

DATES EVENTS**2005 DATES Annual Dinner Meeting**

This year's dinner will be held Sunday, February 6th, 2005 at The Abbey Grill in Frisco. Be sure to join us for a scrumptious buffet as we take care of club business and award the *GOLDEN SPROCKET* to this year's contributors. The details are:

When: Sunday, February 6, 2005

Where: The Abbey Grill, 7185 Main Street, Frisco

Time: 5:30 pm meet and greet with cash bar
6:00 pm dinner buffet

Cost: \$25 per person (includes tax and gratuity)

RSVP: Please send a check for the total in your party to Linda Vinson by January 29th. Make the check payable to Linda and mail to: 7013 Fox Drive, The Colony, Texas, 75056. If you have email Linda at linda.vinson@eds.com or call 972-625-6110 (home) or 972-605-6000 (work).

Directions: The Abbey Grill is located in old downtown Frisco, North of SH121 and East of the Dallas North Tollway (Parkway). Driving directions can be found on The Abbey Grill website at:

<http://www.abbeygrill.com>

VALENTINES DAY RIDE
Hosted by Diane and Tom Glenz

Join team Glenz for the annual Valentine's Day ride on Sunday, Feb. 13. Start in Grapevine at the Grapevine Elementary School. On the loop back to Grapevine we will stop at Cielo's for brunch. Meet at 9:30 am and start the ride at 9:45 am. The ride will be about 35 miles with optional longer or shorter routes.

March 2005 DATES-LINE Schedule:

Mailed by: February 26, 2005

Notices & Articles due by: February 22, 2005

Salute to 2004 Ride Leaders**Thank YOU**

Herb & Sandra Bloomer
Pilot Point Ride

Chuck & Kris Carlson
Pilot Point Ride

Ronnie & Nanette Bryant
Easter Hill Country
Thursday Ride

George & Ginger Cole
Waxahachie Historic Ride
& Pool Party

Malcolm & Linda Cole
Christmas Lights Dinner Ride

Warren & Audre Casteel
Halloween Ride to Tyler

Rick & Ann Dixon
McKinney Ride

Mark & Karen Driscoll
Venus Ride

Tom & Diane Glenz
Valentine's Day Ride

Jim & Janice Goins
Hotter 'N Hell Weekend

Tom & Grace Hogan
Summer Ride & Pool Party

Jim & Rhonda Hoyt
Veterans Day Ride

Bruce Hudson & Carol Croy
Mesquite/Sunnyvale Ride
Collin County Ride

Roane & Juanita Logan
Tyler State Park Campout
Flower Mound Ride

John McManus/Brenda Cole
St Patrick's Day Ride
Easter Hill Country Rides
Tour'd Culture
Copperas Cove Weekend

Tom & Brenda Shaddox
Stoker Appreciation
DATES 3rd Annual Century
Two Flags Ride

Don & D'Ann Hunt
Melon Patch Weekend

Gail & Jim Spann
Rockwall Ride & Swim

Marc & Susie Mumby/Rusty & Belinda Nail
Labor Day Melissa Ride & Pool Party

RD & Lynn Vanderslice
Ray Roberts Trailway Ride

Kevin & Linda Vinson
Collin County Ride

Jeff Venable/Rusty Lemley
Lancaster Ride

Rick & Kay Watson
Arbuckle Mountain Ride

Lee & Beckie Wilson
Tour of the Stars

Jim & Melody Yuhn
Blue Ridge Ride

Riding is what DATES is about. Without you and your willingness to share your experience, knowledge and especially routes, DATES would not exist. **Thank You.**

Low Rider

By Colleen Hering

It was a beautiful crisp, sunny Saturday morning with light winds and comfortable temperatures. The kind of day you take advantage of and ride your tandem. Not knowing the wisdom of our decision at the time, we chose to ride one of the shorter routes that we have devised in the Allen area over the years. We were cutting through a neighborhood only five miles from home when it happened.

Suddenly there was a snap and my handlebars and Tony's seat were floating in my hands. The Christmas lights were still wrapped around the frame from the DATES Christmas Lights Ride on Sunday. The lights and cyclometer cable were restricting placement of the newly freed equipment, but I was able to tenuously hold onto it with one hand while grabbing the Softride beam with the other for balance. Tony's reflexes were tested when he kept from falling and maintained stability when the post broke and the seat gave way. He pedaled while standing until he could pull over.

