

DATES EVENTS

**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 quiet 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.

Oct 17 - Tour'd Culture.

John McManus & Brenda Cole (214.321.6085)
NOTE NEW DATE!

New date! - 9:00 a.m. from Bath House Culture Center at White Rock Lake. Exit from Buckner at Northcliff and go south. Led by 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 to town we'll ride by West Village, the State-Thomas Historic District and other developments in "Uptown". After the Arts District Tour we'll visit interesting downtown locations and have an *urban* lunch. We extend a special invitation to those in the "burbs" who don't know that Dallas has the largest dedicated arts district in the country. This is not for hard-core cyclists; we'll take 5 or 6 hours to ride 30 miles. Be sure to bring a chain and lock for your tandem.

**Year End November/December 2004
Combined Issue DATES-LINE Schedule:**
Mailed by: November 12, 2004
Notices & Articles due by: November 5, 2004

**HALLOWEEN RIDE
Fall Classic October 23 – 24**

The Annual DATES Halloween Ride is nearly here. 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!

Call the Fairfield Inn now and make your reservation. SEE REGISTRATION ON THE WEB! Print it, 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.

**Copperas Cove Weekend
November 26 - 28**

Team McManus/Cole are planning a post Thanksgiving getaway in Copperas Cove. As we discovered with the Watson's last November, this is a wonderful cycling area 44 miles west of Temple. The weekend rides will be November 26-28, the Friday through Sunday after Thanksgiving. For those who can eat and run this post-holiday cycling is surely the best plan after a day of feasting.

We will meet at the Best Western on Friday and ride 30 miles beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday we will ride about 60 miles and on Sunday we have several options. The local Chamber of Commerce, which is trying to make Copperas Cove "Bike Central Texas", will support the rides for us. On all 3 days they will supply refreshments and water and will deliver lunch on Saturday.

8 rooms are blocked at the Best Western in Copperas Cove. If you are interested in joining us please (1) call 254-518-3363 and book one of these rooms and (2) email Brenda at Brenda_J_Cole@yahoo.com. The cost for the weekend is \$20 per team which will cover lunch and refreshments during the rides. Lodging and other meals are the responsibility of each team (\$75 plus tax per night)

GOLDEN SPROCKET UPDATE

Only **1** issue remains to submit and show your writing talents. There are plenty of rides we haven't read about and products yet to talk about. How were the Melon Patch, Hotter N' Hell, or Halloween Weekends? Share your training tips for the DATES Century? Tell us about your favorite training food/drink, the best time to consume it and the best success story?

The Year End issue will detail the nominees for the 2004 Golden Sprocket Awards. Back issues of this year's DATESLINE will be available on the web for your review and vote for this year's best submissions.

South West Tandem Rally 15
John McManus

DATES members who attend our meetings are familiar with next year's Southwest Tandem Rally. But many of you aren't, so here's a complete update.

SWTR was started by DATES in 1990. Although there are many tandem rallies today, SWTR is one of the major rallies along with the Eastern Tandem Rally (the first), the Mid-West Tandem Rally (the largest), the Southern Tandem Rally and the Northwest Tandem Rally (the newest). Today SWTR is fortunate in having 5 clubs who rotate responsibility for the rally. In 2005 SWTR celebrates its' 15th anniversary and DATES is responsible for the rally. Our goal is to make this rally special in honor of the 15th anniversary.

A small team

- Budget & Coordination (John McManus & Brenda Cole)
- Advertising & Graphics (Chuck & Kris Carlson)
- Fun & Games (Laura Roberts & Pete Holverson)
- Meals & Entertainment (Mindy & Scott Mashburn)
- Registration & Web Site (Kevin & Linda Vinson)

has been working for almost two years on the initial plans for the rally. Here's where we are:

- The rally is scheduled the weekend of April 22-24, 2005 in Fredericksburg, Texas. One day longer than previous SWTR's. We have reserved over 150 rooms at two hotels, the Sunday House and Super 8.
- Three breakfasts, two lunches and a banquet have been contracted to local vendors. We will also sponsor a social on Friday night at the city Market Platz Pavilion.
- A logo and SWTR first professional jersey has been designed, a vendor (Voler) selected and a slot in next year's production schedule is reserved.

