

***We Have Some Great Rides Coming Up!***

***Starbuck's Caffeine Cruise***

**April 6 and May 4 - See page 7**

***15<sup>th</sup> Annual Stoker Appreciation Ride***

**April 12 & 13 - See page 2**

***Southwest Tandem Rally***

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***Mid Cities 'Almost Monthly' Tandem Ride***

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***Second National Federation***

***of the Blind Ride***

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**September 6 - 18**

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# 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Stoker Appreciation Ride

## April 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>

Rainbow to Granbury Texas

Tom & Brenda Shaddox

SAR 2008 begins in Rainbow, Texas (just east of Glen Rose at the Tres Rios Campgrounds), and runs about 50 miles to the overnight in Granbury, over the back roads (all paved) of Somervell and Hood Counties. Sunday return over slightly shorter mileage on a modified route, with optional group lunch. We'll gather about 9:00 in Rainbow and shove off about 9:30 or whenever the stokers are ready. SAG provided for dunnage, with ice chests for the champagne. Captains RSVP, and make overnight accommodation reservations in Granbury. Our "headquarters" hotel will be the Holiday Inn Express in Granbury (817-573-4411), but teams are welcome to stay anywhere in Granbury they wish.

Group dinner in Granbury, and "Champagne and Stoker Appreciation Poetry"™ after dinner Saturday night, where the bubbly flows and captains read a poem they've written for their stokers. You can't imagine how special and fun this is until you've participated in it! For captains that are not familiar with the SAR, our tradition is to show our stokers a good time on a weekend ride. The captains make the motel/B&B reservations and take care of details for the weekend.

Please RSVP to Tom Shaddox 972-517-4534 or [res1rrzj@verizon.net](mailto:res1rrzj@verizon.net)

## *Q&A session with Tom & Brenda Shaddox regarding the Stoker Appreciation Ride.*

We're talking today with tandemist Tom Shaddox about DoubleDATES' Stoker Appreciation Ride.

Q: This is really the 15th SAR?

A: Well, we (Brenda and I) count the first couple SARs when it was just the two of us, and I think we skipped unlucky 13.

Q: What have you got planned this year?

A: I like to change the mix a little every year to keep it fresh, and maybe entice some new teams to give this little overnight tour a try. This year we shortened the route a bit and included more things-to-do along the way, and I think that will be a lot of fun for everybody. With only a 47 mile route to ride and an entire Saturday to accomplish it, there will be plenty of time to stop at Dinosaur Valley State Park where I'll talk about some of the famous tracks (with Brenda's assistance) and hopefully get a group picture at the T-Rex enclosure. As we let lunch digest I'll give everybody a tour of the historical Bluff Dale bridge. I'm thinking we'll do a stoker wildflower identification challenge this year, too. It's been a wet year and I'm expecting outstanding wildflowers.

Q: What's stayed the same over the years?

A: Hmmmm. We'll, we've always ridden in the Brazos and Paluxy River valleys, and we've stuck to the small, country roads as much as possible. SAR XV's 52 mile Sunday route is like the best of riding in the Hill Country, without the extra four hours in the car to get there! Oh! Duh! Right answer: we've always appreciated our stokers! Last year we tried an on-the-road picnic, and it went over so well and everybody had such a nice time that I think we'll do it again this year (on Sunday).

Q: You realize, of course, that sending out a ride announcement with the wrong date on it wasn't exactly confidence inspiring?

A: Every SAR has finished with the same number of teams it started with, and that's all I have to say about that.

Q: So, tell us about the "poetry"!

A: Ha! Probably the most famous thing about the ride, and it started on a whim around SAR VI. I announced that year that after group dinner on Saturday we'd read poetry to our stokers. Whoa! Much to my surprise, the captains went for it! It was a hit! Appreciating stokers turned out to be a latent tsunami of emotion. We've had tenderness, apologies (!), relationship histories, comedy, wedding announcements and proposals. There have been epic ballads, satiric rewrites, rap, sonnets, haiku and - ahem - naughty limericks! I wouldn't claim the poetry offered reaches a very high literary standard, but that misses the point, eh? Tandeming is good for relationships; that's obvious on the SAR.

