

DATES EVENTS

**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. With a route that is largely flat, excellent rest stops, and crossing guards, it is easy to understand why it receives consistently high ratings. At less than an hour from downtown Dallas isn't a bad drive to get there either. An easy drive NE along I-30 or due east from McKinney on Hwy 380. For more information see <http://www.omnisys-inc.com/cottonpatch.htm>

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.

**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, swim, sun and BBQ. Be sure to bring a swimsuit and towel to enjoy the pool or spa.

After the ride dine on goodies from the grill, please bring a side dish to share + lawn chairs and **RSVP** by email: 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, turn right at first traffic light, Berry Road (CR 339). Look for Berry Farms subdivision about 200 yards on your left. Turn left into the subdivision and take the second right on Dewberry and then next left on Grandberry. The Nails' house is on the right about a 1/8th of a mile down with circle drive and unattached garage.

**Business Meeting
Hosted by Tricia and Franklin Kemp
Sunday September 12th, 5:30 PM**

The Kemps will serve baked chicken in creamy sauce. Bring side dish or dessert.

Directions: 3004 Patuala, Plano. East at Exit 31 (Spring Creek Pkwy) off US 75 (Central Expwy). Turn left at Jupiter, then right at Timber Brook. Right at Pool onto Patuala, please RSVP at tel: 972-578-9093.

**Team Driscoll's Venus Ride
Venus High School, Venus, TX
Sunday, October 3rd at 9:30 AM**

Join Team Driscoll for a ride on the quite roads south of the Metroplex. The ride will start from the Venus High School parking lot. With a primary route of 40 to 50 miles with an option for around 35 miles. Venus is south of Midlothian on Hwy 67.

Plan on enjoying Italian food following the ride at Sam's in Cedar Hill. Sam's is a family style restaurant located at 601 Cedar Street, Cedar Hill (a few blocks off of Hwy 67).

Contact Mark and Karen Driscoll at 972-298-9957 or driscolm@swbell.net. More information will be posted at www.msdriscoll.com by September 15th.

Oct 10 - *Tour'd Culture*.

John McManus & Brenda Cole (214.321.6085).

This ride takes us to downtown Dallas for a one-hour walk through the Dallas Arts District led by two docents from Dallas Arts District Friends. On the way we'll ride by the latest developments in "Uptown". Of course we'll have an interesting lunch downtown before heading back north. Mark your calendar – complete details in next month's **DATESLINE**. We extend a special invite to those in the "burbs" who don't know that Dallas has the largest dedicated arts district in the country.

October 2004 DATES-LINE Schedule:

Mailed by: September 26, 2004

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

HALLOWEEN RIDE Fall Classic October 23 – 24

The Annual DATES Halloween Ride is coming soon. This year's event will be held on October 23 & 24th, with generally the same routes as last year. We are up to the 8th or 9th Halloween Ride from the first one Herb & Sandra Bloomer did. We always have a great time, so come join us! For those of you who have never done THE Halloween ride the FAQs are:

- The ride is overnight.
- We ride to Tyler on Saturday, spend the night at the Fairfield Inn, eat in a restaurant about 3 blocks from the hotel, and ride back on Sunday.
- The distance is about 81 miles on Saturday, and 79 on Sunday.
- Some will start in Prairieville, to ride 65 miles each day.
- Your luggage will be carried to Tyler in a van.
- The ride is fully sagged by Plano Cycling and Fitness, with a bike mechanic along.
- Both vans carry Gatorade, Water, Fruit, snacks, etc.
- We will eat lunch Saturday at Garden Valley Golf Resort in Van, Texas. The cost of this is included in the price.
- Lunch Sunday will be a Jason's Deli box lunch at Purtil Creek State Park – cost included in price.
- The roads are for the most part very rural FM and County roads chosen for low traffic and nice scenery rather than being perfectly smooth!

Call the Fairfield Inn now and make your reservation. SEE REGISTRATION FORM ELSEWHERE IN THE NEWSLETTER! Fill it out and send it in now!

We hope to see the regulars who never miss this ride, along with some new riders! If you have any questions, call Warren or Audre Casteel – work: 214-352-7446 home: 972-596-8206, wacasteel@comcast.net.

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, email Warren Casteel at warren@casteelsign.com.

