

**ACTION PACKED AUGUST . . . DATES EVENTS****Post Melon Patch Ride**

6, 7 &amp; 8 August

Take the weekend off and join your DATEs friends for a weekend of fun in the town of De Leon, TX. A reminder of the general weekend details:

DATEs members can reserve from the block of rooms 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. The cost is \$18 per person for tandems if you register before the 28<sup>th</sup> of July.

FRIDAY: Dinner at 7:00 PM with the other DATEs teams at Pastafina next door to the Inn.

SATURDAY: A day of fun as you define it, this is the only non-club organized day so choose your own events and dinner option.

SUNDAY: Ride start at about 8:30 from the motel parking lot. Enjoy a 30 mile route or a short option of 18.2 miles. Lunch will be at the "Hard Eight" barbecue pit.

Please call Don & D'Ann Hunt – [d2h@airmail.net](mailto:d2h@airmail.net) or 972 442-6622 to confirm dinner on Friday.

**Team Vinson's Collin County Ride**

Erwin Park, McKinney, TX  
Sunday, August 22 – 8:00 am

Team Vinson is working too hard these days so Team HudsonCroy is substituting as host for this *classic* ride. The route includes part of the Collin Classic course and features plenty of rolling hills on country roads in beautiful countryside. We will start at Erwin Park in McKinney and have route choices of 30-something, 40-something and 50-something.

Contact Bruce or Carol, 214-320-8708 or [HudsonCroy@worldnet.att.net](mailto:HudsonCroy@worldnet.att.net), for more information.

DIRECTIONS to Erwin Park in McKinney: From US 380, head north on FM1461 (about 7.1 miles east of Preston Road, SH289 and 2.4 miles west of US75). Go about 1.9 miles on FM1461 and turn right onto CR162 and then another quick right onto CR164. Go 1 mile and turn left onto CR1006. Follow CR1006 approximately 0.3 of a mile and make a right into Erwin Park. Follow the road through the park until you come to a T and then turn left. Continue on to the second T, turn left and go up the hill to the sheltered picnic area.

**Post - HHH Ride**

August 27,28,29

It's HHH time again so pack your sunscreen and your biggest camelback and head north to Wichita Falls for a weekend crammed full of cycling activities.

After a 2 year absence, the USCF Criterium and Road Races are back. Friday evening at 5:30 the Women's Category 1,2,3 criterium kicks off in the downtown streets. At 6:30 the Mens Pro/1,2 field gets rolling. Our son , Bryan will be competing in the Pro/1,2 race so we need as much help from you Dates as we can get to help cheer him on. The other activities are pretty much identical to previous years.

Friday – Consumer show at the Multi Purpose Events Center (MPEC) 1PM - 10PM

Spagetti Dinner at MPEC: 5:30PM - 9:00 PM

Saturday – 6:40 AM Road Races Start,  
6:50 AM Tandem Start, 7:00 AM Mass Start

Saturday evening at 6:30 we have reservations at the Oxford Street Restaurant and Pub.

Oxford Street is located on Maplewood Avenue directly across from Sikes Center Mall (to the east) Join us for a great meal and plenty of war stories of the days ride.

Sunday morning at 8:30 AM meet at the Boys and Girls Club parking lot at the corner of Maurine Street and Beverly Drive for a "relaxed pace" ride in the country.

To reach the Boys and Girls Club from downtown head north on I44 turn west (left) at the Maurine Street exit (Herb Easley Chevrolet will be on your right and La Quinta Hotel on your left) The club is less than 1 mile from I44. Our route will be approximately 25 miles with options for longer, hillier and faster rides. Bryan will lead the more adventurous rides. Us old folks are just going to "chill" and enjoy the morning.

We hope to see as many DATES here as possible. The more the merrier.

Contact Jim and Janice Goins with any questions at 940-696-9660 or email [jimandjan@nts-online.net](mailto:jimandjan@nts-online.net)

**Post Cotton Patch Ride Party  
Saturday Sept. 4th**

The Greenville Association of Social Pedalists (GASP) hosts the Cotton Patch Classic every year on Labor Day Weekend. The Cotton Classic includes both a rally and a race (several tandem racers from around the state showed up last year). The route is largely flat with the hills in the middle (you have the option of a few truly raging hills on the 65 mile route. The Cotton Patch Classic gets consistently high ratings for rest stops, crossing guards and events after the ride. The only fly in the ointment is the chip seal pavement that covers the entire county. You can get further information at <http://www.omnisys-inc.com/cottonpatch.htm>.

