



April 2012

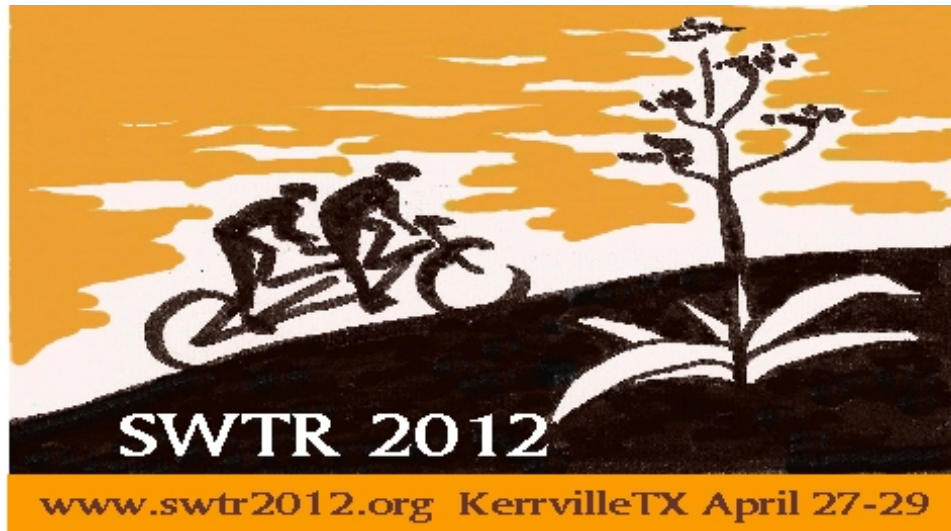
Volume 23, Number 4



Ben Wheeler/St. Patty's Day Ride

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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.



APRIL 12-16

DALLAS

9040 Garland Rd.
214-321-0705

RICHARDSON

1451 W. Campbell Rd.
972-231-3993

FRISCO

8820 John Hickman
972-335-7600

DATES/HATS

HILL COUNTRY TANDEM WEEKEND

April 6th - 8th

Teams Holverson, Mashburn and Mahoney invite you to join them Easter Weekend for 3 days of great cycling and fun socializing in their weekend getaway town of Fredericksburg. With this year promising to be a great season for wildflowers in the Hill Country, what better way is there for viewing than on your tandem?

Fredericksburg has long been "home" to the tandem community over Easter, even as many have participated in the Easter Hill Country Tour headquartered in nearby Kerrville. So, whether you sign up for EHCT <http://www.fwbaclub.org/ehct/index.php> or choose to spend the weekend riding out of Fredericksburg, you're invited to join us for the after-ride activities.

Here are the tentative plans for the weekend.

Friday, April 6: Willow City Loop Ride. Happy Hour hosted by Mindy and Scott Mashburn. 112 W Creek. 6pm. BYOBeverage and appetizer.
Dinner in town at the restaurant of your choice.

Saturday, April 7: Rides to be determined. Happy Hour and Pot Luck Cookout hosted by Mike & Susan Mahoney. 506 W College. 6pm. BYOBeverage, appetizer or dessert to share and meat to grill for yourself

Sunday, April 8: Rides to be determined. Lunch in town before heading home.

Accommodations in Fredericksburg for the weekend are available at <http://www.fredericksburg-texas.com/>.

Please RSVP to Pete & Laura at holvey1@aol.com or Mike & Susan at m-smahoney@sbcglobal.net if you plan to attend.

BIKES & BAYOUS RIDE 2012

Ya'll come on over here to lovely Louisiana for a fun packed weekend in Natchitoches, Louisiana (pronounced NACK'-A-TUSH). Natchitoches is the oldest town in the whole Louisiana Purchase (est. 1714). This charming little town is full of history, good food and great shopping. The weekend includes two great out and back rides within the Cane River National Historic Area with a guided tour of an historic plantation! So get yo-self on over here for some great pedaling and a good ol' time on the bayou!



Date: Saturday, April 14th and Sunday, April 15th, 2012

Times: Saturday-8:30 a.m. / Sunday-8:30 a.m.