RIDE REPORTS:

Hogan Ride, Swim, and Business Meeting

By Colleen Hering

Tom and Grace Hogan's ride and swim drew five teams on Sunday, July 11. Team McManus rode their singles because their tandem remained unassembled after recently returning from an international trek. Team Glenz spun their recumbent tandem despite Diane's bum knee (you go, girl!). Due to a health issue, Tom Hogan traded his captain status for sag and rest stop duties while Grace gallantly rode solo on her single. Teams Hering, Kemp, and Hudson - Croy rode their tandems in traditional DATES style.

Daring to comment on the cool breeze at the beginning of the 32-mile course, I was later forced to eat my words as Hotter n' Hell training temperatures blasted us. At one point, Tom pulled up beside us in his car with canine co-sag, Baja. She happily poked her head out the passenger window to greet us as her drool splashed and sizzled on the hot pavement.

A rest stop was scheduled mid-way through the course at Pier 121 Marina in Lewisville. We walked our bikes up the zigzagging ramps to a floating covered pavilion complete with honking geese and tables and chairs. Tom joined us with a cooler filled with Gatorade and water. Baja amused us as she pranced about the wooden platform dragging her retractable leash between her legs. As she straddled the leash, her movements resembled that of the waddling geese that had since taken refuge in the lake.

The majority of the ride was easy-paced and non-strenuous, but our climbing skills were challenged when we encountered a tremendous hill on Windhaven Parkway around the 21-mile mark. We had enjoyed the long and fast roll on the downhill version on the way out, but on the return trip I revised the street name and proclaimed the hill "Windhell Hill". We proved, once again, that you can maintain an upright position on a bike going 6.5 miles per hour with zero lung capacity.

When we finished the ride, Don Hunt and Chris Carlson had arrived for the brunch and business meeting at the Hogan Hacienda. Tom was in the kitchen scrambling eggs for the breakfast burritos (yummy!), while the rest of us hastily changed into our swim wear for a quick cool down in the pool. We dined outside on the patio, but moved into the A/C for the business meeting.

Thanks to Tom and Grace for contributing leadership, food, sag, rest stop refreshments, and their home complete with swimming hole--all this in addition to their continuous publishing skills as the DATES-LINE editors. We surely do appreciate their cycling enthusiasm!

HALLOWEEN OVERNIGHT TANDEM RIDE

**KAUFMAN
TO TYLER**

DATE: Saturday, October 23, Sunday, October 24, 2004
 TIME: Gather at 7:45 A.M. for an 8:00 A.M. start
 MEET AT: Norman Junior High School - Kaufman
 RIDE LEADERS: Warren & Audre Casteel
 MILEAGE: 80 miles ± each way. Shorter option of 65 mi. each way.
 RIDE PACE: Self paced -- maps will be provided. **Plano Cycling and Fitness** will provide SAG service with a bike mechanic. They will also transport the luggage to Tyler and will carry water, sports drink, bananas, food, etc.

COST: \$ 50.00 per Tandem Team or \$25.00 person. This covers costs of the ride including sports drink, food in the support vans, **lunch at Garden Valley Resort** on Saturday, the Sag Drivers Room, and a **Jason's Deli picnic lunch** on Sunday at Purtis Creek State Park. You will be responsible for your other meals, and for the motel bill!

For more information call the HOTLINE (Warren or Audre Casteel) at 214-352-7446 or 972-596-8206. e-mail: wacasteel@comcast.net or audre@casteelsign.com

Directions to Kaufman: Take Hwy. 175 from Dallas to Kaufman, exit Oak Grove (FM 1388) and go right on 1388. Go about ½ mile to the four (4) way STOP; Norman Junior High School (green roof) is past the High School on the left, across from Kaufman Co. Library. Arrangements will be made with the local police for overnight parking.

NOTE: We have blocked 20 rooms at the Fairfield Inn in Tyler on the Loop. The Fairfield Inn is right across the loop from Mercado's, where we will eat on Saturday night. **IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU RESERVE A ROOM IF YOU ARE GOING TO ATTEND THIS RIDE.** Call the **Fairfield at 903-561-2535** prior to **September 29th** to reserve your room. The block of rooms is under "**DATES TANDEM**". The rate will be \$69.00 plus tax for all rooms. Send in the enclosed form & check (to DATES) to Warren & Audre, so that they can confirm attendance with the motel, as well as make dinner and other arrangements. This ride is very well attended each year, and we run out of rooms each year, so **REGISTER NOW! Send the form with your check (made out to DATES) to the address below.**

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM TO:

Warren & Audre Casteel, 10031 Monroe Drive, Suite 105, Dallas, TX 75229-5717

Captain _____

Stoker(s) _____

Address: _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone: Home _____ **Work** _____

Fax _____ **E-mail address** _____

WAIVER OF CLAIM MUST BE SIGNED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS RIDE: In consideration of this registration entry, I / we the undersigned assume full and complete responsibility for any injury or accident which may occur during my participation in the Halloween Overnight Ride, and I / we hereby release and hold harmless the Dallas Area Tandem Enthusiasts (Club), its members, the ride leaders and coordinators, support persons and entities, and all other persons and entities associated with this event from any and all injury or damage whether it is caused by myself / ourselves or by the negligence of the Club, its members, the ride leaders and coordinators, support persons and entities, or other persons and entities associated with this event.

