



Business Meeting, Ride & Social - 08/12/2007



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“Chicken Century”**September 9****Farmers Branch, Texas
Roane & Juanita Logan**

D/W Airport Ride

Sunday, September 9, 2007

8am

Sometimes referred to as the “Chicken Century”, this ride can become as long as a century, or if you are a chicken, you can bail and make it as short as you want it to be. Once you get to D/FW Airport, you can actually ride around the airport as many times as you want – the circuit around the airport is about 15 miles. On this particular day, we are riding distances of 30 or 48 miles. The ride features a few good hills in Las Colinas and Irving before we get to D/FW, then a smooth, flat ride all the way around D/FW Airport on Airport Road and back to the hacienda in Farmers Branch.

We will have hot dogs and fixin’s after the ride. Please RSVP so we will know how many to feed. Side dishes, desserts, etc. are welcome. We also have a pool to cool off in after the ride.

Ride Start: 8am.

Distance: 30 or 48 miles

Location: Roane and Juanita’s house
3403 Summer Place Court
Farmers Branch, TX 75234

RSVP: 214-576-1986 or 214-686-5577

Stay informed of ALL the DATES Rides & Events:**• 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

• Read the DATES Google-Groups discussion forum:

- <http://groups.google.com/group/doubledates>

• See the DATES website:

- <http://www.doubledates.com>

TROLS Big Adventure of 2007**September 14 - 16**

Jefferson, Texas

Linda & Reggie Bowers

**Ride Check-in:**

The Linda TROL will be handing out packets behind the Chez Lafayette B&B at 305 W. Lafayette (located next door to the Carnegie Library) from 2:00 PM until 9:00 PM on Friday, September 14, 2007. Here you will pick up your maps, name tags, and agenda for the weekend. We will have snacks, soft drinks, and lots of smiles for you.

Friday Ride:

Many of you will get to Jefferson early enough to ride on Friday. We have a 20 "TROL Unit" ride to the Lake O' the Pines Lookout (located just before you get to the dam). The Reggie TROL will be there handing out ice cream until 5:30 PM. There are restrooms at the turn around.

Accommodation Check-out:

The ride on Sunday is a 29 "TROL Unit" ride to Caddo Lake State Park, in the heart of bayou country and home of the largest cypress forest in the world. You may want to ask about a late check-out at your lodging.

Brief Rally Agenda:**Friday:**

Packet Pick-up: 2:00 PM to 9:00 PM behind the Chez Lafayette B&B.

"On your own" 20 TROL Unit ride with ice cream at the lake overlook until 5:30 PM

Saturday:

Ride starts at 8:15 AM on Austin Street in front of the Excelsior House

Ride lengths are 39, 57, and 65 TROL Units

Lunch along the route (at Tall Pines Lodge) from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

BYOB Social Hour at the Cypress Valley Alliance building at 4:30 PM

Dinner at the CVA building at 5:30 catered by Riverport Barbeque

Door Prizes after dinner

Sunday:

Ride start is "on your own"

Ride length is 29 TROL Units

Lunch on your own in town

We are pleased that you are coming to ride with us. If you have any questions, we can be reached at (903) 663-2144 or txhobbit@yahoo.com

Linda and Reggie Bowers

North by Northwest
September 23
Valley View, Texas
Ronnie & Nanette Bryant

North by Northwest Ride
Sunday September 23rd

Meet Ronnie & Nanette at the Valley View Town Square for routes of 55 or 35 miles on quiet backroads. This route features rolling hills and a nice rest stop Forestburg (long Route) and Era (short and long) if the store is open. We will eat Mexican Food at Miguelitas after the ride.

Take I35 north past Denton and Sanger to the Valley View exit, turn left and the town square is on your right just past the gas station.

Ride Start: 8:30AM
Distance: 35 or 55 miles
Location: Valley View Town Square
Leaders: Ronnie & Nanette Bryant

TOTS (Tour of the Stars)
October 7
Dallas, Texas
Lee & Beckie Wilson

TIME: 8:30am start

CONTACT: via [email \(TheWilsons@purelyonline.com\)](mailto:TheWilsons@purelyonline.com) OR cell phone (972-977-9686)

START: Behind Chili's at the NE corner of Travis and Knox – in the Uptown area near Travis Walk (mapsco 35Q)

DISTANCE: ~35 urban units

LUNCH: After the ride at the "Highland Park Pharmacy" – a Dallas tradition since 1912, this old-fashioned soda fountain and lunch counter (and yes, pharmacy) comes highly recommended by D Magazine. And/or relax at Lee & Beckie's condo for snacks and beverages on the balcony with a view of the Dallas skyline.

