



Red White & Blue Ride



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Bedford / DFW Airport Ride

Sunday August 13, 2006

Bedford, TX

Time: Meet 7:30 a.m. for caffeine and power loops (a/k/a donuts)

Ride at 8:00 a.m.

Ride Leaders: Harry & Janette Thompson
817.358.0820
hjthompson@comcast.net

Start: Home of Harry & Janette Thompson
2229 Ridgewood Street
Bedford, Texas 76021

Distance: 35 miles

Description: This is an urban ride that leaves from our home in Bedford and goes through and around DFW Airport. There isn't much traffic on this route on Sunday mornings and the route is basically flat. There are convenience stores at 14 and 28 miles.

Food: Join us after the ride for breakfast or lunch at La Peep restaurant, 2 blocks from our home.

Directions to our house:

From the north Dallas area: Take 635 west to the George Bush Turnpike/Hwy. 161 south (a toll road). Go approx. 7 miles. Exit onto Highway 183 west, headed toward Fort Worth. Go approx. 7 miles and exit at "Central Dr./Forest Ridge" in Bedford. Go right onto Central Dr. Go through 2 traffic lights and take your next left onto Oakmeadow. Take your first right onto Glenoaks. At the T, go left onto Ridgewood. Our house is around the bend on the right, #2229.

From Grapevine: Take Highway 121 south for approx. 5-6 miles. Exit Harwood Dr. in Bedford. Go right onto Harwood for about 1 mile. At Central Dr. (traffic light), go left. Take the second right onto Ridgewood. Our house is around the bend on the right, #2229.

Denton County RideSunday, August 20th

Rockledge Park, Lake Grapevine

Meet at 7:30 AM, ride at 8:00 AM.

Join us for a ride through Denton County. We will start at the south end, and wind our way through suburban Flower Mound. Then we will head north and west on quiet country roads past many horse farms, and return to the shore of Lake Grapevine.

The short route will be about 35 miles, and longer options of 40 something and 50 something miles will be offered. There is only one rest stop about two thirds through the short route (further along for the other routes), so come prepared with plenty of drinks and snacks.

Contact Mitch or Leslie Frank, leslie@franksalot.net, or 972-899-8990 for more information. To reach us on the morning of the ride, Mitch's cell is 214-395-6112.

Directions to Rockledge Park: Take Highway 121 towards Grapevine Mills mall, just north of the airport. Go west on Freeport from 121, which is just north of the mall. Freeport changes names to Lakeside. Pass through lights at Gerault and International Parkway (2499). You will then pass through two traffic circles with only one exit option, and hit a third traffic circle 3.8 miles from 121. Go south on Lakeside from that last traffic circle. Rockledge Park will be immediately on your right, but the sign at the entrance is small. If you cross the dam, you missed it! Follow the park road to the right until it loops at the end. We will meet there, where the restroom facilities are the best, unless the triathletes and mountain bikers have already taken all of the parking places...then just look for the minivans and tandems! We will be there somewhere, and it's not a big park. We look forward to riding with you!

September 2006 DATES-LINE Schedule:

Mailed by: August 31, 2006 –

Notices & Articles due by: August 28, 2006

Post Hotter N Hell Ride

Sunday, August 27

Wichita Falls, Texas

Date: Sunday, August 27th**Time:** Meet at 8:15 am, ride at 8:30 am**Where:** Boys and Girls Club parking lot; corner of Maurine St. and Beverly Drive**Distance:** Approx. 25 miles**Ride Hosts:** Kevin and Linda Vinson**Contact Information:** 972-625-6110 (Evening)/972-797-8647 (Daytime)**E-mail Address:** linda.vinson@eds.com or vinsonkj@sbcglobal.net**RSVP's:** Appreciated, but not required

Join Kevin and Linda Vinson for a late summer ride through the Wichita Falls country side. As always, expect smooth roads and no hills!

We 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.

For additional information on the HH100 events on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, check out the schedule at: www.hh100.org

6th Annual Labor Day/Melissa Ride and Pool Party

Monday, Sept. 4, 2006

Melissa, TX

Joint Ride for PBA and DATES Members

PBA and DATES Members are invited to join Rusty and Belinda Nail 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.

Waffle breakfast will be served at 7 AM compliments of Jim Murray, Elite Performance.

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 1/8th of a mile down with circle drive and separate garage.

Ride the Century! By Tom Shaddox

The century ride has been a fixture of the American cycling club scene since the 1870s. The hundred-mile ride has traditionally been held in September, between the summer's heat and fall's unpredictability. The days are still long enough to provide light for big mileage, and coming at the end of a summer of riding, cyclists are at their peak of conditioning.

