

JANUARY 2004 DATES NEWS
Annual DATES Business Meeting

DATES' next meeting is the big one! It's the **Annual Meeting**. Team Vinson has reserved space in Baby Doe's in Dallas for the event. This is the biggest and best meeting of the entire year and we seriously want you to attend! We have a little bit of essential business to attend to, like installing the officers for the year and approving a budget for 2004. We will also say "thank you" to last year's ride and meeting hosts, cover the news about plans to host the Southwest Tandem Rally in 2005, and swap a lot of small talk over a terrific meal. We hope to see you there!

DATE: Saturday February 7, 2004
 TIME: 6:00 PM meet and greet, 6:30 dinner
 PLACE: Baby Doe's, 3305 Harry Hines Blvd. Dallas
 COST: \$25.00 per person includes tax and gratuity

Procedure to attend: RSVP by sending a check for the total amount in party made out to Linda Vinson no later than February 1st. Mailing address: 7013 Fox Drive, The Colony, TX 75056.

If you have questions call 972.625.6110 or email linda.vinson@eds.com.

2004 Ride Sign up

Ride Coordinator, Tom Glenz

2003 was a good year for club rides. Let's see if we can improve on it in 2004. At the DATES annual meeting, I will be passing around the 2004 calendar for ride leaders to select their preferred dates. The goal is to have every weekend scheduled with a DATE ride. We will need all veteran and new ride leaders to step forward and host a ride in order to meet this goal. Be prepared with various dates that you would be available to host a ride(s).

If you want to lock in a date for your a favorite ride or schedule a ride prior to the annual meeting e-mail or call with your date(s), name and location of your ride. The only date already chosen for 2004 is February 15. My E-mail address is dtglenz@yahoo.com and phone number is 817-490-9226.

CLUB JOB OPPORTUNITIES!!!

The DATES club almost runs itself . . . but not quite. Our club has 6 officer positions that need to be filled with volunteers. The positions are:

- DATES Club Coordinator
- Ride Coordinator
- Newsletter Editor
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Membership Coordinator

In accordance the club bylaws, each position is an elected position for a term of 1 year. In practice, we ask for volunteers to fill the positions, and then confirm their position in a voice vote at the annual meeting.

Each of the club offices is open to be filled each year. If there were a job you'd like to fill or even try out as an assistant, please contact the current office holder and talk with them about the job. Each office holder has indicated that they would be willing to step down if there is a new volunteer who would like to take on the job.

There are no term limits and we deeply appreciate those who hold the position for multiple terms.

However, we have a particular need for a new club treasurer. Our club treasurer for several years has been Team Boggess, and they would like to pass that torch to another team for 2004. The task is not big nor difficult, but it does require a degree of organization and attention to detail ensure the club's funds are correctly collected and dispersed. Unlike the business world, taking this job does not mean trying to clean up a mess caused by an office left vacant too long. The Boggess' has expertly maintained the job and they will help get you going. Please contact either Team Boggess or Team Hunt to volunteer. Contact information is on the back page of [DATES-Line](#).

February 2004 DATES-LINE Schedule:

Mailed by: January 25, 2004

Notices & Articles due by: Jan. 20, 2004

READY...SET...REGISTER!

Forget the countdown to midnight; you can count down the days until lodging registration opens for the 2004 SWTR on both hands! Reservations at the T bar M Ranch open on January 5, 2004. Call (800) 292-5469

SWTR 2004 - April 30 - May 2, 2004, headquartered at T bar M Ranch in New Braunfels, Texas. Registration for the SWTR does not include lodging, be sure to make your lodging reservations early.

The SWTR 2004 Registration Information is available.

<http://www.txcats.org/swtr2004>

**Christmas Lights Ride**

By Don Hunt

Most of the time, when DATES members get together with their tandems, we call the occasion a "ride". Sometimes however, "ride" just isn't enough to cover all that goes on, and for those times, I call the gathering an **event**. The DATES annual Christmas Lights Event is not just a pleasant ride with good company, interesting sights, mutual support, and healthy exercise. All DATES rides have all that. This event includes bicycle decorations, costumes, night riding, and a gift exchange after dinner.