Q: What are the basics?  
 A: We'll start from Tres Rios, just outside Glen Rose (where there's secure parking) about - oh, I don't know, what did I say in the announcement? Around 9ish I think, on Saturday, April 12. Well, we start when the stokers are ready to start, that's when we start. There will be a SAG for gear, we'll eat lunch at Bluff Dale and ride on to Granbury, where captains have made their team's overnight reservations (we'll get your luggage anywhere in town). We'll eat a group dinner Saturday night and then gather for champagne (BYOC!) and StokerPoetry(tm). Sunday we'll ride back.

Q: What do teams do if they want to ride SAR XV?

A: Captains: Shoot me an RSVP ([res1rrzj@verizon.net](mailto:res1rrzj@verizon.net), 972-679-1937). Make motel or B&B reservations in Granbury for the 12th. Service the tandem. Make sure your team's favorite jerseys are clean. Pack. Write a poem with the general theme of appreciating your stoker. Get your team and tandem to the ride start. Stokers: Clear the date.

Q: Thanks for you time.

A: It was my pleasure.

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Conveniently Located in East Plano at 18th & Central

## Notice:

**May 2008 DATES-LINE:**

**Notices & Articles due by: April 27, 2008**

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

**Southwest Tandem Rally**

**April 25 - 27, 2008**

**Tulsa, OK**

**"Back in the Saddle Again"  
Downtown Doubletree Hotel**



**FRIDAY, APRIL 25TH**

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM	Packet pickup at the Doubletree Hotel, Upper Lobby If you arrive early you can enjoy a walking tour of Downtown Tulsa
10:00AM - 10:00 PM	Bicycle storage open at Doubletree Hotel, Council Oak Room
1:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Ice Cream Ride to Jenks - Antique Capital of Oklahoma – Oklahoma Aquarium - 17+ mile ride
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM	Social at Doubletree Hotel, International Foyer
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM	Pasta dinner at the Doubletree Hotel, Manchester/Geneva Room

**SATURDAY, APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup>**

6:30 am - 8:30 AM	Full breakfast buffet at the Doubletree Hotel, Manchester/Geneva Room
6:30 AM - 8:00 AM	Final packet pickup at the Doubletree Hotel, Manchester/Geneva Room
6:30 AM - 10:00 PM	Bicycle storage open at the Doubletree Hotel, Council Oak Room
9:00 AM	Mass start from parking lot south of Doubletree Hotel Choice of rides - 35, 54 or 72 miles
11:00 AM - 2:30 PM	Lunch at Sperry City Hall
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM	Social at the Doubletree Hotel, International Foyer
6:30 PM	"BACK IN THE SADDLE AGAIN!" Western Attire Optional Barbeque dinner at the Doubletree Hotel, Manchester/Geneva Room. Announcement of 2009 SWTR location.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup>**

6:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Full breakfast buffet at the Doubletree Hotel, Manchester/Geneva Room
6:30 AM	Bicycle storage open at Doubletree Hotel, Council Oak Room
9:00 AM	Mass start from the parking lot south of the Doubletree Hotel Choice of rides - 17, 33 or 52 miles

Cost includes 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners, 1 lunch & 2 happy hours.

Four day Post Tour available.

