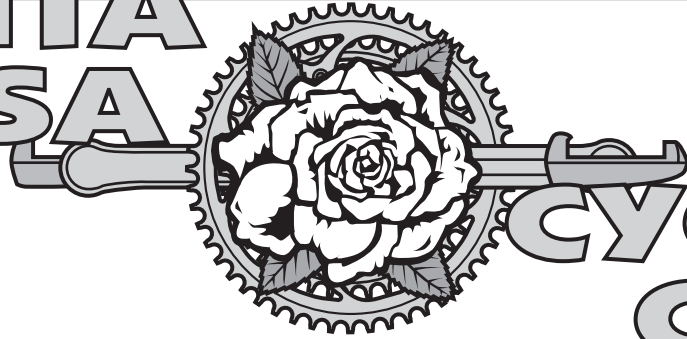


SANTA ROSA



JANUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER

Ride Leaders of 2007: *Thanks!* ❄️ **Holiday Dinner packs 'em in** ❄️

This is a list of all of those who led at least one ride during 2007...77 ride leaders. Most of them led more than one ride. Some led many. That's a new record for most ride leaders in a year. Wow! Thank you to each and every one of you for making this club a *CYCLING* club!

Kimberly Hoffman	Sue Bennett
Ron Bates	Nikola Farats
Ken Russeff	Wes Hoffschildt
John & Chris Mason	Donn King
Rose Mello	Steve Drucker
George Gallegos	Tony Buffa
Wayne Kellam	Marc Moons
Greg & Jan Conklin	Bill Dunn
Matt Ehlers	Alan Bloom
Susan Noble	Robin Abramson
Randall Ray	Doug McKenzie
Annie Osborne	Rich Fuglewicz
Denise Prue	Maury Cohen
Brian Carroll	Jonathan Lee
Mark Sedgwick	Richard Stone
Vin Hoagland	John O'Connell
Beth Anderson	Tony Lee
Eric & Terri Peterson	Craig Gaevart
Doug Newberg	Janice Oakley
Johann Heinzl	Jim Draeger
Bob Briner	Charles Beck
Greg Stone	Tom Helm
Martin Clinton	Jose Mundo
Warren Watkins	Jay Sexton
Paul & Janet McKenzie	Robert Thille
Buck Hall	Alfred Mascy
Martha Barton	Joe Conway
Linda & Sid Fluhrer	Ed Steiger
Todd Sloan	Bob Redmond
Dave Andersen	Carole Kolnes
Mike & Janice Eunice	Cynthia Spigarelli
Bill Oetinger	Dave Batt
Steve & Jessie Kroeck	Jeff Burton
Gordon Stewart	Lou Salz
Doug Simon	Sean Ryan

Somewhere close to 200 Santa Rosa Cycling Club members shoehorned themselves into the Druids Hall on Saturday, December 2 for the club's annual Holiday Dinner. It was once again a record-breaking assembly of biking friends and family...a bigger crowd every year. This year, probably, we have reached the limit on how many can be squeezed into that hall, and there were quite a few more who would have attended had there been more room.

As per our past formula for these banquets, the entrée was catered—this year by Luca and Rita from the Riviera Restaurant—and was delicious. But that portion of the feed was almost eclipsed by the wonderful spread of goodies supplied by club members to cover both the before-dinner appetizers and the after-dinner desserts. Such a feast! Nobody went home hungry. And as is always the case, the room was a busy hive of cheerful chat throughout the evening...everyone renewing old acquaintances and trotting out those old lines: “Gee, you clean up good!” and, “I didn't recognize you with your clothes on!” We were indeed cleaned up for the festivities, in everything from tuxes to special-occasion casual.

Once the entrées were finally distributed to all the tables, the emcees for the evening got started on the floor show. This has become the venue wherein we present most of our end-of-the-year awards for great deeds done over the course of the preceding year. Martin Clinton and Bill Oetinger retired as emcees and club President Craig Gaevart and Mr Secretary Donn King took over those duties, beginning with Craig's annual State-of-the-Club review to get things moving. Then Bill O was dragged out of retirement to present one award: Ride Leader of the Year. After Honorable Mentions for Ken Russeff, Rose Mello, Wayne Kellam, and Doug Newberg, he sang the praises of the winner. “If there is such a thing as an angel, they couldn't do better than model it after this person...Janice Eunice!”

Donn and Craig came up with the bright idea of having last year's winner of each award come up and present the award to the new winner. So to begin, they called George Gallegos up to present the Rookie of the Year award to Matt Wilson, the El Molino HS student who did the Terrible Two as his first big ride last June. Hiroko Lambert, last year's other Rookie, wasn't on hand, so Craig presented this year's award to Bobbi Foliart, who, on last summer's Mid-State Tour, discovered she could “hang with the big dawgs.” From Rookie, the natural progression is to Most Improved Rider, and those awards went to Chris Buettner and Beth Anderson, both of whom got noticed for their snappy riding this year.

Donn King was the current holder of the Most Inspirational award, so he was right there to present it this year to Richard Stone, the unfailingly cheerful and helpful organizer of our club picnic and also of our litter pick-up program. On the female side, we honored Chris Cleveland as Most Inspirational. A no-brainer: there she is, hammering away into her ninth decade.

In between the official awards, Sue Bennett took the mike to make a special presentation to George Gallegos. She noted that he keeps the A rides moving whenever they start to dilly dally in the rest stops, always rounding them up and getting them back on the road. For his efforts in keeping the “A Train” on track, she presented him with one of those big wooden whistles that sounds just like the big horn on a steam engine.

The Comeback Kid award goes to someone who has bounced back from a bike crash or some other medical setback. This year, the only person we could think of who qualified was Charlie Rowell,