- A detailed budget has been developed, approved by the club and is constantly being revised. We are subsidizing a few of the rally costs with fund raising activities and have raised over \$1,000.
- A brochure was developed. We are promoting the rally at other rallies. As soon as registration is open we will advertise through cycling organizations via the internet.
- Web site development is underway and, by the time you read this, should contain most of the important information, including a downloadable brochure and registration form.
- The main routes have been identified and lunch stops reserved.
- A pre-tour is now full with 17 teams from AZ, CA (6), IA (2), MO (3), OH, ONTARIO, WA (2) and WV.

The next six months will require much more detailed planning and work. And April will find us all busy in supporting a fun and friendly rally. In the next phase we will need much additional help. The committee is identifying areas where we need help and we're sure that most DATES members will jump in and do what's required. We plan to "advertise" in next month's DATESLINE. But you don't have to wait. If you see an area you'd like to help, call the team in charge. Thanks. And make your plans for Fredericksburg now.



RIDE REPORTS:

Rolling Along the Katy Trail Detailed by Warren Casteel Part 1 Daily Reflections

Over the Labor Day weekend Audre & I, joined by Susan Norvell and Melody Yuhn on singles, and my sister driving our minivan, did the full length of the Katy Trail in Missouri. It was a great time for us. The Katy Trail is a rail line from which the rails and ties have been removed and replaced with a very fine crushed, hard packed limestone. It rolls through many pleasant small towns. There were bathrooms typically every 10 miles. Many of the towns have stores, Dairy Queens, snack bars, real bars, and other places for food and drink, some of which specifically serve the Katy Trail.

Following is the saga:

Day 0 – We left Plano at 4:00 PM and drove to Joplin, MO, getting in around 11:00 PM, and spent the night.

Day 1 – We got up early and drove to Warrensburg, MO to pick up my sister. She parked at the AMTRAK station there, so she would have a way back from St. Charles at the end of the ride. (NOTE: AMTRAK is very bicycle friendly along the Trail – they will take your bike (unboxed) for the princely sum of \$ 10.00.) My sister – not a distance cyclist – rode a little from the end points of the ride. Having her to meet us made the trip much easier – as we initially were going to do it fully loaded.

We drove to Clinton and started at a little after 1:00 PM to ride to Sedalia -- thought to be 38 miles or so. This was our hottest day – around 90, and the first 20 miles were in open prairie with full sun. While baking, we ascended the highest summit of the ride – 955 above sea level! The trail is very flat. After that, we got into the “tunnel of trees” that covered most of the remaining 200 miles of the route.

Upon entry to Sedalia, the largest town we actually rode through, we rode to the bed and breakfast – a distance thought to be 3 miles – so it was 6, what the heck! We got 46 miles for the afternoon. We spent the night at the Sedalia House Bed & Breakfast – the best place of the trip. About ½ of their guests are cyclists, and they take very good care of you! After an Italian dinner in Sedalia, we returned to the countryside and slept well with no noise whatsoever, and total darkness. Living in Dallas, it is easy to forget these pleasures.

Day 2 – We had a full hot breakfast of French Toast with a fresh strawberries, sausage, fruit and other goodies – our best breakfast of the trip. Susan & Melody took on off while we loaded the van, and said our good byes to the innkeepers. We rode back to the trail, and started what became our best day.