One hundred miles is the perfect distance. It is beyond the realm of normal club rides, and provides a challenge – but an achievable one. Maintaining a steady pace and taking regular short breaks will see prepared club riders thru the hundred miles in fine fashion.

It is something of a rite of passage to ride the century. Completing this milestone marks the graduation of recreational bicycle riders to true cyclists. Ever after, they can quietly say, "I've ridden a century."

Fewer than one out of every 500 people who ride bikes are tandemists, and a smaller percentage of tandem teams have ridden a century than single bike riders. What a shame! Could there be any more wonderful joint challenge for a team than the classic club ride? In addition to the badge of honor of completion, there is multiplication of joint achievement, and the bonding of challenge undertaken – and met - together.

Look at your tandem partner today, and say, "I want to ride the club century with you!"

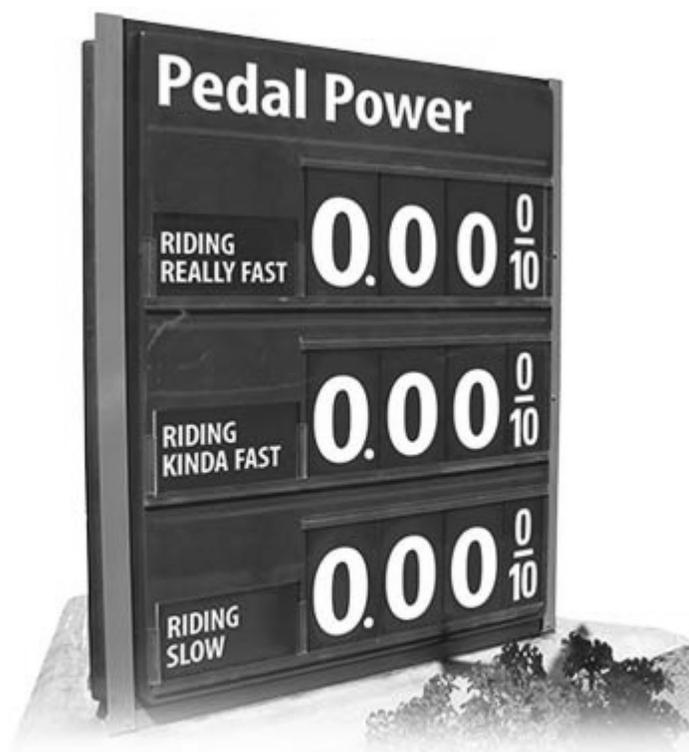
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You do the math.

Submitted by Harry & Janette Thompson
Courtesy of Ron & Michelle Barton

Dallas Area Tandem Enthusiasts present:

T. V. Munson Memorial Century

DATES' present Texas' premier one-day event for **TANDEM** teams** **featuring half, three-quarter and full centuries**. Award winning, "perfect" course with shaded country lanes, farms, small towns, rolling hills, *no-nada-zip traffic*: "It's like riding through pictures in touring company brochures!" Rest stops, maps, and SAG support.

When: Sunday, September 24th, 2006. Packets available 7:00 AM. Courses open 8:00 AM.

Registrations due by September 20rd

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 complete page two~

DATES members please fill in below and mail to: T.V. Munson Memorial Century, 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 _____ 3/4 Century _____ Full Century

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

T. V. Munson began agricultural experiments with the wild Texas grapes he found in Grayson County during the 1870's. A decade later, French farmers panicked as their grape vines were destroyed by a new disease. Mr. Munson sent some of his hardy Texas vines to France where they were crossed with the French vines, saving the French wine industry. He was subsequently awarded the French Legion of Honor.

Membership application/team registration for the "T.V. Munson Memorial" tandem century ride:

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 that 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 that 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 AND PRINTED NAMES OF ALL RIDERS

_____, Captain Age _____ Date _____

_____, Stoker Age _____ Date _____

_____, Other rider Age _____ Date _____

_____, Other rider Age _____ Date _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email address: _____

We plan to tackle the: _____ Half century _____ 3/4 Century _____ Full Century

Attach a check for \$9 payable to DATES and mail to:

T. V. Munson Memorial Century, 2040 Sako Drive, Plano, Texas 75023

2006 Easter Hill Country Rally
April 14th to April 16th
Ride Report by Kevin Vinson

As you can see by the title, I am a little behind on this particular ride report. This rally has become an annual weekend event for Linda and I. We love Fredericksburg! Fredericksburg and the surrounding Hill Country area (Gillespie County) offers up some of the best cycling in the state of Texas, this time of year usually offers up the scenic wildflowers. It all adds up to a wonderful weekend of cycling and sightseeing.