— Continued on page 7

MINUTE MIX

Highlights from the General Membership and Executive Board meetings for December

- 1. Call to Order:** President Craig Gaevert called the general meeting to order at the Round Table on Occidental Road on Wednesday, December 12. 41 members and guests were in attendance.
- 2. Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Donna Emery announced that, as of November 30, the checking account balance was \$10,816.24, with \$59,650.75 in savings.
- 3. Grants:** Greg Durbin presented results of member voting and final Board proposal for grant recipients for 2007. Membership approved final list by vote. (Look for a complete list of grants next month.)
- 4. Membership:** Craig Gaevert reported current membership as 610. Gordon Stewart moderated a discussion about the planned move to a web-based membership and event-management system for the club. Issues discussed include: cost (approx. \$50/month); access (link has been placed on the SRCC website); chat lists (will remain in listserv format, delivered as e-mail); WCC reg (will be managed through new system); internal club events (will also be managed through system); electronic newsletter (members are encouraged to receive newsletter as pdf instead of hard copy and a registration fee discount is being explored to promote this). (*See item, this page.*)
- 5. Ride Leaders:** Bill Oetinger held a drawing from among all who had lead rides in the past half year. Four winners of \$25 each: Kimberly Hoffman, Randall Ray, Rose Mello, Richard Stone.
- 6. Holiday Dinner:** Thanks were extended to Sharron Bates, René Goncalves, Doug Simon, and several others who worked so hard to make the Holiday Dinner a success. (*See article on page 1.*)
- 7. Locker:** Doug Simon announced a moving day to transfer club supplies from our old storage lockers to our new warehouse and called for volunteers to be there on the big day: December 30.
- 8. Budget:** Greg Durbin recapped the 2007 budget, with updated Income and Expenses, and presented the projected budget for 2008. The new budget was approved by the membership and Greg was warmly thanked for his efforts.
- 9. ToC.** Sharron Bates presented a request to the club for a prime lap sponsorship for the Women's Professional Criterium. This event will be held in downtown Santa Rosa as part of the Tour of California Stage Race in February. The request for \$1000 was approved by the membership. Martin relayed plans for a workers' orientation/ride/party on January 26 and asked the club to consider a donation to offset the organizers' expenses for this ToC workers' event. (*See item on page 6 and Ride Schedule for ride details.*)
- 10. Thanks.** Club member Trudy Nye thanked the club for its donation to her Team in Training fund-raiser.
- 11. Elections:** Martha Barton and Joe Morgan have volunteered to fill the two upcoming vacancies on the Board for 2008.
- 12. Speaker:** Gordon Stewart presented a slide show covering his 2007 self-organized tour through Southern France and the Pyrenees.

NOTE: Sometimes when the newsletter is filled to capacity—as it is this month—we are forced to leave out our **FOR SALE** classified ad section. However, it always appears on our club website (srcc.com), and there are new items being posted to the list even when it does not appear in the hard-copy newsletter.

• January Meeting • Elections and Other Good Stuff

The January meeting is our traditional date for electing a new slate of officers to run the club for the upcoming year. But there will be more going on at the meeting than just politics. We will be handing out a few more awards and we'll be holding a raffle of great bike goodies for all present who have participated in the Commute Miles on-line log. If "one less car" bike-commuting isn't its own reward, then here's the added incentive to do the rides and then enter your numbers in the club's interactive log. (See related item on page 6.)

There will be another sweetener at this meeting. In order to encourage a good turn-out so that we have a healthy number of votes cast in the election, we will reward you for showing up by giving you a voucher for a free lunch at Healdsburg's El Sombrero taqueria after the club's annual Free Lunch Ride (the Second Saturday ride in March). Actually, we don't pass out hard-copy vouchers anymore; we just take down everyone's name and check them off on the day of the ride/lunch. However we handle it, it's a good deal for you, the club members who show up to vote.

• On-Line Membership Sign-up •

At the December general meeting, the club membership voted to use the Wild Apricot online registration system that we've been testing for the last month. The next task is to transfer all of the club members' names and address data from the current system to the on-line system and have the new system available by January 1st. There are bound to be some problems as we go through the conversion. The main issue will be that the new system depends on a valid e-mail address for each member, but we do not have one for as many as 100 members. This will all take some time to straighten out, so please bear with us. A manual alternative will also be available to those members who do not have access to a computer.

WCC: hibernating, but soon to awaken...

Although the Wine Country Century is asleep right now, it will awaken with a roar next month. That's when we first publish the roster of committee chairs and begin to really pound the drum for volunteers. (If you know your committee boss from last year, you can beat the rush by calling them now; if not, be ready to rumble when the roster hits the street next month.)

Even in this time of off-season quiet, WCC Chair Joe Morgan still has some news to relate on prep for the event. He tells us that John Miklaucic has already finalized reservations for all of our rest stop sites. We learn that Joe Conway has agreed to chair the WCC Workers' Ride and Picnic the week after the WCC. And he's pleased to announce that all of the committee chairs are in place. Almost all are returning for another year in their same positions.

Bill Oetinger has confirmed that the new WCC jersey design has been approved for production with the art department at Voler Team Apparel. Once the club's WCC web page goes active in February, look for images of the new jersey there. It's based on our past, very popular "grapes-and-leaves" design from a few years ago, but has been reconfigured in several significant ways.

One way or another, the WCC is still moving forward, even during its long winter's nap.

BACKROADS & BREAKAWAYS

B&B is a column for and about local club rides, news, gossip, anecdotes, odds and ends. If you have a story to share about a ride you led, your race results, a cycling vacation, whatever...call Bill Oetinger @ 823-9807 or send e-mail to the club's e-mail address: srcc@ap.net.

Happy New Year! Happy You Near! Hope the holiday season finds you in good form, soldiering through the dark side of the year and looking forward to brighter and longer days ahead.

The days seemed quite bright back in mid-November, where we pick up this club ride chronicle. We left things last month reporting on the rides of the November 17-18 weekend. We just had room to squeeze in a mention of Sue Bennett's ride, but that was it. No more column inches. So we have had to wait a month for a report on another ride that happened that same morning: Steve Drucker's Lotsa Hills and Two Rocks Ride. "After a discouraging ride from Santa Rosa to Cotati in heavy fog, I arrived for a cool ride with only a little fog. We had about 15 riders of all varieties from B to strong C. We split up into smaller, homogenous groups, picked up three or four more riders en route, and had a great time getting a little exercise, enjoying the scenery and camaraderie before the Thanksgiving holiday. The day brightened and warmed up a bit for a pleasant ride home."

Rose Mello had the only ride listed on the 18th. She sent in a very brief note about it afterward, which in the intervening month I have managed to lose. But if you know Rose's rides, you know how it went: a decent crowd and an uneventful cruise through the wine country north of Healdsburg. No news is good news in this case.

Next up was Kimberly's semi-traditional Thanksgiving Day ride. Here is her report: "Usually, only a few people show up for my Thanksgiving Day ride, so I was quite surprised to roll up to 25 people waiting for me on Thursday morning. We had five non-members. Most I think were local, but we had one visitor from Idaho who I remember came out to join us on a Saturday ride last year. I had an early flat and our Idaho friend helped me with that and then pulled me for at least three miles back up to the tail end of the group. At that point, I let him go and hung out at the back with the slower riders. I heard that Dave Batt took the reins at the front end to make sure everyone made the right turns. Thanks for the help, Dave! By the time I rolled in with the back half, most people had headed home to fill their bellies with Turkey and fixin's. I was also told later that a couple people had gone to the wrong parking lot to meet, but they made their own ride. Too bad they missed us, as we had a great ride. Thanks to all who joined in for a great Thanksgiving Day ride."