Most of the trail was in the “tunnel of trees” interrupted by lots of bridges – all perfectly decked. After rejoining Susan and Melody, we had lunch at the Isle of Capri Casino in Boonville. This took too long and was not so good. We crossed the river on a highway bridge with a dedicated concrete bikeway. The single ladies rode to Rocheport, where my sister ferried them and their bikes to the Regency Hotel in Columbia. The Rocheport area, with its tunnel, bluffs, and great river views, was the prettiest section of the trail.

Audre and I continued on down the trail, and up the 9 mile MKT spur off of the trail to Columbia. Arriving in Columbia at the University of Missouri campus just as fans were coming in for a game against the Arkansas Razorbacks. The trail dumped us onto a wide, busy street. The VERY friendly people directed us through the campus to our hotel. On the way, we passed a bike shop and picked up a bolt for Audre's rear view mirror, which, if missing, is a monumental disaster! They seem to not see too many tandems up there so we had to roll it in for everyone to look at.

It was our longest day – 71 miles – and it was a great ride all day! We dined at the Katy Roundhouse (old train station) in Franklin, which also serves as a snack bar and campground for cyclists. They are right on the Trail – as in 20' away. They are only open for dinner on weekend evenings, so call ahead if you go there!

Day 3 – After the hotel continental breakfast, Melody and Susan took on off while we were airing up our tires. Since the first 4 miles of the MKT trail head downhill, we went by them quickly opting to ride this day on our own. Rejoining the Katy Trail we did a side trip to see the largest Burr Oak tree in the US. It dwarfs Warren in the photos – so it is a really large tree! It was Sunday, everything was quiet, and we enjoyed the solitude of our ride immensely. The bluffs continued on our left, the river on our right, and the shade of a canopy of trees overhead. After fixing a flat, and riding a time with my sister, we rode into Hartsburg – a tiny, interesting town on the trail. It has a winery/restaurant and a B & B, but the best place is Hartsburg Cycle Depot. It is a combination bike shop, custom frame shop, and snack bar. It is owned by a British couple, who do custom fillet brazed and lugged steel frames, as well as carbon fiber custom bikes. After a coffee smoothie, we continued on down the trail to Jefferson City. We wanted more miles, so rode past the trailhead,

and then back – not knowing what was ahead of us! My sister picked up Susan and Melody at the trailhead, and taken them to the motel in Holt's Summit. The hotel ferries bicycles, but can't handle a tandem without the manager in their pickup which wasn't available, and my sister had gone into town. So the manager gave us directions to the motel on our bike. We first hiked through a soy bean field, then up a steep hill on what may once have been a road, then up an unrideable loose gravel road, to pavement. After a freeway overpass, we discovered why they call it Holt's Summit. We climbed *le Alp de Holt's* mostly on the bicycle, but not totally! This was the physically hardest part of the trip – long, steep grade! We went into Jefferson City and had our best meal of the trip at das Steinhaus. If you are self contained, and stay in Holt's Summit at the Best Value Inn – the only motel on the trail side of the river – you had best like pizza!

Day 4 – After the experience of the day before, we took the van to the trailhead. It rained early, so I changed from the narrow tires to fat ones, which turned out to be a good decision, even though it never rained. The area just east of Jefferson City gave us the only bad places on the trail. According to the locals, there had been a hard rain a couple of weeks before, that left “washboard” spots that were wide, deep, and 8 - 10 in a row. I was severely criticized from the back for riding through them, instead of stopping – I just wanted to let Audre fully test the new Thudbuster ST seat post – which did help a lot! We were relieved to see areas ahead that had been patched with new crushed stone. Alas, this was almost worse, the rock had not been spread evenly, not packed, and thus was very loose. But the fat tires ruled, and we made it through fine – and 10 miles of not perfect trail out of 278 isn't bad, and they were obviously working on it.

