



EVENTS

Melon Patch Weekend 5, 6 & 7 August 2005



This is a social weekend with lots to do for riders of any skill level and lots of distractions to lose yourself in throughout the weekend. Don & D'Ann Hunt are once again hosting the Melon Patch Weekend. On Friday, August 5, we will head out west and pick up our packet to ride in the De Leon Peach and Melon Festival Bike Rally, better known as the Melon Patch Tour. We have a block of rooms in the Comfort Inn of Stephenville set up for Double

DATES members for Friday & Saturday nights. We will meet at the motel pool and walk over to Pastafina next door for a group dinner Friday night at about 7:30PM.

Saturday, the hotel offers a light breakfast and then we go to De Leon to ride the Melon Patch Tour and take in the rest of the activities on Main Street in De Leon. The big event on Main St. is when they pull in huge trailers of chilled watermelons and start slicing them and giving them away. OK, the seed spitting contest is pretty big too.

Saturday afternoon and evening are your own to pick the events that interest you most. Some go to the fair in De Leon, some go to the tractor pull, some go to the Dr. Pepper plant in Dublin, some go out to dinner in Stephenville, and still others just take a nap. Sunday morning, after breakfast at the motel, we do a DATES ride from the motel parking lot of 18 or 30 miles. Following that, we clean up, check out, and then enjoy lunch at the "Hard 8" barbeque joint in Stephenville. The barbeque is almost all you need to justify the drive out there. We always have a terrific time and we hope you'll join us, but you have to do your own registering, so here's what you need to know:

- Melon Patch Tour 6 August 2005:** Get all the facts and register at: <http://www.themelonpatchtour.com/>
- Comfort Inn; Stephenville:** Call 254-965-7162
- Pastafina Dinner:** Let Don & D'Ann know you are planning to attend and they'll reserve a place at the table for you. d2h@airmail.net or (972) 442-6622

The TROLS Big Adventure '05 Friday – Sunday, September 16-18, 2005



The remaining FEW available spots are going quick!!! Register NOW!

The TROLS is a tandem bicycle club of northeast Texas. We are currently preparing to host a tandem weekend (Sept 16-18, 2005) in the enchanting, historic town of Jefferson, TX. If you enjoy tandeming on scenic, rural country roads, antique shopping, brick downtown streets, good food, and the fellowship of other tandemists, then this is the ride for you.

Due to limited facilities in the small town of Jefferson, we can only accommodate a total of 50 tandem teams.

Saturday morning, a choice of several scenic routes on beautiful, low traffic, rural roads will be offered. We will visit quaint country communities such as Lodi and Bivins. The countryside is magnificent and the cycling is outstanding. A catered box lunch will be provided in route. You're on your own for the afternoon in Jefferson to enjoy whatever activities suit your fancy.

Following a BYOB happy hour social, a buffet dinner will be catered Saturday night in the historic Carnegie Library. The menu is still under construction, but is sure to be delectable.

Sunday morning, we will embark on a picturesque ride to Caddo State Park. Be prepared to dodge the Spanish moss hanging from the ancient cypress trees.

While organizing this "adventure" in Jefferson, the warmth and helpfulness of the residents of Jefferson were readily apparent. They are almost as anxious as we are and have extended every courtesy. This should be a remarkably fun excursion to times gone by. Even though the "official" registration deadline is Aug 15th, prompt registration is encouraged because of the limited number of teams our accommodations can support. So register early and join the fun!

Questions? Call Reggie or Linda Bowers at (903) 663-2144, or e-mail: txhobbit@yahoo.com. Or visit our web site at <http://trols.home.att.net>

DATES Business Meeting & Social August 14, 5:30 pm

Diane & Tom Glenz home, 329 Ellicott Drive,
Roanoke, TX 76262

The main dish will be brisket. Please RSVP and let us know if you'll be bringing a salad, side dish or dessert.

- Take your easiest route to Grapevine.
- Take TX-114 WEST - go about 9-10 miles
- Turn right on US-377 - go 0.7 miles
- Turn right on HILLSBOROUGH DR, go < 0.1 mile
- Turn left on ELLICOTT DR - go 0.1 miles
- Arrive at 329 ELLICOTT DR, ROANOKE, on the Left

Contact Tom or Diane at: 817-490-9226 or
dtglenz@yahoo.com

Valley View Ride Saturday, August 20, 2005

TIME: 8:00 a.m.

