

**DATES NEWS****And the Nominees Are. . . .**

By Jan Riveria



The Annual Meeting was the social event of the year. The highlight of the evening was the **GOLDEN SPROCKET AWARDS** for DATES-LINE contributors.

On the red carpet, Don Hunt arrived wearing a more relaxed ensemble representative of the popular "business casual" style. Simple black slacks provided the foundation of his fashion statement which was complimented with the contrast of a simple, but elegant white knit polo by Clai-borne. He accessorized the ensemble with black shoes and belt, and accented with a gold watch and the ever-present gold ring.

In a surprising departure from her usual theme of carefully matching her tandem partner, D'Ann wore a more festive selection that complimented her Captain, without actually matching it. Her simple black slacks were silk and much more feminine as they were tailored to a more precise fit. Her blouse was black with sparkles of beads that reflected the light sending shafts of jewel colored light in all directions as she moved about the room. She accessorized her evening wear with lovely earrings of garnet and diamonds. Completed by rings that matched her ear wear on one hand and a ring to match her captain's on the other.

Presenting the awards this evening was Team Hogan. Grace Hogan wearing a sleeveless black ensemble with flowing silk skirt that seemed to breathe with every step as she presented the nominees and awards. Tom, sporting a black cashmere jacket and silk slacks with a festive gold and black tie, the tie being a perfect compliment to the golden award.

**The Award for Reflections on International Travel**

And the Nominees are:

- New Zealand, 2 wheels the 2<sup>nd</sup> time, by McManus/Cole
- Up Close - a reflection of a Tour d'France Honey-moon, by Gail Spann
- 2500 Miles on the Wrong Side of the Road, End to End in 3 weeks, by McManus/Cole

**Congratulations - Gail Spann****The Award for Most Frequent Contributor**

And the Nominees are:

- McManus/Cole for contributions during the months of April, May, June, July October and November
- Team Hunt for multiple contributions during the months of August, September and November

**Congratulations - Team McManus/Cole****The Award for Multipart Series**

And the Nominees are:

- 2500 Miles on the Wrong Side of the Road, End to End in 3 weeks, by McManus/Cole
- Melon Patch Weekend by Don and D'Ann Hunt

**Congratulations - Team Hunt****The Award for Product Review**

And the Nominees are:

- Sports Drink Discovery - by Team Heppler
- Suspension Seat Posts Better Than Chocolate, by Grace Hogan

**Congratulations - Team Heppler****The Award for Useful Advice**

Nominee is:

- Sean Thompson, Plano Cycling and Fitness

**Congratulations - Sean Thompson**

Congratulations the winners and a BIG **Thank You** to everyone who contributed in 2003! To be considered for 2004 submit your articles, reviews and ideas to Dates-Line at [ddateseditor@aol.com](mailto:ddateseditor@aol.com).

**2004 MEMBERSHIP SIGN UP**

Don't forget to submit your completed 2004 registration form (available on the web site) via US mail to TEAM Vinson at 7013 Fox Drive, The Colony, TX 75056.

**Annual Meeting Minutes**

**Location:** Baby Doe's Restaurant, Dallas  
**Attending Officers:** Team Hunt, Team Boggess, Team Carlson, Team Hogan, Team Vinson, Team Glenz  
**Absent Officers:** Team Kemp  
Attending Teams and Guests - a total of 58 people

**OFFICER/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Treasurers** - Team Boggess distributed a Treasurer's report, noting that we had budgeted a negative cash flow in '03 and will also budget negatively for 2004. We had voted to support the Texas Bicycle Coalition (\$500) and also needed to cover some advance charges for the 2005 Southwest Tandem Rally. Don Hunt reviewed Ride costs.

**Ride Coordinators** - Team Glenz distributed a sign-up sheet for 2004 ride hosts. All those who had hosted a ride in 2003 were acknowledged with personalized team license plates. There were 21 sponsored rides in 2003.

**Membership Coordinators** - Franklin and Tricia Kemp were unable to attend. We presently have 113 teams on our roster, through not all have renewed for '04.