On the following Saturday, I listed another of my exceedingly complicated routes over in Napa County (south out of Calistoga, out into Pope Valley, and back over Ink Grade and Howell Mtn, with a whole lot of extra twists and turns thrown in). A few folks on the ride sent notes to the chat list about the ride, beginning with Greg Durbin: "The weather was chilly, but not uncomfortably so for the fun group of about 18 who got a wonderful sampling of some of the best roads in northern Napa. Silverado Trail, Sage Canyon, Pope Valley and Ink Grade were their usual delightful selves, but, as promised, the obscure ones, such as Diamond Mountain, White Sulphur Springs (malodorous but beautiful) Mund, Diogenes, Sky Oaks, Brookside were real treats." Then Lou Salz chimed in: "I want to thank Bill for the great job he did of leading this sometimes complex ride. The route was pretty obscure in some places and he really worked hard to keep everyone who wanted to follow along together in a group. I hadn't had a chance to study the route ahead of time and would have been stuck

standing by the side of the road reading the directions without his efforts. I also appreciated the rest stops to refuel. They hit just where I needed them. I find I need more food when riding in the cooler weather. I also got a really good workout chasing Greg, Sid, and Linda up Pope Canyon to the store, then Stacey, Bob, and a few others up Ink Grade. When I finished, I really felt like I'd gotten my money's worth for the drive over the hill to the start."

I freely admit the route was gratuitously convoluted, all in the interest of having fun and turning folks on to a few obscure roads they might never find or do on their own. I thank everyone for being good sports and putting up with the complicated silliness of the routing. It would be very easy for people to say, "Hell with that: enough dumb turns and dinky roads! I'm going straight!" But except for a few people who had to scoot because of time issues, the gang stayed the crooked course and allowed me to drag them all over the place.

The last weekend ride in November was Ken Russeff's Winter Wridin' listing for Sunday, the 25th: "The AB ride out of Ragle Park had 18 riders, mostly B's or better. A little on the cool side, as we never saw the sun. Good stop at the Wildflour Bakery. No known incidents, nobody lost, 33 miles; pretty routine."

To get December rolling, Kimberly was right back in harness with another of her "Favorites" rides on the first. "No matter how many times I put 'Kimberly's Favorites' in the mix, it always seems to become an adventure, and this past instance was no exception. When I got up that morning it was 26°. *Brrrrr* just didn't seem to cover it. Again I suspected a small group, but was surprised at the 20 riders who showed up for a brisk morning ride. Three tandems and 14 singles rolled out of Finley Park around 9:45, and by then it had probably warmed up to 35°. Most of the beginning was uneventful, but a missed turn onto Martinelli had me chasing someone down on 116. I was just thankful I was there to see it and get them back on track. When I arrived at the rest stop, many of my group were already heading home, and it was eventually Craig & Michelle, Donn & Carol and I rolling out of Cafe Noto...just two tandems and me. Here begin my trials and tribulations of 'do anything you can to hang onto the tandems.' Of course, I knew they would not leave me behind, but I still got quite the workout hanging on. We were enjoying the view on Woolsey when we ran into a fairly major mechanical. Donn & Carol broke the timing chain on their tandem...in two places! There we were, at the corner of Woolsey and Olivet, with every tool out we could muster. Any other time this might have been a ride-ending event, but with this mechanically-inclined group of well-prepared boy scout types, we got the chain back together to a point where it would get them home."

The next day, Tony Lee reprised his Le Tour de Limantour, which had been rained out last month. It looked as if it would be rained out again, with storm clouds looming and dire weather predictions. The outlook was grim enough to keep some of us home, but a few of you were made of sterner stuff, as Tony reports: "Twelve die-hard riders showed up, and despite the wet roads and dark skies, we all clipped in and headed out. Greg Durbin said that I should list more rides, and there'd surely be no drought this year. The winds turned southeast overnight which brought warmer temperatures than the day before (slightly) and made for a delightful ride out to Marshall, with the newly paved road and a strong tail wind. The only thing that slowed us down, aside from Marshall Wall, was a flock of 50 or more wild turkeys in the road. A gusty side wind and head wind made for a lively ride down the coast to Pt. Reyes Station. Three riders turned back

— Continued on page 6

The following system is used in our ride schedule so that riders can estimate the relative difficulty of each ride.

TERRAIN

- 1:** Mostly flat (River Road, Dry Creek)
2: Rolling, easy grades (Westside Road)
3: Moderate grades (Graton Road)
4: Hilly; a few steep climbs (Coleman Valley Road, Franz Valley Road)
5: Very hilly; lots of long climbs (Trinity Grade, The Geysers, Skaggs Springs Road)
(If available, elevation gain may be listed.)

TEMPO

Actual ride speed may vary, depending on terrain, distance, weather, and group dynamics. Tempo listing is only a ballpark estimate.

A: relaxed pace; frequent regroupings; waits for all riders. Over 26 minutes*

B: touring pace; regroupings every 30-45 minutes; waits for all riders. 23-26 minutes*

C: brisk pace; pacelines likely; regroupings every 30-60 minutes. 19-22 minutes*

D: aggressive pace; pacelines; slower riders may miss regroupings. Under 19 minutes*

*Times are for official SRCC speed trap: 4.4 mostly uphill miles on Graton Road from Ross Road in Graton to summit at Tanuda/Facendini junction. If you want to know where you fit in on club rides, time yourself on this section (at your normal riding tempo) and compare your time to the list above.

DISTANCE

The last figure in the formula, stated in approximate miles. (If in doubt, leader should overestimate mileage slightly.)

• RSVP WITH RIDE LEADER •

Ride leaders should provide maps and/or route instructions. Riders should carry I.D., cash, tube(s), flat repair kit, water bottle(s), and have their own map in case they get lost.

HELMETS ARE MANDATORY ON ALL CLUB RIDES!

Non-members are welcome on club rides! (Non-members must sign a liability waiver provided by the ride leader.) If the course seems too long or difficult, the ride leader can generally suggest an alternate starting place or bail-out route.

RAIN CANCELS ALL RIDES, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

RIDES LEAVE PROMPTLY AT TEN MINUTES AFTER THE LISTED TIME.

RIDE SCHEDULE

PDF route slips available at www.srcc.com...go to Current Ride List

TUESDAY • JANUARY 1

New Year's Day Rides

2/A/21 • 3/B/51 • 3/C/58
10:00 AM • Coffey Park

B: North on Coffey > L on Dennis > R on Barnes > L on River > R on Laughlin > L on W. Laughlin > R on Slusser > L on Mark West Station > R on Trenton-H'burg > L on Eastside > R on Wohler > R on Westside > L on W. Dry Creek > R on Lambert Bridge > R on Dry Creek > L on Lytton Springs > L on Lytton Station > L on Alexander Valley > Hwy 128 (Regroup at Jimtown Store) > R on Chalk Hill > L on Faught > L on Old Red > R on Mark West Springs > River > L on Barnes > L on Dennis > L on Coffey to warehouse, etc. **C:** same as B except continue north on W. Dry Creek > R on Yoakim Bridge > R on Dry Creek > L on Canyon > R on Geyserville > L on Hwy 128 > Rejoin B route near Jimtown. **A:** From Mark West Station: R on Starr > R on Windsor River > L on Windsor (Rest stop at Cafe Noto) > Return to Windsor River > Under 101 > R on Old Red > L on Pleasant > Rejoin other routes at Faught. Rides end up at open house at the new club warehouse. **RSVP!** See item on page 8 about open house and on-line RSVP process.