We made the drive down to Fredericksburg on Thursday afternoon. As compared to the drive to Austin, another favorite of ours, the drive to Fredericksburg is very relaxing and very scenic. As has been the case in the past, Linda and I stay at the Ressmann Wagen Haus in Fredericksburg. Below is a description of the Ressmann Wagen Haus as written up in the marketing brochure.

"Tucked away at the end of the Ressmann driveway is the Ressmann Wagen Haus. Once a wagon and wash house, it has been transformed into a superb guesthouse for one to four persons. Forming one side of the Ressmann Courtyard, it has a completely private feel." This is such a cozy place. Linda and I fell in love with it. Both the Ressmann Wagen Haus and the main house that sits in front of the Ressmann Wagen Haus can be reserved through the reservation service. For more info, visit the www.fbglodging.com website.

Fredericksburg is one of those small, traditional towns that roll up their sidewalks pretty early in the evening. Having spent time in Fredericksburg in the past, Linda and I knew we would have to make a stop at the Wal-Mart in Fredericksburg to pick up some necessities for the Ressmann Wagen Haus. Even though the property management for the Ressmann Wagen Haus provides a few things for breakfast such as homemade bread, coffee, condiments, and canned juices, there were still things we wanted for the weekend in regards to meals. We happen to notice that we weren't the only cyclists that needed some necessities for the weekend. Once we got everything we needed, we made our way to the house. After unloading the vehicle, it was time to get a good night's sleep for the following day's ride.

Friday, April 14th – The "official" Easter Hill Country Rally (or Tour as is the case on the Internet) originates out of Kerrville. There was also the "33rd Annual Easter Hill Country Tour" that started at the Fredericksburg High School. The "unofficial" Easter Hill Country Rally started at the Gillespie County Courthouse. Linda and I participated in the "unofficial" Easter Hill Country Rally. The route options were 30 and 66-miles. Linda and I decided on the 66-mile route. Besides there being several DATES couples, there were numerous single riders as well. The 66-mile route was basically the same as the 66-mile route for the "33rd Annual Easter Hill Country Tour" originating from the high school.

The route took us north out of Fredericksburg. It was a great day for cycling. There was some cloud cover to start off with. A slight breeze accompanied the overcast. We had quite a group out on the road. It was great seeing the entire group of cyclist making their way out of town. We took FM-965 out of town. This FM route had a nice shoulder and a light amount of traffic. The motorists that were out were very courteous. I would imagine the motorists are used to seeing cyclists all the time. As we were making our way north on FM-965, we noticed the "peleton" was breaking up. Linda and I hooked up with Al & Lori Pflueger and another couple from San Angelo.

The 66-mile route goes by Enchanted Rock Park. That is something Linda and I still need to do, hike Enchanted Rock. That's for another time. Getting back to the ride, we caught SH-16. We took this south to the entrance to the Willow City Loop. This is the highlight of the ride. Not only is this a very scenic route, but the wildflowers, when they are in full bloom, are spectacular. Unfortunately, due to the recent weather in Texas, this was a down year for the wildflowers. Maybe next year!

The hardest part of this ride is the climb out of the Willow City Loop. This is the climb that just keeps on going. Linda and I toured Spain last year and rode the French Pyrenees. That climb out of the Willow City Loop is a little harder than the climbs we had in the French Pyrenees. No matter, it is a great training climb and the view from the "edge" is very nice. We continued on the loop to Willow City. We caught FM-1323

and made our way west. While on FM-1323, we stopped at Knot in the Loop for some refreshments. This was a nice break after making the climb.

From the Knot in the Loop, we continued on FM-1323. We came back across SH-16. According to the map, we needed to jog onto SH-16 and back onto FM-1323. This took us towards Lower Crabapple. From this point on, the route has little or no traffic to speak of. As for the scenery, it is a great route. The six of us continued our journey back to Fredericksburg. Once we hit Lower Crabapple Road, we turned south. This part of the route consists on rolling hills all the way back to Fredericksburg. There is little or no flat terrain for the most part. Again, the scenery was very nice and the conversation with Team Pflueger and the other couple was very nice.

It was a nice site seeing the Fredericksburg city limit signs. Once we got into town, all of us rode back to the courthouse where we started. Team Pflueger and the other couple had parked their vehicles at the courthouse. Linda and I suggested that all of us go to the Altdorf for lunch. The Altdorf is a traditional Fredericksburg beer garden with very good food and a nice setting. While Linda and I rode the tandem the two other couples drove over to the Altdorf. We had a very nice time having lunch and socializing.