Greenville is less than an hour from downtown Dallas (assuming no traffic) northeast along Interstate 30. From McKinney go due east along 380.

Jenny and I would like to invite our fellow DATES members to our home after the ride for BBQ veggies, beer and soft drinks and a shower (not necessarily in that order). Rest up under the trees.

Please RSVP to Jenny and Randy Davis at either 903.450.8741 (hm) or 903.457.7225 (wk) or [srdavis@acm.org](mailto:srdavis@acm.org).

**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, email Warren Casteel at [warren@casteelsign.com](mailto:warren@casteelsign.com).

**Labor Day/Melissa Ride and Pool Party**

**Monday Sept. 6 8AM**

Joint Ride for Members of DATES and Plano Bicycle Association

Members are invited to join Rusty and Belinda Nail and Marc and Susie Mumby for a ride on quiet country roads. Mapped routes of approximately 25, 40 and 60 miles will be offered. Meet at the Nail's home in Melissa for the ride and BBQ. The pool & hot tub will be available for a dip after the ride, so bring a swimsuit and towel.

Join us after the ride for goodies from the grill, please bring a side dish to share + lawn chairs and **RSVP** by email: [belinda@planobicycle.org](mailto:belinda@planobicycle.org) or phone: 972-838-2768 Some soft drinks will be provided.

Directions: The ride start is located at 1613 Grandberry Drive in Melissa. Take US75 to SH121, exit # 45, 5 miles north of McKinney. Head east and turn right at first traffic light, Berry Road (CR 339, land-marked by Kim's Corner Fudge Factory and Shell station). Look for Berry Farms subdivision about 200 yards on your left. Turn left into the subdivision and make the second right on Dewberry and then next left on Grandberry. The Nails' house is on the right about an 1/8th of a mile down with circle drive and unattached garage.

**TO THE EDITOR:**

Debbie Livingston has just sent me a copy of your June newsletter. In it, there is a story by Colleen Hering on The Ride of Silence. I want to compliment Colleen on writing down her thoughts, showing the gamut of emotions that took place before, during, and after the ride. I am awe-struck to the general public's reaction to this outward display of grief over those cyclists we've lost. As I have told the media, I didn't expect anyone to show up last year after sending out emails of what I wanted to do. And then this year, again, I am shocked. The outpouring is tremendous. It is my perspective that it has become the one event to unite ALL the cycling clubs, ALL the cycling teams, and ALL the cycling stores. I guess it is that one thing, death at the hands of a motorist, that unites us all. The day after this year's ride, Mexico signed on for it, with a good chance a ride being held in southern France. Earlier in June, I was answering the possibility of it going on in Japan. The growth is phenomenal. Thanks to Colleen for writing about it and to DATES for publishing the story. Chris Phelan, founder The Ride Of Silence

**September 2004 DATES-LINE Schedule:**

Mailed by: August 26, 2004

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

## RIDE REPORTS

### North Dallas TOTS (Tour of the Stars)

By Colleen Hering

An intimate group of three tandems and two singles joined Lee Wilson and Becky White for their Dallas TOTS ride on Sunday, June 20. The cloudy morning brought unusually cool temperatures as the ride began south toward the Park Cities.

Lee was well prepared with highly organized queue sheets and highlighted maps for the intricate neighborhood course. Although three routes were offered, Lee encouraged everyone to join him and Becky on the shorter 36-mile course due to the impending humidity and time-consuming stop-and-go journey. We were all happy to agree, and later when the sun broke through, we were even happier that most of the miles were behind us. This low-key, in-city, social ride was an especially ideal way to initiate one team who was new to DATES and tandeming.

At one point we pulled over to wait for a trailing team caught at a light. As we stopped, the captain of the new team reached for his water bottle, stating that he hadn't yet mastered drinking and driving. Another captain confessed that he had mastered it in college. (Self-incriminating captain shall remain unnamed and innocent until proven guilty.)

The first part of the trip didn't offer any celebrity homes, so Lee suggested we imagine we were passing by the homes of our favorite celebrities. As we approached University and Highland Parks, however, there was lots of name-dropping. Our timing seemed a little off as we passed the homes of Jerry Jones, Chuck Norris, Ross Perot and others before realizing our location. Some famous homes were obscured by "security" landscaping. We did manage to spy on the distinctive Nasher property, however, which was adorned with many abstract sculptures. The word "home" is used in the most basic term. The Park Cities has a plethora of mansions, estates, and manors. We half expected Robin Leach of "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" to ride up along side of us and present his commentary. The narrow and somewhat hilly roads twisted and turned and provided a dense canopy treed border. It was hard to believe we were in the middle of hustling, bustling Dallas.

