



**Mike & Sue Baker leading Kevin & Linda Vinson and Carrie Bloomer on the Mesquite-Sunnyvale Ride
(See Report on p. 8)**

In This Issue:

Fresh DATES	2
Jenkins' Participation in RAAM	3
Tandem Decals for Sale	4
DATES Rides and Activities	12

Upcoming Rides:	
The Inebriated Irishman's Ride	5
Southwest Tandem Rally	6
Ride Reports:	
Mesquite-Sunnyvale Ride	7
Beauty & the Beast	10

fresh dates

DATES New Member Profile: Team Lingo

Captain: Jeff

Stoker: Heather

Joined DATES: Feb 2009

How long have you been cycling?

Captain: Since 1981

Stoker: Since 1982

How long have you been tandeming? One month

Why did you decide to start riding tandem? Blame that on our friends, Warren and Audre Casteel / Marc and Susie Mumby

What kind of tandem do you ride? Cannondale Road Tandem 2

How often do you usually/intend/prefer/like to ride? Every Saturday on our single bikes with the Plano Bicycle Association and every Sunday on our tandem as our schedule allows

How far? 45 – 70 miles

Favorite Ride? We haven't been on enough different rides yet on our tandem... however, some of our favorite roads to ride have always been in the Hill Country.

Usual (Home Court) ride? Our default tandem ride is urban to Downtown Dallas/White Rock Lake, about a 55 mile loop

Where/How did you hear about Double DATES? Warren and Audre Casteel

Anything else you'd like your new club members to know about you? We just look forward to meeting new people that like to ride... we hope to see you on the road soon!



Charlie and Pat Jenkins Participation in RAAM 2009 - Team JDRF

Cycling Friends,

As you probably already know, Pat & I are participating in RAAM (Race Across America) this summer. Here's some of the details:

We are Team JDRF, benefiting Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

We will be an all tandem team (8 tandems)

We start in Oceanside, CA on June 20th, en-route to Annapolis, MD

Our goal is to complete the 3021 miles in 6 days or less.

Full details are available at:

www.raceacrossamerica.org (RAAM website)

www.teamjdrf-raam.com (Team JDRF's website)

www.jdrf.org (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation website)

We need your help! Be part of the fun & help us support JDRF. We have several sponsorship options available. The most popular option is sponsoring a time station. We will have 54 Time Station Check-Points across the US. TS sponsorship is only \$100. When we approach your TS, we will call you & give you our race progress. You will be acknowledged on our website for your donation. If you have a website, we will link to your site. This option is popular for both individuals or businesses. However, any donation is greatly appreciated. No amount is too small...no amount is too large. Anything you feel comfortable with is the right amount. Call me for more details.

Win a NEW 2009
Cannondale F-9
Mountain Bike! (donated
by Nautilus Bicycles).
Raffle tickets are only \$5
each. Get yours today at
Nautilus Bicycles, or
contact Charlie - (903)
624-1200.

All proceeds from all
fundraisers benefit Team
JDRF.

Contact me if you have
any questions.

--Thanks,

Charlie Jenkins



Tandem & Single Bike Decals Available!
**For a limited time, purchase a tandem bike or
single bike decal!**

THE ORIGINAL TANDEM DECAL



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Mail check to: Linda Vinson
7013 Fox Drive
The Colony, TX 75056
email: vinsonlj@sbcglobal.net

Proceeds benefit the Southwest Tandem Rally XX in April 2010



The Inebriated Irishman's Ride

John McManus & Brenda Cole
 April 5 at 8:00 a.m.
 Lancaster Town Square

Welcome back to a DATES tradition – a St. Patrick's Day ride (a little late this year) from the Lancaster Town Square. Why St. Patrick's Day? Because John's Grandmother Ryan came from County Tipperery. Why Lancaster? Because John used to live here and knows that some of the best back-roads cycling is in Southern Dallas and Northern Ellis Counties. Choice of 46 or 58 mile route. Hills at no extra cost. Optional lunch after the ride. Lancaster Town Square is just East of State Highway 342 (Dallas Avenue) and Main Street in Lancaster. From I20, take 342 South to Main and turn left. There are no rest rooms at the starting point.

