

DATES EVENTS**Rockwall Ride
May 16th, 9AM Sharp**

Jim and Gail Spann would like to invite all to their home for a swim and lunch after a ride that starts at Bicycles Plus on Ridge road in Rockwall. Bicycles Plus is going to help escort us along the two routes of 27 or 35 miles in Rockwall County. They are going to open their shop that morning for bathroom facilities and last minute needs, then ride along with us for the fun after!

Maps will be provided, although we anticipate staying together most of the ride. After returning to Bicycles Plus we can pack up and drive the seven or so miles to our home. We are located at 3350 Old Millwood road off of fm 552. Our house is nestled a mile back from fm 552 amongst the pastures and woods. We have a pot belly pig that might come out and join in on the fun. Our yard is home to some sculpture done by Charles Strack of Houston. His work is sold in Taos and Santa Fe. We have a pond for fishing (all catches must be thrown back!), brooks, stables and our ENT woods. (For those that like Lord of the Rings). A one mile walking trail through beautiful woods is right next door on a private property we are allowed to use, where you will see some magnificent burr oaks. The leaves are huge! Our swimming pool is warming up nicely and we would love to have everyone get a chance to swim. We do not mind bike shorts in the pool!

Come see our collection of "ordinaries" aka highwheels, penny farthings or widowmakers! Anyone wanting to have a try is welcome. They are, after all, fixed gear bikes. We have a number of 48" and one 52" front wheel, also a 36" one for those less brave or afraid of heights! We also have many other bikes and love to show them off. We look forward to meeting many other DATES members. All are welcome!

This event is rain or shine. If it is raining hard enough, we can always just get together to eat. If anyone has sources for GREAT FRENCH BREAD or desserts...feel free to bring some? This is optional. All drink and food is provided. Any special vegetarian requests, please talk to Gail. Please R.S.V.P. at 972-722-4355 home.

June 2004 DATES-LINE Schedule:
Mailed by: May 26, 2004
Notices & Articles due by: May 23, 2004

To Jim and Gail Spann's home:

From Dallas:

Do not run a Mapquest, they have it all messed up as far as directions!

We are located a few miles off of I-30. Exit number 70 (loves truck stop is there) and go north of fm 549 till it comes to a "T", this is fm 552..take a left and head west for 3/10ths of a mile...turn right on Old Millwood road. Go for one mile where it will end (A sign will say pavement ends) and go through the white gate...turn right and you will see a sign that say The Spann's straight ahead...go up paved road to our house on left. We have a sign with highwheels on it that says SpannBrook, the name of our home.

From highway 78:

Go to fm 205 and take a right (south) to fm 552, go left for 2.4 miles to Old Millwood road on your left. Follow above directions for the rest of the way.

Bicycles Plus, Inc (ride start location) is located at 2825 Ridge Road, Rockwall 972-771-2824. Exit off of I-30 east to Ridge Road and take a right onto Ridge road. The shop is on the left close to Taco Bell. We would suggest arriving no later than 8:30. We would like to thank James, the manager. Bathrooms are available. www.bicyclesplustx.com

**DATES SOCIAL AND FUND-RAISER: WINE
TASTING AT TONY'S WINE WAREHOUSE
Wednesday, May 26 - 6:30 pm**

A special fun evening for DATES members and friends. Join us for an informative and entertaining evening; as the wine-master discusses the 20 specially selected wines we will sample. Appetizer of Grilled Blackened Chicken Pasta is included. This is a private event; reservations and pre-payment are required. Retail price is \$42.50 but we're able to offer it for \$35.00. Proceeds support Southwest Tandem Rally 15. Reserve a space NOW as seating is limited. Call John McManus or Brenda Cole at 214.321.6085.

**Country Living Ride
Sunday May 23rd, 8:15 am**

PLACE: Rusty Lemley's home 2515 Parkerville Road Lancaster, TX 75146 RSVP or call with questions, to either Rusty (972.274.2775) or Jeff (214.336.4281).