After the lunch, Linda and I rode back to the Ressmann Wagen Haus. We ended up riding just over 70 miles. It was a great day of cycling. Friday night, we met Al & Lori for dinner at Pasta Bella. I strongly recommend this Italian restaurant. Linda and I love the place. The food is good and the service is just as good. We had a very nice dinner with Al & Lori. It was a very nice ending to a very nice day.

Saturday, April 15th – For Saturday's ride, we rode the tandem to team Holverson/Roberts weekend B&B. There, we hooked up with Charlie & Pat Jenkins, Al & Lori Pflueger, and Lee & Becky Wilson. Pete & Laura put together a ride that took us to Doss, Texas and back. Doss is located northwest of Fredericksburg. Unfortunately, I don't have a cue sheet from this ride so I can't provide details from the standpoint of the roads and highways we rode on. My apologies to Pete & Laura for not having this information for the report.

I can tell you that the route was very nice with nice scenery and lightly traveled roads. Like the Willow City Loop, we traveled the back roads that had the famous cattle guards. Also like the Willow City Loop, we encountered water crossings. I strongly recommend that when encountering these water crossings, it's best to get off the bike and walk it across. These water crossings are notorious for being very slick due to the algae that have accumulated on the road.

The ride to Doss was very nice. There was a planned rest stop in Doss. It was there that we came across the group of motorcyclists. We had a nice time conversing with the motorcyclists and exchanging stories about our respective rides (the routes and the motorcycles/tandems). After spending about 30 minutes at the convenient store in Doss, we made our way back to Fredericksburg. Again, the ride back was very nice and scenic. Pete & Laura did an excellent job of charting out this ride. I need to make sure to get with Pete & Laura some time to see if I can get a cue sheet and map from them. LOL! Thank you Pete & Laura!

After arriving back to Fredericksburg and Pete & Laura's "weekend" house, we chatted for a little bit with everyone before riding back to the Ressmann Wagen Haus. Linda and I decided to take advantage of the free time we had and spend some time on Main Street. There is a particular wine shop we visit each time we are in Fredericksburg. We made sure to stop and check out the wines. Like previous times, we didn't walk away empty handed. Later that evening, we met up with Al & Lori Pflueger for a very nice dinner at the Bavarian Inn. It was a very nice dinner and a nice visit with Al & Lori.

Sunday, April 16th – The Sunday ride is usually from Fredericksburg to the booming town of Luckenbach. This year, Linda and I decided we would go to the Enchanted Rock Park instead of riding to Luckenbach. Due to the way the weather was shaping up, we decided against the hike at Enchanted Rock Park since we had a five hour drive home and no where to clean up. Next time, we plan on visiting the Enchanted Rock Park on Saturday. LOL! No matter, it was another wonderful weekend of cycling and sightseeing in Fredericksburg. Easter Hill Country is well worth the drive.

There is an excellent web site dedicated to Hill Country cycling and events that take place in Fredericksburg. Please visit the www.cycletexas.com web site for more information.

**2006 Georgia Tandem Rally
Hosted by Roger Strauss & Eve Kofsky
Ride Report by Kevin & Linda Vinson**

At the 2002 Southern Tandem Rally in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, Linda and I first heard the stories about the Georgia Tandem Rally and the wonderful job that Roger Strauss and Eve Kofsky did hosting the rally each year. After meeting Roger and Eve and their son Elliott, the seed was planted that Linda and I would someday make a trip to Georgia to experience this rally ourselves.

Late last year during an exchange of e-mails with Roger Strauss, he informed me that the 2006 Georgia Tandem Rally was being held in Americus, Georgia and was probably the closest the rally would ever get to Texas. LOL! While planning our vacations for 2006, Linda and I decided it would be nice to finally make our way to Georgia to experience the Georgia Tandem Rally. Needless to say, it was well worth the 13-hour drive. This year's Georgia Tandem Rally kicked off on Thursday, May 18th with registration/packet pick up and three days of riding in and around Americus, GA.

We weren't the only DATES couple that attended GTR. Pat & Charlie Jenkins also made the trek to Americus, GA and were the first team to officially register for the rally. The official number of attendees was 74 couples.

Thursday, May 18th – Linda and I made the trip in one day. Once we took care of our accommodations, we made our way over to the host hotel to pick up our packets. It didn't take us long to see couples we have met at the 2002 and 2003 Southern Tandem Rallies. We had a chance to spend some time visiting with Greg & Angela Knecht and Al & Heidi Parker. Both couples are from Florida and were the hosts of the 2003 Southern Tandem Rally in Tallahassee, Florida. That was a very nice tandem rally as well. That is Greg Knecht with Linda in the picture below.