And away we go,
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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.

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

Notice:

May 2009 DATES-LINE:

Notices & Articles due by: April 24, 2008

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

DATES Mesquite - Sunnyvale Ride
(aka - Pete's Redneck Heaven Ride)
Hosted by Carol Croy & Bruce Hudson
Sunday, March 22nd, 2009
Ride Report by Kevin Vinson

It was that time of the year again for the DATES annual Mesquite-Sunnyvale Ride which is also known as Pete's Redneck Heaven Ride. Only Pete Holverson could have a ride called the Redneck Heaven Ride. The last couple years, Carol & Bruce have been generous enough to lead this ride. I don't think people realize how good of cycling there is in the Mesquite-Sunnyvale area. A lot of cyclists will recognize some of this ride from the Mesquite Rodeo Ride.

As always, the start place for this ride is the Lowe's parking lot at the intersection of Galloway Road and Barnes Bridges Road in Mesquite. The plan called for everyone to meet at 9:00 AM and ride at 9:30 AM sharp. I won't get into the discussion that Linda and I were a little tardy. LOL! Anyway, this year's ride had seven tandem teams and one single.

- Team Hudson-Croy
- Team Hering
- Team Bloomer
- Team Ellenbogen
- Team Lingo – new members for 2009
- Team Baker – new members for 2009
- Team Vinson
- Carrie Bloomer – daughter of Herb & Sandra Bloomer



Once Bruce & Carol went over some specifics and logistics of the ride plus the above photo was taken, we mounted up and began our trek through the Mesquite-Sunnyvale area. Route options ranging from 20 miles to 60+ miles were offered. The new team members, Teams Baker & Lingo chose the 60+ route while the rest of the group chose the 35-mile route.

As you can see from the photo above the weather was not what we had hoped for. Much of the pre-ride discussion talked about Saturday's weather and how good it was. No matter, we made our way out. Everyone started going east from the parking lot. At about 5 miles, we changed direction to the south. We all kept thinking how nice it was going to be on the route back with the southerly winds pushing us north.

If you look at this route from a map standpoint, it's almost like doing a figure-eight without actually crossing. For the next 12 miles or so, we stayed on a southerly direction crossing US Highway 80 at one point. It was at this point that we caught Lawson Road which is well known for its large potholes. It's like dodging land mines. Fortunately, there was no traffic so we had no problem meandering our way through the bumps.

Its things like Lawson Road, Devil's Speedway, the shooting range, and the yard art that adds a little flavor to this ride. Hence Pete's usage of the term "Redneck Heaven Ride". It wasn't until we all arrived at Interstate 20 that the 60-mile riders split from the 35-mile riders. We had a moment to all stop for a quick break and also admire Team Lingo's 2009 Cannondale Tandem. After a short break, we continued on our way.

It was at this point that we began making our way north. The tailwind was very nice. One of the many nice things about DATES rides is the opportunity to socialize with other members while riding. I think we all talked the entire 35 miles. Linda and I recalled meeting Carrie Bloomer on a past DATES ride. We really enjoyed visiting with her and talking about her cycling trip to Oregon.

It was great seeing Tony & Colleen Hering out there as well. It had been quite a while since we last rode with them. Linda and I also remembered that we had met Paul & Rose Ellenbogen at the 2008 DATES Ride for the Blind at White Rock Lake. They had a beautiful Santana tandem. I always enjoy checking out the different tandems at the DATES rides.

Another thing you are going to see on this ride is a lot of single riders out training for various upcoming events such as the MS 150. As Linda pointed out, you can definitely tell the difference between the serious cyclists and the cyclists that are just starting to train for the MS 150. It's always a good feeling seeing so many cyclists out on the road. Mike & Sue Baker know these routes very well since we were pretty much in their "backyard". They took advantage of the starting location by riding their tandem to the start. Getting back to the ride, we continued making our way north towards Mesquite. At one point in the ride back, we had to take a little detour due to the work being done on Berry Road, just north of Scyene. This same road was under construction at last year's ride and we had to walk the tandems through the construction. This year, Herb & Sandra were kind enough to take us on a detour.