**Secretaries** - No report from Team Carlson.

**Webmasters** - Kevin and Linda Vinson reported that our library of ride maps online has grown steadily. Anyone wishing to contribute new routes can email them to Kevin. Kevin is also working with the company that hosts our site to see if we might be able to offer online registration for the 2005 Southwest Tandem Rally.

Kevin noted our site is also listing more and more pay rides in response to expressed interest.

**DATES-LINE Editors** - Tom and Grace Hogan presented the first annual Golden Sprocket Awards for 2003 contributions to our newsletter

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

Roane Logan identified the slate of officers and additional nominations were solicited for each office. Current officers were unanimously reelected with the following exceptions:

- Bruce Hudson and Carol Croy were elected as the new Ride Coordinators for 2004.
- John McManus and Brenda Cole were elected as Treasurers
- Kevin and Linda Vinson were elected as Membership Coordinators in addition to their role as Webmaster.

**SOUTHWEST TANDEM RALLY UPDATE**

John McManus presented an update on the planning for the Southwest Tandem Rally. We want to make the 15<sup>th</sup> SWTR special. The rally will be held in Fredericksburg, TX and will include an extra day of riding. A jersey has also been designed and will be included in the registration fee.

The planning Committee was introduced and John noted the current challenge is to keep the registration fee competitive yet still offer the jersey and the extra day. The idea of subsidizing the rally with fundraising was discussed. We want to have a superlative rally and that will take the commitment and dedication of the entire club.

Possible promotional efforts were discussed and we may even consider raising the registration fee. Note that our rally fees have historically been lower than many others.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be April 25<sup>th</sup> at Jim and Rhonda Hoyt's. It was noted that the Muenster ride might be April 25.

**Adjournment:** The meeting closed with door prize awards generously provided by Plano Cycling and Richardson Bike Mart. Submitted by Kris and Chuck Carlson, Secretaries

**Bike Buddies Needed!**

To introduce new members to DATES, we're looking for teams to volunteer to be Bike Buddies. As a Bike Buddy, you will be responsible for calling new members about upcoming DATES rides/events and riding with them so they don't ride alone. To be a 2004 Bike Buddy volunteer, please contact Linda Vinson at 214-455-6110 or at [linda.vinson@eds.com](mailto:linda.vinson@eds.com)

**Pilot Point Ride - Sunday March 14th**

Join Herb and Sandra Bloomer for a 35 mile route of Pilot Point on mostly back roads. We will meet at 9:00 am at the square in Pilot Point. Contact Herb or Sandra if you need additional information at 214-321-6398 or [heb@gte.net](mailto:heb@gte.net)

**McKinney Ride - Sunday March 21st**

Start at 9:00 a.m.

Place: McKinney Town Square (NE corner of Hunt & Tennessee), McKinney, TX

Host: Rick & Ann Dixon, 972 540-1574

Distance: 30 to 60 miles

Meet ride hosts Rick & Ann Dixon at the parking lot one block off McKinney town square for a 30 mile (+/-) to 60 mile (+/-) ride through northeast Collin County. Some of the shops will be open on the square and there is plenty of window shopping. After the ride, we will eat on the square or at Sicily's Italian Restaurant on Hwy 380. There may not be restroom facilities at the staging area so tend to nature before the start of the ride.

Directions to start: Exit Virginia Parkway off of Central Expressway. East on Louisiana (Virginia Parkway is one way west) to the town square. Tennessee St. is on the east side of the court house. Left on Tennessee 3 blocks to Hunt St.

**Annual St Patrick's Day Ride**

**(Better late than never) Sunday, March 28 - 9AM**

**Lancaster Town Square**

Meet at Lancaster Town square, located at Highway 342 and Main Street in Lancaster. It's an hour drive from Dallas so allow plenty of time. This is a DATES classic, first held in 1990. Enjoy a rolling route of 47 miles without much traffic. Call leaders John McManus or Brenda Cole (214.321.6085) for more information. We'll celebrate St Pat with a late lunch and a beer after the ride

**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).

**DATES Captains! It's: Stoker Appreciation Ride XI!**

**April 3 - 4th**

If you've never attended a Stoker Appreciation Ride, you might wonder what all the fuss is about. Why do teams - and stokers! - call this their favorite ride of the year? Is it the "rural England in Texas" route? The old and new friendships renewed and made on the ride? Perhaps it's the one ride of the year where our riding partners are not taken for granted? Or is it all of the above?