A: Barbara Drucker—538-5256
Carole Kolnes—838-3988
B: Richard Stone—292-3006
C: Bill Oetinger—823-9807

SATURDAY • JANUARY 5

Bodega Bay Ride & Crab Feed

4/B/38 • 3/A/24

9:00 AM • 21413 Heron Dr,
Bodega Bay (halfway between
Hwy 1 & golf course club house)

B: North on Heron > L on South Harbour Way > L on Hwy 1 > R on Coleman Valley > L on Boho > L on Moscow (Rest stop at Duncans Mills) > L on Hwy 116 > L on Hwy 1 > R on South Harbour Way > R on Heron. **A:** North on Heron > L on South Harbour Way > R on Hwy 1 > L on Bodega > L on Boho (Rest stop in Occidental) > Retrace route to Bodega Bay. Coffee & nibbles before ride (8:00-9:00); Crab feed after the ride (1:00 pm on). \$10 per person to cover cost of crab. Non-riders and C & D riders welcome. **RSVP** by Jan 3 to be included. Rain cancels rides, but crab feed goes on regardless.

Joe Conway—875-9056 (H)
322-2652 (C)
bodegajoe@comcast.net

Point Reyes Century

4/C/100 • 4/B/60

9:30 AM • 1634 Hill Rd, Novato

South on Hill > R on Indian Valley > R on Wilson > L on Mill > L on Vineyard > R on Sutro > L on Novato Blvd > R on Petaluma-Pt Reyes > L on Hicks Valley > L on Pet-Marshall > L on Hwy 1 > R on Mesa > R on Hwy 1 into Pt Reyes Station (Rest stop) > South on Hwy 1 > R on Sir Frances Drake to Light Station (Regroup) > Retrace SFD to Pt Reyes Station (Rest stop) > Hwy 1 north > R on Pet-Pt Reyes > R on Nicasio Valley > L on Lucas Valley > L on Miller Creek > Turn onto bike path on the NE corner of Miller Creek and Marinwood > At the end of the bike, R on Alameda del Prado > L on Ignacio > R on Sunset Pkwy > L on Cambridge > L on Arthur > R on Indian Valley > L on Hill to finish. Munchies afterward. **B route:** skip Light Station out-&-back.

Bill (C), Evelyin (B)—415-898-2998
red_tandem@yahoo.com

SUNDAY • JANUARY 6

Rockin' on Rockpile

3-4/B/35

10:00 AM • Healdsburg City Hall

R on Grove > R on Mill > Westside > R on W Dry Creek > R on Yoakim Bridge > L on Dry Creek (Rest stop at hatchery) > R on Skaggs Springs > R on Rockpile to end (Regroup) > Retrace to Dry Creek (Rest stop at Dry Creek Store) > Continue on Dry Creek > R on Grove to finish.

Wayne Kellam—523-1878

SATURDAY • JANUARY 12

SECOND SATURDAY

Winter in the Wine Country

3/A/41 • 3/B/49 • 5/C/57

9:30 AM • Healdsburg City Hall

A: R on Grove > R on Mill > Westside > R on W. Dry Creek > R on Yoakim Bridge > L on Dry Creek > R on Dutcher Creek > Cloverdale Blvd (Rest stop at Grapes and Grounds) > L on Cloverdale Blvd > L on First > Crocker > R on Asti > Geyserville > R on Souverain > L on Fredson > R on Lytton Springs > L on Dry Creek > R on Kinley > L on Mill > L on Grove to City Hall. **B:** Same as A route to Geyserville, then: L on Hwy 128 > L on Geysers > R on Red Winery > R on Hwy 128 > Alexander Valley > R on Lytton Station > Rejoin A ride. **C:** Same as B route, but add out-&-back on River/Vineyard (north from Geyserville Grange).

A: Jack Hartnett—694-0922
B: Richard Stone—292-3006
C: Bill Oetinger—823-9807

SUNDAY • JANUARY 13

To the Moon and Beyond

5/C/60 • 5/B/48
9:00 AM • Cotati Vets

Thru Cotati > R on E. Cotati Blvd > R on Pet Hill > L on Roberts > Pressley > R on Sonoma Mtn > R on Warm Springs > R on Arnold > L on Agua Caliente > L on Lake > Las Flores > R on Estrella > R on El Portola > Moon Mtn to end of left fork > Retrace to R on 12 > R on Cavedale > L on Trinity > R on Dunbar > R on Bonnie > L on 12 > R on Nuns Canyon > L on Nelligan to end > Retrace to R on 12 > L on Dunbar > R on Henno > R on Warm Springs > L on Son Mtn > L on Pressley > Roberts > R on Pet Hill > L on E. Cotati > R on Old Red, etc. **B route:** skip Moon Mtn & Nelligan out-&-backs.

C: Tony Lee—766-9803
B: Dave Batt—546-5301

Wheels to Wildflour

2-A/B-30
9:00 AM • Cotati Dog Park

R on Myrtle > Valparaiso > L on W Sierra > L on Stony Point > R on Roblar > R on Pet-Valley Ford > Hwy 1 > R on Valley Ford-Freestone > R on Bodega Hwy > L on Bohemian Hwy (rest stop at Wildflour Bakery, Freestone) > R on Boho > L on Bodega > R on Barnett Valley > R on Burnside > L on Bloomfield > R on Canfield > L on Blank > R on Peterson > L on Roblar > L on Stony Pt > R on W Sierra > R on Valparaiso.

Ken Russeff—953-1804

SATURDAY • JANUARY 19

Paceline Clinics

A and C groups
10:00 AM • Willowside School

Riding in a smooth, comfortable paceline is really fun. These two rides are to help the club rides become known as good group fun. We meet first and talk about it. Then Bill will lead the C's off. The A ride is particular for those with little or no experience. **A group:** Up and down the wide shoulders of Hall Road practicing and talking about it for an hour or so. Then out to parts beyond for those who have more time. **C group:** Willowside School to Healdsburg and back (about 35 miles). Emphasis will be on maintaining a paceline in more challenging situations. The route will go north on Eastside to Flying Goat Coffee, where we will take a break and discuss what worked and what didn't. The final exam will be on the return trip via Westside. Plan to start with the group at Willowside, where we will discuss objectives.

No route slip: everyone has to stick together.