Once we arrived back at the Lowe's parking lot, we got everything put away and spent some time visiting with Herb & Sandra and their daughter Carrie while we waited for Teams Hudson-Croy and Ellenbogens. Once they had arrived, we discussed the lunch plans. Bruce & Carol told all of us that were going to lunch to go ahead and get the tables while they wait for Teams Lingo and Baker.



The plans called for the group to have lunch at Enchilada's in Mesquite. Everyone that attended the lunch was treated to some very good Tex-Mex and Mexican food. The conversation was very nice as well.



As you can see from the photos, we are definitely enjoying the lunch and the company. No one went away hungry. It was a very nice ending to a nice day of tandem cycling. Many thanks to Carol & Bruce for hosting the ride and for providing the pictures. Thank you to everyone that came out to ride. It was a great group. This is one of many great rides that the DATES club offers. We look forward to this ride again next year.

Pay Ride Report - Beauty & the Beast

Tyler, Texas
March 21

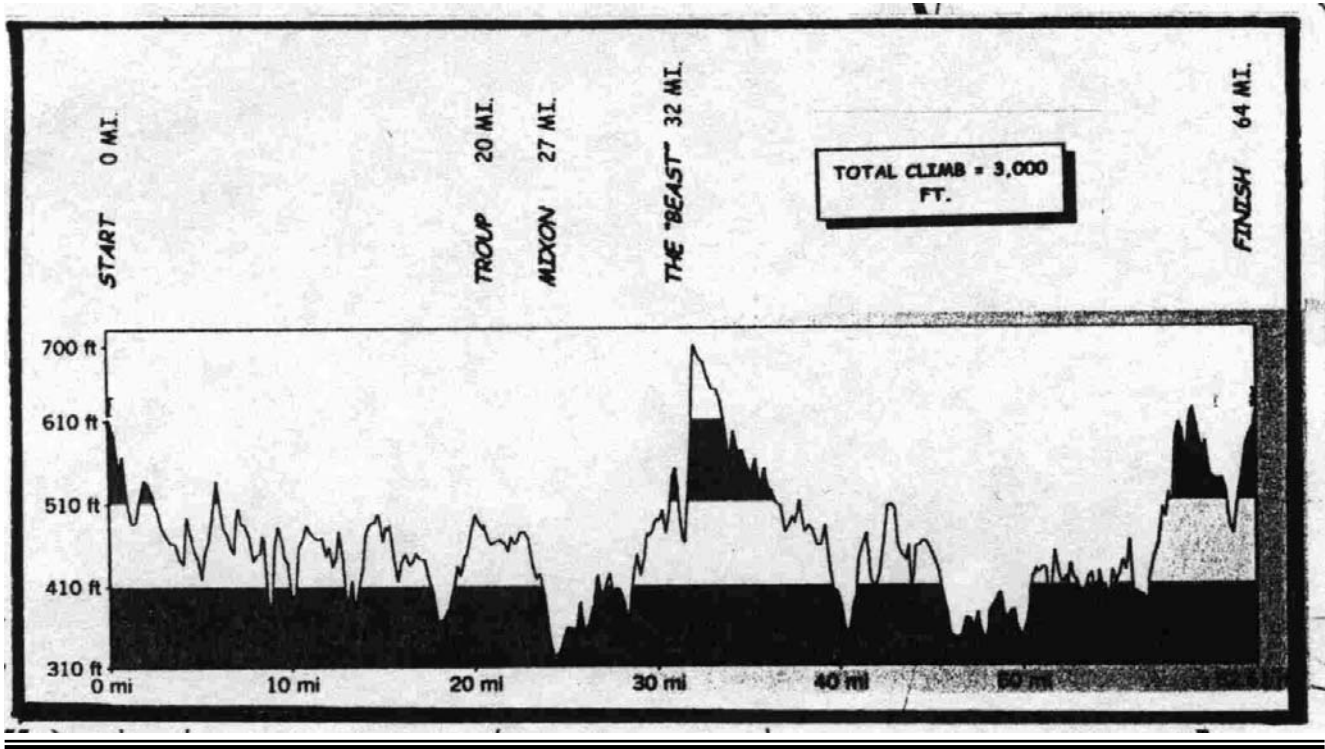
By Juanita Logan

The Beauty and the Beast Ride has been a staple of the spring bike rides offered in North Texas for many years, with the exception of 2008. When we saw the ride on the schedules again this year, Roane and I decided to give it try.

