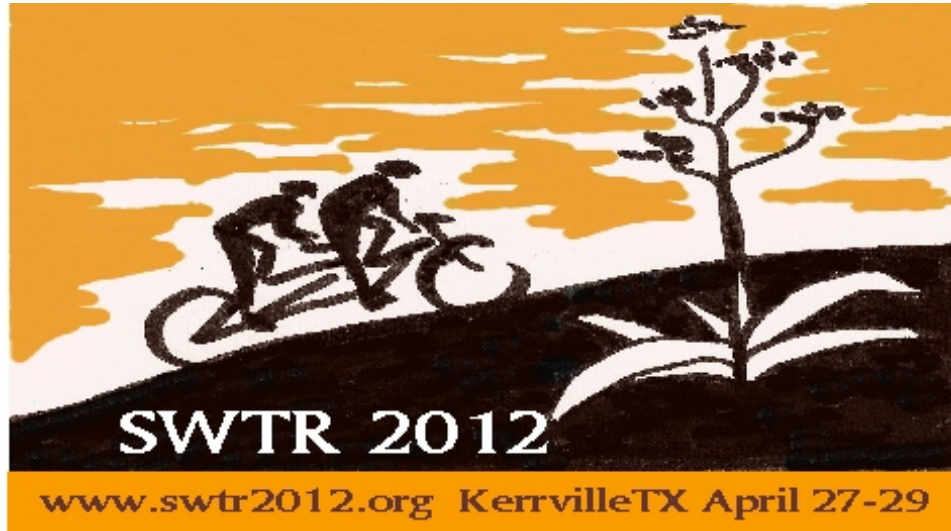




February 2012

Volume 23, Number 2



Join the Texas Capital Area Tandem Society (TXCATS) in beautiful Kerrville, Texas, April 27-29, for the 2012 Southwest Tandem Rally. Roll through the wildflower-laden Texas Hill Country while enjoying good company, good times and good cycling. Registration is now open. Go to www.swtr2012.org.

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Valentine's Ride

Saturday, February 11, 2012

Southlake, TX

Hosted by Ronnie & Nanette Bryant

DATES Valentine's Ride, Saturday, February 11th, hosted by Ronnie and Nanette Bryant, 817-925-6632.

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Bicentennial Park, 450 Southlake Blvd, Southlake, TX. Ride at 9:30 a.m. - routes of 35 or 50 miles.

Treat your Valentine to lunch at Fuzzy's Taco Shop after the ride.

Driving directions - from DFW follow Hwy 114 west 4 miles from DFW Airport. Exit at Wall St/1709 Southlake Blvd., turn left (west) and travel 3.6 miles, then turn right into Bicentennial Park just past White Chapel Blvd.

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Annual Meeting: Sunday, February 12



Back by popular demand, the DATES annual meeting is set for 6:00 on Sunday February 12 at **Siciliano's** - 2210 W Buckingham Road in Garland. Great food and great environment. We will have a private room and a plated dinner of:

- Soup
- Salad
- Rolls (to die for)
- Entree. Choice of:
 - Lasagna
 - Spaghetti with meat balls
 - Fettuccine Alfredo with chicken
 - Manicotti
 - Eggplant Parm
 - Cannelloni
 - Baked Ziti
- Tea or coffee.
- Alcoholic beverages can be purchased from your waitress

Cost is \$40 per couple, tax and tip included. Reserve your place by sending a check (made to DATES) to Brenda Cole, 922 Easton Place, Dallas, TX 75218.

At the meeting we will elect new officers for the 2012 year.

The official officers are

- DATES Coordinator
- Rides Coordinator
- Newsletter Editor
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Membership Coordinator

If you'd like to be nominated for an office, contact John McManus at john.mcmanus@yahoo.com.



The meeting is 2 days before Valentines. Take your stoker to dinner at Sunday's meeting. Then buy her flowers or chocolates on Tuesday.

Celina Training Series

Place: Celina High School

Dates: Sunday, 02/26/12, 03/11/12, 03/25/12

Start Time: 9:30 a.m.

Join Team Dixon, Team Hopf and Team Brand as they train for an upcoming Arizona MS 150 event in April. We would like some company and I am sure every team has an event to train for by April. The course is a hilly 30 mile loop that is scenic and relatively traffic free. The series will consist of one loop on Sunday, 02/26/12, two loops on Sunday, 03/11/12, and three loops on Sunday, 03/25/12.

Since the weather is very unpredictable in February and March, we ask that all teams watch for email updates in the event the ride is postponed or rescheduled. There are not any facilities for bathrooms or food on the actual course, but there is a store less than a mile off the course. Celina High School is approximately 3 miles north of Celina Main St. (Hwy 455) on Preston Road (Hwy 289). There is a convenience store and Mc D's on the east side of Hwy 289 just past Hwy 455. It is probably a good idea to stop there before the start of the ride. The rest stop will be designated on the maps provided.