Directions: Take I35E south to the Parkerville Exit 413 (a few miles south of I20), take a left on Parkerville and go approx one mile to 2515 Parkerville, on your left.

Plenty of parking in the back of the property (got to love country living). The ride will be mostly flat (yes, I know that Lancaster is known for the Blue Bonnet Trail of tears due to the hills) ride of 40 some miles with options to explore more or less of the countryside depending upon the weather, individual conditioning, or personal time constraints.

We will have grills set up for chicken and burgers when we get back. There may be some homemade bread and juice to snack on in the morning while we wait for the other teams to ride, so come early!

Lancaster is only about 15 miles south of Dallas, so you should be able to get there from most parts of the Metroplex in less than an hour. It is lovely part of North Texas with lots of paint free riding (you know, roads with no center lines or edge lines painted on them...paint free), so come down and join us. Yes, yes, I know. There have been pay rides and St. Paddy's Day rides in Lancaster, but this is our ride, our choice of locations. Come down and join us. It's a wonderful place to spend part of day (especially if we have nice weather!).

Dates Camping Trip June 4, 5, 6 at Tyler State Park

Juanita and Roane Logan will be hosting the annual campout at Tyler State Park. The route Saturday can be 30 52 or 62 miles and goes through some of the prettiest scenery in Texas with rolling hills along country roads. The famed "beast" is on the 62-mile route. The 40-mile ride on Sunday around Lake Hawkins includes a stop for breakfast along the way. Tyler State Park has a nice lake adjacent to our campsite for swimming or floating afterward. Be sure and bring your floats. We will take our kayaks for those who are adventuresome. For non-Campers the Comfort Inn in nearby Lindale is available.

Please make reservations early. We have 5 camp sites booked and more may be available. The cost is \$10 per day on the campsite and \$2 per day for park entrance. We have prepaid the first day; the balance is due at the gate. We will try to be in campsite area 5 (108 through 116). Please look for reservation form on post. If you have questions call 972-620-1882 or email rlogan@southwestbank.com.

In Memoriam...

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of a Dates member Jim Roessler. A message from Susan.

My husband and I have been members of Double Dates for several years. Even though we didn't get the opportunity to ride many of the rides, Jim loved supporting the organization by membership and loved reading the stories in the Dates News. He was primarily a solo rider and logged many miles each week. Jim passed away Sunday, March 28 of a heart attack at the age of 49 while riding his bike. He was still clipped into his pedals when he was found. May we all be so fortunate to leave quickly and doing what we so love, biking.

Our heartfelt condolences and prayers go out to Susan and her family.

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RIDE REPORT: ST PATRICK'S DAY RIDE

By John McManus - who's Grandmother, Ellen Ryan Casey, immigrated to the US from County Tipperary, Ireland

It was a fine day for a ride for St Patrick, with the Irish Mist and all. We had a little discussion as to when mist becomes a rain, but philosophical discussions are not welcome at 9:00 am. So, seven tandem teams pondered what to do. The day was carried by Rick who piously asked "What would Lance do?" I've known the Dixon's for a long time and could read Ann's mind: "Yea, but what the hell would Cheryl Crow do?"

The wimps didn't say much ("Of course - or else they wouldn't be wimps!). So off we went following Rick's wheel. But the rain wasn't the worst part - it was the southerly head wind.

At the first check point, Ferris, Laura Robertson found an open café. Some were pondering breakfast but the ride leader proclaimed that you can't eat after riding only eight miles. So off we went again into the wind and rain. Pretty soon thereafter, the new couple - the one's who both had appointments with heart specialists the next week - turned around.

We had been forewarned that the second check-point, Bristol, had no toiled facilities. But Juanita insisted that Roan inquire. "We're building 'em, but they won't be ready for two weeks." Seeing as Juanita couldn't wait for two weeks, the Logan's took an early departure, looking for bushes.