Ride Leaders: Brent & Becky Burt (Brent cp: 318-393-7361/Becky cp: 318-272-3473)

R.S.V.P.: Brent@ShowcaseKitchenBath.com

Start both days: On Front Street, Natchitoches, LA

Distance Saturday: 48 Miles total with a guided tour at 11:00 a.m. of The Magnolia Plantation. The Magnolia Plantation was recently featured on an episode of The Travel Channel's, "Ghost Adventures" and was on an episode of "The Scariest Places on Earth" hosted by Linda Blair.

Distance Sunday: 33.8 Miles total with a "fuel stop" at Shipley's Donuts, a visit to the historic St. Augustine Catholic Church and Melrose Plantation.

Accommodations: Bed & Breakfast Inns are throughout town, several hotels and R.V. Parks are also available. Please visit www.Natchitoches.net for more information.

DATES-TTTT TANTRIC TANDEM TIME TRIAL SERIES CELINA, TEXAS

A TTTT is a meditative and intimate tandem experience that prolongs the act of teamwork and channels rather than dissipates the potent energies moving through our bodies thereby raising our consciousness. It transports your team from the plane of doing to the plane of being. The only goal in TTTT is the perfection of harmonious teamwork that will teach you to revere your partner and transform the act of tandeming into a sacrament of perfect union.

RULES

(Completely unenforceable)

- 1) 9am Start - 1st Sunday of each month beginning in May – Celina High School
- 2) Teams start at 5 minute intervals (Draw #'s for start order)
- 3) Stoker is the timer (More likely to be honest)
- 4) Obey traffic laws (Tandems must come to complete halt with at least one foot on the ground at every stop sign. This will improve your teamwork and eliminate one of the reasons we are hated.)
- 5) No drafting
- 6) Times logged for your personal comparison

*** This is not a race but a fitness benchmark for your team. It is an opportunity to ride fast when you can and slow when you must (such as stop signs and corners) for a non-stop 30 miles. The emphasis is on safety and teamwork with plenty of opportunities on the course to go fast. All that the captains have to do is remember that they are personally responsible for the safety and well being of their stoker. We gather at the end for a cool down lap of undetermined distance.

Contact Rick Dixon for details: radixon@tx.rr.com

LANDON WINERY WEEKEND!

**Save the Date
May 19-20, 2012**

After an entertaining and interactive wine-tasting event at the Landon Winery Tasting Room in McKinney last year, Chuck and Janet Kirklen began thinking about a Landon Winery tandem weekend in Greenville - the main winery location - for 2012. Fast forward to today and planning is well underway!



WHO - DATES members

WHAT - We plan two days of riding. Two distances on Saturday and a shorter route for Sunday morning. Saturday's ride will be followed by a wine tasting at Landon Winery, hosted by the owner, Bob Landon. Bob's tasting at the McKinney location last year was a big hit – fun, food and fine wine. We'll have more of the same this year!! After the tasting, we'll enjoy dinner at the winery restaurant, City Bistro.

The winery is located in a restored Kress Department Store building, and Bob conducts one of the more interesting wine tastings you're likely to ever have!

WHEN - Saturday, May 19 and Sunday, May 20

WHERE - Greenville, TX

LODGING -

Hampton Inn & Suites
3001 Kari Lane
Greenville, TX 75402
903-457-9200



A special rate for the "Landon Winery Double Dates" group is available.

\$89 for a standard room (1 King or 2 Queen)

\$99 for suites

(The contact at the hotel who knows the most about our booking is Cheryl. She may not be available when you call, but it may help to reference her name, if there are any questions.)

Book now. Cancellations without penalty are available up until 24 hours in advance. If you think you might be able to come, save yourselves a place! We will have this rate as long as rooms are available, but general bookings will pick up over the coming weeks.

COST – The winery tasting will be approximately \$15-\$20 per person. Dinner pricing to be determined. More details to come!!

PLEASE RSVP - Please let Chuck and Janet know, if you expect to participate. The Winery will need approximate numbers for their planning. If you can't ride for two days, come for whatever part of the weekend you can and join us for a fun time!

Email Chuck at chuck.kirklen@pragmatx.com or Janet at janet.kirklen@pragmatx.com . Or call 972-985-7931 to let them know you are coming.

More details to come!!