LEADERS: Harry & Janette Thompson
817.358.0820

START: Valley View town park. Take IH 35 north of Denton. Exit at FM 922 (exit 487). The town park is 1 block west of IH 35 on FM 922.

DISTANCES: 37 and 56 miles

LUNCH: After the ride at Miguelitos Mexican Restaurant, exit 478 in Sanger.

DESCRIPTION: Join us for a rare Saturday morning DATES ride. This could be your warm-up for HHH. It will certainly be warm. Both routes go through scenic North Texas on lightly traveled farm-to-market roads. Bring plenty of water and let's start on time, because it is August in Texas.



Post Hotter N Hell 100 Ride August 27- 28

Take the weekend off and join Kevin and Linda Vinson for a "post HH100" dinner and Sunday ride in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Saturday dinner will be at 6:30 PM at the Oxford Street Café, 2611 Plaza Parkway. Oxford Street Café is located just off Maplewood Avenue, directly across from the Sikes Center Mall (to the east). Excellent entrees and a plentiful salad bar await to replenish you from the day's ride.

Sunday's ride will begin at 8:30 AM from the Boys and Girls Club parking lot at the corner of Maurine Street and Beverly Drive. We'll ride at a relaxed pace through the country for approximately 25 miles.

To reach the Boy and Girls Club from downtown, head north on I-44 and turn west (left) at the Maurine Street exit. (Herb Easley Chevrolet will be on your right and La Quinta Hotel will be on your left.) The club is less than 1 mile from I-44.

Please call Kevin and Linda Vinson at 972-625-6110 or email linda.vinson@eds.com by August 17th to confirm dinner on Saturday so we can give a headcount to the restaurant.

For additional information on the HH100 events on Friday and Saturday checkout the schedule at: www.hh100.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 and click on "Join This Group" in the upper right corner of the panel, then click on "Sign Up Now" to go to the sign up page.

If you need assistance in signing up, e-mail Warren Casteel at warren@casteelsign.com.

www.planocycling.com

605 18th St., Plano, TX 75074
(972) 423-4130
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

**5th Annual Labor Day
Melissa Ride and Pool Party
Sept. 5, 2005**

Joint Ride for PBA and DATES Members

PBA and DATES Members are invited to join Rusty and Belinda Nail and Marc and Susie Mumby for a holiday ride on quiet country roads. Meet at the Nail's home in Melissa for the ride start at **8 AM**. Mapped routes of approximately 25, 40 and 60 miles will be offered. If you would like to join us after the ride for goodies from the grill, please bring a side dish to share & lawn chairs. Some soft drinks will be provided. The pool & hot tub will also be open for a dip after the ride, so bring a swimsuit and towel. **RSVP** by email: belinda@planobicycle.org or phone: 972-838-2768.

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, Shell). 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 separate garage.



**2005 Southern Tandem Rally
September 30—October 2, 2005**

Meadowview Marriott Conference Resort and Convention Center
Kingsport, Tennessee

2005 Southern Tandem Rally website www.str2005.org
Ms. Wanda Thorpe
Kingsport Convention And Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 1403
Kingsport, TN 37662
800.743.5282

Midwest Tandem Rally

September 2-5

Grand Rapids, Michigan



Brought to you by the M.U.T.S.
~ Michigan United Tandem Society ~
Join the MUTS on
Michigan's Magnificent West Coast
for MTR 2005!

September 2005 DATES-LINE Schedule:
Mailed by: August 31, 2005
Notices & Articles due by: August 29, 2005

Mark your calendars & watch for details:

- September 25 → DATES 4th Annual Century
- October 2 → ZuZu Urban Adventure

From the shores of Lake Michigan, through challenging hills, lush river valleys, and rolling farmlands, we'll fill your Labor Day Weekend with rides that tour the best of West Michigan. Venture out to ride the countryside by day, then return each evening to dine and socialize amidst the excitement of Michigan's second-largest city, Grand Rapids.

Register at:
<http://www.cmiregistration.com/user/splash.jsp?org=441>
Or call: 616-842-0163

Southwest Tandem Rally 2006

Save the dates, April 28 – 30, 2006!