La Madeleine's had served as a rest stop thirteen miles into the ride, we opted to push forward toward John's Backyard Grill for lunch instead of a second rest stop. The Grill was only one mile from the finish and Lee and Becky had driven their car, which was stored a cooler of beer, to the restaurant ahead of time. We enjoyed our

pick from a variety of beer, along with the Grill's sandwiches and French fries on the restaurant's shady patio. It was difficult to drag ourselves away from the interesting and comical conversation to head back to our cars, but Lee and Becky offered to continue the camaraderie at their nearby home. We continued the conversation and watched a portion of "Lance Chronicles" on the Outdoor Life Network before meandering away.

Thanks to Lee and Becky for hosting this enjoyable special tour and lunch. We appreciate their hospitality and letting us relax for a while in their home.

Happy Trails!

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### A Fun Weekend in Ardmore

By Bruce Hudson

The Redriver Roadkill Rally in Ardmore, OK is a pay ride that we had never done before. I guess because its two hours from Dallas and usually there is another ride closer to home. When the Tyler Campout was postponed and Rick and Kay Watson were hosting a ride the morning after the rally, we decided to make a weekend of it. It turned out to be a GREAT weekend of riding and I would encourage everyone to put it on your calendar for next year. Rick & Kay have already agreed to host it again next year.

The Redriver Roadkill Rally was very well organized. Juice and muffins were provided for everyone at the registration, plus a DJ who was still there after the ride. The ride started at 9:00 a.m., giving us plenty of time to drive up Saturday morning. Starting in downtown Ardmore, we were provided a police escort out of town. We headed south to Lake Murray and on to Marrietta. Fortunately, the prevailing southerly wind was missing which made for an enjoyable and scenic ride. Police were at every mayor intersection throughout the route. At Marrietta, we headed north back to Ardmore along the other side of Lake Murray. When we arrived at the finish line, ham sandwiches and beer were waiting for us. Budweiser was one of the ride sponsors. Sadly, by Metroplex standards, the ride was not very well attended – maybe a couple hundred riders. I suspect many of the riders from the DFW area were, like us, thinking it's too far away. It is well worth the drive and I highly recommend it.

On Sunday, Rick and Kay Watson hosted a DATES ride in the Arbuckle **Mountains**. On Saturday night after a yummy dessert at Watson's lovely home, Kay explained the route choices and warned us that there would be hills to climb, but the vistas were worth it. By the time she finished, I was thinking we would pack up the next morning and head back to Dallas. We woke early to thunder clouds and lots of lightening. Ah, the perfect excuse for skipping the **mountains**. However, as it got closer to the start, the sky cleared, the sun came out, and there went my perfect excuse. Six DATES teams and one former DATES team, now from Tulsa, hit the road. After a few miles there was a steady three-mile climb to the summit. Once on top, the lookout to Turner Falls below was fantastic! From there, it was all downhill with lots of switchbacks, but manageable. At the bottom, there were steady undulations with fantastic scenery, although, I had to concentrate on the road ahead.

At the bottom of one hill, I shifted preparing for the next uphill and immediately dropped the sync-chain. Unfortunately, the chain locked between the crank and ring, bending it beyond repair. About 20 miles from the car and many hills to climb, it was too far to walk back. Fortunately, the Bloomers were right behind us and stopped to help. Herb saved our day by removing the bent link from the sync-chain and replacing it with one from the main chain. I'm learning more about roadside repair than I ever wanted to know. But if you're going to have a serious problem on the road, I strongly suggest you plan to have Team Bloomer by your side. Herb is a great roadside mechanic and always willing to share his skills and creativity. After about an hour delay, we were able to rejoin the other teams who had graciously waited for us. The repairs worked fine for the rest of the route. *Necessity is the mother of invention.*

We rode through some really beautiful scenery to Sulfur for our designated lunch stop. Lunch was great with some really good home cooked choices. After lunch, everyone got ready for the trip back, but as we rolled out Herb called out that we had a flat. Turned out we had a small piece of wire sticking out of our tire. Once again, Team Hudson/Croy was holding up the peloton. *"I hate when that happens."* Tire fixed, we headed back to the Arbuckle mountains to retrace the magnificent decent. Only this time it was all up. Pedaling at a pace just above upright, we made it back to the top of the lookout, over the top and back to our van.

