



Christmas Lights Ride

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DATES ANNUAL THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

Report by John McManus

I first cycled out of Winnsboro with the Richardson Bicycle Touring Club (now Greater Dallas Cyclists) around 1972 and it has been a favorite ever since. For 35 years I've found some of the best cycling roads with the fewest cars here in Wood County. We hadn't been there in several years, so when we returned for the DATES Thanksgiving ride last year it was neat to see how the town has developed. Up until maybe 3 years ago, there weren't many places to eat. Brenda and I spent a Sunday evening there in 1999 with only our tandem for transportation and had to eat dinner in a Dairy Queen, far below Brenda's standards.

But now there is a good steak house and an even better Italian restaurant. A winery had opened for us last year but they've lost their lease. In its place, a new "high-end Bar-B-Q" restaurant is being designed. Isn't "high-end Bar-B-Q" an oxymoron? And we learned the kitchen-ware store is soon to have a wine tasting bar. A new cultural establishment in town is the Crossroads Coffeehouse and Music Co. which hosts some of Texas best musicians. And to celebrate their anniversary, every year at Thanksgiving, Ray Wylie Hubbard appears. We all really enjoyed his concert this year.

But the best thing about Winnsboro this year was meeting new cycling friends. First we were surprised to discover new DATES members in Winnsboro. Jim Howell and Marilyn Arnaud bought a tandem a few months ago and are enjoying the free club membership to new tandem owners. Jim and Marilyn are enthusiastic about both tandeming and Winnsboro. Marilyn works at the art gallery / coffee house so we spent a lot of quality time in the coffee shop on Friday waiting for the rain to stop. While there Jim Hoyt recognized a customer and thus we became friends with three serious cyclists from the area. They (Bob Wilson, John Whorff and Brian Wyrick) joined us for Saturday's 50 mile ride and gave us recommendations for Sunday's ride since the un-scouted route I had selected had road construction.

Also while at the coffee shop, Marilyn arranged for an interview with an online Winnsboro newsletter. See www.winnsborotoday.com/articles/2008/Tandem%20Riders.htm

Saturday's ride to Quitman for lunch featured some of my favorite roads in the county and it was a gorgeous day for cycling. On Sunday, however, we woke to howling winds – reportedly 25 gusting to 40. So there was negotiation and intimidation at breakfast but all there eventually agreed to ride. And everyone is glad we did. The winds were not as bad as they sounded and the temperature not as bad as feared.

We're now so enthusiastic about Winnsboro, our new cycling friends, new cycling routes from the local cyclists and with music at Crossroads and excellent Napoleon pizza, that we're looking for a date to return. We're not going to wait until next Thanksgiving. Cycling out of Winnsboro is just too good to wait.



2009 Membership Renewal

It's that time of year again, time to renew your Double DATES membership for 2009. Please visit the DATES website for the DATES membership renewal form to download and print:

<http://www.doubledates.com/uploads/forms/renewform.pdf>

Wanted: Nominations for DATES Officers

We are now in the process of preparing the slate of officers for 2009 to be voted on at the Annual Meeting. If you know of someone that you think would be a good candidate, please let us know. Or if you would like to volunteer yourself, please let us know.

The slate of officers includes DATES Coordinator, DATES-Line Editor, Ride Coordinators, Membership Coordinator, Treasurer and Secretary.

Please submit any suggestions or volunteers to Team HudsonCroy (Bruce & Carol) at 214-320-8708 or hudsoncroy@sbcglobal.net.



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Annual Christmas Lights Ride

Report by Chuck & Kris Carlson

Wow, did we ever luck out on the weather! Balmy temps and little wind made for a very enjoyable ride for our merry troupe of ten teams and Mindy Mashburn on her single for the first part of the ride. We even had twin boys in a trailer behind one of the tandems. Bob and Robin Johnston pulled four-year-old Ian and Hugh, who liked the lights but also indicated a penchant for speed as they cheered mom and dad on, yelling "Faster! Faster!"

As if lucking out on the weather wasn't enough, we seemed to hit the jackpot on restaurant choice, too. It was kind of a shot in the dark by us. We had no idea the restaurant would be that good nor that it is sometimes tough to get reservations. We had twelve teams for dinner and the wait staff did a great job of getting food to us in timely fashion. We heard lots of kudos on the food. I don't think anyone went away hungry.



