



Red River Tandem Rally - Clarksville, Texas

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TROLS '08

September 19-21

By R. Bowers

In case you missed it, and were wondering, the Bowers / Duval handoff of TROLS weekend in Jefferson, TX was a resounding success. After ten years of heading the event, Linda and I relinquished the reins to the Duvals after TROLS'07. And this year, Jimmy and Kelly did a remarkable job. As always with Jefferson, there were the requisite last minute planning snafus. Most notable this year were relocation of the Saturday banquet (the Cypress Valley Center bailed on them) and a change in Saturday lunch catering (the Bakery became unreachable). But the Duvals turned both of these planning calamities into enhancements.



They were able to acquire the Russell Building for the entire weekend, so it served not only for packet pickup, but the social and Saturday dinner as well. Several years ago, before it burned, the Russell Building was the site of the Galley Pub on Austin Street across from the Jefferson Hotel. It has since been rebuilt and makes a great two-story banquet hall. Saturday lunch catering was rescued by Vanda at Riverport BBQ. This was not the first time that Vanda has saved the TROLS' bacon.

The Friday ride had a new twist. Instead of stopping at the Dam Overlook, the ice cream stop was moved about two and a half miles farther to the other side of the dam. Audre Casteel was set up at a shady picnic table there, giving out ice cream when she wasn't socializing with a couple of Harley Davidson biker dudes who happened by. I think she was trying to snag a ride on the back of a bike that she didn't have to pedal.

As usual, the Friday night dinner was on-your-own. But a number of riders picked up take-out and brought it back to the Russell Building to eat, socialize, and watch a slide show of projected TROLS pics from this and prior years.

The Saturday morning ride got a police escort out of town. Even though there is not usually a lot of traffic in Jefferson that early in the morning, it was sure nice to blow through the traffic signals as one big group. The Saturday routes were unchanged, but it had been so long since Linda and I had ridden them that they seemed almost brand new. The weather

was cool and the closer we got to Caddo Lake, the more dense the fog became. It cleared again after we got on highway 43 and headed north toward Bivins. The passage of Hurricane Ike was quite evident as there were numerous downed trees and other wind damage. The rest stop at Kildare had closed since last year and Jimmy was parked across the street as a surrogate stop in case anyone needed help. But knowing tandemists, I suspect he did a lot more visiting with riders than providing aid. We got to the Tall Pines Lodge about eleven, just in time to try to help set up lunch. But Kelly and Leslie Frank had everything under control and only gave us small duties just to keep us out of the way I'm sure. Lunch at the Lodge was pretty much the same as it had been in years past, except that the Bakery box lunches had been replaced with some great turkey and cheese wraps from Riverport BBQ. Lunch seemed much more relaxing this year ... probably because I had more time to visit and wander around the lodge.



Riverport also catered the buffet that night in the Russell Building, serving the usual fare of BBQ chicken, beef, stir fry, rice, salad, tabouli, cheesecake, and cobbler. After the meal, Jimmy and Kelly drew names and awarded door prizes, the most memorable of which was a Black & Decker model T-200 manual cat litter box. I think that Jimmy must have bought it off eBay because it consisted of a Rubbermaid pan full of "Tidy Cat" complete with a scooper and plastic gloves. The Mumbys were the lucky winners and obviously were quite thrilled.

After the banquet while everyone was still milling around socializing, someone mentioned that there was a Karaoke sing-off happening next door at the coffee shop. It wasn't long before a contingent of tandemists were crowding the shop, doorway, and sidewalk out front. Some were good, some not quite so much, but one was outstanding. Becky Lencho (you may previously have known her as Becky Williams) should be singing for a living. Maybe we can talk her into an encore next year. Or maybe Jimmy and Kelly could even book her for next year's banquet entertainment. And her new husband, David, seems really nice also.

Sunday morning's ride, like Friday's, had a bit of a modification. Instead of turning into Caddo Lake State Park (where they now charge \$2 a bike), we continued for three more miles to the General Store and Grill on the shore of Caddo Lake in Uncertain, Texas. History claims that the community got its name because the tenuous dock made steamboat landing questionable. But I think you could also make a case that the early settlers didn't quite know if their mailing address was Uncertain, TX or Uncertain, LA. It is an interesting little

settlement and one that you will picture in your mind every time you hear the term "backwater". In any event, Jimmy and Kelly had made arrangements with the General Store and Grill to provide cups of peach cobbler to fuel our return trip to Jefferson.