Thinking back on the weekend, it was one of our more memorable ones. It's about putting in the miles in places that are new and different. It's about riding with great group of friends and overcoming challenges. Remember, it's not a hill if you can keep the pedals going around. It's just a "designated slow-down". I guess that's why we tandem. Put the Ardmore weekend on your calendar for next year. I know you will enjoy it!

## Tour of Switzerland

By Tommy Hayes

As many of you saw earlier this year, John McManus sent the email through DATES line there was openings on the Pennywise Cycle Tour in Switzerland. Well, Becky & I were considering a trip to Italy at the time, but when Becky said, "You know, Switzerland is my favorite places in the world don't you agree?" it was a done deal. *Ain't nobody happy if the stoker ain't happy I learned on one of our first DATES rides.*

Pennywise is two couples that organize a tandem tour each year in a different location. Low overhead allow them to offer a well-priced tour, and the tandem specific nature lends to very tandem friendly routes. They have a very loyal group of followers that sign up year after year to assure continued success for the group. There were 27 total tandems with an average age per team of 126 (63 per person) making Becky & I one of the youngest couples.

Meeting at the appointed hotel close to Zurich Airport we were greeted by many other tandem toting couples from all over the US, as well as South Africa, Australia, and England. My first experience of putting our bike (CoMotion SkyCapp) together in the midst of others doing the same led to a few tips, as you might expect. CoMotions were the predominate breed (17) with Santana, Burley, recumbents, a recumbent trike, and lesser known varieties including one Santana non-coupled thrown in for texture with its big box.

Switzerland has an impressive network of bicycle routes that interlace the country and this tour made good use of them. We were warned to have appropriate tires and fenders. The suggestions were perfect regarding what we encountered. The routes were a bit hard to follow at times (not a question of "if" you got lost, but how many times) so when riding in a group it proved predictable that the rotation of bikes in the group would be taken care of as the front bike would miss the turn, the others would make the turn and the former leader would turn around and join in the back of the group. Not exactly Tour de France style. We can only dream of such a network of cycle routes in our country.

We only had two days of true mountain riding and they were very doable to the average cyclist but there were train alternatives if you preferred to use them. The other thing we can only dream of is their network of trains, buses, trams, and ferries. Leaving Lucerne, we rode 20 km, took a ferry across Lake Lucerne, rode 10 km or so, took a train, then a bus, and finished with a 1 km ride to the hotel. The trains are all electric and so wonderfully quiet. It is a bit scary the first time when you realize the quiet electronic tone and the swish heard at crossings is the train. Almost any day you could have bailed from the ride at the nearest town and gotten on the train.

We were also warned to bring rain gear and to expect to ride in rain. Everyone's experience varied, but Becky & I rode in rain about 1 km. We had nights where it rained all night, and days where we would stop to take pictures and it would start to rain so we would just go in and have lunch. We met wonderful, friendly people that were so impressed that Americans were riding bikes (Have they heard of Lance?) Speaking of lunch, we learned a whole new way of riding compared to our throwing down breakfast and getting the ride over before it gets too hot. Big breakfast buffet, start riding at 9, break for 'elevensies', ride, stop for lunch, ride, stop for an afternoon tea or beer, ride to finish and then get ready for more eating and drinking of beer and wine. Becky & I are wine drinkers, but the farther into the trip we got the more we enjoyed the beer.

One ride started in Switzerland, rode through Liechtenstein, Austria, and into Germany. We spent three nights in Germany, two of which were on the island of Lindau, which is just heavenly. We could have stayed longer. In fact the morning we were supposed to leave, we and another couple said goodbye to the group and went back to the pool (by the Bodensee), went shopping one more time, then mounted our bikes about noon to start a daily ride. The daily rides were short compared to our normal rides, the longest being 50 miles and the average being about 38. We did about 450 total miles during the two weeks of riding.

Switzerland is reported to be the most expensive place to travel in Europe and we would have to agree as we could easily spend \$40 on a lunch for two. Many of the dinners and breakfasts were included in the package so the lunches, a few dinners and snacks (did I mention that chocolate, wow) that you paid for added up.

Lessons learned:

1. Learn the language before you go. The area we were in spoke German and there was adequate English, but the more German we learned the more we enjoyed.
2. Learn to wash your stuff in the sink.
3. Touring isn't about how many miles you ride per day, (even though a couple of times Becky just let me ride hard and fast. Thanks, I needed that) but about seeing the world around you.

Thanks to Rich, Ina, Chris, and Jenny for a delightful taste of Europe. (And it was a great pleasure to at last spend a little more time with John and Brenda!)