A: Tom Helm—479-9150
C: Bill Ellis—415-898-2998

SUNDAY • JANUARY 20

Almost 40 Miles of Back Road

1-2/A/37
9:30 AM • Santa Rosa City Hall

L on First > L on SR Ave > R on Prince Greenway > Cross bridge to beginning of Joe Rodota Trail > Cross Hwy 12 to Morris St > R on Eddie Ln > R on High School > R on Occidental > L on Sanford > R on Hall > L on Willowside > L on Guerneville > R on Olivet > L on W. Olivet > R on Oakwild > R on Woolsey > Laughlin > R on Copperhill > L on Brickway > Aviation (*Break at Kaffe Mocha*) > R on Airport > L on Laughlin > Woolsey > L on Wood > R on Fulton > R on Piner > L on Willowside > L on Hall > L on Fulton > R on SR Creek Trail > Return to City Hall.

Rose Mello—543-5889

SATURDAY • JANUARY 26

TofC Volunteers' Prep Ride and Orientation Party

2/A/25 • 3/B/30 • 3/C/40
10:00AM • Finley Park

West on College > R on Fulton > R on Gordon Creek > R/L on Peterson > R on Pioneer > L on Francisco > L on Fulton > R on Wood > L on Woolsey > L on River > R on Slusser > L on Mark West Stn. > L on Trenton-H'burg > L on Trenton > R on Laguna > R on Vine Hill > Mueller > R on Graton > **A:** L on Bowen > Bike Path > **B:** L on Green Hill > **C:** L on Facendini > **All Routes:** L on Occidental > R on High School > L on Eddie > Morris > Bike Path > L on Joe Rodota Trail > L on Wright > Fulton > R on College to Finley Center. *Gather after the ride (at 1:00 PM) in Finley Center for Tour of California Volunteer Orientation. Food provided! Rain cancels ride, but not the party. (See related item on page 6.)*

B: Martin Clinton—569-0126
A & C ride leaders needed

SUNDAY • JANUARY 27

All Over the Place

3-4/C/100
9:00 AM • Ragle Park

E on Covert > L on Healdsburg Ave > R on Hurlbut > R on E. Hurlbut > L on High School > R on Occidental > L on Sanford > R on Hall > L on Willowside > L on Piner > R on Olivet > L on W. Olivet > R on Oakwild > L on Old Trenton > R on River > L on Slusser > R on W. Laughlin > L on Laughlin > R on Airport > L

on Faught > R on Chalk Hill > R on 128 (*Rest at Jintown*) > Alexander Valley > R on Lytton Station > R on Lytton Springs > R on Dry Creek > L on Lambert Bridge > L on W. Dry Creek > R on Westside > L on River > R on River Drive > L on Old River > R on Martinelli > L on 116 > R on bike path > R on Green Valley > L on Harrison Grade > R on Graton > L on Boho > R on Bodega > L on Valley Ford-Freestone > L on Hwy 1 > R on Estero > L on Marsh > R on Middle > L on Dillon Beach > R on Hwy 1 > L on Tomales-Petaluma > L on Twin Bridge > R on Fallon-Two Rock > L on Carmody > L on Pet-Valley Ford > R on Bloomfield > L on Pleasant Hill > L on Valentine > R on Ragle to finish.

Randall Ray—433-2555

REGULAR RIDES

Wednesday Wanna-B's

B or C • 30-50 miles • 9:00 AM

First Wednesday: Howarth Park, Santa Rosa

B: Beth Anderson—584-3685

Vin Hoagland—584-8707

C: No leader

Second Wednesday: Healdsburg City Hall

B: No leader

C: Eric Peterson—433-7737

Third Wednesday: Ragle Park, Sebastopol

B: Jeff Burton—217-2756

C: Looking for a leader

Fourth Wednesday: Ragle Park, Sebastopol

B: Alfred Masy—546-0898

Joe Conway—875-9056

Ed Steiger—538-7395

C: Johann Heinzl—539-7991

Fifth Wednesday: Howarth Park, SR

B: Bob Briner—799-7146

C: No leader

Friendly Fridays

2-3/B/25-40 • 9:00 AM

First Friday: Cotati Dog Park

Greg Stone—527-6116

Second Friday: Howarth Park, Santa Rosa

Martin Clinton—569-0126

Third Friday: Ragle Park, Sebastopol

Doug Newberg—579-0925

Fourth Friday: City Hall lot, H'burg

Warren Watkins—433-4403

Fifth Friday (B group only): Esposti Park

Buck Hall—537-1946

2-4/C/35-50 • 9:00 AM

Same schedule as other Friday rides.

No leader

2-3/A/25-30 • 9:00 AM

Janice Eunice—575-9439

Flat Fixing Clinic

*First Thursday of each month
6:30 pm. No cost • Call to sign up:*

NorCal Bike Sport—573-0112

More BACKROADS & BREAKAWAYS

after our refueling stop at Bovine Bakery and the rest of us headed for Balboa Road. Wow! What a climb. Very nice. The skies were almost clear at Limantour Beach, but the cold wind motivated us to move on. At this point the southeast wind came to our aid and we enjoyed a nice tailwind, a nice pace, and more new pavement most of the way back to Petaluma (one of the perks of living next to Marin county). Total stats were 67 miles and 5600' of climbing, except for Georg and Scott who both rode in and had more." A few notes to the chat list from participants indicated that the pace was pretty hot, in spite of Tony's pre-ride pledge to keep things mellow. Tony replied: "I won't deny that the pace elevated beyond C at times. It was a natural consequence of the caliber of the riders who showed up. There was motivation too, since we were starting to get sprinkled on as we neared Petaluma." I might add that I had suggested the Balboa climb to Tony for his route. It's a wicked climb that averages over 10% for most of two miles. That Tony would call it "very nice" goes a little way toward explaining why he won the Rider of the Year award for 2007.

That same day, Ken Russeff had a ride heading out of Youth Community Park and up to Healdsburg. "Approximately 20 riders showed up at the Youth Park following a rainy night and the threat of rain during the day. Six or seven B or better riders took off to pursue their own route, two riders opted not to take a chance on the rain, and another bailed early with a mechanical problem, leaving ten of us to ride to Healdsburg. No sun, no rain, a crowd at Costeaux's, including, for our enjoyment, Christmas carolers. A strong headwind going back and a total of 37 miles."

One week later we had an even bigger crowd milling about at Youth Community Park on a chilly but bright morning, getting ready to explore the west county hills on the Second Saturday rides. This same route had been rained out in November, but conditions this month were about as nice as one has any right to expect in early December. Cold? Yes: 33° on my cyclometer coming across the Laguna on the way to the ride. I was the only listed leader for the four different routes—a recurring challenge: getting Second Saturday leaders—but Lou Salz and Dave Batt volunteered that morning to assist with the C's and B's, and I guess the A's just muddled along on their own. I was leading what was billed as the C+ ride, which doesn't mean D pace, but century distance. It was our only official club century for the month. This route was almost as convoluted and weird as the one I had put together over in Napa, but because it was in our own backyard, folks were a little more at home with the odd twists and turns. All that means in practical terms is that they felt less need to stick with me, for fear of getting lost, and more inclined to strike out on their own, including decisions to shorten this out-&-back or skip that loop, etc. All that autonomy translated into the group becoming hopelessly scattered by the 50-mile mark. The first half contained not only all the hard climbing—Harrison Grade, Coleman Valley, Bay Hill, Joy, and upper Fitzpatrick—but also most of the screwy routing. We still had a pretty good core group together at Fitzpatrick for a moment of wonder under the great Mother Tree, and then for a quick water stop at Charles Beck's house on Joy, but by the time we got to Occidental, with some heading for the barn and others hanging in for the full century, it was down to riders in ones and twos, all on their only lonesomes. There was also the issue of getting this hard century—over 7000' of steep gain—done in daylight, and also in time to allow folks to get cleaned up for the club's holiday dinner at 5:30. We did it, but only just.