After cleaning up and checking out, Linda and I helped Jimmy and Kelly finish loading the remains of their supplies and equipment into their trailer. Then we headed across the street to eat lunch at LaManches, only to find they were closed on Sunday. So we ended up at the Hamburger Store to eat, critique the weekend, and discuss their plans for TROLS '09.

Oh, and after lunch as we were walking up the sidewalk, two old codgers in motorcycle leathers recognized us as cyclists and asked if we knew the nice lady giving out ice cream at the Lake on Friday. That Audre ... she sure made quite an impression!

Thanks for a great weekend, Jimmy and Kelly. Fantastic job!



“Uptown TOTS (Tour Of The Stars)”

Sunday, October 5, 2008

LEADERS: Lee & Becky Wilson

Report by Tom Shaddox

I don't know how many of you do urban rides. Brenda and I enjoy it quite a lot, so when Lee & Becky hosted the Tour of the Stars, it was a must-attend for us. We were joined by John & Brenda, Pete & Laura, Herb & Sandra and Mindy. This is a nice sized group for urban riding, the weather was beautiful like only Dallas can be in October, and, being a Sunday morning, the traffic was nil.



We left from Lee and Becky's place (visible in the picture) and headed out to the Park Cities. We hadn't ridden very far when we rode past Jerry Jones' house, and much to our surprise, he was out in the front yard, picking up his newspapers! He immediately tore one of them open to the sports section, and began muttering to no one in particular, "Galloway, you're an idiot." From there we went past the home of Karen Katz, CEO of Neiman Marcus. She had just gotten back from running, and stopped us to ask about the tandems. She smiled and nodded a lot, so I'm looking for tandems in the 2009 Christmas Catalog. We rode past the homes of H. Ross Perot and Ray Nasher, and then the home of Mark Cuban. While he was

actually out in his driveway, I don't think he even noticed us riding by – he was busy jumping a radio-controlled car off a board propped up by a brick. We also saw the only Frank Lloyd Wright house in Dallas, and the childhood homes of John Hinckley Jr. and Lawrence Walker.

I am sorry to say that our elderly tandem suffered its second mechanical in as many club functions, although fortunately near the cross of our figure-8 shaped route. After we bade the group to finish without us and were walking back toward the starting point, we started to be cut off by a large sedan with government tags, which slid to a stop. Out jumped three burley men in suits, who asked us to stand still at the side of the street. We only thought we couldn't be any more surprised, when President Bush went racing by on his mountain bike! Spotting us, he skidded to a stop and circled back, much to the consternation of the Secret Service agents. Greeting us, he asked Brenda if she thought Laura would enjoy riding a "bicycle by two" with him when they moved back to Dallas next spring. Brenda said she was sure Mrs. Bush would love it, and I started to hand him a DATES business card. The card

was snatched by a Secret Service agent, and quickly sealed into a zip lock bag. The President thanked us and sped away on his bike.

So not only was TOTS a great ride, we might have recruited a new DATES team!

DATES Membership Meeting

Date: Sunday, November 23

Time: 5:30 pm

Place: 3403 Summer Place Court
Farmers Branch, TX 75234

Contact: Juanita Logan 469-688-0070, for food to bring

We will have a membership meeting on Sunday, November 23 at 5:30 pm at the home of Roane and Juanita Logan. This meeting follows a scouting trip for the 2010 Southwest Tandem Rally, which our club is scheduled to host, so we will be talking about the 2010 rally arrangements. We are also nearing the end of another year, so we will have 2008-2009 items on the agenda.

With the colder, and sometimes "iffy" weather at this time of the year, we planned the meeting for later in the day. As the date of the meeting approaches, we may plan short afternoon ride before the meeting.

Of course, we will have to eat, whether we ride or not! If you able to do so, please bring a dish for dinner, and contact Juanita Logan to let her know what you can bring. We will have a Mexican/chili dish, but of course, anything goes with Mexican food and chili.