This year's ride is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. We will as always have:

- A SAG van for overnight luggage w/ ice chest for the bubbly.
- Detailed, entertaining, semi-accurate maps of the classic, award winning\* SAR route.
- A beautiful, quiet, scenic route lined with wild flowers from Weatherford to Glen Rose on Saturday.
- Pie in Tolar.
- Group dinner in Glen Rose Saturday night.
- Champagne and Stoker Poetry (tm) after dinner.
- Overnight in Glen Rose, one of Texas' most romantic little towns.
- A lovely ride back on Sunday.

**Particulars:**

Gather at the Chamber of Commerce building in Weatherford (Highway 80 @ Santa Fe) around 8ish on Saturday morning, load the SAG, have donuts and juice, get tandem tattoos and leave around 8:30ish, or whenever the stokers are ready. Ride to Glen Rose - 60 miles on the back roads.

Saturday afternoon we square everyone away at the hotel, motel or romantic B&B of their choice (see [www.glenrosecchamber.com/lodging.html](http://www.glenrosecchamber.com/lodging.html)) and then gather everyone up for group dinner, champagne and the legendary reading of the poetry have written for their stokers. (We've been using the Glen Rose Best Western as unofficial ride headquarters, but there are so many wonderful places to stay - be adventuresome!)

Sunday morning we gather the luggage up and hit the road about 9ish for the ride home. Often teams have a late lunch together back in Weatherford.

**Fine print:** DATES member teams only, limit first 20 teams, RSVP ASAP and questions to: Tom Shaddox email at [t.shaddox@verizon.net](mailto:t.shaddox@verizon.net) or call 972-517-4534

SAR Special note: We need a volunteer from one of the teams participating for SAG support, the club can save rental money, and apply the savings to advance work on the 2005 SW Tandem Rally. (No, you won't have to drive SAG all weekend, just let your van be used.) - Thanks, Tom.

\*"Best Overnight/Weekend Tandem Ride in the Southwest"

## VALENTINE'S DAY RIDE...BRRR

By Colleen Hering

Four teams braved the frigid temperatures Sunday, February 15, 2004 to join Tom and Diane Glenz on their Valentine's Day Ride. The 10:30 a.m. start-time offered 35 degrees, mild winds, and sunshine for Teams Glenz, Hering, Hudson-Croy, Thompson and Carlson.

Because the ride was frosty to begin with, heat-generating hills were a welcomed sight. By mile seven, the wind's bark was worse than its bite, and fingers and toes were the only complaining body parts. As the miles passed and the temperature rose, the hills became more frequent and challenging. The route partially consisted of the Glenz's Grapevine ride, except it commenced in Roanoke and looped through Trophy Club, Southlake, West Lake, Keller, and Haslet. Typical of country rides, street signs were sparse, but for easy navigation Tom's queue sheet was rich with landmarks and was accompanied by a highlighted map. Tom also presented a very helpful map/route review before the ride (good job, Tom!).

We made a short stop mid-way through the route to shed layers. As we were leaving, Team Carlson spotted a heart-shaped earring on the road and circled back to pick it up. At lunch, they were instant heroes when it turned out to belong to Diane.

Motor traffic was delightfully meager, and there were no mishaps, flats, or canine catastrophes as is common on country roads. Everyone and everything pretty much behaved themselves.

The group spread out toward the end. Our stomachs were alerting us to lunchtime, and the promise of lunch at Babe's Chicken was a strong draw back to the barn. The five teams managed to return to the start within a

couple of minutes of each other, and then hustled over to Babe's, a couple of block away.

Finding a parking spot at the restaurant was more of a challenge than climbing the hills on the route, we all managed. As we waited a few minutes outside the restaurant, we were surprised to see six cyclists speed by, two of which we recognized as DATES members.