Palmer was the third and final check-point. As we ate too much chocolate candy at the Exxon station, someone noticed that the rain had stopped. When we resumed travel on our longest leg of the ride, we had a great time with a very strong tail wind. And the sun almost came out.

After 48 miles we deserved lunch at Benevedes. Ok, so maybe we didn't deserve the free Soapias and ice cream. But who's counting?

While in the restaurant, the skies blackened and the wind increased. Outside, we found the wind had switched to the North. "Boy, it's a good thing this ride started at 9:00 instead of 10:00. We'd had a head wind the whole day." This was confirmed later in the day by Kevin and Linda Vinson who had experienced the turn-around head wind on a

seven mile run. This just goes to show that the gods favor cyclists. Or maybe Irishmen.

SAR XI - The Ballad of Brenda and Tom

Brenda and Tom were tandemists, O lordy how they could ride.
Swore to ride tandems together, down the roads they would glide.
He was her captain, but he done her wrong.

Brenda was his stoker, everybody knows.
She spent hundreds of dollars for their little suits of clothes.
He was her captain, but he done her wrong.

Brenda and Tom went riding, wearing their brand new suits,
"O my goodness," says Brenda, "but don't my Tom look cute?"
He was her captain, but he done her wrong.

Brenda went down to the Bike Mart, in the springtime of the year.
She says to ol' Jimmy Hoyt, "Has my darling man been here?"
He was her captain, but he done her wrong.

"Ain't goin' to tell you no stories, the truth I will vouch,
Your captain spent the entire winter sittin' on the couch."
He was her captain, but he done her wrong.

Brenda was distraught, for it was the weekend of the SAR.
With her captain out of shape, they wouldn't get far.
He was her captain, but he done her wrong.

Brenda went down to the pawnshop, she didn't go there for fun.
She pawned Tom's plasma big screen, and got herself a gun.
He was her captain, but he done her wrong.

Brenda walked out to the garage, but didn't see what she liked.
For Tom was laying in a hammock, instead of workin' on the bike.
He was her captain, but he done her wrong.

Brenda pulled back her kimono, so the gun Tom could see.
She cried, "I am your stoker, why don't you appreciate me?"
He was her captain, but he done her wrong.

Tom swung off the hammock, crying "Criminy, Brenda, don't shoot!"
But Brenda put her finger on the trigger, and the gun went root-a-toot-toot.
He was her captain, but he done her wrong.

"Oh baby, I'm sorry, you know I always meant too -
I just thought there'd be time tomorrow for me to appreciate you."
He was her captain, but he done her wrong.

This poem has no moral, this poem has no end.
This poem on goes to show that there ain't no good in men.
He was her captain, but he done her wrong.

Shimano Flight Deck
Product Review by Brad Heppler

I just found one of those "gizmos" that makes life a bit easier for us, the Tandem Community. Over the past year or two I've been hearing some buzz regarding Shimano's FlightDECK computer. This is the computer that integrates with Shimano's STI shift/brake levers. Those of you with Shimano STI's have probably noticed the words FlightDECK on your levers. I finally took the plunge and outfitted our tandem with one a few weeks ago. After just one ride I discovered this computer was well worth the expense, I'm kicking myself for not getting one earlier.

There are several "cool factors" of this computer. One being the function buttons are actually integrated into your STI hoods. You know those little nubs on the inside of your hoods, those are the FlightDECK function buttons. No more taking your hands off the handlebar to mess around with your computer, your hands are always on your hoods where they should be, keeping the bike safely on the road. My favorite function is the gear indicator. The computer screen has little icons representing your chain rings and your Cassette. You know what gear you are currently in by seeing which chainring is highlighted and what cog on your cassette is highlighted. This will keep you from cross chaining, which will help increase the life of your whole drive train. On the first use of this computer I learned that I've not been using quite the proper gear selections, I'd been spending too much time in the big ring when I should have been in the middle. When Tacey and I rode some hills the other day I learned this also helps when doing some climbing. Let me tell you, when you see a hill coming it sure is nice to glance at the computer and be able to tell what your gearing is, instantly. By knowing what gear you are in on your cassette, you'll know if you need to drop to a smaller chainring before you start the climb.