DATES Ride Coordinator Report and Request Scott and Mindy Mashburn

We have 34 rides committed to be led by DATES members this calendar year!! There is always room for more. So if anyone wants to lead a ride, let us know and we will get you scheduled. If you have never led a ride, there are Ride Leader Guidelines on the website to let you know just how easy it is to lead a ride.

Thanks to everyone who has already committed to be a ride leader!

RtR 2012

June 8

It's time once again for the annual Texas invasion into Oklahoma. We storm the border and charge into Ardmore perched upon steeds of steel, aluminum, and carbon with all of us clad in uniforms resplendent in red. The southern regiment will be led by Rick Dixon and will meet with the northern regiment led by Rick Watson and Kevin Vinson at the state border. Our army will be comprised of highly trained and skilled captains and stokers who temporarily abandon their long bikes for the more agile and quicker single bike. We convene at the Oklahoma border and roll into Ardmore like a river of molten lava that is red hot, deadly, and unstoppable.

Southern regiment embarks at the home of the Rick and Ann Dixon at 405 S. Village Dr in McKinney at 7AM on Friday, June 8th. There is very little parking in McKinney so the teams where both captain and stoker are riding usually split between the regiments. We meet at a park on Lake Texoma for nourishment and a unified final push into the interior. There will be some sag service but each rider is required to be fit, sound of mind, and confident in their equipment. This is not a ride for the faint hearted or the ill prepared. The trek begins relatively flat and a bit warm and ends hilly and hot approximately 100 miles later. Those capable riders who ride all three days can revel in their accomplishment and bathe in the afterglow of one of our club's best cycling weekends.

Requirements:

- 1) DATES Club Member
- 2) Be Fit
- 3) Wear Red
- 4) Warrior Mentality
- 5) Sound Equipment

Results: We ride, bond, suffer, and celebrate together at the Watson Chateau in Ardmore.

Recommendation: START TRAINING NOW

Home of Ann & Rick Dixon - 405 South Village Drive, McKinney, TX

Oklahoma Cycling Weekend June 8-10 Hosts Rick and Kay Watson

Friday Ride June 8: RtR, see previous article

Friday Dinner June 8, 6:00-10:00 p.m. – Watson's are again hosting a catered dinner at 3891 McClain Road, Ardmore, OK 73401. Same menu as 2011 from Interurban – Beef & Chicken Fajitas, refried beans, Spanish rice, salad dessert, salsa, guacamole, chips and soft drinks and desserts. The restaurant charges around \$10 per person – we will also have wine and beer available. We will need RSVP's to finalize the headcount for the order by June 5th.

Saturday Ride June 9, 8:00 a.m. – Red River Roadkill Rally, Ardmore Depot, 251 E. Main Ardmore – pay ride (20-40-60 miles routes \$35 singles/\$40 tandems). For information and/or online registration at <https://www.bikereg.com/Net/15464> or www.ardmoremainstreet.com. Packet pick up at Ardmore Depot – 5:00 -7:00 p.m., Friday June 8 or Saturday before the ride.

Saturday Group Dinner June 9 – 6:30 p.m. – Café Alley, 126 A. Street NE, Ardmore – see www.cafealleyardmore.com for menu, directions etc. They have a full bar and variety menu. Please RSVP for headcount. We will provide desserts after the dinner – possibly at the restaurant or at Holiday Inn.

Sunday June 10, 8:30 a.m. – DATES *Easy Rider Ride* –starts at Cedarvale Fried Pie restaurant parking lot, Interstate 35 at exit 51 (about 20 miles north of Ardmore). The ride is about 45 miles – maps/q- sheets will be provided, lunch stop on the return trip. Anyone is invited to join us on this ride – tandem or single bike. Please RSVP if you are going to do this ride.

Hotels and lodging for the weekend:

We have reserved a block of rooms at the newest Ardmore hotel – **Holiday Inn Convention Center** (opened about 6 months ago) for \$90 per night. It is located between I-35 exits 32 and 33 on Rockford Road (1 block east of I-35). It is connected to the Ardmore Convention Center and there is a Sports Grill on the premise. You can make reservations by calling 580-226-3333 and asking for the DATES Group room block or online www.holidayinn.com/ardmore-ok and entering the **group code DGB**.

