

**DATES EVENTS****Ride, SWIM and Business Meeting**

Sunday July 11, 8:00 AM

Team Hogan will host a ride, pool party and business meeting from their home through Plano on less traveled roads approx. 25 total miles to The Colony and back. We'll enjoy a swim and brunch before delving into the important business matters of the club. Bring a your towel and a summer salad or dessert to share. 2200 Woodburn Corners in Plano, ¼ mile north of Park, ¼ mile east of Coit. Please RSVP to Tom or Grace at 972-867-9252.

**Pilot Point Ride and Dine**

Sunday, July 18, 8:30 a.m.

Start point: Town Square (gazebo) in charming Pilot Point  
Distances: 36 mi. or 20 mi. (up to 17 additional miles can be added to the 36 mile ride with options marked on the route [map](#))

To get to Pilot Point's town square from US 377, turn west on Co. Rd. 1192, aka E. Liberty St., turn east at the intersection FM 455. There are restrooms near the start.

This is a fairly flat, peaceful ride on quiet blacktops that takes us through horse farm country and out to Lake Ray Roberts, where we ride across the dam. The route features ranches and some large, luxurious homes.

There is a rest stop/convenience store at mile 12 in Aubrey, where those wanting only 20 miles can begin their route back to the start. Those going on will discover a few curves and a couple of hills on the way to the Lake Ray Roberts Dam. There are 2 more excellent restroom stops on this part of the ride for those who love their coffee. We'll have a recommendation for a lunch stop at the ride's end.

**Post Melon Patch Ride**

6, 7 &amp; 8 August

Take the weekend off and join your DATES friends for a weekend of fun out in cow country south west of Ft. Worth! The town of De Leon, TX puts on one of the most entertaining bike rallies you've ever seen with all the usual stuff, plus prize drawings at every rest stop. There's a town festival, a county fair, and a tractor pull.

It's so much fun, we arrive early and stay late. Join us for the whole weekend of festivities. Here's the plan:  
A block of rooms is being held for DATES members at the Comfort Inn in Stephenville for Friday and Saturday nights. The rate is \$65, including breakfast. Call and make your reservation from the block of rooms by July 31<sup>st</sup>. The number is 254-965-7162.

You will need to register for the Melon Patch rally. You can do that by going to the following web site:

<http://www.themelompathtour.com/index.htm>

They have routes of 8, 29, 42, and 71 miles. There is a route that's right for you. The cost is \$18 per person for tandems if you register before the 28<sup>th</sup> of July. Make sure you don't press your abilities on this rally, because there's so much more to do after you ride.

We like to arrive early Friday afternoon and visit the world's oldest Dr. Pepper bottling plant in Dublin which is half way between Stephenville and De Leon. Then we pick up our packets in De Leon and return to the Comfort Inn in Stephenville to hang out at the pool until we go to dinner. We have dinner at 7:00 PM with the other DATES couples at Pastafina next door to the Inn.

On Saturday, ride the routes of your choosing at the Melon Patch Rally, then attend as many of the town activities as you choose. We particularly like the melon seed spitting contest and free watermelon on Main Street at 5:00 PM. This is the only non-club organized day so choose your own events and dinner option.

Sunday morning at about 8:30, we will start our club ride from the motel parking lot. We have a 30 mile route planned with a "bailout" option that shortens it to 18.2 miles. At the end of that ride, we get cleaned up, check out and enjoy a barbecue lunch at the "Hard Eight" barbecue pit. You get to pick out your meat as you go past the BBQ pit when you enter the restaurant.

We'd love to have you join us. Do let us know you plan to be there, and we'll tell the folks at Pastafina to set a place for you at our table Friday night.

Don & D'Ann Hunt – [d2h@airmail.net](mailto:d2h@airmail.net) or 972 442-6622

**August 2004 DATES-LINE Schedule:**

Mailed by: July 26, 2004

**Notices & Articles due by: July 23, 2004**

or pedalin' circles,  
or getting' cramps

[Tom]  
[Brenda & All]

*Stoker Appreciation Poem. . .*

**“The Ride of Your Life”**

(Stoker Appreciation 2004)

Rollin' down the road, ponderin' the parallels of cycling  
and life

Spin-class chatter fills my head, and keeps me focused  
on my goal

Oh no, I've been dropped (keep your knees tucked in); I  
gotta catch the pack (shoulders relaxed); I'm almost  
there (slow, deep breath); here come the curves (slight  
bend in the arms); darn this rough patch (light grip on the  
bars); my legs are screamin' now (don't back off); I knew  
I could catch 'em (smooth easy pedallin' – even got the  
wind at your back)