DESCRIPTION: An interesting look at North Dallas – not just another urban ride. We'll ride past the homes of celebrities and local personalities as we crisscross an area with the highest concentration of disposable income in the nation. Why drive to the country to ride when Dallas has all this to offer? You'll pedal through well known neighborhoods and at other times not even believe you're still in the city. Who says Dallas is flat?

Red River Redneck Roundup
"Free" Tandem Rally

October 12 - 14

Clarksville, Texas

Rob & Kay Rowley, James & Pam Vaughan

Sponsors:

Red River County Chamber of Commerce

Rob and Kay Rowley

James and Pam Vaughan

Wonderful Residents of Red River County

Dear DATES Members,

Thank you for the great response to the Red River Redneck Roundup to be held the weekend of October 12-14 in Red River County (Clarksville), Texas. We will be sending out additional information around the first of October (directions, registration, site, etc.). We presently have 15 teams registered, which was our initial cutoff. We have one team on a waiting list for a cabin. However, we can accommodate three additional teams, if anyone is interested. Your options for overnight accommodations are the Red River Inn at 903-427-2278 (be sure to indicate your smoking preference and ask for one of their remodeled rooms). This is a Motel Six quality Inn. It is located about 3 miles from the center of town. The other option is camping at Bob & Kay's Ranch. We presently have one team registered for camping. We can accommodate travel trailers and tents. Also, the Saturday ride is open to all DATES Members, if you want to drive over and back. If you need to register or need any additional information regarding the rally, please contact Rob at 903-249-3483 or rob.Rowley@yahoo.com.



THEY GO BOWLING. you ride.

Co-Motion
 Cannondale
 Raleigh

ride with us.

PLANO
 Cycling + Fitness
www.planocycling.com

972-423-4130 + 1-888-98-BIKES
 605 E. 18th Street Plano, TX 75074

See you soon!

Rob & Kay Rowley

3rd Annual Unsupported Halloween Ride

October 27 & 28, 2007

Kaufman to Tyler & Return
Ronnie & Nanette Bryant

3rd Annual Unsupported Halloween Ride

Date: Saturday & Sunday, October 27 & 28

Leaders: Ronnie & Nanette Bryant

Distances: 80 or 60 miles each day – more or less

Back in the “good old days” Warren and Audrey sponsored a Halloween Ride in which they provided services on a silver platter: they took your luggage, provided a mechanic, drinks and snacks along the way, provided lunches, etc.

Well that was then and this is now. The last 2 years several couples learned you don't really need all those services. Get your bike in shape. Get your butt in shape. Strap on some panniers or a trailer and let's go. The only thing we provide is a map. Our inventive group even hauled snacks and booze to Baptist-controlled Tyler so we could have a happy “Happy Hour”? Would you believe martinis in water bottles?

So, for the adventuresome, make your plans. This includes making reservations at the Comfort Suites, 903-534-0999. Twelve queen suites have been blocked under the name “DATES” for \$90 and will be held until October 5th.

As they say at Hell Week: “No wimps and no whining”. But we had a blast. Come join us. For more information or questions contact us at RonnieRBryant@Gmail.com or 817 680-9404.



Love the one
you're riding with.

RICHARDSON
Bike Mart

Frisco 972.335.7600 Richardson 972.231.3993 Dallas 214.321.0705

bikemart.com

The advertisement features a photograph of a man and a woman riding tandem bicycles on a paved path. The woman is in the front wearing a light green tank top and white shorts, and the man is in the back wearing a blue and white patterned shirt and white shorts. They are both wearing helmets. The background shows green trees and a clear sky. In the bottom left corner of the ad, there is a large, vibrant arrangement of purple and yellow flowers.