On Sunday, Wayne Kellam listed a B ride out of Ragle Park: "My Freestone loop had 28 riders on a clear, cold day. Even though we started at 10:00 am, I saw an icy puddle next to Grayton Road in a shady spot. The ride spread out a lot. The only place we were ever mostly together was at the Wildflour Bakery, where I was able to share my big sticky bun with seven others. The highlight of the ride, for me (other than the sticky bun) was the summit of English Hill. The air was clear and the vista was super green. We only had two minor problems that I heard of. Jose Mundo turned back on English Hill when his rear wheel wouldn't stay straight, and Dave Batt broke his saddle riding over a bump. A few people got lost on the southern approach to Sebastopol. It's really a tricky area."

One week later and we were back tackling the steep hills again, this time on Doug McKenzie's ride over the Geysers (south to north). There's something about the Geysers in the winter that always feels like a real adventure. It's one of the most remote and wild roads we have in the county, and all that remoteness and wildness comes as a result of all those whacking great climbs that take us up and over the rugged mountains and down into the distant canyons. It's out there! And in the winter, it seems doubly dramatic. In this instance, the weather forecast was fairly optimistic about no rain, so altogether, around 15 showed up to try their luck in the high country. The forecast was essentially correct: it didn't really rain; but what they didn't tell us was that heavy, wet clouds had hung up on the north face of the summit, so that descending into Big Sulphur Creek Canyon turned into a chilly, damp ordeal. It dropped from 48° at the summit to close to 40° at the bridge, but more important was that heavy mist that clung to us and to the road and got everything as wet as if it really were pouring. But that was just one little rude interlude on an otherwise nice day...nice for December 15, anyway. (I saw a low of 39° on the way to the ride, which was quite a bit warmer than the previous week.) Once we rode out from under those clouds, we were back in the dry for the duration, with even an occasional blink of sunshine.

An unexpected treat was running into old club member and good friend Trent Norlund at the cafe where we regrouped in Cloverdale. He just happened to be having lunch there when he looked up and saw the SRCC gang rolling in. This might not seem too extraordinary unless I add that Trent now lives in Houston, Texas, so finding him in a cafe in Cloverdale was indeed a surprise. In case some of you have short memories, Trent's name is forever engraved in old club lore as the first person—and still only one of two—to ever ride the Terrible Two course two times around, back-to-back.

Amgen Tour of California 2008

The Tour of California is returning to Santa Rosa on Monday, February 18th for the finish of Stage 1 from Sausalito. The big news is that there will be a women's professional criterium on a 1-plus-mile loop in downtown Santa Rosa, from noon until 1:00 pm (preceding the arrival of the men's race), which should bring in even more spectators. On Tuesday morning, February 19th, the men will depart from Railroad Square for Stage 2, heading to Sacramento. The routes for Stages 1 and 2 are expected to be the same as in 2007.

With the addition of the women's race, there is an increased need for volunteers before the event and on both race days. Sign up at www.amgentourofcalifornia.com, and then come to the Volunteer Orientation Party at 1:00 pm on Saturday January 26th at Finley Center. The orientation will be preceded by a Santa Rosa Cycling Club ride. See the Ride Schedule for information on the ride.

Holiday Dinner — *Continued from page 1*

who badly broke a collarbone when punted off the road by a truck, but has since come back to his old form.

For King of the Mountain, we had the names of Tony Lee, Greg Durbin, Doug McKenzie, and Charles Beck in nomination. Last year's winner Kipp Frey tore open the envelope and declared the winner to be Charles Beck, still whuppin' the youngsters on the big climbs...well into his seventh decade. For the Queen of the Mountain, Firouzeh Attwood presented the 2007 prize to Karen Thompson. The fact is, none of us has yet met Karen (and she wasn't at the banquet), but she is a club member and her results have spoken for her: she's the only SRCC woman to earn her California Triple Crown double century series laurels this year—her first attempt—and she did it with Davis, Terrible Two, Mt Tam, and Knoxville, a very stout batch of rides, with no shortage of big hills.

Speaking of the Triple Crown, Donn read out the names of all the club members who completed the Triple Crown in 2007 and asked them to stand for a round of applause: Ken Cabeen, Bill Carroll, Scot Castle, Greg Durbin, Tony Lee, Scott McEldowney, Marc Moons, Joe Morgan, Georg Ockenfuss, Garth Powell, Craig Robertson, John Russell, and Karen Thompson. Then he asked those who had completed Paris-Brest-Paris to stand as well: John and Tom Russell, Donn King, and Craig Robertson. Note that Craig and John were the only ones to do both the CTC and PBP.

Next up, we shifted slightly away from bike riding and into the area of supporting bike riding in one way or another. We presented two Volunteer of the Year awards; one to an individual: Jon Dick, and one to a couple: Steve and Barbara Drucker. Jon and Steve and Barbara are classic examples of what makes this club so good and our events so popular. There are always there, always ready to lend a hand, no matter what the event or challenge. Staying in the same vein, Tom Banning presented the Leader of the Park award—for excellence in cycling advocacy—to Vin Hoagland, who is currently the Third District representative and overall Chair of the Sonoma County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board. Tom's wife Vicki Duggan (they won the award last year) presented the female Volunteer award to Janice Eunice, that prototype angel. Honorable Mentions went to Bernie Album, Mike Eunice, and Richard Burg.

More supportive awards: Kathy Oetinger handed over the prestigious Golden Shoe (the award for most supportive spouse) to Cora Stewart, host of numerous SRCC parties, including the 21-day marathon Tour de France party in July. And the golden shepherd's crook emblematic of most supportive ride leader was passed from Randall Ray to Ken Russeff.

Next, Phil Grinton took the stage to present the Lewis & Clark award. This goes to someone who has completed a self-supported tour of at least a week. We were a bit stumped on this one for awhile, not knowing of anyone who had done such a feat this year. But finally Phil heard that Jo and John Devries had completed a trek of about 1000 miles through Austria and Lichtenstein and a few other countries (this coming on the heels of a lightly supported tour in the preceding weeks). A worthy winner, or pair of winners.