John McManus' White Elephant Gift

As for the lights, Highland Park still rocks when it comes to decorating yards and homes. Although there were a few less spectacular displays by our estimation, there was lots to marvel over, including new light displays with LED lights that introduce new colors into the holiday spectrum.

So what went wrong on this ride? My Garmin. Instead of leading us on our intended course, it started out by telling me to go the absolute wrong direction at every turn. I must have punched up the wrong route and I didn't want to stop to try it again. So I asked Kris to help me out by reading from the map, which was missing key street names. This she did with the benefit of her reading glasses and occasional illumination from streetlights or tandem lights behind us. But we made it around the course with only one missed turn, and that was easily corrected.

The highlight of the evening had to be the White Elephant gift exchange, which included one package of His and Hers KY product, a vibrating cat in a sack, a recycled Anger Management voodoo doll, and a nifty battery-powered wine opener. Luckily, no animals or people were harmed during this part of the event.

About one hour after we left the restaurant, the wind switched from south at 11 mph to north at 30 mph and the once balmy temps soon plunged to the low 30s. If that cold front had arrived three hours earlier, we would have had a much different ride to report. Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.

2009 DATES Annual Meeting & Dinner **Sunday, February 15, 2009**

You are invited to the DATES Annual meeting and Dinner on Sunday, February 15 at the La Hacienda Ranch in Dallas.

Club officers will provide an overview of 2008, and we will take a look at what's coming in 2009. The dinner also serves as the official meeting of the club, which includes election of officers for 2009.

Reconnect with fellow riders you haven't seen over the long winter months (perhaps a bit of an exaggeration in Texas). For those of you who are new members, this is a great time to meet your fellow tandem riders. Attire is casual, which means we will be in "normal" clothes.

Join us for a buffet and an evening with good friends. Hope to see you there.

When: Sunday, February 15, 2009

Where: La Hacienda Ranch
17390 Preston Road (Dallas, not Frisco)

Time: 5:30 pm Social with cash bar
6 pm dinner buffet

Cost: \$20/person (make checks payable to Double DATES)

RSVP: Please RSVP no later than Friday, February 13 to Juanita Logan at juanitalogan@yahoo.com or cell 469-688-0070. Payment will be accepted at the door.

Dallas Area Tandem Enthusiasts (DATES)
Business Meeting & Social, Sunday, November 23, 2008
Minutes

LOCATION: Home of Roane and Juanita Logan, Farmers Branch, Texas

One guest and eleven attending teams, including the following officers: Alan and Renee Kailer, Roane and Juanita Logan, John McManus, Harry and Janette Thompson, and Kevin and Linda Vinson.

COORDINATORS (Roane and Juanita Logan):

Roane opened the meeting at 6:45 p.m. following a social hour and pot luck supper at the Logans' home.

SECRETARIES (Harry and Janette Thompson):

Janette distributed copies of the minutes from the June 1, 2008 business meeting and dinner. No one had any suggested corrections or changes and the minutes were approved unanimously.

DATES-LINE EDITORS (Alan and Renee Kailer):

Only about 15 members receive the monthly DATES newsletter via U.S. mail, and there was discussion about the possibility of encouraging these teams to receive the newsletter via email. Alan prints about 40 copies monthly to distribute to two local bike shops and will continue to do so.

MEMBERSHIP & WEBMASTER (Kevin and Linda Vinson):

Kevin reported that 73 teams are members of DATES. This number includes 7 honorary teams. It also includes 12 new teams who have signed up since the beginning of the year; 4 or 5 of the new teams joined as a result of the complimentary membership that DATES offers through Richardson Bike Mart and Plano Cycling and Fitness for first-time tandem purchasers. DATES thanks these two bike shops for their willingness to make new tandem purchasers aware of our complimentary membership. (A current membership list will be attached to the official DATES minutes.)

There was no new business regarding the club's website.

TREASURERS (John McManus and Brenda Cole):

John distributed the written financial statement year-to-date. The current bank balance is \$1,217.32. John reviewed the expenses and noted that in the near future he expects to receive \$800 in DATES-Line advertising fees. Funds, in an amount yet to be determined, need to be earmarked for up-front expenses for the 2010 Southwest Tandem Rally. The group discussed whether to make a donation to the Texas Bicycle Coalition and decided to address this issue at the DATES February annual business meeting. The Treasurer's report was unanimously accepted; a copy will be attached to the official DATES minutes.