Lake Murray Lodge in Ardmore, Oklahoma.

For more information on Lake Murray Lodge, please visit the <http://www.brightok.net/chickasaw/ardmore/county/lmurray.html> website.

Next Business Meeting →

Sunday, August 14, 2005 @ 5:30 PM
Diane & Tom Glenz home
329 Ellicott Drive, Roanoke, TX 76262

RSVP to
817-490-9226 or
dtglenz@yahoo.com



A Swiss Adventure

By Peter Marks

Introductory note by Harry and Janette Thompson: Our Houston friends Peter Marks and M.K. Biesel (HATS members) graciously agreed to permit us to submit this article about the trip the four of us took to Switzerland in June. This article also appeared in the recent HATS newsletter.

MK and I decided early in the year that we wanted to travel for a couple of weeks with our Bike Friday with our trailer in tow. We just did not have our mind made up as to a destination until we started talking to Harry and Janette Thompson. The Thompsons told us that they had been thinking about a similar “self-contained” tour to Switzerland. My first reaction (though I did not mention it to the other three at the time) was that I was not certain I was up to pedaling up the Matterhorn with a 50 pound trailer. As it turned out it was not as much of a physical challenge as our trip through the gold country of California though having much lower gearing this time helped immensely. I thought the grade of most of the roads was similar to those in the Texas hill country. After reviewing a copy of a cue sheet that Harry & Janette got from John McManus based on a trip he had done last year with Bicycle Adventure Club and doing a bit of research I concluded that Switzerland sounded like a great destination.

As we typically do on trips like this, we only made a few definitive plans before we left the US. We had a first and last night hotel reservation in Geneva and thought initially that we would use the cue sheet and that was about it! We actually only used the cue sheet for 2 or three days and then we relied on the maps that we had brought plus several that some of the locals were kind enough to give us. By not relying on a cue sheet and simply looking at the maps we had, we really had no good idea how much elevation gain we would encounter on a couple of days. Fortunately we did not encounter anything that we could not ride up.

We were traveling in Switzerland the second and third week of June, which is before the main summer tourist season so while we did not always get our first choice on lodging we did not have to sleep on the street anywhere. One day we simply rode into town and found a place to stay while on other days we made a reservation a day or two in advance. I suspect after we left Geneva we really did not need any reservations.

One of the nicest things about traveling by bike in Switzerland is the network of numbered bike trails that traverse the entire country. At their best, they would take you on good off-road paved trails through wheat fields next to beautiful mountains some of which still had snow on them. At the other extreme, we had to ride for a couple of short stretches on hard packed dirt/gravel. In one case, on the day we were traveling from Interlaken to Lauterbrunnen we decided that the trail was better suited for mountain bikes so we switched to riding on the highway the last 10K into town. There were times when the bike route meant riding on a highway. While I did not find that to be a problem, the roads were a bit busier than most of the ones we had traveled on in France and Italy. I would say that the majority of the time we were on a bike route it was a paved path that was so small that it was either too narrow for cars or we encountered very few. When you first travel in Europe one of the first things people tend to notice is how small most of the cars are (about half the size of the standard US car) which was also true in Switzerland so we never felt intimidated by the cars and trucks.

Since we decided early on that this was going to be an adventure, I was not surprised when we were periodically left guessing which direction the bike route went when we encountered an intersection. In most cases we found that if we just continued going straight we would eventually see a sign. In a couple of cases we encountered signs at intersections that were pointing half way between the direction we were traveling and the intersecting street. On one day in particular in route to Gruyeres (where cheese by the same name is made) we guessed wrong and ended up riding an extra 5K which normally would not have been a big deal except for the fact that it happened on our longest day by far-about 65 miles and about 3000 feet of elevation gain plus we did not arrive at our destination until almost 9 PM. After we arrived at our hotel and were sitting outside in the beautiful surroundings having wine we all started joking about the challenges that we had faced that day such as feeling that we were riding in a big circle after seeing the same sign giving us the same or approximately the same distance to the same town over the course of about 15 or 20K.