'Lake to Lake' Fall Century**November 10, 2007****Bonham, Texas****Charlie & Pat Jenkins****NEW Route – Fannin County Lake 2 Lake Route****Fully Supported DoubleDATES Century (and other distances)**

Date: Saturday November 10, 2007

Join Pat & Charlie Jenkins in Bonham, Saturday November 10, 2007 at 8:00 am for the annual century ride. We'll offer the following approximate distances (exact distances to be announced next month):

- Century → 100 miles
- Metric Century → 62 miles
- Other distances will be available – see next month DATES-line

These are all NEW routes (and flatter than our usual routes). Lunch will be provided in the middle of the ride (no charge to DATES members).

DATE → November 10, 2007
LOCATION → Bonham – Exact starting location to be announced next month
TIME → 8:00 am
COST → FREE
RSVP → Charlie & Pat Jenkins
(903) 463-1516 <home>
(903) 624-9744 <cell>
dates@ntsk8.com or sk8erbyker@gmail.com

We'll ride through Fannin County on lightly traveled country roads. This ride will be fully supported, including SAG, several rest stops with refreshments, and lunch.

Two Flags Ride**November 18, 2007****Sherman, Texas****Tom & Brenda Shaddox****Watch for full details in next month's DATES-line**

*Thanksgiving Weekend - East Texas DATES Ride***Thanksgiving Weekend, 2007**

Winnsboro, Texas

John McManus & Brenda Cole

DATES Thanksgiving Weekend***“MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW”***

John McManus & Brenda Cole



DATES members have been celebrating Thanksgiving (e.g. “working off the turkey”) for at least five years now. This started in the Hill Country because of a fluke (or **bribed**) drawing at Hotter ‘N Hell resulting in a free weekend by Rick and Kay Watson. Anyway, after several fun years in Copperas Cove we moved closer to Dallas last year and stayed in Pittsburg in East Texas. We had at least 8 DATES teams as well as Tandem Club of America editors Jack & Susan Goertz. It was a WONDERFUL event – everyone had a GREAT TIME. And those of us who hadn’t been to this part of East Texas for several years remembered that East Texas has wonderful tandem terrain.

The only downside to last year’s event was the train track next to the lodge in Pittsburg. So this year we’re moving to the Hubbell House in Winnsboro. John & Brenda have used this B&B for their tours since 2000 and recommend it highly. So make your plans NOW. Plan on arriving in Winnsboro on Thursday or early Friday morning. Make your reservations at the Hubbell House. They have blocked 8 rooms for us and there are more if needed. Also let John know you’ll be there. Notify him at John.McManus@yahoo.com. *This is an event not to be missed – it’s REALLY FUN.*



307 WEST ELM STREET
WINNSBORO, TX 75494

PHONE: 1-903-342-5629
FAX: 1-903-342-6627



ANNOUNCING

DATES

Tandem

Tours

DATES Tandem Tours is a new retirement "project" by DATES members John McManus and Brenda Cole, to organize tandem tours for DATES members and friends. Although John organized the first DATES tour way back in 1991, and he and Brenda organized pre-tandem rally tours in 2000 and 2005, the concept of regular (annual) tours didn't come about until the end of the highly successful England tour in 2007. It is now apparent that our club has quite a few members who are anxious to tour. And with John retiring from Bicycle Adventure Club leadership in March 2008, he needs more projects.

DATES_TT concepts:

- Tours will be moderately challenging and designed for experienced tandem teams. We shy away from boring flat routes but we also stay away from the mountains. Expect a lot of hills.
- Average mileage will be 40 to 50 miles per day with a maximum of 75 miles.
- This is a non-profit venture and tours will be moderately priced compared to commercial tours. We will not have guides to carry our luggage and clean our bikes. Everyone cleans and repairs their own bike and carries their luggage to and from the luggage vehicle.
- International tours will be 16 day duration (Saturday through Sunday), including travel time. We also intend to include 2 days at the end to explore an international city. Domestic tours will be shorter, typically 8 to 12 days.
- We will identify cultural sites along the way; these are tours, not rides for hammer-heads.
- We'll have a social hour every evening and discuss the next day's plans. Group dinners will be included where appropriate.
- When a tour is announced, DATES members will have priority booking for 30 to 60 days. If the tour is not full at that point, we'll invite other tandem friends. However, these tours are not open to the general public. Depending on the location, tour size will be 10 to 15 teams.
- **DATES_TT** preliminary schedule is:
 - September, 2008: *Coast of Maine or Nova Scotia – maybe self-contained.* These alternatives are being investigated.
 - September, 2009: *La Toscana e Umbria regioni d'Italia*
 - Fall, 2010: *Châteaux de la Loire Vallay en France*

Notice:

October 2007 DATES-LINE:

**Notices & Articles due by:
September 26, 2007**

We NEED your notices, ride reports, articles & PICTURES for the newsletter!