The unit also has a virtual cadence as one of the many functions. When you install the computer you have to program in all the specs of your chain rings and your cassette (as in how many teeth on each one). The cadence is determined by your computer's ability to compute your speed and what gear you are in = virtual cadence. This means that you get a very accurate cadence without having to run the extra cadence wire and sensor. You'll also get a cadence reading when you coast as it's virtual. There are a bunch of other functions including, stopwatch, lap counter, speed, and max. speed, trip distance, time, trip time, odometer and some I've probably forgotten. The cost is right around 100.00 and in my opinion, worth every penny. This computer does make the job of captaining the tandem easier and more enjoyable and yes, safer.

DATES MEMBER ELECTED

DATES member, treasurer and co-founder John McManus has been elected to a four year term on the Board of Directors of Bicycle Adventure Club (BAC). BAC, originally formed in the 1950's as the International Bicycle Touring Society, is a non-profit club of cyclists interested in bicycle touring. The club organizes and conducts 40 to 50 bike tours each year; about a half domestic and a half foreign.

John, along with his wife and sometimes stoker Brenda Cole, have been on over 20 BAC tours both foreign and domestic including the Pyrenees, Provence, Alsace, New Zealand (twice), and Ireland and Big Bend, the California Wine Country, Colorado Brew Pubs, New York, Utah and Yellowstone. They led BAC tours in East Texas in 2001 and 2003 and, in 2002 and 2004 the Texas Hill Country. On the 2004 tour, they have 28 riders registered with another 20 on the wait-list. John and Brenda also coordinated three tours of Ireland (2003) and are currently planning a tour across Italy in 2005.

Other DATES members who are also BAC members include the Dixon's, Hoyt's, Mashburn's, Watson's and Yuhn's. For more information see www.bicyleadventureclub.org.

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Team Shockley
Lavon, TX

Captain: Steve Shockley

Stoker: Katie Shockley

Joined DATES: April 2004

How long have you been cycling?

Captain: Since 1993

Stoker: Since 2000

How long tandeming? Since 2000

Why did you start riding tandem? Spend time with each other

What kind of tandem do you ride? Currently, Burley Duet, but are looking to change to a Rans Recumbent

How often do you ride? In the Spring/Summer, 3 nights a week plus 2-3 rides a month

How far? 10 miles around home, work our way up to 40 miles for the weekend rides

Usual route/area? Near Lake Lavon

Favorite Ride? Italy - for the free snow cones

Where/How did you hear about Double DATES? Plano Cycle and Fitness

Anything else you'd like us to know about you? Rode tandem in New Zealand in 2001, averaged 40 miles a day

Team Davis
Greenville, TX

Captain: Randy Davis

Stoker: Jenny Davis

Joined DATES: April 2004

How long have you been cycling?

Captain: 16 years

Stoker: < 1 year

How long tandeming? Limited experience, but unlimited enthusiasm!

Why did you start riding tandem? In order to ride together & meet folks w/ similar interests in an active but social environment.

What kind of tandem do you ride?

Metallic blue TREK 2000

How often do you ride? We bike on weekends & ride the trainer on weekdays.

How far? 30-35 miles

Usual route/area? Hunt County, NE Texas

Favorite Ride? Muenster

Where/How did you hear about Double DATES? Originally from an existing member & the Greater Dallas Bicyclist website.

Anything else you'd like us to know about you? Randy is an author of computer books & software systems engineer for L-3 Communications in Greenville. I write on the issues of care giving and aging & work as the Director of Admissions & Marketing for Greencrest Manor, a long-term care facility. We have been married for 21 years and our son, Kinsey, attends SMU. Randy and I enjoy family, friends - old & new, travel, music, food, & fun!