We decided after our one long riding day to Gruyeres that we did not want to spend all of our time riding. After all, how can you come to Switzerland and not go hiking? So after our last riding day to Lauterbrunnen we spent the next two days hiking and we could not have picked a better place to do it. As with the cycling, one of the nice things about hiking in this area besides the spectacular scenery is that if you get tired there is a train or funicular nearby that will take you to your destination. In addition, you do not have to carry much on your walk since you are never far from a village with restaurants. On our first hiking day we happened to walk by a place where they were making fresh yogurt and it was better than anything I have purchased in a store.

We originally thought that we would be returning by bike to the same hotel in Geneva where we started our journey so we left one of our cases at the hotel that we pack the bike in. The other case that the other half of our bike is packed in is converted to our trailer. We factored into our plans one or two rain/rest days. As it turned out, it rained two days, though only one of the days did we not ride due to the weather. Rather than riding our bike back to Geneva, we ended up walking our bike onto the train and riding the train back, which is very easy to do with a tandem. Most of the trains we saw had several cars that were designated for bikes, which meant that about half the seats in the car had been

removed and a railing installed so you could secure your bike. You could also sit in the same car where your bike was. We had to change trains twice to get back to Geneva. While we only had about 15 or 20 minutes between each connection, we had no problems and would definitely take the train again with our bike. Had we wanted to, we could have cut the distance that we rode on some days by taking the train part of the way.

There was really nothing about our trip I would have changed in hindsight. MK and I are definitely planning on returning to Switzerland in order to ride on other bike trails and go hiking in other parts of the country that we did not get to this time.

Adventure Racing/Mountain Biking/Off-Road Riding:

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Tennessee Tandem Rally - June 3 – 5, 2005, Alcoa, TN (Part 2)
Charlie & Pat Jenkins

Saturday's rides were 31, 46 or 55 miles to lunch, then 25 (or 5) back to the hotel. It was upper 70's & low 80's, with not even a hint of rain. The police escort took us to the edge of town, where they unleashed us. We had a large pack for the 1st 10 miles or so. Then things started breaking up. We knew we would be better off with the 2nd group than even trying to stay with the lead group. So, we settled in where we belonged. Mark & Debbie Livingood was the only team we knew prior to today in this group, but we quickly met new teams. Today's route again offered beautiful scenery, with plenty of climbs. We zipped past the 18 mile rest stop, but utilized the 2nd one at 30 miles. After a quick snack & stretch, we were back on the road. Our group broke up, as everyone had different ideas about how long to stay at the rest stop. We left with David & Tammy from Nashville & rode with them the final 25 miles to lunch. We caught a few teams...and a few caught us. This section was full of twisty & hilly terrain, offering breathtaking views. Lunch was at a park pavilion in downtown Marysville (just a couple miles from Alcoa). A couple blocks from lunch, we got a birds-eye view of an auto accident, as it happened right in front of us. Someone was probably watching the tandems instead of the road! It was only a minor fender-bender, not enough to keep one driver off her cell phone. She was talking when she got hit & was still talking after! Probably didn't miss a word. We were certainly ready for lunch. They offered several sandwich & wraps to choose from, a couple salad options & fresh fruit, complete with tea, water or lemonade & several desert options. After all the climbing & all the lunch, 25 more miles sounded like an eternity! Especially when we learned that it began with a 3 mile climb just to get out of town. When David & Tammy told us they were planning to take the short route back to the hotel, we were quickly convinced that they needed our company for the final 5 miles. We ended the day's ride with a 17.7 avg. Not as quick as yesterday, but still a good days ride in the hills.

DATES Business Meeting Minutes

MINUTES: DATES Business Meeting Sunday, June 12, 2005

LOCATION: Home of Tony and Colleen Hering, 1201 Aylesbury Dr, Allen, TX

OFFICERS PRESENT: Team Hunt, Team Hudson/Croy, Team Jenkins, John McManus, Team Kemp

WEBMASTERS:

OTHERS: Team Hering, Team Seggerman, Team Glenz, Team Boggess

OUTLINE: Opening – by Don Hunt
 Reports
 New business
 Next Meeting
 Ride info
 Adjournment

REPORTS: Rides: Hudson/Croy

Recap of five recent rides .

Upcoming rides: Jenkins on 6/25 and Logan on July 10.

Need host for Halloween Tyler Ride and new lunch stop (golf club no longer available).