We dismounted and took a moment to calm our rattled nerves and assess the damage. The post had broken just below the stoker handlebars, about four inches below Tony's saddle. Tony's brain went into *fix-it-long-enough-to-get-home* mode, and he did that "Tim the Tool Man" thing. He rummaged through the toolbox in the trunk, which is when he discovered the multi-tool was broken. That's okay he didn't need it, anyway.

My brain went into *who-can-we-call-to-pick-us-up* mode (that is why we carry a cell phone, right?). Tony failed to respond to my suggestion that we hitch a ride from our neighbors and DATES members, Team Seggerman. It was one of those testosterone vs. estrogen moments, like when a couple is lost and the wife suggests to her husband that he stop and ask for directions. You just know it's not going to happen.

Tony has experience riding in a standing position for several miles because the post broke on his single earlier in the year. (Do you see a pattern forming?) So, his first idea was to ride the tandem solo back to the house and come back for me in the car. But we didn't have a good way of securing the handlebars to the bike without disconnecting the cyclometer and removing the strand of Christmas lights. Much too time consuming.

Then like a light bulb came on (or maybe it was a Christmas light), Tony decided to remove the handlebars from the four inches of post and clamp it to the five inches of post still protruding from the bike. The handlebars gave me something to hold onto and gave him something to sit on. We harnessed the saddle and broken post to the trunk with bungee cords and prepared to ride.

Here's where the visual comes in. Tony is 6' 6.5" (hence, like many stokers, my view from the rear is totally restricted to peripheral scenery). The low position of this newly fashioned pseudo-seat barely afforded Tony's 36" legs adequate distance to the pedals. With Tony's tush snugly fitted onto the handlebars, there was little bar left for me to grasp. At times I had to lean on the drops, which forced my chin into Tony's back. Our awkwardly rigged contraption gave new meaning to the term "low rider".

Not having had much sleep the night before and finding a glimmer of humor in our solution, I became quite giddy. In the Christmas spirit, thoughts were rushing forward like visions of sugar plums dancing in my head. I visualized how we must look to passersby that might have even the slightest knowledge of what we should look like. Giggle, giggle. Tony yelled in a baffled tone, "Whaaat!?" I shared my thoughts with him for a duet of laughter.

The ridiculous thoughts escalated:
T'was the week before Christmas
And all through the town,
The Herings were cycling
When their seat post broke down.

Colleen: Giggle, giggle.
Tony: "Whaaat!?"

We passed a kid on a bicycle. I thought, "Kids, don't try this at home."

Colleen: Giggle, giggle.
Tony: "Whaaat!?"

Finally, Tony joined in the fun and asked, "Can you see over me, now?"

Colleen: Giggle, giggle. "Can we keep your seat this low from now on?"

Tony: Primitive, guttural sounds.

Colleen: "I'll take that as a 'no'." Giggle, giggle.

We nixed the regular Krispy Kreme stop at the Exxon store and prayed for green traffic lights over the next five miles. We actually made it home without further incident. I grabbed the camera and digitally immortalized Tony

sitting on my handlebars. The moral of the story: Check your seat post every 6,000 miles.

Happy Trails (and tails)!



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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.

Copperas Cove Turkey Day Weekend by Arie and Arza Funk, HATS

On a full stomach from the Day of Thanks we arrived at Copperas Cove, TX not knowing what to expect from the Dallas Tandem Club. At the reception in the Best Western, we met Mary and Pat from Vermont who came down for two weeks of cycling in Texas since their water bottles were beginning to freeze back home. A few minutes later the rest of the teams arrived with a grand total of 10 couples. Most were from Dallas with the exception of Vermont, San Antonio, Oklahoma, and Arie and me from Houston.