This Agreement may not be modified orally or by any individual. I / we understand that a bicycle is a legal vehicle in the State of Texas. I / we agree to operate the bicycle according to the laws of the State of Texas, and agree to wear an ANSI / Snell certified helmet at all times during the ride.

Captain Signature: _____ **Stoker(s) Signature:** _____

Signature of parent or guardian if rider is under age 18: _____



On The Road Again – But Not On The Road

John McManus

In June we were in Switzerland on our Santana. Don't think we were conquering the Swiss Alps with a lot of climbing; we were mostly in the valleys and on the many large Swiss lakes. And don't think of traffic; we were mostly on bike routes.

The Swiss have incredible bike paths. Nine national bike paths crisscross the country, 3,000 km in all. Add to this local bike paths and you can go almost anywhere. The paths take many forms: just a sign on the road, a separate lane on the road, a lane separated from the road, a path thru a farmer's field, a paved or unpaved path thru the woods or by a lake. When going through a town, the path will take you through the city center if it's historic. But if it's not historic, it may take you through a low-traffic industrial district. When a path takes you where you want to go, you don't need a cue sheet. You don't need a map. Every intersection is well-marked. (Of course you read last month that Tommy and Becky Hayes got lost every day. 'Don't know what their problem was.)

And these routes are used. By all sorts of people – vacationers, residents going to the grocery store or the tennis courts or the library, people of all ages. One day (about 2:00 pm on a Thursday afternoon) we were in a tourist area and I couldn't believe the number of cyclists passing us. So I counted them—200 per hour! Very few road bikes, mostly hybrids, cruisers, three-speeds, etc.

And if you don't like the bike path; for instance, if the route takes you over a mountain, you don't even need to ride. Just put your tandem on a train and ride in comfort to the next town.

So what else does Switzerland have to offer?

- Cycling? It's almost too perfect. Scenery is just fantastic, particularly in the South West area (e.g. Alps). And the trails will take you anywhere.
- Good weather in June, that's for sure. Temps were mostly in the 60's and 70's and no rain, at least while we were riding.
- Good food? Well, we found it better in the French section of Switzerland than in the German section. And it was difficult to get a "reasonable" lunch. Most restaurants seemed to offer only soup and salad or a full lunch. No sandwiches. But we never went hungry. Or thirsty.
- Friendly people? Absolutely. For instance a Swiss man saw our puzzled looks at an automated train ticketing system and told us how to work it. On the train he told us how to get back and then took us to the information center and got us a city map. (In France, however, we experienced a couple of arrogant French merchants who criticized our not speaking their language. Well to the French I have only one thing to say: "**Texas 6, France 0. Go Lance!**")
- A transportation system second to none: roads, bike paths, trains, buses, ferries, trams, funiculars, cable cars. And all of these systems are integrated. Not only time wise but also financially. For instance, one ticket buys you access to all public transportation in the Zurich area. .
- And I must mention the rest rooms. No where have we seen such clean restrooms. It didn't matter where you were. The rest rooms were beyond spotless. All looked like the granite and tile had been installed only a few months ago and had been polished this morning.

In four sections of Switzerland, four different languages are spoken. But most people speak English. And if they don't, it's not a problem. The Swiss are a hospitable people. They have an idyllic country and are proud to share it.

We were on two 2-week tours, back to back. The first, by Bicycle Adventure Club, was out of Geneva and had the best scenery and food (French influence). The second, by Penny-Wise Tandem Tours, out of Zurich, would have been nice if you hadn't been to the Geneva area first. And this tour had too many people (54) and not enough miles (38). But both were great in terms of planning, route sheets and support. The Penny-Wise organizers even had several places – museums, a mon-

astery, a tourist office that sold cycle wear – open especially for us.

So Switzerland is certainly worth considering. But it's not like you think. You don't have to climb the Alps. You don't even have to ride on the road.