This year's event, hosted by Brad and Tacey Heppler using Chuey's in Highland Park as the start/finish point. It turns out that Sunday

evening's the area, while not deserted, had easy parking and traffic was no problem. Because this is a night ride on public roads, each bike is required to have a white light on the front and a red light on the back to be legal. It is customary for bikes to be decorated for this ride and costumed riders are encouraged. It is always great fun to see what each team has done to their bike.

In our case, we have been attending the Christmas Lights Event each year for about 4 years. It seems only proper to try to add a little something to whatever we did the year before. So this year, we put on our usual Santa and Rudolf costumes and added a few more lights to the bike. To power up our bike this year, it took 35 batteries ranging in size from button batteries to D cells. Eat your heart out, Tool Time Tim! As we walked our bike from the van across the road to the back of Chuey's to start the ride, strangers on the street asking us to wait while they took a picture of us stopped us.

I'm sure there are people in the club who have never participated in this event because they worry about night riding, or riding in the city, or mixing with motorists who are distracted by all the Christmas lights. As it turns out, traffic was extremely light. I don't have an exact count, but I doubt if we had more than 8 cars pass us on two lane roads during roughly an hour of riding, and we never had traffic backed up behind us. The only distracted driver we saw was one traveling the opposite direction that stared at our bikes so long as he went by that he drifted over and hit the right curb after he passed us.

The ride is always very slow. The object is to see the lights, not finish first, log miles, or even get a work out. We rode, talked, looked at lights, and called out, "Merry Christmas!" to the people who waved to us from the sidewalks. There were about 3 horse drawn carriages touring the lights that night as well, and we enjoyed swapping greetings with them as we passed each other.

After the ride, we enjoyed dinner at Chuey's and drew numbers for the gift swap. Gifts ranged from a Big Billy Bass trophy, a couple of cycling related DVD's, a micro sized boom box (would that be a pop box?), a Park multi-tool, and a pair of lime green bicycle jerseys that I'm sure were on their third round of gifting at this event. It's great to see old friends at gatherings like this! If you weren't there, I'm sorry you missed it; it is a whole lot of fun. Think about it for next year.

**November 2003 Business Meeting
Minutes
Sunday, November 9**

Location: Home of Brenda Cole and John McManus

Attending Officers:

D'Ann & Don Hunt, Team Boggess, Chuck Carlson, Grace and Tom Hogan, Team Vinson, Team Glenz

Attending Teams:

Colleen and Tony Hering, Carol Croy and Bruce Hudson and John McManus, Brad Hepler, Team Hoyt, and others I missed; Kris usually handles the role taking and was absent. Sorry I forgot to count heads and take names.

Don opened the meeting by thanking Brenda and John for hosting the meeting. He followed with a recap of recent club rides and expressed appreciation for the ride leaders: Team Shaddox (Club Century - which drew rave reviews), Team Casteel (another fantastic Halloween ride) and Team Hoyt (Perhaps the most mellow and informative Veteran's Day ride ever).

Officer/Committee reports:

Treasurers - Team Boggess distributed a Treasurers report, noting that our recent annual insurance premium payment of \$331 was about twice as much as previous premiums. There will also be an extra-cost rider for 2005 to extend liability coverage to SWTR participants that are not Dates members.

Secretaries - Team Carlson, no report.

Ride Coordinators - Team Glenz mentioned that we have no new rides currently on schedule beyond the Christmas Lights ride.

Membership Coordinators - In Team Kemp's absence, Don announced it's time to remind people to pay dues for 2004.

Webmasters - Team Vinson renewed our domain name, <http://www.doubledates.com>, for another year.

DATES-Line Editors - Team Hogan reported that the next newsletter deadline for submitting additional information is December 15. It will

most likely be a two-month combined issue covering Jan.-Feb.