The one couple we didn't see at the registration was Mark & Debbie Livingood. For those of you who subscribe to Tandem & Hobbs, the online forum for tandem enthusiasts, Mark Livingood is a frequent and knowledgeable

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Frisco
8820 John Hickman (Across from La Hacienda Ranch)
972.335.7600
Mon.-Fri. 10-8pm, Sat. 9-6pm, Sun. 12-5pm

contributor to the forum. As a matter of fact, one of the promotions Roger Strauss used to promote the 2006 Georgia Tandem Rally on Tandem & Hobbs was the chance to meet the renowned Mark Livingood. Linda and I first met Mark & Debbie at the 2002 Southern Tandem Rally. Mark is so knowledgeable when it comes to the cycling industry. He is a great resource when it comes to queries regarding cycling.

Friday, May 19th – The agenda for Friday called for a riders meeting and the morning ride start. For couples arriving later on Friday, there was an afternoon riders meeting and ride start as well. Linda and I opted for the morning ride so we could take advantage of the cooler temperatures. Friday's route would take us to Andersonville, Georgia and the historic Civil War prison camp. Route options were 36 and 44 miles. Linda and I chose the 44 mile route.

The route took us on lightly traveled roads. Very scenic! We made our way to Andersonville with Greg & Angela Knecht. We had a wonderful time riding and visiting with them. As for the Andersonville Civil War Prison, that was something else. What an eye-opener. Since we were on the bikes, we weren't able to take full advantage of the sightseeing around the prison grounds so Linda and I decided we would come back after finishing the ride. In the mean time, we rode around the entire prison camp and through the Civil War cemetery adjacent to the prison grounds.

We were spoiled in regards to the roads and how smooth they were. This was such a nice change from our "chip-seal" here in Texas. We arrived back in Americus just in time to see the afternoon riders gathering at the hotel. We also beat the heat.

After lunch, Linda and I drove back out to Andersonville so we could do some serious sightseeing. Our first stop was the town of Andersonville where we discovered a little general store that was also a museum. We spent a good 30 minutes or so viewing various artifacts from the Civil War and in particular, the Andersonville Prison Camp. Included in the artifacts were newspaper articles, notes, and letters about the prison camp. This was all very interesting and informative. We also spent some time visiting with the couples that were part of the afternoon ride. We noticed that several couples including Charlie & Pat Jenkins had elected to ride in the morning and again in the afternoon.

From the town of Andersonville, we made our way to the prison camp. We took a drive around the entire prison camp grounds and took time to read each of the placards explaining some of the history of the camp. Like I said before, it was definitely an eye-opener. Very interesting but also somewhat somber knowing what the prisoners went through and the conditions they had to deal with. Once we covered the entire prison camp grounds, we made our way to the cemetery. Again, the history of the cemetery was very interesting. For a cemetery, it was a beautiful setting. The cemetery is a very nice tribute to the men and women that sacrificed their lives for that war.

Our last stop was the Prisoner of War Museum that was also adjacent to the prison camp grounds. This museum covered all wars going back to the War of 1812. We spent a good hour in there viewing videos and reading about prisoner of war camps from the various wars of the past. It's amazing what the prisoners went through at times. Really makes you appreciate what you have today.

We had dinner at the historic Windsor Hotel in downtown Americus. The Windsor Hotel was the host site for the Saturday evening banquet. The menu had a very nice selection of entrees and wine and the food was tremendous. We had a nice time visiting with Greg & Angela, Al & Heidi, and Marvin & Miryam Rubenstein.

The Friday agenda ended with a social at the Habitat for Humanity Global Center. We had a chance to tour the center and walk through replicas of some of the third world poverty stricken communities

Habitat for Humanity performs work in. The replicas gave us a strong sense of the desperate conditions many families live in. A second area of the center displayed examples of some of the homes that Habitat builds for the families. They provided a list of the building materials used and a total cost of the structure. Still very modest compared to our modern standards, but a big improvement none the less.

After the tour, we were treated to dessert and drinks and a presentation on the history of Habitat for Humanity. At the end of the presentation, Roger & Eve presented a check for the Habitat for Humanity. This check was a result of donations made by each registrant for the rally. The representatives from Habitat for Humanity were very surprised and very appreciative. It was a nice ending to the first day of the rally.