The course is a combination of flat roads and challenging hills with temperatures a few degrees colder and the winds a little bit stronger. The perfect conditions for teams to hone both mind and body for the upcoming season.

Notice:

March 2012 DATES-LINE:

Notices & Articles due by: February 25, 2012

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

Ben Wheeler/St. Patty's Day Ride

Saturday, March 17, 2012

Ride Leaders: Nanette & Ronnie Bryant

Contact: 817-925-6632 - ronniebryant@me.com

Time: Meet at 9:30 a.m. - Ride at 10:00 a.m.

Routes: 30, 40 and 60 miles

Meet in Ben Wheeler at the intersection of FM 279 and FM 858. Take I-20 east to exit 523 - TX Hwy 64. Continue 4.5 miles to Ben Wheeler. Look for our silver Mazda van.

These very nice country road routes will visit Brownsboro and Edom. The long route will also visit New York and Moore Station.

We will eat after the ride at Moore's Store. Visit www.benwheelertx.com for more information about Ben Wheeler.

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DATES New Year's Day Ride Report

Sunday, January 1st, 2012

Hosted by Donna & Steve Bishop
Ride Report by Kevin Vinson

It doesn't get any better than kicking off the New Year on a tandem with six other tandem couples and three single riders. This year's edition of the DATES New Year's Day Ride was hosted for a second year in a row by Donna & Steve Bishop at their beautiful home in Cedar Hill. Donna and Steve were kind enough to have the ride start at 11:00 AM for those of us who were out late the night before. That didn't include Linda and me. LOL!

This year's edition also offered up much better weather than last year. We weren't wearing nearly as many layers as last year. Once everyone arrived, Donna gathered us around for a ride photo.



The couple you see in the street clothes on the far right is Lori & Al Pflueger. They are former members of DATES. They now live in Reno, Nevada. They have been in the area on business on an extended project and were staying with Donna & Steve. It was a nice surprise to see Lori & Al.

Two ride distances were offered up, a 38-mile and a 22-mile. Five of the seven tandem couples including Linda and me chose the 22-mile route while the two other tandem couples

and the three single riders took to the 38-mile route. These routes closely followed the "Head for the Hills" ride and also the annual DATES Mexican Food Ride hosted by Renee & Alan Kailer.

The 22-mile route was perfect for Linda and me since we had been riding the previous 2 days on our singles. Linda and I have participated in the "Head for the Hills" ride several times and we always join Renee & Alan on their DATES Mexican Food Ride each year. With that said, we really enjoy riding in and around the Cedar Hill area.

The 22-mile route took us southwest from Donna & Steve's house towards Midlothian and back in a clockwise loop. We weren't the only ones who were kicking off the New Year on a bike. We encountered a large group of cyclists on the way back.

As everyone knows, the Cedar Hill area offers up some very scenic views due to the hilly terrain. The most scenic part of the New Year's Day Ride is on the Texas Plume segment. The Texas Plume is a road that is pretty much downhill. The Texas Plume comes to an end at a "T" intersection at Lake Ridge Parkway. The name "Texas Plume" is appropriate. This road is not only a downhill but also a curvy downhill. At the peak of Texas Plume, you can see west towards Arlington and beyond.

Once we hit Lake Ridge Parkway, we made a right and headed north back to Donna & Steve's house. As far as post-ride festivities go, everyone was treated to a very nice lunch that included chili, cornbread, red beans & rice, and a nice variety of finger foods and desserts that were provided by everyone. Everything was delicious. It was great visiting with everyone and watching the English Premier League soccer match. Many thanks to Donna & Steve for hosting the ride and providing the main lunch entrée.

I hope everyone has a happy and healthy 2012. Linda and I are looking forward to seeing everyone at some time or another at one of the many DATES events that will be taking place in 2012.



“Spring in January” – An Impromptu Ride (full of Surprises) By John McManus

The first Thursday in January, Renee felt the 70 degree temperature and declared “Let’s put on a tandem ride.” And so the ride was announced. She was surprised at the start of Sunday’s ride to find the temperature below 50. What happened to spring?

Alan was surprised that Renee organized a ride. He asked “My wife?”

Lee was surprised that Alan suggested a 45-mile route on a cold, windy day after promising an “easy ride”, so the group decided on a 30-mile route.

John was surprised that Alan took him on roads never travelled. What town are we in?

Kris was surprised to see a sign in Dallas saying “Falling Rocks”.

Everyone was surprised to find so many hills in Dallas. Alan said “What do you expect? This **IS** Cockrell Hill.”