Our first ride began at 2:00pm on Friday afternoon. David from the Chamber of Commerce met us in the lobby, provided us with maps and led us to the starting point, where a few more local cyclists were waiting to ride with us. The route was beautiful; plenty of nice hills, and very quiet roads. We were even treated to homemade banana nut bread baked by a local Caesar. Right after the ride we all met at a local coffee shop for a refreshing cup of joe. David made us plans for dinner at a local hamburger joint, which really consisted of only hamburgers! After a calorie-killing ride we returned to our hotel in high hopes of a nice glass of wine. Our hopes were quickly dashed as we realized Copperas Cove is located in a dry county. However, John and Brenda's wine supply and generosity were just the right amount.

The next day was a longer ride (55 mi.) with lunch brought to us again by David and Caesar. At the start of the ride, the weather was a bit cold with some wind that didn't make it easier on the hills. That night we ate a well-deserved pasta dinner at an Italian restaurant in town, and this time Brenda brought the wine with her.

On Sunday, the wind picked up and the temperatures dropped, but six tough teams took the road at Fort Hood. We were riding in the Army's Tanks training area which consisted of one long road with no traffic whatsoever (except of course for the enormous Bradley). After reaching the peak of the only hill on the map we realized the road went on for miles and miles. Our legs were fresh for the day, but we surely didn't want to leave Copperas Cove with a bad ride. We turned back and headed on home to the Bayou City.

The area of Copperas Cove is truly a cyclist's dream; the scenery is beautiful, the roads are quiet (if you know where you are going), the hills are challenging and the local Chamber of Commerce is cheerfully helpful in every way.

Arie and I had a blast meeting great tandemists. Both the riding and the visiting were superb.

Club Officer Positions Open

DATES-Line Editor: Publish the newsletter 10 or 11 times per year.

Basic knowledge of MicroSoft applications are all that is needed for this role. Editing is easy with the grammar and spell check functionality. It is not a time consuming role, less than 5 hours a month. And that includes the time the printer takes to copy, collate and staple the papers.

Secretary: Record the minutes of business meetings

The Secretary role does not require much time. By being the Secretary of the club, you know you will be invited to around 6 dinner parties a year. Who doesn't like to have a busy social calendar? The hardest part is remembering to record the activities during the meetings while you are having fun. If you can't make a meeting, not to worry, there will be someone to fill in and take minutes.

The best part about being involved in the club is that it allows you to interact with some really great people on a regular basis. The varied interests, careers and ages of club members are fantastic. On the rides or at club meetings you will not lack for interesting conversation or fail to learn about new things.

The club thrives because of members like you. Get involved, you won't regret it.

2005 Ride Calendar WIDE Open

Ride Coordinators Bruce Hudson & Carol Croy are ready, willing and able to put your ride on the 2005 Ride Calendar. Right now the calendar is mostly empty so you can have first choice of the date you want to host your favorite ride. Hosting a ride is not hard and it doesn't take a lot of time. Plan a new route and prepare map/cue sheets or take advantage of the many established routes in the DATES database. You will be reminded to send a notice to the newsletter editor then get everybody started on the route on the day of the ride. You can lead from the front or the back or anywhere in between. Contact us at 214-320-8708 or via email at HudsonCroy@worldnet.att.net to put your ride on the calendar now.

A few great established event/routes are available for someone to host: Texas Winery Ride and Halloween Ride. Sign up early for these established rides that are easy to host as the hard work has been done!

THE WORLD AT YOUR WHEEL – BE PREPARED

By John McManus

After many years of supporting a great ride, Warren and Audrey Casteel are looking for someone else to sponsor the Halloween Ride. If Brenda and I did it – and hopefully for all concerned we won't – it would be quite different: there would be no sag and no mechanic. We'd transport your luggage, but that's all. You would be responsible to get yourselves and your bike to Tyler and back. Under these conditions, some of this year's riders would have been stranded on the side of the road. This article is for them and their fellow riders who are also not prepared.