Susan and Melody took the van at the halfway point, and we rode on to the quaint town of Marthasville, where we stayed at the Little House B & B, which is . . . a little house, and right on the trail! We had a warm Bundt cake waiting, along with cheese and crackers, fruit, and other snacks. This place was immaculately clean, and a great place to stay. We had dinner at the Twin Gables, which is without equal in Dallas. It is a small town bar / pool hall / and burger joint. No smoking sections have not made their debut in Marthasville, so we sat close to the front door! The burger was quite good, the beer cold, the fries fresh, the meal cheap, and we were able to walk to it!

Day 5 – After another good continental breakfast, we started our last scheduled day – a short 38 mile ride to St. Charles, the end of the trail. This was a nice day, with the coolest morning we had. It was nice to start out a bit nippy! Melody decided to ride alone, so Audre, Susan, and I had a very nice time just cruising in, seeing the sites, and taking pictures. We got to St. Charles around

noon, and got a room for showers, etc. After a nice lunch at the Trailhead Brewing Company, which is about 40' from the trail, we took my sister to the AMTRAK station in Kirkwood, and Susan & Melody to the St. Louis Airport.

With riding the next couple of days, we did 321 miles total. The 5 days on the trail yielded 278 of these miles. When you ride to your lodging, plus do site seeing in towns, the extra miles do add up!

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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.

fresh dates

Team Downs

Flower Mound, TX

Captain: John Downs

Stoker: Debbie Downs

Joined DATES: August 2004

How long have you been cycling?

Captain: 5 years

Stoker: 3 months

How long tandeming? 3 months

Why did you start riding tandem? To get Debbie involved in cycling and to spend more time together. Deb used to be upset with me for being gone for 2 or 3 hours on a Saturday. Now those 2-3 hours are used to strengthen our marriage!

What kind of tandem do you ride? Trek 2000

How often do you ride? We try to ride 4x/wk

How far? Our goal is 100 miles/wk

Usual route/area? Flower Mound, Copper Canyon, Double Oak, Bartonville, Denton, Argyle

Favorite Ride? Our Saturday ride through the hillier areas. (At least as big as the hills can be around here!)

Where/How did you hear about Double DATES? We bought our tandem at Richardson Bike Mart and Jim and Rhonda told us about y'all.

Anything else you'd like us to know about you? We are originally from Chicago. Moved to the Dallas area in 1993. In 2002 we moved back to Chicago and after 2 years and 2 more winters there we moved back to Flower Mound. We are the worst kind of Yankees...those who come south and don't go back again.

Prior to getting our tandem, Deb was having a conversation with one of our friends and they were commenting about how their respective husbands sweat at the drop of a hat and neither of them do. Well we finally got our tandem. On the first ride I was trying to be so encouraging to Deb so that she would want to ride again. On the second ride we went for about 24 miles. When we got off the bike, Deb looked at me and said "See.. look at how much you sweat and I hardly have sweated at all." I make the fatal mistake by saying "Well if you would start peddling, maybe you would sweat too!" I went straight to the penalty box and it cost me \$50 later in the day as a peace offering to get out.

Team DeKnight

McKinney, TX

Captain: Dave DeKnight

Stoker: Vicky DeKnight

Joined DATES: September 2004

How long have you been cycling?

Captain: Since 1988

Stoker: Since 1995

How long tandeming? 6 months

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

(Dave is about 2-3 mph faster on avg than I am on a single.)

What kind of tandem do you ride? Burley Duet

How often do you ride?

Captain: 3-5 times per week

Stoker: 2-3 times per week

How far?

Captain: During the week 13-15 miles per day, weekends 30-70 miles

Stoker: 13-15 miles weekdays, 30-50 weekends

Usual route/area? North of McKinney

Favorite Ride? Where ever either of us happens to be riding.

Where/How did you hear about Double DATES? The Web

Anything else you'd like us to know about you? We met each other in a bike shop in Lawrence, KS.

OFFICER CANDIDATES NEEDED

The club continues to thrive because of committed members such as you. Several officer positions will become available next year. They don't take much time and it is important to continually bring new ideas into the leadership. Oh, and did I mention it really doesn't take much time. Watch for descriptions of the positions in the next newsletter and [get involved](#).