For more info: <http://www.tulsabicycleclub.com/>

*Mid Cities 'Almost Monthly' Tandem Ride*

**Saturday May 3, 2008**

Bedford, TX

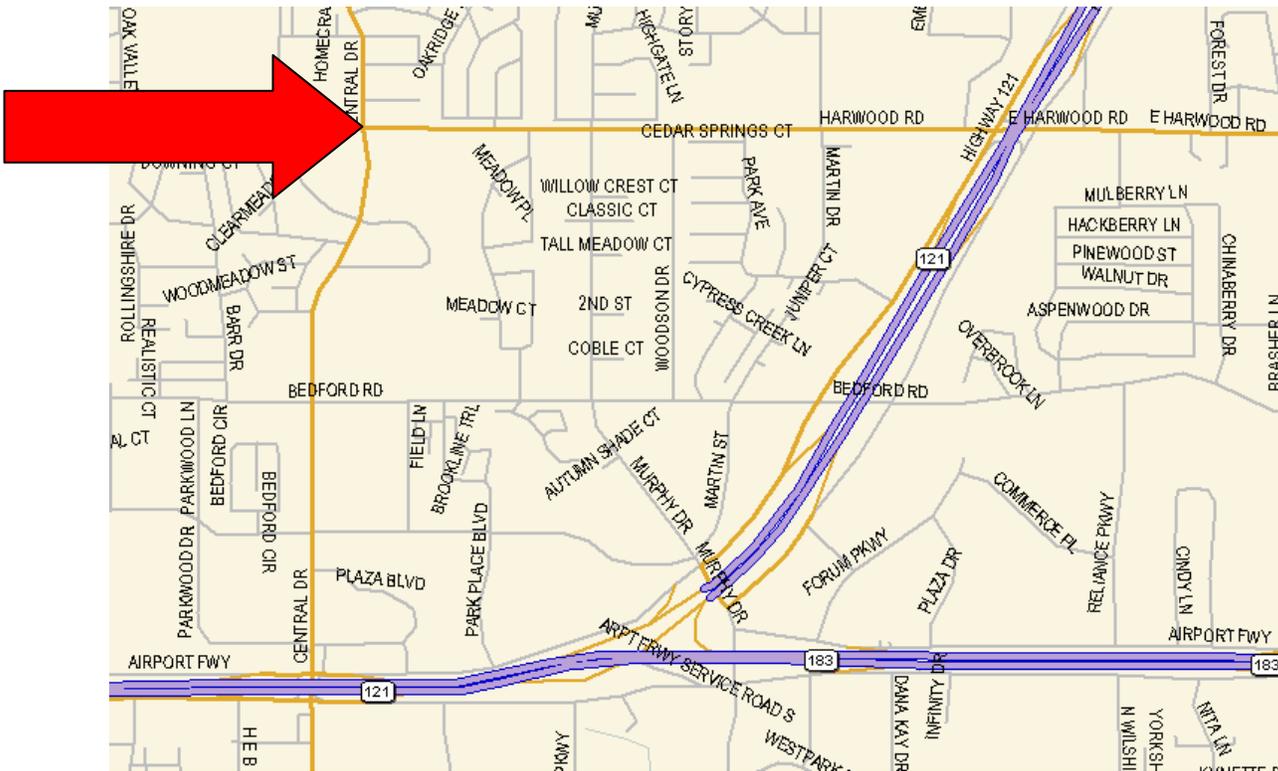
Teams Thompson & Bryant

**Leaders:** Harry & Janette Thompson, Ronnie & Nanette Bryant  
**Date:** Saturday May 3  
**Time:** 9:00 am  
**Location:** Bedford, TX

The next Mid Cities 'Almost Monthly' Tandem Ride will be Saturday May 3rd. Meet at 9 am and ride whenever everyone is ready. Distance and route to be determined by the group and the weather. We might stop for a bagel, or we might stop for a donut, or we might stop for a breakfast burrito or might not stop at all. The group will decide. We might have lunch at a local restaurant after the ride.

Meet in the Le Peeps parking lot at the corner of Harwood and Central Drive in Bedford. Take Airport Freeway west of DFW Airport to the Central Drive and go north to Harwood Rd - Le Peeps is in the Kroger Shopping Center on the Northwest corner. If the weather is iffy call the Bryants at 817 680-9404 or the Thompsons at 817 358-0820.

Check the newsletter, web site or emails for the next installment of this ride.





## *Sunday Morning Caffeine Cruise*

**at Starbucks**

**Legacy & Dallas N Tollway**

**Sunday, April 6, 2008**

**7:30AM (new time)**

Come enjoy a led, no-drop, novice level ride of 16 miles round trip. We will travel at a conversational pace of 11-14 mph. Members of the Plano Bicycle Association will be there to lead the ride, provide information and expertise. Starbucks will provide the meeting place and the perfect beverage. Experience your Sunday morning in a way you may never have thought of before...on a bike.

### **Required**

- Bike
- Helmet
- Water or sports drink
- Flat repair kit
- Arrive 7:15 AM
- Park in the garage
- Be ready to roll at 7:30 AM
- Weather appropriate clothing



at Starbucks

Legacy and Dallas N Tollway  
5760 Legacy Drive  
Suite B-6  
Plano, TX 75024

Questions?  
Reneé Burke  
972/741-8876  
reneeb@plano.gov

*Second National Federation  
of the Blind Ride  
July 2*

Harry Thompson

DATES has agreed to host another ride for the National Federation of the Blind, which is holding its annual meeting in Dallas in early July. The date set for the ride is Wednesday, July 2, 2008 at White Rock Lake. The tentative start time is 6:00 p.m. with dinner afterwards, perhaps at the same Italian restaurant we used in 2006 (Alfonso's).