Every time I go on a local ride, and particularly when it's a long one like Kauffman to Tyler, I consider it a practice ride for a tour somewhere in the world. And a world tourist, or even a Texas tourist, must be prepared for contingencies. Here's what I'd have on my bike:

- Two inner tubes, a patch kit, a boot and a fold-up spare tire. The spare tire has saved us on tours in the Texas Hill Country, in Ireland and in France.
- Spokes for front and rear wheels (and drive, non-drive sides if necessary). And of course a spoke tool. Also a Kevlar spoke in case I can't remove the free-wheel or drum brake.
- Spare chain links, chain pins and a chain tool.
- Extra nuts, bolts, a universal tandem cable and even an extra pair of SPD cleats. Plus spare cable bolts in case I break the drum brake cable and lose the cable bolt.
- These additional tools: Allen wrenches and a red Park spanner to adjust the synch-chain tension, a small pair of channel-locks, a small crescent wrench and the tool which holds the back side of the chainring bolts. Also a tool to remove the cassette and my special invention to remove the Arai drum brake.

Some of these tools I have only because of a previous problem, you learn from experience. Or at least let's hope so. Although I've never ridden a mountain bike, I admire mountain bike racers because they have no support vehicle; they must fix anything that breaks themselves. Quite different from weenie road racers who have chase vehicles with spare wheels, spare bikes and a mechanic who reaches out the car window to adjust the derailleur on the road.

To me, one of the beauties of cycling is independence. But with this independence comes responsibility. Maybe we should all make a New Year's Resolution to be more prepared for contingencies while tandeming.

Something to think about: What parts of a tandem are unique and may be difficult to replace if they break while you are in a remote location? I'll share my thoughts on this next month.



DALLAS AREA TANDEM ENTHUSTISTS

Annual Membership is \$18.00 effective in January. If you join after July 1 dues are \$9.00, if joining in November or December pay \$18.00 and are paid up for the following year.

1. Fill out the information below. Please print!
2. Read and Sign the waiver on the reverse side.
3. Mail this page with both sides completed with your check payable to "DOUBLE DATES" to:

Mail to: Kevin or Linda Vinson, 7013 Fox Drive, The Colony, Texas, 75056.

CAPTAIN: _____

STOKER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

WORK PHONE: _____

CAPTAIN E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

STOKER E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

___ Check here to receive only electronic version of the Newsletter; Hard copy will not be mailed.

___ Check here if interested in submitting a team photo for the DATES website.

LIABILITY RELEASE

All riders must sign a waiver of claim below to become members and participate in Double DATES activities. A Parent or guardian must sign for riders under 18 years of age.

I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT, I AM RELEASING THE DOUBLE DATES, ITS MEMBERS, OFFICERS, AND AGENTS FROM LIABILITY. THIS RELEASE IS A CONTRACT WITH LEGAL CONSEQUENCES, AND I HAVE READ IT CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING.

I acknowledge that cycling is an inherently dangerous sport and fully realize the dangers of participating in group rides.

I FULLY ASSUME THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH PARTICIPATION. For myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, assignees, and successors in interest (collectively "Successors"), I HEREBY WAIVE, RELEASE, DISCHARGE, HOLD HARMLESS, PROMISE NOT TO SUE, AND INDEMNIFY the Double DATES, its members, ride leaders or hosts and officers (collectively the "Released Parties") from any and all rights and claims including claims arising from the released parties' own negligence, gross negligence or intentional conduct, which I have or which may hereafter accrue to me, and from any and all damages which may be sustained by me directly or indirectly in connection with, or arising out of, my participation in or association with an event sponsored by Double DATES.

I understand and agree that situations may arise during a ride, which may be beyond the immediate control of the leader(s) or host(s), and I must continually ride so as to endanger neither others nor myself. I accept responsibility for the condition and adequacy of my own bicycle equipment. I will wear a helmet that satisfies the requirements of the ANSI Snell regulations that can protect against serious head injury, and I assume all responsibility and liability for the selection of such a helmet. I have no physical or medical condition, which to my knowledge would endanger others or myself if I participate in Double DATES rides or would interfere with my ability to participate in such rides. I agree that should I or my successors assert my claim in contravention of this agreement, the asserting party shall be liable for the expenses (including legal fees) incurred by the other party or parties in defending. I understand that a parent or responsible adult must accompany all riders under the age of 18 on any Double DATES ride. If I am a minor, my parent or guardian also is signing on my behalf and we both agree to be bound by the terms of this waiver and release.