We hope to see you soon.
Roane and Juanita

Location:
3403 Summer Place Court
Farmers Branch, TX 75234
Phone 469-688-0070 (Juanita cell)

Red River Tandem Roundup

October 10-12, 2008

Harry Thompson
(edited by Janette)

21 Tandems and 2 single bikes converged on Clarksville for the second annual Red River Tandem Roundup. Clarksville is a small, rural town a three-hour drive east of Dallas near Paris. It has a nice square beautifully decorated with blooming flowers that was the meeting place for all of our activities.

As Clarksville is lodging challenged, we stayed all over town. The historic Courthouse B & B held six teams, a few stayed at the Red River Inn, two teams rented a house, and the rest of us stayed at lake cabins generously donated for the weekend by the residents of Clarksville.



Friday we were on a 24-mile ride. Saturday the options were 50+ and 80+ miles that included a foray into Oklahoma for a rest stop (convenience store). And Sunday was a 28-mile ride that included the only hill of the weekend. All rides were generally flat through farmland with very light traffic. On the Sunday ride we counted only two cars besides the sag. The weather couldn't have been better and even the wind was not too bad.

These were the best supported rides in my memory. Although there were no mechanical problems that I heard of (other than a very loud blowout before the mass start on Saturday) the sags were never far away, continuously sweeping the course.

Friday and Saturday nights we had a great happy hour at the 101½ Saloon (circa 1895 restored saloon) and group dinners at Rio Verde Mexican Restaurant (Friday) and The Italian Bistro (Saturday). We were told that in this small town, more than four is a crowd. As is customary at tandem rallies we overwhelmed the staff, but everything worked out okay.

The highlight of Saturday night was at 7:11 p.m. when the space station flew over. 40 people were standing in the square looking towards the heavens and cheering.



This rally is the brainchild of Rob Rowley. He did a wonderful job of organizing and taking care of all our needs. Special thanks to him and his wife Kay for all they did. Also thanks to the Chamber of Commerce and Diane Peek for opening their office and welcoming us to the city. James Vaughan was in charge of routes and he also sagged all day Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. He and Rob were on the routes until the last bike was in. Don Pierce played the keyboard both nights at happy hour and Dora Wallace was our masseuse for the weekend.

If you ever want to take a tandem weekend, put Clarksville on your list. And not just for this rally. James told me he has plenty more of those great routes that he will gladly share.

Purtis Creek State Park to Tyler & Return

John McManus & Brenda Cole

2008 DATES Annual Halloween Ride October 25th & 26th Hosted by John McManus & Brenda Cole Ride Report by Kevin Vinson

Like all journalists, I have a deadline to meet so I am writing this report on Sunday the 26th. I can't let this ride report slide like I have with past ride reports. Enough of the rambling, it's time to get down to business and talk about this year's edition of the DATES Annual Halloween Ride.

This ride has always been a member favorite. This is a two-day ride from Purtis Creek State Park to Tyler, Texas. Starting points have varied over the years. This is the second year for the ride originating from Purtis Creek. This year's ride was hosted by John McManus and Brenda Cole. Like year's past, this year's ride had a great turnout. A total of 21 cyclists participated.

Team Hudson-Croy

Team Thompson

Team Bloomer

Team Mashburn

Team Holverson-Roberts

Team Bryant

Team Dixon

Team Vinson

Team Yuhn

Lee Wilson (We missed you Beckie!)

John McManus (Thank you Brenda for the Happy Hour!)

Nancy Alford (A friend of Lee & Beckie Wilson)

Like last year, we all met at Purtis Creek State Park in Eustace, Texas. Departure time was set for 9:30 AM. Once everyone arrived, John McManus went over some of the details of the ride. Route options were 51, 57, and 62 miles. The weather Saturday morning was great. All 3 route options were utilized.

Linda and I opted for the 57-mile. You tend to forget that this ride can be challenging and when you are pulling a trailer, it adds a certain degree of difficulty. We were the only team to pull a trailer while everyone else used panniers. Poor Linda was picked on all weekend about the trailer and everything we had in the bag. With that said, the turn out for this ride has always been very good. For those of you who have never done this ride, it is a very scenic ride.