PS from Becky . . .

Tommy, of course, was busy with the captainly duties of steering, shifting, braking, etc. so he may have missed some of the finer points of the adventure. One of my favorite was the almost constant backdrop of lovely sounds from cowbells in the meadows to church bells in the villages and from the gurgle of streams to the rushing rapids of the Rhine and the magnificent roar of the Rhein-fell as we journeyed past them daily.

**RICHARDSON**

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## July Business Meeting for DATES

Submitted by Kris & Chuck Carlson, Secretaries.

April 2004 Business Meeting & Social – Sunday, July 11 at the home of Tom and Grace Hogan

### Attending Officers:

Don Hunt, Team McManus/Cole, Kris Carlson, Team Hudson/Croy, Team Hogan

### Absent Officers:

Team Vinson

### Attending Teams:

Tony & Colleen Hering, Franklin & Tricia Kemp, Tom & Diane Glenz

Upcoming rides were discussed. A Copperas Cove weekend ride is being considered for the fall, perhaps after Thanksgiving. Ride leaders would be needed.

The Melon Patch ride on August 6-8 will include the Friday evening dinner at Pasta Fina and a Sunday ride led by Don and D'Ann Hunt. Other August rides include a historical tour of Waxahachie by the Coles on August 15<sup>th</sup>, a Collin County ride by Bruce and Carol on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the Hotter 'N Hell weekend on August 28. The Mumby's have offered to host the Labor Day ride on September 6<sup>th</sup>. The TROLS ride is scheduled for September 17-19.

Randy and Jenny Davis have agreed to host lunch for the Greenville Cotton Jubilee ride participants the first Saturday in September.

Miscellaneous items included a discussion regarding a supplier wanting to visit one of our meetings to provide product samples. Consensus among the group was to offer him the chance to support our century ride with a rest stop promoting his product instead.

### OFFICER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Treasurers:** Team McManus/Cole distributed the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter financial report and also reviewed the SWTR 15 finances.

The Wine Tasting in May raised \$457.53. Decal sales have added \$455. John also received a check of \$1,332.57 from the TxCATS as seed money for SWTR 2005. That amount will be recorded in our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter financial report. Total 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter balance for the DATES and SWTR accounts is \$6,148.08

The SWTR rally events are taking shape. Chili's has been selected for the rally breakfasts since we learned that the Sunday House is closing. Friday's ride will be the Willow City Loop with lunch at The Saloon. We will need to add a few portable toilets to supplement the Saloon's two bathrooms. Saturday's ride to the LBJ Park will feature a box lunch and picnic facilities have been reserved on the grounds, including both indoor and outdoor space. That booking required an advance payment of \$160 rental fee.

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

**Ride Coordinators:** Team Hudson/Croy indicated there are several dates open for rides in September, October, and November. The Halloween ride has been tentatively scheduled for October 23-24 but is not yet confirmed. Various pay and club rides were discussed.

Carol noted that the DATES Century is not confirmed, but is tentatively set for Sunday, 9/26. (Additional comments on the rides schedule were provided during the initial review at the beginning of the meeting.)

**Membership Coordinators/Webmasters:** No report.

**DATESlines Editors:** Team Hogan noted they would like to profile the club officer positions in an upcoming newsletter to help increase understanding of the club officers' roles and responsibilities. This could help the officer nomination process later this year.

The current standings for The Golden Sprocket Awards were reviewed. We've had two product evaluations from Brad Heppler, Colleen Hering has been our most frequent contributor and we are lacking submissions for International Ride Reports and Multi-Part Ride Report Golden Sprocket categories.

Discussion followed and it was suggested that the Sprocket Award categories be included in the next newsletter to encourage more entries.

### 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:** At the home of Franklin & Tricia Kemp, Sunday Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>

For an up to date listing of DATES Rides and Events, visit the [http://www.doubledates.com/Rides\\_Events/rides\\_events.html](http://www.doubledates.com/Rides_Events/rides_events.html) web site.

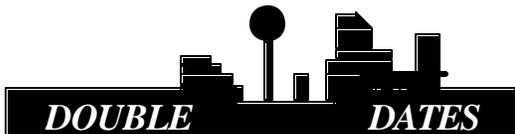
For an up to date listing of Pay Rides in the DFW area and beyond, visit the [http://www.doubledates.com/Pay\\_Rides/pay\\_rides.html](http://www.doubledates.com/Pay_Rides/pay_rides.html) web site.

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**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 _____	214.320.8708 (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)	
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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