Saturday, May 20th – Saturday started off with the riders meeting. The “Velos to the Veterans” ride offered route options of 50 and 100 miles with an optional 30 mile route from a remote start. Linda and I both knew we weren't ready for the 100-mile option so we took on the 50-mile option. Again, we spent most of the ride with Greg & Angela, Al & Heidi, and Marvin & Miryam. That is Greg & Angela Knecht in the picture below.



The luncheon was being held at the Lake Blackshear Resort. This was a perfect location for a luncheon for 74 couples. This stop couldn't have come at a better time. The temperatures were increasing as so was the wind. It was becoming very hot and we were ready for some food and drink. The banquet room was very nice. We really enjoyed ourselves. During the luncheon, we had a chance to visit with Eric Osgood and Linda Wood. We first met Eric and Linda at the 2002 Southern Tandem Rally. Eric brought his father, Don, along to ride as well. They were on a triple with Don in the middle. If I remember right, Don is in his mid-70's. Linda and I realized where Eric got his personality. Don is a very nice gentleman. He did an excellent job of holding his own on the bike considering the heat and the wind.

After filling up our Camelbaks and water bottle, it was time to make our way back to Americus. As we were leaving, Pat & Charlie Jenkins were just making their way to the resort with the rest of the 100-milers. We left the resort with Greg & Angela, Al & Heidi, and Marvin & Miryam. It was a tough ride back. It wasn't due to the route or the roads but the heat and wind. Even though we were dealing with the winds, we really enjoyed the smooth roads. As you can tell, I can't say enough about the road surfaces. LOL!

We made our way back to Americus in one piece. Fortunately, Linda and I are used to riding in hot weather and high winds here in Texas. The key thing was, we made sure to keep hydrated and we just kept moving. It was a good day of riding. Linda and I were able to relax for a short period of time before going to the social hour at Floyd's Bar in the Windsor Hotel. At the social, we got a chance to spend some time with Mark & Debbie Livingood. Needless to say, the drinks were flowing at Floyd's.

They definitely hit the spot. All of us had a chance to talk about the day's ride. After the social hour, we adjourned to the Grand Ballroom in the Windsor for the banquet. The food was very good and we had a nice time visiting with Greg & Angela, Al & Heidi, and Marvin & Miryam. After the table settings had been cleared, Roger & Eve presented gifts through drawings. Roger & Eve's son, Elliott, was responsible for dispersing the gifts. Linda and I were amazed at how much Elliott had changed since we last saw him in 2003 at the Southern Tandem Rally in Tallahassee. It was another wonderful day of cycling, socializing, and eating.

Sunday, May 21st – Sunday started off with the riders meeting. The weather was much different from the day before. The day's ride was being called the "Pedal to Plains" ride. The route options were 34 and 41 miles. I was pushing for the 41-mile option while Linda wanted to do the 34-mile option. The 34-mile option was the route of choice since the group we were riding with wanted to ride the 34-mile option. This ride took us to Plains, Georgia. As everyone knows, Plains is the home of President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalyn Carter.

The ride to Plains was very nice. We had a large contingent of riders and Mark Livingood was working with us on a double pace line. The ride seemed to fly by. If memory serves me correctly, there were approximately 20 tandem couples in that staggered pace line.

The town of Plains, Georgia is a very quaint little town. The local general store opened for us and served free samples of peanut butter ice cream. Very good! It was a nice time to kick back and socialize with the other riders. Since Linda and I were going to drive from Americus to Benton, Kentucky to visit my father and his wife, we needed to make our way back to the hotel. We rode back to Americus



with Greg and Angela. Roger & Eve did a wonderful job with the routes. Kudos also have to go to Greg & Angela Knecht and Al & Heidi Parker for marking the routes.



A small contingent of tandem cyclists including Roger, Eve, & Elliott met at a nearby Mexican restaurant after checking out of the hotel. I would have to guess there were approximately 20 of us at this restaurant. It was a nice conclusion to a wonderful weekend. Many thanks go out Roger & Eve for putting on such a nice rally. This was their 8th year of hosting the Georgia Tandem Rally. Linda and I definitely plan on returning to Georgia for another Georgia Tandem Rally. We strongly recommend this rally.

For anyone interested, the official web site for GTR can be found at www.georgiatandemrally.com.

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.

Red, White & Blue Ride By Colleen Hering

Eight DATES teams and two stokerless captains accepted Team Logan's invitation to the Independent's Day celebration "Red, White and Blue Ride" on Tuesday, July 4, 2006.