Our first destination was Edom, Texas and the Edom Bakery & Grill. Edom is located approximately 22 miles east of Purtis Creek State Park. For the 57-mile route, we had 30 miles to Edom. Our route took us through Ben Wheeler, Texas. It just so happened that there was a festival taking place in Ben Wheeler and we had just missed the parade. Our route consisted of all FM routes. Light traffic with some chip seal.

Linda enjoyed seeing some of the homes out in the country that were decorated for Halloween. Speaking of Halloween decorations, some of the participants decorated themselves and/or their bikes for Halloween. We arrived in Edom between 11:30 and 12:00 Noon. Just in time for lunch at the Edom Grill & Bakery. This is a very popular place in Edom. The food is so good. They have a very nice menu.



It also lives up to its name with its bakery goods. You won't come away hungry from this place. It's the perfect stop for this ride. It was a short window where everyone was there at one time. Once everyone refueled, it was time to make our way to Tyler. This is the portion of the ride that becomes a little challenging. It's at this point that you are in the Piney Woods of Texas and the nice Texas rollers you have in the beginning become a little more. Let me reiterate that even though we use the word challenging to describe this ride, it is a great ride with some great scenery. Getting back to the ride, even though Tyler is only 18 miles from Edom, our route takes us east for about 10 miles. At the 39.8 mile mark, we hit State Highway 64. This is the only time we are on a State Route. For our route, we were only on it for about half a mile.

When Linda and I first did this ride 2 years ago, we actually took SH 64 all the way into Tyler. On a Saturday afternoon, that route can get a little busy. Last year and again this year, our selected route took us south off of SH 64. This allows us to come into Tyler and our hotel from the south side instead of arriving on the west side and having to make our way through urban streets.

This route that brings us in from the south is very nice. Great roads and light traffic. We arrived at the Comfort Suites around 3:00 PM. Happy Hour was slated for 5:00 PM. This leads me to the reason that Brenda Cole didn't ride with us. Even though Brenda is enjoying

retirement life, she works part time during the fall/winter season part time. She had to work Saturday morning and early afternoon.

She was kind enough to drive to Tyler and meet us at the hotel. She also provided the food and beverages for the happy hour at the hotel. In years past, we were responsible for the food and beverages which meant, since this ride is an "unsupported" ride, the food and beverages were included in the trailers or panniers.

It makes a difference when you don't have to carry a bottle of wine in the trailer. LOL! The happy hour was held in the hotel's eating area off of the lobby. It was great socializing with everyone. Topics were wide-ranging. We always have a great time at the happy hour. Since we have no vehicles, our dinner options are limited. It's nice that this Comfort Suites is close to a nice selection of restaurants.

We had our choice of Applebee's, Olive Garden, Outback, Shogun's (Japanese Hibachi), and some fast food restaurants. John recommended that we split up so that we keep our waiting time for a table at a minimum. Linda had wanted to go to Applebee's so that is where we headed. We were the only ones to choose Applebee's. The popular choice seemed to be Olive Garden.

Before heading out for dinner, it was announced that Sunday's ride would start at 9:00 AM. Sunday started off with breakfast at the hotel. Even though 9:00 AM was the announced starting time, it turned out to be a staggered start that started at 8:30 AM. Linda and I joined teams Bryant and Thompson.

Sunday's route called for a ride back to Edom where we would stop for a snack. Like I stated earlier, their bakery goods are delicious. The Sunday route we chose was the 47-mile route. This route took us through the historic Azalea area of Tyler. The homes are beautiful. This is the route that is also an option when coming into Tyler on Saturday. You actually travel about 10 miles before you are out of the Tyler city limits.

We had approximately 24 miles back to Edom. We spent about 30 minutes at the Edom Grill & Bakery. The sticky buns are very good. LOL! It was time to make our way back to Purtil Creek State Park. The remaining 23 miles took us on a direct route to the park. There was a long route option of 60.3 miles that was offered. I think most of the teams selected the short route.

Except for some mechanical issues for a few teams, this year's Halloween Ride was very successful. Once everyone arrived back to the park, Team Bryant provided a nice picnic lunch for all of us. It was a very nice ending to a great weekend of cycling. Many thanks go to John and Brenda for hosting the ride and providing the happy hour and also to Ronnie and Nanette for the picnic on Sunday.