We will have a real assortment of stokers; from those who have never been on a bike to those who have spd shoes and wear camelbacks. Some will do one lap around the lake and some will do two. Last time some did three. The one consistent thing is that they will all be enthusiastic.

I would like to commit to 20 tandems and captains. (We can get as many stokers as we have bikes.) I know that a Wednesday afternoon is not convenient for everyone, but it is our chance to share our love of cycling with those less fortunate. One evening of riding will go a long way to satisfy the philanthropic needs of our club. When we hosted this event two years ago, everyone that I talked to had a very positive experience and wanted to do it again.

We are not leaving out our DATES stokers. We want them to share the experience. They can ride singles or help with the administration.

I will communicate more details as they become available. If you are ready to commit to this day, please let me know and I'll put you down. If you know someone not in DATES who has a tandem, share the love and get them to sign up. We need to know how many tandems we can count on before we open up registration to the attendees at the meeting of the National Federation of the Blind.

Let's make this a special event for our friends who would otherwise not have the chance to experience the world on a bicycle. I guarantee you will feel good about it.

You can confirm your attendance to Harry or Janette Thompson at [hjthompson@tx.rr.com](mailto:hjthompson@tx.rr.com); or 817.358.0820.

During the Easter Hill Country Tour, Bruce Hudson and Carol Croy fell on a low water crossing. Carol is fine, but Bruce broke his hip. He had a pin inserted during surgery Sunday morning and the prognosis is good. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

## Mid Cities 'Almost Monthly' Tandem Ride

Sunday, March 16th, 2008

Hosted by Harry & Janette Thompson

Ride Report by Kevin Vinson

Mid Cities 'Almost Monthly' Tandem Ride  
Sunday, March 16th, 2008  
Hosted by Harry & Janette Thompson  
Ride Report by Kevin Vinson

This is the second of the "Almost Monthly" tandem ride series. This series was the brainchild of Teams Bryant and Thompson. These rides are designed to bring more members out to the rides. General information about the ride is provided by the hosts but the details (distance, route, pace, and so forth) are finalized by all participants.

This edition of the "Almost Monthly" tandem ride started at the Le Peeps parking lot at the corner of Harwood and Central Drive in Bedford. The following teams were in attendance:

- Team Thompson
- Team Bryant
- Team Bloomer
- Team Carlson
- Team Chochrek (new members for 2008)
- Team Logan
- Team Vinson
- Alan Kailer (we missed you Renee)

Everyone met at the parking lot around 9:00 AM. While Janette was passing out donut holes, Harry was busy distributing maps and cue sheets. Before departure, everyone introduced themselves to Leonard & Denise Chochrek. This was their first DATES ride.

After Harry & Janette discussed the details of the ride, all of us were off for a nice easy ride around DFW Airport. Making our way through several side streets of Bedford, we made our way onto Bedford Road which changes to Midway Road. Up to this point, this was the longest stretch of the route.

We took Midway Road to Bear Creek. Bear Creek was the most scenic part of the route. With nice rolling hills, very nice apartments, and a nice park, this was very enjoyable. With the pace we were maintaining, the conversation was lively. Bear Creek took us to Mid Cities Boulevard. This was the final stretch before entering the west side of DFW Airport.

At this point (7.6 miles), we began a clockwise ride around DFW Airport on Airfield Road. Airfield Road circles around the entire airport. For Linda and I, this was our first time to ride around the airport. It was a nice touch seeing the jets take off and land. At the 14.2 mile mark, we had our first rest stop. This was a Shell convenience store that also had a Whataburger and Krispy Kreme.

We resumed the ride by continuing southeast along the SH-114 service road. We weren't on the service road very long. Making our way through the hotels located on the northeast side of the airport, we slowly wound our way southeast along the border of the airport. Two of the more well-known roads we rode on were Valley View and Walnut Hill.

Walnut Hill took us back to Airfield Road. We made a right on Airfield Road and headed north. This part of the route took us between the far east runways and the main runways located on the east side of the terminals. We took Airfield Road until it dead end at 23rd Street. We had noticed signs that stated "No Outlet" but we thought Harry & Janette knew about private route that is not available to the public.

Little did we know, this was our turnaround point. Come to find out, if Linda and I had paid closer attention to the cue sheet, we would have known that this part of the route was a turnaround. That will teach us for not reviewing the cue sheet before we start a ride.