Everyone managed to don the three celebratory colors without duplicating jerseys. Team Logan's tandem was laced with a sparkling red, white and blue garland. Rusty Tether dazzled us with his tri-colored foil stars that cascaded from his helmet in a peacock-like tail. A flag-style windssock flowed from the back of Team Glenz's bike in patriotic fashion and other tandems toted some form of Old Glory.

The well-mapped 29-mile route commenced at Roane and Juanita's Farmers Branch home and culminated in the Preston Hollow and Highland Park, impressing us with its plethora of castles, estates, and "McMansions". The pace was laid back as promised which encouraged lots of socializing and good humor.

We encountered two parades, one of which we approached head-on just before it turned into a park. We created a second parade for the gawking spectators as our colorful tandems moved past them. (At one point in the ride, a passenger in a passing car called out in her deepest southern drawl, "ya'll are awesome!") As we exited the parade's crowd, two spectators tried to help an older woman lying on the grass who was apparently overcome by the rising heat. Rusty rode back on his single to alert one of the parade escorting police officers and ensured that she was assisted before catching up to the DATES group. He earned "hero of the day" title, shared by Alan Kailer who repeatedly maneuvered his single bike to the pedestrian crosswalk buttons to free us from frozen traffic-light hell.

At mile 18, we stopped at Café Express for a light snack and drinks in anticipation of the hot dog lunch that beckoned us 11 miles away. Alan's wife, Renee, was unable to ride, but met us at the restaurant and returned to the Logan abode to join us for the inevitable gluttony. Throughout the warm afternoon just about everyone dipped, dove, or cannonballed their way into the inviting pool, and there was even a very competitive game of croquet in full swing.

Thanks to our DATES leaders, Roane and Juanita Logan, for once again hosting this enjoyable, scenic, and delicious event.

Happy (and safe) Trails!

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National Federation of the Blind Ride Report by Kelly Duval

The July 5th DATES ride with the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) around White Rock Lake was a huge success! The basic details of the ride included that the NFB would be in Dallas and several of its' members were interested in riding. White Rock Lake seemed a logical choice due to the proximity to the convention location. After all of the emails, phone calls and organizational requirements, we pulled together over 20 tandems and captains to assist, and by chance and good luck, exactly the same number of participants from the NFB showed up! Jesse, a mechanic from Plano Cycling & Fitness, and I came early in the Plano Cycling & Fitness van. It was one of those summer afternoons that some places received a huge downpour, while others nearby never felt a drop. It rained on us the whole way down to the lake, but when we turned into the parking lot, it stopped raining on us. Warren Casteel had made some signs at his business to help direct everyone on a safe route. He drove around and put out directional signs to keep people from riding on the potentially slippery wooden bridges, and he returned to the starting area with great news. The roads were dry! Because it was threatening rain, very few cyclists were riding at White Rock Lake. This was perfect because we were quite a large group, and very few people were experienced at captaining anyone other than their usual stoker, and most of the NFB members had ridden on a tandem fewer than 3 times.

Two Super Shuttle vans pulled up just as we were finishing our preparation. Most of the usual stokers also came to help wherever help was needed. This was wonderful! Two people had a registration list going while another person put nametags on everyone. I was able to have a registration table that was fully staffed and running very smoothly while I completed other tasks. Many of the captains were comfortable making adjustments and switching pedals on their own bikes, and Jesse was helping with adjustments as well. It was so fun to see everyone pitch in to help these new riders to have the same great experience on a tandem that we hope to have each time we get on our bikes! Many of the usual stokers rode their singles around the lake with the group as well.

Most of the captains did not see the rider information that Warren Casteel and I had received, but we knew that most of the NFB members thought that they could ride a few miles. White Rock Lake is about 10 miles around, so we had some turnaround points for 3 and 5 mile routes, too. I matched up captains with stokers by size and ability levels. Each captain oriented their stoker to the bike, and they took off in small groups. Thanks to the preparation by the captains, everyone completed a full lap. All but three people went for a second lap, and several people went out for even the start of a third! The smiles on both the captains' and the stokers' faces showed how much fun everyone had. Since I was organizing the activities at the lake, I did not get the opportunity that others had to speak at length with the blind participants, but I heard so many others tell me later about their conversations they had with their stoker about being blind and what their experiences have been like. Many of the people had lost their sight slowly and had ridden a bicycle earlier in their life. One man, Ron Burzese from Austin, even owns two tandems of his own and, he goes out to find a captain to ride with him!