I highly recommend this ride!

Mesquite/Sunnyvale Ride

Sunday, November 9
9:00 a.m.

Leaders: Bruce Hudson & Carol Croy

Join Bruce Hudson & Carol Croy on the Mesquite/Sunnyvale Ride (aka Pete's Redneck Heaven Ride) at 9:00 am on Sunday, Nov 9, 2008. We'll meet at the Lowe's parking lot at the intersection of Galloway Road and Barnes Bridges in Mesquite. This is a very versatile route with options from 20 miles to 60 + and everything in between. Come on out and ride with us on our home route. Hope to see you there.



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DATES ANNUAL THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

November 28 - 30

John McManus & Brenda Cole

For the past several years, DATES members have enjoyed fall riding on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday after Thanksgiving. This year we'll return to the piney woods of East Texas, staying at Thee Hubbell House, a plantation B&B in Winnsboro.

In recent years we've been joined by other tandem riders. The past two years we had Tandem Club of America editors from Alabama and last year tandem friends from Winthrop Washington. Cycling can be good in Texas at Thanksgiving, which makes this area unique. OF course last year we had terrible weather for the first time. This did not diminish our enjoyment as we substituted parlor games (Blockus) for tandeming.

Winnsboro, in Wood County, is great for cycling because of the many, many paved Farm to Market and County roads and the relatively few cars. Also, there are new restaurants, a coffee shop and a winery – all within walking distance of The Hubbell House.

So, make your plans, and reserve a room at Thee Hubbell House. Send email to john.mcmanus@yahoo.com so we know you're coming.



307 WEST ELM STREET
WINNSBORO, TX 75494

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

Southwest Tandem Rally *Kerrville, Texas* **April 24-26, 2009**

The Texas Capital Area Tandem Society (TxCATS) is pleased to announce that the 2009 Southwest Tandem Rally will be held April 24-26, 2009 in Kerrville, Texas. The headquarters for the rally will be the Inn of the Hills Resort and Conference Center. Kerrville has a population of about 23,000 and sits on the banks of the Guadalupe River. Kerrville provides some of the best riding for all skill levels in the Texas Hill Country. The most notable off-bike attraction is the James Avery Craftsman Jewelry Headquarters that is less than four miles from the Inn of the Hills.

The registration web link is now available at <http://www.txcats.org/swtr2009/>. The registration fee is \$235 per tandem team.

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The Inn of the Hills is ready NOW to take your room reservations. Please call (800) 292-5690 and ask for the Southwest Tandem Rally group rate. We have blocked 100 rooms. The room rate will be \$99 for single & double occupancy, \$109 for triple occupancy and \$119 for quad occupancy plus appropriate taxes.

Here is the website for the Inn:
<http://www.innofthehills.com>

If you have any questions please email swtr2009@txcats.org or call (512) 217-1280.

Dale & Linda Krueger

DATES Rides and Activities							
RIDE	DATE	START TIME	START PLACE	RIDE HOST	PHONE # / EMAIL	DISTANCE	DETAILS
Mesquite/ Sunnyvale Ride	Sunday, November 9	9:00 am	Lowe's - Galloway Road and Barnes Bridge in Mesquite	Bruce Hudson & Carol Croy	hudsoncroy@sbcglobal.net	From 20 to 60	See Newsletter for Details
DATES Membership Meeting	Sunday, November 23	5:30 pm	Logan's 3403 Summer place Court	Roane & Juanita Logan	(469) 688-0070	-	See Newsletter for Details
DATES Annual Thanksgiving Weekend	November 28 - 30	-	Thee Hubbell House Winnsboro, Texas	John McManus & Brenda Cole	john.mcmanus@yahoo.com	-	See Newsletter for Details
Southwest Tandem Rally	April 24 - 26, 2009	-	Kerrville, Texas	Dale & Linda Krueger	(512) 217-1280 swtr2009@txcats.org	-	See Newsletter for Details

Notice:
December 2008 DATES-LINE:
Notices & Articles due by: November 25, 2008
We NEED your notices, ride reports,
articles & PICTURES for the newsletter

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.

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 \$25 payable annually in January. If a team joins mid-year, the dues are: Jan – June \$25; August – 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

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