End to End. But Brenda and I didn't feel this euphoria. We were just glad it was over. We had spent too much time in the saddle and walked too many hills.

Another "less than desirable" part of this "tour" was the hostels. Yes, some were fairly nice. But it was not uncommon to have one toilet and one shower for 25 guys. This is way below my minimum standard of a Jacuzzi and wet-bar in the room.

We did have some good luck, particularly if you include the two prior weeks we spent in Ireland. This was a total of 5 weeks and over 1,600 miles. We only had four half-days of rain. And we had no mechanical problems, not even a flat. Also, on End-to-End, almost all of the winds were tailwinds. With headwinds, we'd never have made it.

Returning on the bus from John o' Groats to Edinburgh, I watched the beautiful countryside pass by. Realizing the difficulty of the ride caused me to miss much of the scenery, which is one of the main reasons for bicycle touring. So would we tour here again? Yes, particularly in Scotland, but under considerably different conditions.

HATS Round Top/Fayetteville Mini-Rally Friday, November 7 - Sunday, November 9, 2003

We'll be starting again this year from the Town Square in Fayetteville. Located just off of highway 159 between Bellville and La Grange, almost exactly midway between Houston and Austin. Those that have ridden the Houston/Austin MS150 are familiar with Fayetteville. The terrain in this area of Texas is slightly hilly. The roads in the area are good and not very heavily trafficked.

Cost is \$60 per team payable to HATS to cover the cost of a catered lunch and dinner on Saturday. You are responsible for breakfasts, lunch on Sunday and your own lodging. We'll be doing potluck breakfast on the balcony of Keiler's Lodge again this year.

For more information call Benée and Chris Curtis at 713-663-6416 or e-mail at bccurtis@houston.rr.com.

Participation for the ride is by pre-paid registration only. Deadline for entry is October 25.

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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) _____	d2h@airmail.net
DATES-LINE EDITORS _____	Tom & Grace Hogan _____	972.867.9252 (h) _____	ddateseditor@aol.com
RIDE COORDINATORS _____	Tom & Diane Glenz _____	817.490.9226 (h) _____	dtglenz@yahoo.com
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATORS _____	Franklin & Tricia Kemp _____	972.578.9093 (h) _____	lfkemp@comcast.net
TREASURERS _____	Jerry & Laurie Boggess _____	972 .690.4051 (h) _____	j.boggess@comcast.net
SECRETARY _____	Chuck & Kris Carlson _____	972.248.8481 (h) _____	c.carlson@sbcglobal.net
WEB SITE _____	Kevin & Linda Vinson _____	www.doubledates.com	
HOT-LINE _____	Dallas Area _____	214.352.7446 (b)	
	Out of Town _____	1-800-875-5662 (b)	
	Night (Warren & Audre Casteel) _	(972) 596-8206 (h) _____	wacasteel@comcast.net
DATES1 Email Distribution _____	Warren & Audre Casteel _____	(972) 596-8206 (h) _____	wacasteel@comcast.net



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



DALLAS AREA TANDEM ENTHUSIASTS

WEB Page: www.doubledates.com

Double DATES Rides & Activities

RIDE	DATE	START TIME	START PLACE	RIDE HOST	PHONE # / E-MAIL	DISTANCE	DETAILS
Decatur Duathlon	Saturday Oct. 25th	9:00AM	1st National Bank, Decatur TX	Team Bryant	(817) 680-9404.	35, 53, 63 mile routes	1 block west of Court House on Business 51 in downtown Decatur
Veterans Day Ride	Sunday Nov. 9th	11:00AM	Watch OneList for Detials	Team Hoyt			
Two Flags Ride	Sunday Nov. 16th	8:00AM	Watch OneList for Detials	Team Shaddox/ Hur-sin			

Upcoming Area Pay Rides

RIDE	DATE	START TIME	START PLACE	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Ride for The Roses Weekend	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 http://www.laf.org/events/
2003 Red River Stinger Road Bike Rally	Oct. 25th	9:00 AM	Start/Finish at Old Bells School in Downtown Bells	Routes: 10, 30, 50, and the 75 Mile Stinger! Bells TX, 65 mi NW of Dallas part of the Bells Fall Festival, Tandem Discount
Tour de Peppermint	Nov. 2nd	8:30AM	Southlake Town Square, Southlake TX	Routes: 20, 48, 62 miles Benefiting Summer Santa's kids http://www.summersanta.org/
Turkey Roll	Nov. 22nd	9:00 AM	New Water Works Park in Denton, TX	Routes: 20, 30, 58 miles, North of Loop 288 and Sherman Drive(Hwy 428) www.turkeyroll.org