Team Vinson has also volunteered to repeat as coordinators for the Annual Meeting, with Team Carlson and Carol Croy volunteering to assist with reminder phone calls.

Coordinators - Don Hunt mentioned that the last newsletter included info on a Bike and Barge Tour in Holland and Belgium in May 2004. Space was available when DATES-Line was printed. Contact info is included for interested teams.

Old Business

We still need a coordinator and nominating committee to recruit officers for the next election. New officers needed include ride coordinator and treasurer. Other officers have re-upped for another year if no other teams volunteer.

The SWTR 2004 (by TX-Cats) report from last meeting was continued, noting that the dates of 4/30-5/2 conflict with the MS 150, and that interested teams should make room reservations for the main facility - T bar M Ranch (space limit approx. 85 teams) - on 1/5/2004, the day reservations open. Visit www.txcats.org and follow the link to SWTR 2004 for more info.

The continuing progress on SWTR 2005 includes more closely estimating costs. Planning committee chair John McManus distributed the latest budget and asked for approval of placing a total of \$950 on deposit with vendors to secure dates. D'Ann Hunt moved that the deposits be approved and Jim Hoyt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business

No new business was raised and the meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: Annual Meeting slated for Baby Doe's on February 7 - details to follow.

Submitted by Kris and Chuck Carlson,
Secretaries

Plano Cycling Mechanical Tip of the Month

WASHING YOUR BIKE

Using soap and water on a bike is OK, even a good thing if you ask me. It is important to clean the areas of your bike that you can't get to with a bottle of polish and a rag. Everyone is scared to get a bike wet, but soap water is the only way to get some areas of your bike clean of sweat and drink mixes. For years, shops have chanted the mantra of not using pressurized water to clean your bike. While using a pressurized sprayer may not be a good idea this doesn't mean that washing your bike with water should be forbidden entirely. You just need to know two basic rules before starting.

First rule: don't use a car wash to clean your bike, pressurized water penetrates into the bearings on the bike, ruining the lubrication intended to keep them running smoothly. On a team, the mechanic is always washing the bikes, the cars, and anything else with a sponsor logo on it. The one thing that you have to keep in mind is the bearings. When you wash your bike, you then also have to periodically service all of the bearings, but probably not as often as you might think. Hubs, headsets, and bottom brackets are infrequently serviced because most of today's equipment will run a long time without any attention. In the old days, we didn't have sealed cartridges everywhere on a bike so we overhauled bearings more often.

Second rule: re-lube your bike completely and immediately after you wash the bike. This helps prevent rust and corrosion build up. At the same time promotes smooth operation of all of the mechanisms on your bike.

Those are the two big rules of washing, everything else is common sense. Visit the Plano Cycling web site for my recommendation for a simplified washing procedure at <http://www.planocycling.com>. There is a quick reference list of how to wash your bike and the products you will need to do it. If you want a demonstration, I hold bike wash clinics regularly at the shop. Call or visit the website to sign up.

Sean Thomson
Former USA Cycling Head Mechanic
seant@planocycling.com

Classifieds

Wanna Swap?

Hi! I'm a sparkling blue Co-Motion with a stoker soft ride, in great shape, having been well cared for in my four years. My owners dated on a tandem seven years ago, decided if they could survive on a tandem they could make a good life together, and have for almost six years. They've enjoyed 6 SWTR, 1STR, 3 MS 150 tours, DATES rides, and regular rides around White Rock Lake and Trail. They'd like to do more DATES rides but are limited by family, church and work schedules. They do keep up through DATES and TCA by touring vicariously through the newsletters.

BUT, they need to swap for a recumbent tandem. Both my captain and stoker have some medical/surgical problems that limit their riding me. My captain found that a single recumbent was helpful to him in recovery from recent surgery.

So, if you know a recumbent tandem that would like the good care and exciting experiences I have had, ask George or Pauline Patterson about me at 214.342.2260 or email at pagepatt@yahoo.com.

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buy our tandem at

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