Bike Maintenance Tip - LUBE the CLEATS

Lubing your chain? Most of us want to over complicate lubing a chain. Do I use this lube or that lube? What is best? There are some lubes better than others given a specific set of circumstances but you should try a few and find the one that works best for you. Every mechanic and rider I have come across has his or her own way of lubing a chain. To me, the important thing is to do something to you chain. It is really quit simple. Lubing your chain is done to improve its life span and performance. Like everything else on your bike, the chain wants to do a good job for you but it is a tough life. All of those sharp teeth, pressure, not to mention those huge "cross chain" shifts it has to deal with. A little lube every now and then is really the least we can do for the chains of the world. Here is the secret: the bushings run like bearings on the pins of your chain. These two pieces move a lot more than you would think. They wear faster if the contact surface between them is dry or dirty. This wear changes the way the chain rides on the cogs and chainrings; causing them to improperly shift and prematurely wear out. That is why, when you change old chains, you might also have to change cogs and/or chainrings. A little tip: after you apply your favorite lube, make sure to completely dry the chain with a rag. Not drying the chain after you lube it is the main reason most of us get that black build up. Also, lube your chain after you ride. This way the chain has time to dry before your next ride. If you do these two things you will see less dirty build up. Even a well-lubed chain won't live forever but it will have a more fulfilling life.

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

Leakey Tandem Weekend

It appears from the response HATS received (or lack of response), there will NOT be an official Leakey Tandem Weekend this Memorial Day. Nonetheless, there are teams that plan to travel to Leakey at that time, so if you plan to go email m-smahoney@sbcglobal.net to be put you in touch with each other.



ONLINE HHH Registration now open . . .

http://www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=11106

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From the Editor:

Supporting the DATES club through the generation of this newsletter is enjoyable for me. Of late, I get to read about riding more than actually riding myself. In order for me to vicariously *get in my miles* it is essential to receive contributions from the DATES membership. Today, I use all my fingers and a few toes to count the regular contributors. I would very much like to expand the list of frequent contributors to include my Captains' fingers and toes.

We are approaching the halfway mark in the year **and I need more material.** Note the blank space here.

So far, there is only one Team nominee for the Product Evaluation Golden Sprocket, what kind of contest will it be with only one entrant competing with himself?! Don't miss a chance to take home your own, highly prestigious, golden statue.

Spring is a fabulous time to ride in North Texas as shown by the sheer number of rides, both club hosted and pay rides. Stokers - as you sit on the back of the bike enjoying the view think about the ride and compose a little ditty about it. You might try carrying a tape recorder in your Captain's jersey pocket to record your thoughts for later writing. Or keep a stash of paper and a pen in your car for composing your comments après ride. Don't be shy, it's easy once you get started.

Ride Leaders Needed!

Ride Coordinators, Bruce Hudson & Carol Croy, have been making lots of phone calls and will keep on calling, but please don't wait for an invitation. Call now at 214-320-8708 or email HudsonCroy@worldnet.att.net and volunteer to host a ride. There are plenty of dates available in June July, August and beyond, so call and get your name on the calendar today.

A Team is needed to host the Lone Oak Winery Ride and Tasting. Fall is a lovely time of year around the lake. The specifics have been worked out from the last few years, all that is needed is a host team to coordinate the date. Don't miss your chance to host one of the Top 10 rides of the year and have the potential of being voted the Best Ride and receive your very own Golden Sprocket Award.

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 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.

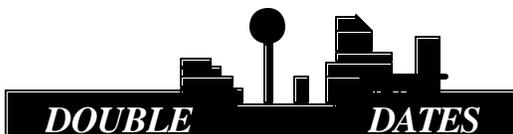
If you need assistance in signing up, e-mail Warren Casteel at warren@casteelsgn.com.

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 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 - 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.

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