We concluded the evening at Alfonso's Italian restaurant, at the corner of Buckner Blvd. and Northcliff Drive. The restaurant provided a special flat rate menu for us. We had 56 people stay for dinner! Warren and Audre Casteel and I collected money from everyone. It was amazing to watch every blind person give us exactly the right amount of cash or know what money they were handing to us. They each developed a system to organize and fold their money so that each denomination was folded differently or in a different pocket of their wallet. It was an amazing experience for everyone who participated. The NFB members all were very excited about the event and have requested that we get in touch with the Atlanta area tandem club to help them organize something similar for next year's convention. All of the DATES members and other tandem riders that participated had a wonderful opportunity to share an experience so special to all of us—cycling! I hope that in two years when the convention is back in Dallas that we can double the participation. Thank you to everyone who participated. I hope that everyone else found as much joy in this event as I did, and I hope that those who did not participate this time will consider it in the future!

DATES Rides and Activities

RIDE	DATE	START TIME	START PLACE	RIDE HOST	PHONE # / EMAIL	DISTANCE	DETAILS
Weekly White Rock Lake Ride	Every Wednesday	6:00 PM	White Rock Creek Trail at US 75 & Forest Lane	Juanita Logan	214-686-3750 (cell) or 214-576-1986 (work).	Approx. 22 miles.	The route consists of 6 miles down to White Rock Lake, 9.3 mile loop around White Rock Lake, and 6 miles back up the trail. Could get in some hills as well if anyone is interested.
Bedford / DFW Airport Ride	Sunday, August 13 th	Meet 7:30 Ride 8 am	Harry & Janette's House 2229 Ridgewood Street Bedford, TX 76021	Harry & Janette Thompson	817-358-0820 hithompson@comcast.net	35 miles	See website & newsletter
Denton County Ride	Sunday August 20 th	Meet 7:30 Ride 8 am	Rockledge Park Lake Grapevine	Mitch & Leslie Frank	972-899-8990 leslie@franksalot.net	35 40 something 50 something	See website & newsletter
Post-HHH Ride	Sunday, August 27 th	Meet 8:15 am Ride 8:30	The Boys & Girls Club parking lot at the corner of Maurine Street & Beverly Drive in Wichita Falls, Texas	Kevin & Linda Vinson	972-625-6110 evenings, 972-797-8647 daytime, linda.vinson@eds.com or vinsonkj@sbcglobal.net	25 miles	See DATES-Line Newsletter for details or click on the Post-HHH link. For maps and cue sheets, click on the Map-CueSheet link.
Labor Day Melissa Ride	Monday, September 4 th	Waffle Breakfast 7:00 am Ride 8 am	Rusty & Belinda's House 1613 Grandberry Drive Melissa, TX	Rusty & Belinda Nail	972-838-2768 belinda@planobicycle.org	25, 40 or 60 miles	Bring a side dish to share and lawn chairs. Also your swimming gear. Please RSVP
TROLS Big Adventure	Fri – Sun Sept 15 – 17	TBA	Jefferson, TX	Reggie & Linda Bowers	(903) 663-2144 txhobbit@yahoo.com	TBA	Registration is FULL. Contact Reggie & Linda to be added to the waiting list
2006 DATES Century Ride Mountain Course	Sunday, Sept 24 th	Packet pick-up at 7:00 am Ride at 8	Downtown Van Alstyne, TX	Tom & Brenda Shaddox	res1rrzj@verizon.net	50, 75 or 100 miles (1/2, 3/4, & Full Century)	Award winning, "perfect" course with shaded country lanes, farms, small towns, rolling hills, <i>no-nada-zip traffic</i> . Rest stops, maps, and SAG support. Registration is due by 9/20/06 See website & newsletter for additional details & registration form
TOTS Ride (Tour of the Stars)	Sunday, Oct 8 th	TBA	TBA	Lee & Beckie Wilson	TBA	TBA	Watch website & newsletter
TBA	Sunday, Oct 15 th	TBA	TBA	Bob & Angela Mase	TBA	TBA	Watch website & newsletter
Self-Contained Halloween Ride	Sat-Sun Oct 28-29	TBA	TBA	John McManus & Brenda Cole	john_j_mcmanus@yahoo.com	TBA	Watch website & newsletter
Two Flags Ride	Sunday Nov 19 th	TBA	TBA	Tom & Brenda Shaddox	res1rrzj@verizon.net	TBA	Watch website & newsletter
Christmas Lights Ride	Sunday Dec 10 th	TBA	TBA	Malcolm & Linda Cole	TBA	TBA	Watch website & newsletter
English Castles & Gardens Tour	June - July 2007	TBA	Wimborner England	John McManus & Brenda Cole	John_J_McManus@yahoo.com	40-50 miles each day	Registration is FULL. Interested teams should get on the wait list.

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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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