Then it was on to the prestigious Rider of the Year award, which goes to someone who has been the top dawg, alpha wolf throughout the season...kickin' butt and taking no prisoners. Five names were put in nomination: Tony Lee, Georg Ockenfuss, Joe Morgan, Donn King, and Greg Durbin. Last year's winner, Marc Moons, has moved to New Zealand and couldn't be persuaded to return for the banquet, so Donn and Craig presented the award to Tony Lee, who distinguished himself this year by not only being fast on club rides, but also by finishing on the podium in the California Triple Crown Stage Race.

Finally, we arrived at the coveted, infamous Gearhead award, presented each year to someone who has "demonstrated cycling intensity and prowess above and beyond that which an average cyclist will tolerate."

Bob Redmond has had the Gearhead hanging on his wall for the past year, and he was called up to pass the award on to its new owner. Bob had done some research and had figured out what each of the previous Gearhead recipients had done to win the award, and he did a little recap for the crowd, listing all those crazy and intense things that most of us think are over the edge and beyond the pale. Then he called up John Russell to relieve him of the award and be its caretaker for the next twelve months. As noted earlier, only John and Craig Robertson among clubsters had completed both the CTC and PBP this year, and as Craig is a past Gearhead winner, that left John as the logical choice. To say that John was stunned to receive the award would be a slight understatement. But we think it was the right choice.

There were a few other things of note going on at the dinner party. First of all, there were the lovely decorations. Sharron Bates and René Goncalves had once again knocked themselves out with decking the halls, although they didn't deck them with boughs of holly. Instead, they found some cool grape-cluster lights and vines and draped them along "fences" for a "Winter in the Wine Country" theme, complete with reindeer in the vineyard. They also had posters of many past Wine Country Century graphics hung around the buffet area.

These busy lasses were hard at work in other areas as well. They had gathered together a substantial treasure trove of door prizes to be awarded to lucky ticket holders. This year, rather than going through the long, tedious process of drawing names out of a hopper, the waiters circulated with baskets filled with envelopes. Each person picked one. Inside, it said either "Happy Holidays!" or it said you've won a prize and exactly what that prize was. Then the winners cruised by the treasure trove and scooped up their swag. Very simple, and very nice for those lucky enough to have drawn one of the winning envelopes.

Finally, in the spirit of the season, it's worth noting that members brought 35 gifts for the Volunteer Center's Hands and Hearts for the Holidays program. (Bringing a gift was an alternative to bringing a potluck item.) And 36 members endorsed their RSVP deposits over to Team Swift or SCBC or the Volunteer Center. Those checks and all of the toys have been delivered.

Thanks to Sharron and René, to Donn and Craig, to Doug Simon, and to all the other members who pitched in with the chores of setting up the hall or cleaning up afterward. Thanks also to all the members who provided the potluck fare that was so delicious. (Those of us who had done a long, hard ride that day arrived at the hall with ferocious appetites, and the many tasty treats on the long buffet went a long way to taking the edge off those appetites until the entrées arrived.)

All of the efforts of so many people—plus the presentation of the awards and the enthusiasm of all present—only helped to remind us what a great group the SRCC is and how fortunate we all are to be a part of it.

Update your Commute Miles & Century Challenge logs

It's not too late to go to srcc.com and update your Commute Miles and Century Challenge interactive logbooks. It's not even too late to start fresh: to open your account and, in a feeding frenzy of data entry, fill out an entire year's worth of entries in one go. The Commute Miles log is for all rides and miles that kept a car off the road: commutes, errands, even riding to and from club rides. The Century Challenge is for all rides of close to 100 miles or more: club centuries, brevets, races, cycle-tour stages, solo training rides...they all count.

Logging on and entering your stats is easy. It only takes a minute. And it's fun to be a part of the club's projects; to be a player. You get to brag a little about your big rides and virtuous commutes, and your stats may inspire others to follow your example in the years ahead.

SANTA ROSA CYCLING CLUB

**PO Box 6008
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Vice-President: Greg Durbin 528-4450
Secretary: Donn King 823-5461
Treasurer: Donna Emery 546-6359
Officers at Large
Robin Abramson 569-0620
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srccride@sonic.net (Bill Oetinger, e-wrangler)
Membership applications available at website.



The Santa Rosa Cycling Club is a social/recreational organization comprised of cycling enthusiasts with a wide range of abilities and interests. Our purpose is to promote the safe and efficient use of bicycles through club rides and events, and by maintaining an active presence in the local community. We encourage a large and vital membership and try to provide rides for all abilities. We publish a membership roster and a monthly newsletter and ride calendar. We hold a general membership meeting and an Executive Board meeting once each month.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Wednesday, January 9 • 6:30 PM

Round Table Pizza
(Occidental Road, west of Stony Point)

Board elections, plus a few more awards

Wednesday, February 13

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

(Open to all interested members)

Special time: Monday, January 7 • 6:00 PM

TLCD Architecture • 111 Santa Rosa Ave. (SW corner at 1st St)
Door open between 5:45 and 6:00pm • After that, call 478-9387

Thursday, February 7

NEW YEAR'S RIDE AND PARTY

Start/Finish for ride: Coffey Park (Coffey Lane and Dogwood, just south of Hopper).

**Open house at the new club warehouse
from 1:00-3:00 pm**

After the ride, cycle north on Coffey for about 1/2 mile and turn left at the sign for the picnic. Please do not drive to the picnic, as there is insufficient parking for everyone. In the event of the rides being rained out, the open house will still be happening.

The meal will be a pot-luck with the club providing the main barbecue dish and club members providing all other dishes. No alcohol. When you register, you will be asked to sign up for a Salad, Side Dish, or Dessert. We need roughly the same number of each, so choose your contribution accordingly.

RSVP! We need to know how many people to expect, so please sign up at the on-line registration system at www.srcc.memberlodge.com (choose Upcoming Events). See *Ride Schedule* for ride details, and see articles in *December newsletter*—available at club website archive—about the new club warehouse and about our new on-line membership services.



Indian Valley, Lake Almanor, Lassen Volcanic National Park, and the Fall River Century

Nine days, seven stages, up to 400 miles

This generally moderate tour follows a south-to-north route through Plumas, Lassen, and Shasta Counties, beginning with two days in or near Indian Valley (above), then moving up to Lake Almanor for two days, then further north to Mill Creek for a visit to Lassen Volcanic National Park, justifiably famed as a great cycling destination. Finally, we'll carpool even further north to McArthur for our last stage: participating in the wonderful Fall River Century.

Many of the roads on this tour were part of our Northern Sierra Tour of 1995 and Northern Peaks Tour of 2002, but some will be new to us and some of the old ones will be done in new directions and in new combinations. Using only four camps all week means fewer occasions for packing and shifting luggage and setting up tents.

Day 1: Drive to Taylorsville, Indian Valley

Day 2, Stage 1: Indian Valley Loop 42 miles, 1000' up and down

An easy loop around this very pleasant valley—perfect for cycle-touring—plus an out-&-back on an old mining road climbing out of the valley. Camp at Taylorsville Community Park. Showers.