Soon after, we were seated inside the rustic building and were entertained by an enthusiastic wait-staff who sang "Happy Birthday" several times to celebrating patrons. They also lead some younger customers in a round of "Hokie Pokie" through the center of the restaurant. We were then served salad, biscuits, potatoes, gravy, corn, and a huge platter of fried chicken (one-half chicken per person). We could feel our arteries clogging, but that didn't stop us from over-indulging. By the way, according to Babe's fact sheet, "artery" is defined as the study of painting.

Tired, stuffed, and adequately entertained, we ended the chilly day with warm good-byes. Thanks to Diane and Tom who always offer an enjoyable DATES event.

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**April 2004 DATES-LINE Schedule:**

Mailed by: March 26, 2004

**Notices & Articles due by: March. 23, 2004**

**WINTER CYCLING: SOLVANG by John McManus & Brenda Cole**

Our January plan was to cycle in sunny southern California with friends from Bicycle Adventure Club. Of course we never do anything directly. We first went to Napa Valley to cycle and taste wine, not necessarily in that order, with BAC friends Bob & Chris. The most interesting ride in Napa was with the Santa Rosa Cycling Club. On a miserable Friday - 42 degrees and very foggy - approximately 50 riders showed up for the weekly Friday ride. The sun finally shined as we rode thru Alexander Valley; it was eventually a great ride. All Santa Rosa club rides traditionally end with a Burrito lunch.

On to Solvang, 50 miles more or less, from Santa Barbara. Solvang is a very-Danish town. All architecture is from Denmark. And the many bakeries, restaurants and wine bars (one per block) remind you of another place - surely another place from Dallas. This is a GREAT cycling area. We're in the foothills of the Santa Ynez mountains. See p30-31 of the April issue of *BICYCLING* magazine. You have a choice of many back roads - either in the valleys or with as much climbing as you want. Think of beautiful vineyards, wineries, horse farms and vegetable and flower farms with almost no traffic. Add small towns with trendy cafes for lunch. Temperatures in the 60's. Life doesn't get much better. Especially in January.

We're staying at the Royal Scandavian Hotel. But we're not the only cyclists at the hotel; the U.S. Postal Team is here also. We're told this is the only time of the year the entire team is together. Soon the elite team will go to Europe while others develop in the states. With 25 riders, plus coaches and trainers, mechanics and masseuses, it seems everyone in the hotel has postal apparel. And of course there are also family members as well as Postal "groupies". One day at breakfast in a nearby café we saw a lady - surely she didn't cycle - who was wearing Postal shirt, Postal Cap and had "Go Lance" tattooed on her left ankle. Every morning, a crowd, including school classes who walked en-mass to the hotel, watched the riders leave on their training ride. I never saw Lance. But he and Cheryl Crow had dinner one night in the same restaurant as some of our BAC friends.

But Lance wasn't the only well known cyclist in Solvang. There was also Dan Henry; he lives there. Dan is the person who "invented" arrows painted on the road to show bike routes. In the 1950's he started painting these on the streets in Long Island to show friends the best places to cycle. The police tried to find out who was doing this but they never caught Dan.

Rick Dixon and I rode on a Texas Hill Country tour with Dan in 1975. You couldn't mistake his bicycle, then or now, due to his unconventional saddle. He mounted handlebars on a seat post and made a sling by wrapping webbing between the bar drops. 'Claims it's the most comfortable bike seat in the world and someday everyone will convert to it. A former co-worker told me there was a picture of Dan riding this saddle on the company bulletin board with the caption: "Dan's got his ass in the sling again."

So I got to visit with Dan in Solvang. He's 92 years old, "spry as a chicken" and rides his bike 20 miles every day. He often rides on the "Dan Henry Bike Trail". His wife lives in Germany for three months of the year and so he rides his single bike during these months. But when she's in town, they ride their Burley tandem.

Dan is also known for his poetry. When Rick and I toured with him, every night at dinner Dan would recite a poem he wrote of the day's ride. As we parted, Dan reached in his pocket and handed me a copy of the day's poem:

**THE SONG OF THE WHEEL**

Dan Henry, 2004

There are many types of music  
Each adding depth to things we do,  
In time, almost without exception  
All our songs somehow are through.