Summer Solstice Ride - Denison TX - July 21,2007

Ride Leaders: Charlie and Pat Jenkins

Riders: Bruce Hudson and Carol Croy, Harry and Janette Thompson
Franklin Kemp, Charlie & Pat Jenkins

Reporter: Franklin Kemp

We've had an extraordinarily cool and cloud covered early summer and I have been enjoying it usually riding from home to the Sachse TX area Saturday mornings, but this Saturday I was hankering for new territory especially as my stoker Tricia was tending our daughter already five weeks at bed rest in Albuquerque. The weather beckoned once again to be perfect so off I went to Loy Lake. The early morning drive up US 75 was especially memorable with a heavy mist creeping over the unusually lush green ridges of North Texas.

This ride was completely different from the one Charlie and Pat led into Oklahoma that I rode a couple years ago. Huge rains that flooded Gainesville also put Lake Texoma twenty feet above normal sharply curtail boating and fishing. Charlie had checked out that former route to find it flooded and muddy so it was a no go.

Our small group took off at 8:30 and rode quiet shaded back streets to downtown Denison where I picked up a nickel and two pennies, inveterate scavenger and improbable anti-litterer! Our beginning was favored with a light breeze and intermittent cloud cover. The ride would be SE and return to NW so it was a nice thought to know the sun would be at our backs after the half way point. At 13 miles we came to Seven Hills Road. I tried counting, but only got five. Must not have counted a couple of easy rollers. We stopped about ten o'clock at 22 miles. So you can see we were riding quite leisurely. At 31 miles we made our last available rest stop. Just before arriving, we necked down through a narrow concrete two-lane underpass on US 69. Fortunately, no gravel trucks appeared to put us in a panic at the squeeze point. Charlie wisely avoided this narrow stretch because we could have backtracked over it after the rest stop.

Although earlier I had been hanging at the back because I'm hard of hearing so don't chat much, I decided to stay near Charlie and Pat as I thought they were picking up the pace. They are a strong pair who had mentioned before we started that they had recently done a 400k brevet ride near Mineral Wells, starting in the morning and finishing that night at 1am. Their tandem still had the taillights from that ride. Just before this ride they had said they had completed a hundred miler plus on their own in the Denison area. So even on my new carbon fiber Specialized Roubaix 15 pounder, I found it a good work. I never could match them on a downhill.

Well my idea to help with the pace was fine except I flatted at about 42 miles on a gravelly downhill turn which Charlie had warned us about water, dirt, and debris from all the rains. This was a delay. At least the flat was the front tire. After I changed the tube and was about to use my CO2 cartridge, Charlie suggested he use his compact TOPEAK gauged hand pump. I accepted and he measured 120psi. Just as I was about to ride off, he noticed a bulge, so he quickly deflated, reseated the tube, and pumped to 110psi. Thankfully I didn't blow the new tube with the cartridge and Charlie's sharp eye spotted the bulge to save it.

Somewhat after noon or about 50 miles, Bruce Hudson took a breather. Texas has been cool but not like their week in England! At this opportunity I filled my water bottled from a house hose. Bad move! The water was hot, stale, and brackish. A couple of sips was all I could manage until we got back where a bottle of Pat and Charlie's water was welcomed. Pat said the last ten miles had a few hills. Well, there were more than seven! Hills are harder when you're hot and dry. Knowing that Loy Lake was near, we plugged away arriving at 1:30. All of us, except for Harry and Janette, ate lunch at the Jalapeno Tree in Sherman where my two margaritas made a relaxing ending and I was seven cents to the good!

This part of North Texas is a great area for cycling. Especially if you're tired of stop lights and city traffic. Here we could ride three abreast, cross Choctaw Creek half a dozen times, and have quiet shaded lanes with more cows than cars. I say thank you good shepherds P and C for scouting and leading me on good paths!