RIDE COORDINATORS (Ronnie and Nanette Bryant):

Ronnie and Nanette were not able to attend the meeting. Roane noted that the club does not have a ride scheduled in December and there was discussion regarding holding a Christmas Lights Ride. Chuck and Kris Carlson agreed to host the ride on December 14, 2008. They will distribute the details and will locate a venue for dinner following the ride. Details to follow via the December newsletter and our club's email distribution list.

APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2009 OFFICERS (Roane and Juanita Logan):

John McManus proposed an amendment to Section 5.3 of the club's bylaws regarding the composition of the nominating committee. He specifically proposed amending the bylaws so as to delete the final sentence of that section: "Members of the Board of Directors may not serve on the Nominating Committee." Because Article XII of the bylaws requires that an amendment be must proposed at a prior DATES meeting, no further action was taken on the proposal at this time.

Bruce Hudson and Carol Croy agreed to be the nominating committee for next year's officers. The positions of Ride Coordinators and Secretary need to be filled. Kevin Vinson will email the DATES membership letting them know of the open positions and providing a description of each office. Any interested team should contact Bruce and Carol.

DATES RIDE PARTICIPATION SURVEY RESULTS (Roane and Juanita Logan):

Roane reviewed and discussed in detail the results of a survey distributed to the DATES membership by Charlie & Pat Jenkins last spring. The email survey consisted of 15 questions directed to our members inquiring about their ride preferences. The purpose of the survey was to assist ride leaders in determining what type of rides our membership wants. The results were previously distributed to the DATES membership via email and are available at: http://www.doubledates.com/membership/survey_results.pdf. (Note: although the introduction to the document indicates that it contains preliminary results, the document is actually a final compilation of the responses to the survey.)

SWTR 2010 (Linda Vinson):

Linda stated that a committee has been formed and a meeting was held last summer. At that time, committee members assumed responsibility for the diverse aspects of the rally. Various members of the committee subsequently visited two prospective venues that are under consideration. We are awaiting a proposal from one of these venues, and will re-visit the second venue to see if they will reconsider their rates. Additionally, several other venues are being investigated. The high cost of meals and banquet facilities is proving to be a challenge in our club's choice of a site for the rally.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Informational brochure for bike shops: Steve Bishop and Chuck Carlson volunteered to create an informational brochure about DATES that the club can place in local bike shops. The brochure would explain all about DATES and what type of activities we undertake. The purpose of the brochure would be to interest prospective members to either contact us or to get on our web site and attend a ride, with the possibility of joining the club. Steve and Chuck will submit a draft of the brochure to the officers for their approval, after which the membership can address this issue at the February annual business meeting. The brochure, or the information in the brochure, may also be placed on the club's website.

Updating the club's history on the website: John McManus agreed to update the history of the club on the DATES website.

License plates for 2008 ride leaders: The club is working on getting license plates for the 2008 ride leaders, to be presented at the annual meeting in February.

2009 ANNUAL MEETING:

Juanita Logan agreed to organize the club's annual business meeting in February. Details to follow at a later date.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.
Submitted by Janette Thompson, DATES Secretary

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
Southwest Tandem Rally	April 24 - 26, 2009	-	Kerrville, Texas	Dale & Linda Krueger	(512) 217-1280 swtr2009@txcats.org	-	See Newsletter for Details

Special Notice:
 Beginning with this issue
 We will not be mailing hard copies of the DATES-LINE -
DATES-LINE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ONLY BY EMAIL
AND WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE

Notice:
 February 2009 DATES-LINE:
 Notices & Articles due by: January 26, 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 December or December pay \$25 and are paid up for the following year.



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SECRETARY	Harry & Janette Thompson	817.358.0820 (h)	hjthompson@tx.rr.com
WEB SITE	Kevin & Linda Vinson		http://www.doubledates.com
HOT-LINE	Dallas Area	214.352.7446 (b)	
HOT-LINE	Out of Town	1.800.875.5662 (b)	
HOT-LINE	Night (Warren & Audre Casteel)	972.596.8206 (h)	warren@casteelsign.com
DATES1 E-mail Distribution	Warren & Audre Casteel	972.596.8206 (h)	warren@casteelsign.com

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