SIGNATURES OF ALL RIDERS

_____ CAPTIAN AGE _____

_____ STOKER AGE _____

_____ OTHER RIDER AGE _____
 Print name

_____ OTHER RIDER
 Signed name

_____ OTHER RIDER AGE _____
 Print name

_____ OTHER RIDER
 Signed name

Mail to: Kevin or Linda Vinson, 7013 Fox Drive, The Colony, Texas, 75056.

South West Tandem Rally 2005

Since last month's DATES-LINE, Team Watson have volunteered as Rides Coordinator. We still need someone to create audio CD's to set the mood at many of the events. If you're interested call John McManus at 214-321-6085 and talk about the job. Other recent accomplishments include hiring a band for Saturday's banquet and designing games for the participants.

Registration is going well and the number of non-Texas teams is amazing: 24 of the first 38 to register are from out of state. And I'm not talking about our Oklahoma friends – most of the people are traveling a long distance. On the Pre-Tour, the average distance from their home to Fredericksburg is over 1,200 miles. And this weekend I got email from another 5 tandem teams who are coming from New Jersey.

But we don't have many DATES members signed up yet. Remember the registration deadline is March 4. So print the form from and sign up today. We need a lot of club members to make our visitors feel welcome.

<http://www.doubledates.com/SWTR2005/Registration.html>

Business Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Bruce Hudson & Carol Croy, secretaries substituting for Team Carlson

December Business Meeting following the Christmas Lights Ride December 12, 2004

Location: Penne Pomodoro, Snyder Plaza, Dallas

Attending Officers: Teams Hunt, Hogan McManus/ Cole, Vinson and Hudson/Croy

Absent Officers: Team Carlson

Attending: Teams Herring, Jenkins, Cole, Rothgeb

Don opened the meeting by thanking Malcolm and Linda Cole for leading the ride and organizing dinner. He also invited everyone to the New Year's Day Ride at 10:00 am New Year's Day at the Hunt's home.

OFFICER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

SWTR 2005

- The rally committee still needs a ride director to coordinate marking the routes and identifying and organizing what needs to be done concerning safety and support.
- Also looking for someone to put together "mood music" for the various planned events.

Annual Meeting & Dinner

The next meeting is the Annual Meeting at 5:30 pm on Sunday, Feb 6 at The Abbey Grill in Frisco. The cost is \$25 per person. Send your check to Linda Vinson by Jan 29.

2005 Officer Positions Available

The DATES-Line Editor and DATES Secretary positions are vacant and available for the 2005 season. Grace Hogan, DATES-Line Editor described her duties and offered assurances that only 56 hours per month are required. For further information about either of these positions see the position descriptions in the last issue of DATES-Line.

Golden Sprocket Awards

Ballots were distributed for this year's categories; Most Frequent Contributor, International Travel, Multipart Series and Product Review. The votes will be tallied and trophies awarded at the Annual Meeting.

Membership

We're ending 2004 with a membership of 100 teams. So far 16 teams have renewed for 2005. The renewal form is available on the website. Please send the form and your dues to Kevin & Linda Vinson. They will also be accepting renewals at the Annual Meeting.

Treasurers

Income is slightly less than expected, but expenditures have been much less than expected.

Ride Calendar

Ride Coordinators Bruce Hudson and Carol Croy are ready, willing and able to put your ride on the 2005 Ride Calendar. Call them at 214-320-8708 or email HudsonCroy@worldnet.att.net to reserve your date and share your favorite route with the rest of the group.

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Fax: (972)516-0598
HOURS: M-F 9:30-7, TUES 9:30-8
SAT 9:30-6
SERVICE OPENS AT 8:00AM M-F

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, preferably in MS WORD. 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.

DATES COORDINATORS _____	Don & D'Ann Hunt _____	972.442.6622 (h) _____	d2h@airmail.net
DATES-LINE EDITORS _____	Tom & Grace Hogan _____	972.867.9252 (h) _____	ddateseditor@aol.com
RIDE COORDINATORS _____	Bruce Hudson & Carol Croy _____	214.320.8708 (h) _____	HudsonCroy@worldnet.att.net
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



Dallas Area Tandem Enthusiasts
 % Tom Hogan
 2200 Woodburn Corners
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