FRESH DATES

**Team Rowley
Clarksville, TX**

Captain: Rob
Stoker: Kay
Joined DATES: July 2007
How long have you been cycling?
 Captain: 25 years
 Stoker: 25 years
How long tandeming? 18 years

Why did you start riding tandem? Let me see. So we wouldn't disturb other riders when we are yelling at each other while riding. Kay can't read a map and needed a navigator (partially correct). No, actually Kay had read an article on tandeming and thought it would be a great way for us to spend time together doing something we already enjoyed. She was right.

What kind of tandem do you ride? Santana
How often do you ride? 3-4 x weekly
How far? 20-30 miles with a longer ride (40+) on the weekend
Favorite Ride? White Rock to DeKalb and back (this will be the Saturday Ride at the upcoming tour)
Usual route/area? White Rock to English to White Rock Loop
Where/How did you hear about Double DATES? Jim & Rhonda Hoyt

Anything else you'd like your new club members to know about you? Rob is a nursing home administrator, and Kay is a regular volunteer at the home. We believe that a nursing home is merely a change of residence – it's a home that happens to provide nursing care. We are committed to ensuring that our residents have a life filled with joy and meaningful activity.

DATES ENGLISH CASTLES AND GARDENS TOUR

Part 2 of 2 (see part 1 in August DATES-line)
by Janette Thompson (and many others)

Last month you read part 1 of the "English Castles & Gardens Tour".
This month we conclude the article:

Dean and Sheila Coe (Winthrop, Washington):

Despite the rain in our face and plenty of hills to climb, The people, the places, the castles and gardens were sublime.

Mike was such a trooper to do our bidding, and Chris' description of "wee bit of a climb" sure brought on some laughs and well deserved kidding.

A tough, willing and genial group indeed we're sure grateful to all who assisted us when the bike was in need.

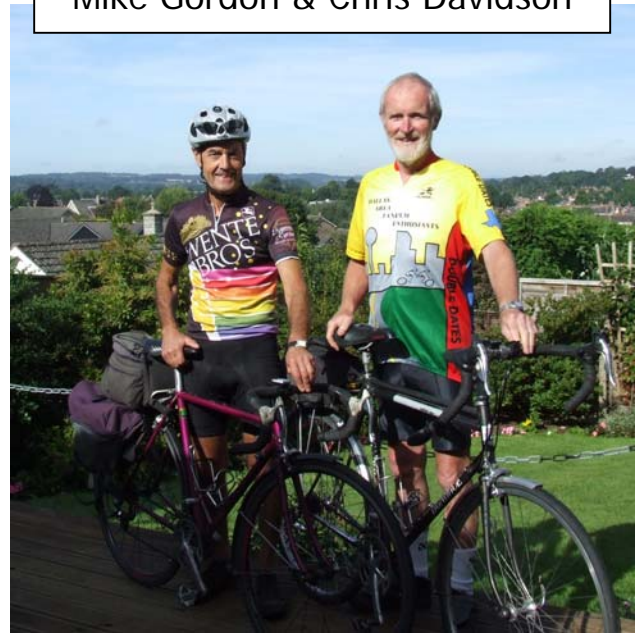
Hope you'll all consider a tandem in the Northwest. Where the sun often shines and you can be our guest.

Harry and Janette Thompson:

There were so many wonderful places along our route that it is difficult to choose which was more memorable. The Sherborne Abbey is fabulous; parts of the Abbey have been in existence since 705 A.D. and the building has a gorgeous vaulted ceiling, one of the first of its kind in the world. The gardens at the Athelhampton House near Dorchester are magnificent. The Wells Cathedral is impressive; it was built in 1230 and one of its highlights is a large astronomical clock, installed in 1390. When the clock strikes every quarter hour, jousting knights rush around the clock—what a sight to behold. The ride along the tow path of the Kenet and Avon Canal was a slice of life that we've never seen before —people actually have gardens growing on the top of their houseboats! The Roman Baths (in Bath) date from the first century A.D. and are an architectural wonder. The most impressive manor house that we toured was Wilton House in Wilton, the home of the Earl of Pembroke. The art inside the building was overwhelming—the ceiling paintings were spectacular. Salisbury Cathedral is another fine example of medieval architecture. It has Britain's tallest spire at 404 feet and the oldest working medieval clock in the world, made in 1386.

The English people were extremely courteous and polite to our group of cyclists, especially when in their motor vehicles. That was a real treat. The English countryside was fantastic and every day brought new surprises of castles and churches to visit. There is so much history to be seen in England that we must go back!