Ride start was at 9 am, which is a good start time for early spring. The temperature was a cool 58 degrees, but warmed up nicely to the mid 70s. Distance choices were 12, 20, 33, 41, 52, or 64 miles. Only the 64 mile route includes The Beast.

The Beast is 30 miles into the ride. It consumes your thoughts. If you've never done it, you wonder, "How bad can it be?" You can see the answer on the faces of the other riders who have made it. It is feared and respected. Not one single rider joked about it. But I've jumped ahead of myself.

East Texas in the spring is absolutely beautiful. Well chosen routes take you on country roads with abundant wild flowers and blooming dogwoods. The ride is well supported, and the rest stops are spaced well. On the Border had one rest stop with sopapillas added to the normal fare of cookies and fruit. No lost riders either - support staff gave directions at every turn on the course. Compared with other pay rides, this one was fairly small with about 400 riders.



The first climb is within 3 minutes of the start. And it is the first of many. Let's just say this ride is not for flatlanders. At the 26 mile rest stop, you must make the decision to go 64 miles and climb The Beast, or turn back towards Tyler on the 52 mile route. This is tough because you're still feeling your oats at this point.

With minimal common sense, but an abundance of bravado, we decided to tackle the beast. The ascent is .75 miles long, and the toughest portion is 13.5% grade at the top. It is a challenging climb on its own – never mind that you've already done what seems like 100 smaller climbs before it.

After you've done The Beast, nothing else looks tough. Fortunately, for about 5 miles, the ride is flat and/or slightly downhill. Then the hills start again. They are non-stop. At 50 miles, we were told the route had been changed slightly and there were actually about 20 miles to go. We knew we would not finish the ride in time to get back to Dallas and pick up Ally from the Petite Pooch Chateau doggy day care by closing time. We did the unthinkable and sagged in, picking up Ally with 15 minutes to spare. We were both thankful that we had Ally and a good excuse to call a halt to the ordeal.

It is about 110 miles to SE Tyler. If you want great scenery and challenging hill training, we highly recommend this ride.

It is still a beautiful and beastly ride.

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DATES Rides and Activities							
RIDE	DATE	START TIME	START PLACE	RIDE HOST	PHONE # / EMAIL	DISTANCE	DETAILS
The Inebriated Irishman's Ride	Sunday, April 5	8:00 a.m.	Lancaster Town Square	John McManus & Brenda Cole	214.321.6085 (h) john_j_mcmanus@yahoo.com	46 or 58	See Newsletter for Details
Southwest Tandem Rally	April 24 - 26	-	Kerrville, Texas	Dale & Linda Krueger	(512) 217-1280 swtr2009@txcats.org	-	See Newsletter for Details
Georgia Tandem Rally	May 22 - 24	-	Athens, Georgia	-	-	-	See www.doubledates.com for additional information
Tandems East Tandem Weekend 2009	Jun. 26- Jun. 28	-	Country Inn Millville, NJ	-	-	-	See www.doubledates.com for additional information
Northwest Tandem Rally	Jul. 3 - 5	-	Victoria, British Columbia, Canada	-	-	-	See www.doubledates.com for additional information
Eastern Tandem Rally	Jul. 10 - 12	-	Strasburg, Pennsylvania	-	-	-	See www.doubledates.com for additional information
Lakes of Chautauqua Tandem Tour	Jul. 11 - 19	-	Dunkirk, New York-	-	-	-	See www.doubledates.com for additional information
Southern Tier Tandem Rally	Jul. 31 - Aug. 2	-	Elmira, New York	-	-	-	See www.doubledates.com for additional information
TROLS Tandem Rally	Sept. 18 - 20	-	Jefferson, TX	-	-	-	See www.doubledates.com for additional information
See more rides on the new DATES website: http://www.doubledates.com/							

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 February. 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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