Don Hunt POST TX Loop Rides July 18-22. Stay in B&B's, bike the cap rock mornings, visit winery in Lubbock, theatre Fri. night, jewelry shopping, etc.

Possible team rate for H 'n H if the club registers.

Membership: Don Hunt 1. Two new teams joined since last meeting.

Website: Team Vinson: No report.

Newsletter: Team Jenkins: Current funding is adequate for newsletter expenses.

Treasurer: John McManus

\$5060.72 in DATES acct. 646.53 in SWTR acct.

Motion by John McManus to suspend ad fees for '04 and '05 for PCF and RBM bike shops because of their DATES and SWTR support. Seconded by Tom Glenz. Motion passed 16 yea, 1 nay. 3. JM needs suggestions for paring the balance. JM won't move balance into savings acct.

NEW BUSINESS: Next Meeting: Home of Team Glenz, August 14, 5:30pm.

Ride Info:

ADJOURNMENT: 7:45.

DATES-LINE		AUGUST 2005		PAGE 7			
RIDE	DATE	START TIME	START PLACE	RIDE HOST	PHONE # / EMAIL	DISTANCE	DETAILS
After Melon Patch	Sunday, Aug 7 th	TBA	Stephenville, TX	Don & Dian Hunt	972-442-6622 d2h@airmail.net	18 or 30 miles	Refer to Newsletter Article
DATES Meeting & Social	Sunday August 14 th	5:30 PM	Home of Tom & Diane Glenz – 329 Ellicott Drive, Roanoke, TX	Tom & Diane Glenz	817-490-9226 dtglenz@yahoo.com	N/A	Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please RSVP.
Valley View Ride	Saturday, Aug 20	8:00 AM	Valley View town park, 1 block west of IH 35 on FM 922.	Harry & Janette Thompson	817-358-0820 hithompson@comcast.net	37 or 56 miles	Refer to Newsletter Article
After HHH Ride	Sunday, Aug 28	TBD	TBD	Kevin & Linda Vinson	972-625-6110 kvinson@novell.com	Approx. 25 miles	Group Dinner 6:30 pm Saturday night at Oxford Street Café. Please RSVP by August 17.
Labor Day Melissa Ride	Monday Sept 5	8:00 AM	Home of Rusty & Belinda Nail 1613 Grandberry Drive Melissa, TX	Rusty & Belinda Nail Marc & Susie Mumby	972-838-2768 belinda@planobicycle.org	25, 40 or 60 miles	Bring a side dish or dessert to share and lawn chairs. Also your swimming gear. Please RSVP
TROLS	Fri - Sun, Sept 16 th - 18 th	TBA	Jefferson, Texas	Reggie & Linda Bowers	Reggie or Linda Bowers (903) 663-2144, or e-mail: txhobbit@yahoo.com .	TBA	Visit our web site at http://trols.home.att.net
DATES 4th Annual Century	Sunday, Sept. 25th	TBD	Van Alstyne, Texas	Tom & Brenda Shaddox	972-517-4534 res1trzj@verizon.net	TBD	TBA
Zuzu Urban Adventure	Sunday, October 2nd, 2005	TBD	TBA	Tom & Grace Hogan	TBA	TBD	TBA
TOTS (Tour of the Stars) Ride	Sunday, October 9 2005	TBD	TBD	Lee & Beckie Wilson	972-398-9103	TBD	TBA
2005 Southern Tandem Rally	Fri – Sun Sept 30 – Oct 2	TBA	Kingsport, Tennessee	Wanda Thorpe	800-743-5282 www.str2005.org	See Website	Visit www.str2005.org

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 dates@ntsk8.com, mailed on a 3.5 diskette or cd to the editors: Charlie & Pat Jenkins at 1332 Crestview Drive, Denison TX 75020-7017.

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
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 SECRETARY _____ Franklin & Tricia Kemp _____ 972.578.9093 (h) _____ pwkemp@comcast.net
 WEB SITE _____ Kevin & Linda Vinson _____ <http://www.doubledates.com>
 HOT-LINE _____ Dallas Area _____ 214.352.7446 (b)
 HOT-LINE _____ Out of Town _____ 1.800.875.5662 (b)
 HOT-LINE _____ 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
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