Mike Gordon & Chris Davidson



Pete Holverson and Laura Roberts:

(from Pete)

One of my favorite moments was watching the setting sun turn the front of Wells Cathedral gold, then strolling over to the Bishops Palace to find a family of otters playing in the moat, barking and splashing.

Also the climbs up Cadbury Castle and Glastonbury To where the view really makes you feel "King of the World."

And the Pub lunch on the canal towpath near Bath that reminded me of many Sunday summer rides when I used to live in Bristol. Actually many Pub lunches and good pints of beer—like the hot soup in Broad Chalke and the one with the "Giant" clock in Cerne Abbas.

Chris Davison (our host, guide, and friend from Wimborne, UK):

We loved the DATES folks who all seemed to enjoy England despite the cool and wet June we had. It is now around 80F and sunny here. [Editor's note: this was written in mid-July] The first day out of Blandford it rained steadily and I was amazed to find everyone all ready to leave for the ride to Wimborne.

It was great to see folks' faces when we rode in Shaftesbury and led you up the 25% Gold Hill!

Please tell all the folks that we hope to host a tour another year—probably in France—and will look forward to riding with 'yer all'.

Conclusion:

Chris' wife Jenny and many of her friends prepared a delicious gourmet lunch for our group at Chris and Jenny's house in Wimborne on our first day of cycling. It was such a wonderful treat and we sincerely thank all the people who worked on feeding 26 hungry cyclists who arrived at their house drenched in water and starving.

Jenny and Mike's wife, Jo, joined us in Blandford at our celebratory dinner on our final evening together as a group. John thanked Chris and Mike for their extraordinary assistance and presented them each with an official DATES jersey. Everyone in the group agreed that this has been a memorable experience, in large part due to the planning by John and Chris, and the never-ending sag support from Mike.

After an informative brewery tour and tasting the next morning, we were swept away by bus to London. Many of us stayed in London for a few days and were able to experience the excitement and energy of the Prologue and Stage One of the Tour de France. Then, alas, we had to return home.

The unanimous consensus of all of our tour participants is that we had a FABULOUS adventure in England! This trip was the brainchild of John McManus and Brenda Cole, and we are so happy they undertook this project. They couldn't have chosen better English coordinators than Chris and Jenny Davison, or a more competent and interesting sag driver than Mike Gordon. Our thanks to all of these folks for helping us to have such a unique vacation.

**Dallas Area Tandem Enthusiasts
(DATES)**

MINUTES: Business Meeting & Social, Sunday, August 12, 2007

LOCATION: Home of Chuck & Kris Carlson in Dallas, Texas

20 Attending Teams, including all officers: Roane & Juanita Logan, Charlie & Pat Jenkins, Ronnie & Nanette Bryant, Kevin & Linda Vinson, John McManus & Brenda Cole, and Harry & Janette Thompson.

Coordinators (Roane and Juanita Logan):

Roane opened the meeting at 11:30 a.m., following a club ride and a brunch. Roane thanked Chuck and Kris Carlson for hosting the ride and the delicious brunch. To help people get acquainted, he requested that each team state their name and where they live.

Secretaries (Harry and Janette Thompson):

Janette distributed copies of the minutes from the February 25, 2007 business meeting. No one had any suggested corrections or changes and the minutes were approved unanimously.

DATES-Line Editors (Charlie and Pat Jenkins):

Roane commended Charlie and Pat Jenkins on the great job they are doing as editors of the newsletter. The Jenkins urged the members to continue sending articles, including notices about upcoming rides and ride reports from recent rides. Charlie mentioned that photos are always appreciated.

Membership (Kevin and Linda Vinson):

The Vinsons reported that 70 teams are members of DATES. (A current membership list will be attached to the official DATES minutes.)

Webmaster (Kevin Vinson):

Kevin said that although the DATES web site experienced some minor problems since the last meeting, it was up and running just fine with no problems.

Ride Coordinators (Ronnie and Nanette Bryant):

Ronnie thanked John McManus and Brenda Cole for the fabulous job they did in putting together the first international DATES tour last month in England. Nine DATES teams participated in the tour, along with three non-DATES teams.