No one was surprised that everyone had a good time and that we ate lunch (at a Mexican restaurant) after the ride. Brenda, who had a meeting at work in the morning, surprised us by showing up for lunch.

NOTE TO MEMBERS: It’s your time to surprise us with an impromptu ride.



2012 DOUBLE DATES RENEWAL

It is time to renew your membership. Renew NOW and participate with DATES members in 2012.

- 1. Fill in the name and address information below. (PLEASE PRINT)
2. Read and sign the Liability Release. All riders over the age of 18 must sign.
3. Make out a check for \$25.00 payable to "DOUBLE DATES"
4. Send your renewal form to:

Kevin & Linda Vinson
7013 Fox Drive
The Colony, TX 75056-4458

Captain: Stoker:

Street Apt. # City: State: Zip:

Home Ph: Work Ph: Fax: E-mail:

LIABILITY RELEASE

All riders must sign a waiver of claim below to become members of Double Dates. Parents or guardians must sign for riders under 18 years of age.

I acknowledge that by signing this document, I am releasing the Double Dates, its members, officers, and agents from liability. This release is a contract with legal consequences, and I have read it carefully before signing.

I acknowledge that cycling is an inherently dangerous sport and fully realize the dangers of participating in group rides. I fully assume the risks associated with such participation.

For myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, assignees, and successors in interest (collectively "Successors"), I hereby waive, release, discharge, hold harmless, promise not to sue, and indemnify the Dallas Area Tandem Enthusiasts, its members, ride leaders and officers (collectively the "Released Parties") from any and all rights and claims including claims arising from the released parties' own negligence, gross negligence or intentional conduct, which I have or which may hereafter accrue to me, and from any and all damages which may be sustained by me directly or indirectly in connection with, or arising out of, my participation in or association with an event sponsored by Dallas Area Tandem Enthusiasts.

I understand and agree that situations may arise during a ride, which may be beyond the immediate control of the leader(s), and I must continually ride so as to endanger neither others nor myself. I accept responsibility for the conditions and adequacy of my own bicycle equipment. I will wear a helmet that satisfies the requirements of the ANSI Snell regulations that can protect against serious head injury, and I assume all responsibility and liability for the selection of such a helmet. I have no physical or medical condition, which to my knowledge would endanger others or myself if I participate in Dallas Area Tandem Enthusiasts rides or would interfere with my ability to participate in such rides. I agree that should I or my successors assert my claim in contravention of this agreement, the asserting party shall be liable for the expenses (including legal fees) incurred by the other party or parties in defending.

I understand that a parent or responsible adult must accompany all riders under the age of 18 on any Dallas Area Tandem Enthusiasts ride. If I am a minor, my parent or guardian also is signing on my behalf and we both agree to be bound by the terms of this waiver and release.

SIGNATURES OF ALL RIDERS

_____, Captain Age _____ Date _____

_____, Stoker Age _____ Date _____

_____, Other rider Age _____ Date _____

_____, Other rider Age _____ Date _____

DATES Rides and Activities							
RIDE	DATE	START TIME	START PLACE	RIDE HOST	PHONE # / EMAIL	DISTANCE	DETAILS
DATES Valentine's Ride	Saturday, February 11	Meet at 9:00 a.m. Ride at 9:30 a.m.	Bicentennial Park, 450 Southlake Blvd, Southlake, TX	Ronnie and Nanette Bryant	817-925-6632; ronnierbryant@me.com	35 or 50 miles	See Newsletter Treat your Valentine to lunch at Fuzzy's Taco Shop after the ride.
DATES Annual Members Meeting	Sunday, February 12	6:00 p.m.	Siciliano's - 2210 W. Buckingham Rd in Garland	John McManus and Brenda Cole	john.mcmanus@yahoo.com	--	See Newsletter for Details Please send check for reservation
Celina Training Series	Sunday, 02/26/12, 03/11/12, 03/25/12	Ride at 9:30 a.m.	Celina High School	Rick and Ann Dixon	radixon@tx.rr.com	30 - 90 miles	See Newsletter
Ben Wheeler/St. Patty's Day Ride	Saturday, March 17	Meet at 9:30 a.m. Ride at 10:00 a.m.	Ben Wheeler, TX at the intersection of FM 279 and FM 858	Nanette and Ronnie Bryant	817-925-6632; ronnierbryant@me.com	30, 40 and 60 miles	See Newsletter Lunch after the ride at Moore's Store
Southwest Tandem Rally	April 27-29	--	Kerrville, TX	TXCATS	--	--	www.swtr2012.org
See more rides on the 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 e-mailed by the end of the previous month. Notices and Articles must be received a week prior to the e-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 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 February. 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.

DATES is affiliated with or a member of the Tandem Club of America, the League of American Bicyclists, BikeTexas and BikeDFW.



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