After making the turnaround, we headed back south on Airfield Road. This portion of the route took us around the southern end of the airport. Once we headed north, it wasn't long until we were back at Mid Cities Boulevard. At this point, we were at the 28.0 mile mark. From this point on, we reversed the route back to the Le Peep parking lot. We did stop at the second designated rest stop at the 28.7 mile mark.

It wasn't long before we started the home stretch. Everyone arrived back the parking lot together. It was a great ride. The route was very nice. There was some traffic but not much. Once everyone had loaded up their tandems (excluding Teams Thompson & Bryant), we all had lunch at Le Peep.

Many thanks go to Harry & Janette for hosting a great ride. Everyone seemed to have a great time. It was very nice meeting Leonard & Denise. They did very well on their tandem considering they just started riding a tandem back in October. Before I close, I would like to state that this was one of those rare occasions that Team Hudson-Croy was not in attendance. It is very rare for Bruce & Carol to miss a ride.

Keep an eye out for the next "Almost Monthly" ride. Thanks again Harry & Janette!

<b>DATES Rides and Activities</b>							
<b>RIDE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>START TIME</b>	<b>START PLACE</b>	<b>RIDE HOST</b>	<b>PHONE # / EMAIL</b>	<b>DISTANCE</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>
<b>Sunday Morning Caffeine Cruise</b>	Sunday April 6 2008	7:30 am	Plano, TX	Warren Casteel	(214) 352-7446 or (972) 596-8206	12 or 16 miles	See Newsletter for Details
<b>Stoker Appreciation Ride</b>	Saturday April 12 Sunday April 13	See Newsletter	Rainbow, TX Granbury, TX	Tom & Brenda Shaddox	972-517-4534 or <a href="mailto:res1rrzj@verizon.net">res1rrzj@verizon.net</a>	50 miles each day	See Newsletter for Details
<b>Southwest Tandem Rally</b>	Friday – Sunday April 26 – 28	See Newsletter	Tulsa, OK	Tulsa Bicycle Club	wetandem2@cox.net 918-446-3255	See Newsletter	<a href="http://www.denlynmor.com/SouthWestTandemRally2008.htm">http://www.denlynmor.com/SouthWestTandemRally2008.htm</a>
<b>Mid Cities 'Almost Monthly' Tandem Ride</b>	Saturday May 3, 2008	9:00 am	Bedford, TX	Thompson & Bryant	(817) 680-9404 (Bryant) (817) 358-0820 (Thompson)	TBD	No-Map, No-Drop The group will determine pace and specifics at the start
<b>Sunday Morning Caffeine Cruise</b>	Sunday May 4, 2008	7:30 am	Plano, TX	Warren Casteel	(214) 352-7446 or (972) 596-8206	12 or 16 miles	See Newsletter for Details
<b>Jenkins' May Ride</b>	Saturday May 17, 2008	TBA	TBA	Charlie & Pat Jenkins	903.463.1516 (h)	TBA	TBA
<b>Mid Cities 'Almost Monthly' Tandem Ride &amp; COOKOUT</b>	Sunday June 1, 2008	9:00 am	Home of Harry & Janette Thompson, 2229 Ridgewood St., Bedford, TX 76021	Harry & Jeannette Thompson	(817) 680-9404 (Bryant) (817) 358-0820 (Thompson)	TBD	No-Map, No-Drop The group will determine pace and specifics at the start . Grilled hamburgers & hotdogs after the ride. Swimming optional.
<b>DATES Tandem Tour</b>	September 6 – 18 2008	-	Nova Scotia	McManus Cole	<a href="mailto:John.McManus@yahoo.com">John.McManus@yahoo.com</a>	-	Contact John McManus for details

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

- **See the DATES website:**
  - <http://www.doubledates.com>
- **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](http://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](mailto:warren@casteelsign.com)
- **Read the DATES Google-Groups discussion forum:**
  - <http://groups.google.com/group/doubledates>

**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 <mailto:datesline@gmail.com>, or mailed on a CD or 3.5 diskette to the editors: Alan & Renee Kailer at 1445 Ross Avenue - Suite 3700, Dallas, TX 75202-2785.

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**DOUBLE DATES**, the Dallas Area Tandem Enthusiasts, is a recreational club for riders of tandem bicycles. Membership dues are \$25 payable annually in January. If a team joins mid-year, the dues are: Jan – June \$25; July – Oct \$12. Teams joining in November or December pay \$25 and are paid up for the following year.

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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



**DOUBLE DATES**

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