Rob and Kay Rowley are new DATES members who live in Clarksville in East Texas. Rob talked to the group about the Red River Redneck Roundup Tandem Rally that he and Kay are hosting in Clarksville, Texas on October 12-14, 2007, in conjunction with the Red River County Chamber of Commerce. The tandem rally is free, although participants are responsible for their own lodging, and registration is limited to 18 teams. The details of the tandem rally will appear in the next DATES-Line.

A number of other upcoming rides were discussed by the group, including the Labor Day ride hosted by Rusty and Belinda Nail, the overnight unsupported Halloween ride to Tyler hosted by Ronnie and Nanette Bryant, and the Thanksgiving weekend ride in Winnsboro hosted by John McManus and Brenda Cole. Various other members indicated that they were planning to host rides; the specific ride information will appear in upcoming issues of DATES-Line and will be disseminated via the Yahoo OneList.

Treasurers (John McManus and Brenda Cole):

John McManus distributed a written financial report for the period January 1 to August 6, 2007. The balance at the end of the period was \$2,660.77. (The details of this report will be attached to the official DATES minutes.)

John asked whether DATES wanted to contribute \$500 toward the Texas Bicycle Coalition, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance bicycle access, safety, and education in Texas. (In 2006, DATES contributed \$500 to this organization.) The group voted unanimously to contribute this same amount in 2007.

There was a discussion that a local bicycle group had raised its dues by \$2 per year, with the \$2 devoted to bicycle advocacy. There was no motion made to raise the DATES dues for this, or any other, purpose.

Other items of discussion:

Current Events: There was considerable discussion concerning the need to make our members aware of local and statewide issues regarding bicycle advocacy and possible limitations on bicycle riding that municipalities may be considering imposing upon bicyclists. Roane asked Warren Casteel to email the members of the DATES Yahoo OneList if anything comes up on this issue that would be beneficial for the members to know.

Content of Yahoo OneList and DATES email membership list: The group addressed the issue of what type of messages should be broadcast on the Yahoo OneList or via the DATES email membership list. It was basically agreed by the group that commercial messages would not be broadcast via either method. If Warren receives a message and he is not sure whether it would be appropriate for broadcast via the OneList, he contacts the DATES officers for guidance.

Kevin agreed to use the DATES email membership list to send reminders about upcoming rides a week before the scheduled ride. The burden for notifying Kevin to do this is upon each individual ride host.

Annual meeting: There was discussion about planning the annual meeting, which is traditionally held in February. Roane and Juanita will see if they can locate volunteers to investigate a venue for the annual dinner, which is typically attended by at least 25 teams.

Next meeting: Jim and Rhonda Hoyt offered to host the next business meeting at their home on a date still to be determined in November or December.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Submitted by Harry and Janette Thompson, DATES Secretaries.

SINGLE, AGAIN: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UNEXPECTED

by Janette Thompson
(with a few comments by Harry)

Happily, this title does not refer to my marital status, but to my cycling. I thought I'd jot down a few observations about riding single vs. stoking on a tandem, but first let me briefly explain my prior cycling experience.

When Harry and I met in early 1990, we were both running 10K races just about every Saturday. Six months later, we gave up running and started riding our single bikes on 100K pay rides every weekend. We really enjoyed loading up the car on Friday after work and driving a few hours to some small town in Texas or Oklahoma to ride a sponsored ride the next day. It was great to get out of the city and enjoy the countryside on a bike. This routine continued for about four years until we bought a tandem.

Since that momentous decision, I have not ridden my single bike. Life on the back of the tandem was way too much fun. For thirteen years my single bike has been hanging forlornly in the garage gathering dust. Eventually the tires went flat and the pedals and seat were removed to be used elsewhere. I still don't know what prompted me to decide this summer that I wanted to ride my single. Maybe it was when some of my stoker friends got fancy new single bikes, or perhaps I just wanted a change. Regardless, I asked Harry to get my bike into riding shape, and off we went. (Note: Janette's bike is fourteen years old with a seven-speed cassette and friction shifters on the downtube. HT) We've recently ridden our single bikes three times on our usual 35-38 mile Sunday route and it has been a real awakening for me.

Riding my single again makes me feel as though I have made contact with an old friend that I haven't seen in thirteen years. My bike is so light and responsive! A few strong pedal strokes can propel me forward at a wonderful speed. I had forgotten the joy of being able to shift gears any time I want, and to any gear that catches my fancy at the moment. If I want to spin, or stand, or stretch, I can. No need to ask permission or implore (nag, HT) my captain to make a change.