Rollin' down the road, tryin' to make sense of the ride  
called life

Cycling experience provides a basis, and guides us along  
our way

Oh no, I'm late for work (keep your knees tucked in); and  
I got errands to run (shoulders relaxed); another meeting  
to attend? (slow, deep breath); everything's piling up  
(slight bend in the arms); this stress to too much (light  
grip on the bars); I really need some sleep (don't back  
off); I knew I'd get it done (smooth easy pedallin' – all the  
way through the line)

Rollin' down the road, ridin' tandem for the ride of your life

On bike or in living, it's being together that makes it fun

Yikes, guests are arriving (keep your knees tucked in);  
what can I do to help? (shoulders relaxed); you set the  
table (slow, deep breath); and I'll get the door (slight bend  
in the arms); we're almost ready now (light grip on the  
bars); boy do we need a drink (don't back off); I knew we  
could pull it together (smooth easy pedallin' – for The  
Ride of Your Life)

And with that, I give you the perfect Stoker Appreciation  
poem...

But Lee, it's not the perfect Stoker Appreciation poem...

[Don]

.. you haven't said anything at all about your stoker,

[D'Ann]

or pace lines,

[Pete]

or chain rings,

[Laura]

Well, I have written one more verse, and I feel obliged to  
share it with y'all now. And after hearing it, you'll realize  
that I have written the perfect Stoker Appreciation poem.  
The last verse goes like this here:

well, I had cramps, the day my stoker, got into pedalin'  
circles, but I couldn't, keep up, with her cadence and  
before, I could reach in my pocket, for the engagement  
chain ring we got caught-up in a tandem pace line

Rollin' down the road, together... for the rest of our life

That's why just this afternoon, I asked – Beckie will you  
be my wife?

– Lee Wilson (April 3, 2004)  
with apologies to Steve Goodman  
and David Allan Coe

*Congratulations and Best Wishes  
to Lee and Beckie.*

...and we'll  
buy our tandem at

**PLANO**  
Cycling + Fitness

(972) 423-4130

www.planocycling.com

Co-Motion Litespeed Cannondale

## RIDE REPORTS

### The Spann's Rockwall Ride

#### An Extra-"Ordinary" Event

By Colleen Hering

Approximately ten tandems and seven singles turned out for the Spann's Rockwall ride that commenced at Bicycles Plus on May 16<sup>th</sup>. The cool weather and promise of food and an extraordinary tour of the Spann property were enticing incentives for the high attendance.

No maps or queue sheets were provided or needed. We were, instead, treated to a relay of multiple auto escorts, compliments of the generous Bicycles Plus staff and the store manager's Mom, Elaine. We were also escorted by Catherine Grice, Roxanne, James Spann (Gail's and Jim's son), Michael Lovas (PR director for the GDB), Craig Matthew, and Kathleen Jordan, all of whom rode singles.

The country roads of Rockwall, Heath, Royse City, and Fate are virtually untraveled by motor vehicles, so the course was quiet, safe, and scenic. There were the usual horses and bovine, as one would expect to see on a country route, but there were no canine catastrophes because all dogs were sufficiently confined or restrained.

Part two of the Spann adventure took place at their home tucked away in the pastures and woods a few miles from the ride location. Food was first priority on the agenda, most of which Gail and Jim provided and prepared. Pasta, meatballs, salad, and various breads were on the main menu. Some participants brought fruit, desserts, and additional bread. The two family dogs, Griffan and Emma, provided entertainment. The smaller female hung on much bigger Griffan's neck, and growled and barked as if protesting the difference in size and in pecking order. They demonstrated a true canine captain and stoker relationship.

Once the delicious food more than sufficiently silenced our hunger pangs, Gail led everyone on a property tour. The expansive real estate included pastures and ponds where Griffan entertained us with a swim and "landlubber" Emma protested from the shore. Everyone hastily retreated as Griffan shook off the chilly water. We moved on to the stables, which housed one very large "miniature" potbelly pig (Bessie, 300 plus pounds!) and two young ones, Seamus and Beezer only 6 weeks old. Gail and another brave cyclist, Kathleen Jordan, closed themselves in the confines of the stall in order to catch one of the pigs for show and tell. After several minutes of comi-

cal pursuit, one was captured with loud squeals of disapproval. It quickly relaxed and tolerated our focused curiosity and touching in resigned silence.

Next on the agenda was the extraordinary feature of the day. Gail and Jim pulled out three "ordinaries", more commonly known as highwheels. Gail presented a brief history of the highwheel and its adversarial relationship with other modes of transportation during its era. One highwheel was a smaller beginner's 48" model and one was the "Cadillac" or the 52" racer. DATES members, Tony Hering and Franklin Kemp mastered a spin without incident. Gail pulled out the 28" miniature version of the highwheel. Kevin and Linda Vinson as well as two GDB members, Catherine Grice and Roxanne tried it out. Once Kevin had mastered the mini-version, he gave the 48" wheel a successful ride. We all applauded these adventurous cyclists in attempting what the rest of us dared not.