Or you can book at another Ardmore hotel – see list of most at <http://www.oklahoma-hotels.org/cities/Ardmore/> - some of the newer ones are Springhill Suites, New LaQuinta Inn & Suites (one of Veterans Blvd. is the older but remodeled one) – Comfort Inn and Suites (formerly Hampton Inn), Candlewood Suites.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone again this year.

Rick & Kay Watson, 3891 McClain Road, Ardmore, OK 73401, 580-618-0410 Rick's cell, 580-504-7537 Kay's Cell, 580-223-8180 home

Email: cw7540@cablone.net – please RSVP via email

Report from DATES Austin Branch

Cora and I returned from a Spring Break trip to Portland, OR last Sunday. We rented a tandem and rode in the rain, rode the Springwater Trail, in the rain, and rode around downtown, in the rain. The next day we rode the bike back to the rental place along the waterfront . . . in the rain.

Portland is NOT Texas, but boy, do they have their act together for public transportation. We rode the train, the tram and the buses, in addition to the tandem. In the rain. And we dined at a lot of good restaurants!

I plan to give a report to the Austin Cycling Assn. and Texas Bicycle Coalition at our next Board meetings. DATES heard it first!

Anyone visiting Austin, give us a call,

Michael Portman &
Cora Jane Shinaberry

DATES Business Meeting **Sunday, May 6th, 5:30 p.m.** **Hosted by: Rusty Tether**

The next DATES business meeting will be held at the home of Rusty Tether, 2200 Southern Circle, Carrollton, TX 75006.

We will have a potluck dinner before the meeting, so please plan to arrive at 5:30 pm, so that we can get the buffet organized and socialize during dinner. The business meeting will begin at approximately 7 p.m.

Additional information will be provided via email later this month, but please mark the date on your calendar. We will be asking for RSVPs later, so we can plan more accurately for dinner. Recommended side items to bring: snacks, salads, desserts, and your beverage of choice. Rusty's email is russell@rusteltether.com.

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DATES Rides and Activities							
RIDE	DATE	START TIME	START PLACE	RIDE HOST	PHONE # / EMAIL	DISTANCE	DETAILS
DATES/HATS Hill Country Tandem Weekend	April 6 - 8	--	Fredericksburg, TX	Teams Holverson, Mashburn and Mahoney	See Details	--	See Newsletter RSVP to Pete & Laura at holvey1@aol.com or Mike & Susan at m-smahoney@sbcglobal.net
Bikes & Bayous Ride	April 14 - 15	8:30 a.m. both days	Front Street, Natchitoches, LA	Brent & Becky Burt	Brent cell: 318-393-7361 Becky cell: 318-272-3473	--	See Newsletter R.S.V.P.. to Brent@ShowcaseKitchenBath.com
Southwest Tandem Rally	April 27 - 29	--	Kerrville, TX	TXCATS	--	--	www.swtr2012.org
DATES Business Meeting	Sunday, May 6	5:30 p.m.	2200 Southern Cir., Carrollton, TX	Rusty Tether	russell@russelltether.com	--	See Newsletter
Tantric Tandem Time Trial Series	1st Sunday of each month beginning May 7	9:00 am start	Celina High School	Rick Dixon	radixon@tx.rr.com	30 miles	See Newsletter
Landon Winery Weekend	May 19 - 20	--	Greenville, TX	Chuck and Janet Kirklen	See Details	--	See Newsletter; Please RSVP to chuck.kirklen@pragmatx.com or janet.kirklen@pragmatx.com or 972-985-7931
RtR	Friday, June 8	7:00 am	405 S. Village Dr., McKinney, TX	Rick Dixon	radixon@tx.rr.com	100 miles	See Newsletter
Oklahoma Cycling Weekend	June 8 - 10	--	Ardmore, OK	Rick & Kay Watson	580-618-0410 Rick's cell 580-504-7537 Kay's Cell 580-223-8180 home Email: cw7540@cablone.net	--	See Newsletter Please RSVP via email
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. Machine-readable copy is required, preferably in MS WORD. Copy should be e-mailed to <mailto:datesline@gmail.com>.

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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