There are many tunes of love time  
And dance tunes so sublime,  
And rhythms that sent tingles  
All up and down our spine.

At weddings the old standards  
Are repeated by us all,  
And countless other melodies  
Of which, we all recall.

Yes - we all had songs aplenty  
With a meaning long since gone,  
But there is this one exception  
That somehow, goes on and on.  
It's the song we hear when cycling  
Our every sense, each note can feel,  
We shall always dearly love it  
It's the song of the rolling wheel.



**CLEAN & LUBED CABLES**

Clean, well-lubricated cables can make **THE** difference to your bicycle. You can use almost anything to lube cables, except wax. I have used drips, sprays, wet, dry, oil, grease, or whatever (no wax). I have used motor oil when I couldn't find anything else. The best lube is grease for the most part it last the longest and does the job the best. Once the cables are installed you can still lube them without removing them entirely from the bike. Most cable stops on frames are slotted and you can release the brakes and remove the housing from the stop and slide it up and down the cable enough to get a little lube on them. For derailleurs, you want to shift them to the largest cog or chainring. Then, without pedaling the bike, downshift, this puts slack in the cable allowing you to remove the housing from the stops and lube the cable. Just like you and me cable don't like friction in their life. Keep them clean and lubed and you will see how much more they enjoy their work.

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

**DoubleDates Officer Profile:**

**Franklin & Tricia Kemp, Membership Retired**

**How long have you been cycling?**

*Franklin since 1974 (cat 3 and vet USCF racer); Tricia since 1997 after we married in'96.*

**What kind of tandem do you ride?** *Santana Sovereign*

**Have you had more than 1 tandem in your cycling life?** *Only 1 (Tricia has a Windcheetah and Franklin a Raleigh Competition*

**How did you pick your tandem?** *Jim Hoyt let us try several. After we got it, Tricia tried many different seats and we turned her handle bars up to let her sit upright*

**How long have you been a member of the club?** *7 years.*

**How long did you hold the office of Membership Coordinators?** *5 years*

**Have you held other positions on the board in your time?** *No*

**What is your favorite time in the job?** *Meetings, rides, and camaraderie*

**What is the worst time?** *New member renewals and reminders*

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**TANDEM FOR SALE:** 1998 Trek T200 Fast Track, size 58/53. This tandem was purchased brand new at Plano Cycling & Fitness. There are approximately 1145 miles on this bike. All Shimano Deore XT components, 700x38 tires, Bontrager Clyde rims, Shimano SPD clips, Specialized computer, Serfas seat (captain), and Terry Liberator (stoker). The original pedals with toe straps, rear rack, and bag are included. Asking \$900.00. For more information, please contact Kevin Vinson at (214) 277-4218 (day/night) or e-mail to <mailto:kvinson@novell.com>



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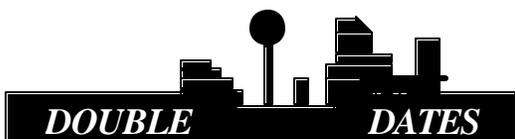
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Advertising Rates (per issue): \$10 - Business card size ads; \$35 - ¼ Page ads; \$50 - ½ Page ads

**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>
DATES-LINE EDITORS _____	Tom & Grace Hogan _____	972.867.9252 (h) _____	<a href="mailto:ddateseditor@aol.com">ddateseditor@aol.com</a>
RIDE COORDINATORS _____	Bruce Hudson & Carol Croy _____	817.490.9226 (h) _____	<a href="mailto:HudsonCroy@worldnet.att.net">HudsonCroy@worldnet.att.net</a>
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR _____	Linda & Kevin Vinson _____	972-625-6110 (h) _____	<a href="mailto:linda.vinson@eds.com">linda.vinson@eds.com</a>
TREASURERS _____	John McManus & Brenda Cole _____	214-321-6085 (h) _____	<a href="mailto:john_j_mcmanus@yahoo.com">john_j_mcmanus@yahoo.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">http://www.doubledates.com</a>
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 % Tom Hogan  
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