Ah, but I have also suddenly assumed a vast array of new responsibilities that are quite different from those I have as a stoker. When riding my single, I must constantly watch for traffic, pedestrians, dogs, and road conditions. There is no one courteously warning me "bump" or "tracks." Neither is there anyone to help me press forward up a hill as I shift into granny. On top of all that, I have to be my own navigator. (Just today, we became separated and we're glad we brought our cell phones. HT) Plus, when I start up from a traffic signal and struggle to make the pedals go around because I neglected to down shift, there is no captain to blame.

Riding a single bike is lonely, even when you have a riding companion. There really can't be much extended conversation with your fellow cyclist when you are riding single file. I discovered that I miss talking with Harry as we do on the tandem.

Sometimes, even the small things can be a challenge. I have yet to re-learn how to apply my Chapstick or open my Advil container while riding. Forget about opening and eating my Clif Bar. How did I ever manage these things many years ago when I rode my single?

To sum up, the good part of riding my single is that I am in control of my own destiny. The bad part is that I now have all the responsibilities that I take for granted when someone is captaining for me. The unexpected part is that I have a much greater awareness of the strain that my captain goes through while I sit blithely on the rear of our tandem eating my Clif Bar, applying Chapstick, popping Advil, and asking him if we have any more gears. After today's ride, I appreciate my captain more than ever. (Harry put this in, but it's true!)

DATES Rides and Activities

| RIDE | DATE | START TIME | START PLACE | RIDE HOST | PHONE # / EMAIL | DISTANCE | DETAILS |
|---|---|-------------------|---|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|
| DATES / PBA Labor Day Ride | Monday September 3 rd | 8:00 am | Melissa, TX | Rusty & Belinda Nail | NA | 25, 40 or 60 miles | See Newsletter for details |
| Chicken Century? | Sunday Sept 9 th | 8:00AM | Roane & Juanita's 3403 Summer Place Court Farmers Branch | Roane & Juanita Logan | 214 576-1986 214 686-5577 | 30 or 48 Miles | See Newsletter for details |
| TROLS | Friday - Sunday September 14 - 16 th | See Newsletter | Jefferson, TX | Reggie & Linda Bowers | (903) 663-2144 txhobbit@yahoo.com | See Newsletter | http://trols.esawireless.com |
| North by Northwest | Sunday September 23 rd | 8:30AM | Town Square in Valley View | Ronnie & Nanette Bryant | 817 680-9404 817 925-6516 | 35 or 55 Miles | See Newsletter for details |
| TOTS | Sunday October 7 th | 8:30AM | Travis and Knox Behind Chili's | Lee & Beckie Wilson | 972 977-9686 | 35 miles | See Newsletter for details |
| Red River Redneck Roundup | Friday - Sunday October 12 - 14 th | See Newsletter | Clarksville, TX | Rowley's and Vaughan's | (903) 249-3483, (903) 427-3858 rob.Rowley@yahoo.com | TBA | See Newsletter for details |
| Unsupported Halloween Ride | Saturday-Sunday October 27 - 28 th | TBA | Kaufman, TX | Ronnie & Nanette Bryant | 817 680-9404 Ronniebryant@hotmail.com | 60 or 80 miles each day | Kaufman to Tyler and back |
| Lake to Lake Fall Century | Saturday November 10 th | 8:00 AM | Bonham, TX | Charlie & Pat Jenkins | (903) 463-1516. (903) 624-9744 dates@ntsk8.com sk8erbyker@gmail.com | 62 or 100 miles more options | Fully Supported Including lunch & rest stops No charge for DATES members |
| Two Flags | Sunday November 18 th | TBA | Sherman, TX | Tom & Brenda Shaddox | 972 517-4534 | TBD | See newsletter for details |
| DATES Semi-Annual Thanksgiving Weekend | Friday – Sunday November 23 rd -25 th | TBA | Winnsboro, TX | John McManus & Brenda Cole | John.McManus@yahoo.com | TBD | See Newsletter for details |

DATES-LINE is published monthly during the cycling season 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 **end** 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, or mailed on a CD or 3.5 diskette 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.

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