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

Dallas Area Tandem Enthusiasts

(DATES)

Submitted by Kris & Chuck Carlson, Secretaries.

Minutes: September Business Meeting & Social – Sunday, September 12, 2004

Location: Home of Tricia and Franklin Kemp

Attending Officers:

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

Absent Officers:

Team Vinson, Brenda Cole, Team Hogan

Attending Teams:

Tony & Colleen Hering, Jerry and Laurie Boggess, Franklin & Tricia Kemp, Tom & Brenda Shaddox

Don opened the meeting, thanking Tricia and Franklin for hosting the meeting, and especially for the great chicken casserole.

Don noted that Kevin Vinson will be sending out a new membership roster to all officers. Kevin and Linda Vinson have agreed to coordinate the Annual Meeting again this year. We need a non-officer to coordinate officer nominations.

D'Ann read a thank you letter from the Texas Bicycle Coalition for our membership renewal.

The September 2005 United Texas Tour Professional Cycling Race was also discussed. Tentative plans call for the ride to end in McKinney on September 23, 2005. D'Ann Hunt will attend a local information meeting and will report back on volunteer opportunities.

OFFICER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ride Coordinators: Team Hudson/Croy reviewed recent club rides and thanked all the ride leaders: Marc & Susie Mumby and Rusty & Belinda Nail – Labor Day; Chuck & Kris Carlson – Pilot Point; Roan & Juanita Logan – Impromptu Ride; Don & D'Ann Hunt – Melon Patch; George & Ginger Cole – Historical Waxahachie; Bruce Hudson & Carol Croy – Collin County; Jim & Janice Goins – Hotter 'N Hell; Jenny & Randy Davis – Post-Cotton Patch.

Upcoming events were reviewed, including: TROLs Weekend in Jefferson (September 17-19), Tom & Brenda Shaddox 3rd Annual Century Ride (September 26), Mark & Karen Driscoll's Venus, TX Ride (October 3), John

McManus & Brenda Cole's Tour de Culture (new date October 17), Warren & Audre Casteel's Halloween Ride (October 23-24), Southern Tandem Rally (November 5-7), and Jim & Rhonda Hoyt's Veteran's Day Ride (November 7)

Two additional events were also discussed – the Two Flags Ride scheduled for November 21; and the Copperas Cove weekend ride being planned for the Thanksgiving weekend, hosted by John McManus and Brenda Cole.

For people who have rides they would like to host, open weekends include Oct. 10, Oct. 31, Nov. 14, and all weekends in December. *A ride leader is needed for the Christmas Lights Ride.*

Secretaries: Team Carlson. Chuck agreed to contact Warren Casteel about finding a back-up DATES One-List administrator when Warren is not available.

Treasurers: John McManus reviewed the 3rd quarter DATES financial report and SWTR 15 finances.

John also reviewed the overall progress of the 2005 Southwest Tandem Rally planning. Discussion followed and included the professionally designed event jersey, accommodations, games, food and entertainment, ride routes, and more. A great deal of information is online on doubledates.com and registration forms will be available in a few weeks.

The tentative registration deadline for receiving a jersey is March 4th, 2005. The team registration fee is \$250, which will include two jerseys. As of Sept. 12, the Pre-Tour has attracted 13 teams and five spaces remain. Operational plans are proceeding and volunteers will be needed. A request was made for headbands like those provided at our Tyler rally. They were very popular. John will look into it and report back. John closed his presentation by announcing that the 15th Southwest Tandem Rally will be the first to sport private label wines: Rally Red and Willow City White, which will be used as pre-rally promotional items and as prizes at the rally.

Membership Coordinators/Webmasters: No report.

DATESlines Editors: No report

OLD BUSINESS

The SWTR update included with the Treasurer's report.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business and the meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: At the home of Tony and Colleen Hering, Sunday December, 5th.