Thanks to Jim and Gail Spann for opening their hearts and home to the masses that turned out and for lending their challenging two-wheel machines to curious novices. Also, we appreciate the special attention (and use of their bathroom facilities) given by the staff at Bicycles Plus. This was truly an unusual and enjoyable event.

**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

## April Business Meeting for DATES

Submitted by Kris & Chuck Carlson, Secretaries.

April 2004 Business Meeting & Social – Sunday, April 25 at the home of Jim & Rhonda Hoyt

### Attending Officers:

Team Hunt, Team McManus/Cole, Team Carlson, Team Hudson/Croy

### Absent Officers:

Team Hogan, Team Vinson

### Attending Teams:

Ken & Margaret Seggerman, Tony & Colleen Hering, Rick & Kay Watson, Jim & Rhonda Hoyt, Franklin & Tricia Kemp, Randy & Jenny Davis.

Don opened the meeting, thanking Jim and Rhonda for hosting. He followed with a recap of recent club rides and thanked all the ride leaders. The upcoming Easter Hill Country rides were discussed.

Don noted the meeting agenda:

- 1) Review plans for the Southwest Tandem Rally 2005
- 2) Plan for our next club meeting

### OFFICER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Treasurers:** Team McManus/Cole distributed the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter financial report and also reviewed the first SWTR 15 financial report. Our DATES budget shortfall for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter is due primarily to a lack of renewed club memberships.

**SWTR 2005 Update:** John reviewed preliminary plans for the rally, including the website, a brochure, ride routes, lodging, luncheon locations, jersey design and pricing, budget, breakfast locations, and fund-raisers. Discussion followed.

**Secretaries:** Team Carlson, no report.

**Ride Coordinators:** Team Hudson/Croy reported that additional ride leaders are needed for July. Discussion followed on how best to encourage more member participation. Calling new members might help and Carol volunteered to follow-up on that. Conversation followed on the May 16<sup>th</sup> ride in Rockwall starting at 9 AM and the May 19<sup>th</sup> Ride of Silence at White Rock Lake, which begins at 7 PM. June rides include the June 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Red River Roadkill Rally and a ride on June 6<sup>th</sup> in the Arbu-

les led by Rick and Kay Watson. Carol and Bruce noted that riders on the campout trip to Tyler needn't camp out – hotel space is available nearby.

D'Ann reported that she had heard from Linda Bowers that the TROLS event is almost 50% booked.

**Membership Coordinators/Webmasters:** Team Vinson, no report.

**DATESlines Editors:** Team Hogan, no report.

**Coordinators:** D'Ann reported on one miscellaneous item – custom license plates that promote sharing the road are now available with the slogan, "Share the Road, Y'all."

### OLD BUSINESS

The SWTR update was included with the Treasurer's report.

### NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business and the meeting was adjourned.

**NEXT MEETING:** July 11<sup>th</sup>, Team Hogan's house

### TROLS Big Adventure '04.

Jefferson, TX. Sept 17 – 19.

Visit their web site at <http://trols.home.att.net> for details and a registration form. Due to accommodation limits, registration is limited to 50 teams. Contact Reggie or Linda Bowers for a copy of the registration information to be mailed to you. Telephone: (903) 663-2144 or e-mail [txhobbit@yahoo.com](mailto:txhobbit@yahoo.com)

**Southern Tandem Rally. Charlotte-Concord, NC. November 5-7.**

<http://www.tailwindtandemclub.com/STR2004.htm>

#### 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.

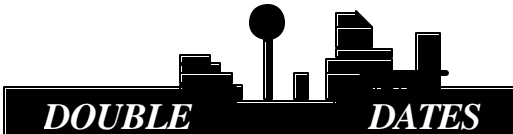
If you need assistance in signing up, e-mail Warren Casteel at [warren@casteelsign.com](mailto:warren@casteelsign.com).

**DATES-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 - 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>
HOT-LINE _____	Dallas Area _____	214.352.7446 (b)	_____	
	_____ Out of Town _____	1.800.875.5662 (b)	_____	
	_____ Night (Warren & Audre Casteel) _____	972.596.8206 (h)	_____	<a href="mailto:warren@casteelsign.com">warren@casteelsign.com</a>
DATES1 E-mail Distribution _____	Warren & Audre Casteel _____	972.596.8206 (h)	_____	<a href="mailto:warren@casteelsign.com">warren@casteelsign.com</a>



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