RICHARDSON

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**ONLY IN TEXAS
John McManus**

Although it was not the design I voted for, I was excited to see the new bicycling license plates, the ones with a cyclist – supposedly someone named Lance – and a motto “Share The Road”. With a moderate amount of red tape, I finally got mine and even bought new license plate holders for them.

A couple months later, I got a package in the mail from the Texas Department of Transportation. It felt like . . . license plates. It was. The accompanying letter said that Share the Road license plates made between April 15 and May 24 have a defect. They were supposed to say “Share The Road Ya'll”.

They want the defective plates back. “Ya'll hold your breath.”

CLASSIFIEDS:

Mountain Bike, 1994 Cannondale Killer V500, green frame 64 cm, center pull brakes, chain ring 42-36-24, cassette 12-28 (7 speed rear), Shimano STX shifters, bar ends, 26” wheels. Barely used, excellent condition. \$200 obo. Tony 972-396-1694

fresh dates

TEam Shawhan

Sugar Land, TX

Captain: Don Shawhan

Stoker: Karen Shawhan

Joined DATES: July 2004

How long have you been cycling?

Captain: Seriously for 14 years

Stoker: 13 years

How long tandeming? 6 years

Why did you start riding tandem? So we could ride together

What kind of tandem do you ride?

Santana Team TI and Bike Friday Tandem Two'sDay

How often do you ride? The plan is three or four days per week

How far? 25 to 35 miles

Usual route/area? Sugar Land to Fairchild

Favorite Ride? San Juan Islands to Victoria BC

Where/How did you hear about Double DATES? We learned about Double DATES at Richardson Bike Mart and have traveledled with the Boggess's and met numerous other DATES members

Christmas Lights Ride Leader Needed

The Christmas Lights Ride is a long-standing tradition for our club. In recent years, we've done a ride around Highland Park to enjoy the holiday decorations followed by dinner and white elephant gift exchange at a nearby restaurant. But this year, the tradition is in jeopardy because we don't have a ride leader.

Please let us know if you'd be willing to host this ride. It doesn't have to be in Highland Park. If you know of another area that has great decorations, let's try it. It doesn't have to be dinner or a white elephant gift exchange. If you have another idea, let's try it.

Or if you prefer the original recipe, stick with it. But we'd love to continue our tradition. If you're willing, please contact Ride Coordinators, Bruce Hudson & Carol Croy, by phone at 214-320-8708, or email us at HudsonCroy@worldnet.att.net

Dallas Area Tandem Enthusiasts present:

BEST LITTLE* CENTURY IN TEXAS!

DATES' third annual century ride just for TANDEM teams** featuring half, metric and full centuries. Award winning, "perfect" course with shaded country lanes, farms, small Texas towns, rolling hills; rest stops, maps, and SAG support.

When: Sunday, September 26th, 2004. Packets available 7:00 AM. Courses open 8:00 AM.

Registrations due by September 23rd

Where: Ride start is in downtown Van Alstyne, Texas
48 miles north of Dallas city center via US75

Cost: Free for DATES members, non-member teams \$9

~Non-members, please see the DATES web page to complete page two~

DATES members please fill in below and mail to: Best Little Century in Texas, 2040 Sako Drive, Plano, Texas 75023; or email the following information to res1rrzj@verizon.net .

PILOT: _____

CAPTAIN: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

E MAIL ADDRESS: _____

We plan to tackle the: _____Half century _____Metric Century _____Full Century

*Full century course measures 97 miles.

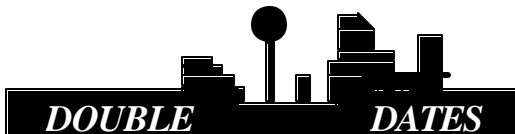
**Family members accompanying on single bikes are also welcome to participate.

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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MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR _____	Linda & Kevin Vinson _____	972.625.6110 (h) _____	linda.vinson@eds.com
TREASURERS _____	John McManus & Brenda Cole _____	214.321.6085 (h) _____	john_j_mcmanus@yahoo.com
SECRETARY _____	Chuck & Kris Carlson _____	972.248.8481 (h) _____	c.carlson@sbcglobal.net
WEB SITE _____	Kevin & Linda Vinson _____		http://www.doubledates.com
HOT-LINE _____	Dallas Area _____	214.352.7446 (b)	
	_____ Out of Town	1.800.875.5662 (b)	
	_____ Night (Warren & Audre Casteel)	972.596.8206 (h) _____	warren@casteelsign.com
DATES1 E-mail Distribution _____	Warren & Audre Casteel _____	972.596.8206 (h) _____	warren@casteelsign.com



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