Day 3: Stage 2: Antelope Lake Loop 54 miles, 2100' up and down

More climbing than on the previous day, but still quite moderate: up out of the valley to Antelope Lake, around the lake and back to camp. Beautiful high-country scenery. Mostly climbing early on and mostly descending on the way back. Another night in the same camp near Taylorsville.

Day 4, Stage 3: Taylorsville to Lake Almanor 35 miles, 1100' up and 200' down

Bonus: up to 19-mile (round trip) out-&-back

The shortest day on the tour, but much more uphill than down. Back across Indian Valley to the town of Greenville, then climbing along Hwy 89 to Lake Almanor. Ride up the east shore of the lake to North Shore Campground, just south of the town of Chester. Showers at camp. Great views across the lake.

Day 5, Stage 4: Lake Almanor Out-&-Backs 49 miles, 2700' up and down

Three long out-&-backs clustered near the town of Chester at the north end of the lake: Warner Valley, Domingo Springs, and Juniper Lake. Wonderful mountain and forest scenery on very lightly traveled roads. Each is mostly uphill on the way out and downhill on the way back. Spend another night on the shore of Lake Almanor.

Day 6, Stage 5: Chester to Mill Creek 55 miles, 2000' up, 1500' down

We take the long way to ride to our destination, beginning with a loop all the way around Lake Almanor: down the east shore, then around the bottom and up the west shore on the lovely Lake Almanor Recreation Trail. After leaving the lake, 25 miles along Hwy 89 and then Hwy 172 leading to Mill Creek Resort, a delightful old camp along the creek. Showers.

Day 7, Stage 6: Mill Creek to Subway Cave 59 miles, 5000' up, 5300' down

The most challenging stage of the tour, but the rewards are worth the work, not only in terms of scenery, but in terms of the wild descending that comes after all the climbing. Ride to Lassen summit under the shoulder of Lassen Peak (below), in the heart of the beautiful national park, stopping along the way to explore the steaming fumaroles of this geothermal hot spot. Continue over the top, down the other side, and out the north gate of the park. Descend for several more miles beyond the park to our destination at Subway Cave. Explore the lava tube cave while we organize our carpool fleet for the 37-mile drive north to McArthur in Fall River Valley.

Day 8: Stage 7: The Fall River Century 100 miles; several shorter options; moderate climbing

They say timing is everything, and in this case, it may be true. We scheduled the tour to end on the day of the beautiful, mellow Fall River Century. Your tour fee includes your entry into the century, where you can do any of the distances offered. Many SRCC members have done this ride, and all appreciate it for its great scenery and friendly country atmosphere. We'll camp for two nights on the shady lawns at the fairgrounds in McArthur, where we might meet and mingle with many other riders in town for the century.

Tour fee: \$350. Entry form available as a pdf. Also available as a pdf: 31-page preview with maps, route slips, profiles, and 44 color photos (file size: 1 MB). To request entry form and/or preview, e-mail Bill Oetinger (srcride@sonic.net).





The THREE PARKS TOUR

September 6-14, 2008

Yosemite, Kings Canyon, and Sequoia
National Parks and the southern Sierra

**Nine days, six stages, 390-460 miles
Up to 35,000' of climbing & 38,000' of descending**

For spectacular scenery on the grandest possible scale, it's hard to beat this tour through three of the most magnificent national parks in the country. It also happens to be one of our more challenging tours, with lots of climbing, but worth every drop of sweat and every aching muscle. And as you'll notice in reading the elevation numbers above, there is more descending than climbing. (And much of that descending is just about as good as it gets...world-class.) This is a larger-than-life tour in every respect. Similar to the Three Parks Tour we ran in 1998, but with a few small but important revisions.

**Day 1: Drive to Twin Lakes
Optional 13-mile prologue ride along lakes.**

**Day 2, Stage 1: Twin Lakes to Tuolumne Meadows
52 miles, 5000' up, 2300' down
Optional 12-mile and 10-mile out-&-backs**

Drop from Twin Lakes to the town of Bridgeport and head south on Hwy 395, up to Conway summit and down to Mono Lake and Lee Vining. Two optional 10- and 12 mile out-&-backs on scenic side roads (to Virginia Lakes and Lundy Lake). Then climb for 12 miles to 9945' Tioga Pass—one of the highest paved roads in California—before descending to camp. Showers are two miles from camp at Tuolumne Lodge (or we'll rig our own shower).

**Day 3, Stage 2: Tuolumne Meadows to Yosemite Valley
58 miles, 2400' up, 7100' down**

Spectacular scenery at every turn as you cross Yosemite's alpine attic before descending into one of the most mythic spots on earth. Downhills dominate all day, culminating in the 13-mile free fall into the valley. Camp at the east end of the valley. Showers at nearby Curry

Village. Short, fast, mostly downhill ride leaves plenty of afternoon for exploring in the famous valley.

**Day 4: Stage 3: Yosemite Valley to Bass Lake
58 miles, 4500' up, 5000' down
Optional 4-mile and 10-mile out-&-backs**

Three long climbs and two long descents make up almost the entire route today, except for nearly level runs along Yosemite Valley at the start and along Bass Lake at the end. Ride through a mile-long tunnel, visit the old Wawona Hotel, and have a ball on the long downhills. Optional side trips to Lower Chilnualna Falls and Mariposa Grove. Camp in a forest service camp on the lake...perfect for swimming. Showers at a nearby private resort.

**Day 5, Stage 4: Bass Lake to Choinumni County Park
71 miles, 5700' up, 8300' down
58 miles, 3200' up, 5300' down**

The only day on the tour with longer and shorter options. Winds through the pretty Sierra foothills between the national parks. Miles and miles of dinky, empty backroads that you will enjoy as much as the marquee attractions in the big parks. Camp in a pleasant, quiet park on the Kings River. No showers, but easy river access for swimming...cold swimming!

**Day 6, Stage 5: Choinumni to Kings Canyon National Park
75 miles, 10,000' up, 5600' down**

Probably the hardest day on the tour, but also one of the most spectacular. Starts with more little backroads along the approach to the park: short, steep climbs mixed in with longer, more gradual ones. Far more climbing than the assault on Tioga Pass on Day 1, but the overall impact is not as wearing, perhaps because of the lower altitude. Superb, amazing descent into Kings Canyon—the deepest gorge in the U.S.—followed by a beautiful run uphill along the magnificent Kings River to camp at Cedar Grove. Showers nearby in Cedar Grove Village.

Day 7: Layover day in Kings Canyon

A rest day between the two hardest stages of the tour, and an opportunity to explore this wonderful canyon. Hike to Roaring River Falls. Ride a few miles to Road's End (and back). Go underground for a tour of Boyden Cave. Or just hang out in camp, recharging your batteries, on the banks of the beautiful Kings River.

**Day 8, Stage 6: Kings Canyon to Three Rivers
82 miles, 7500' up, 10,000' down**

Begin with a dream downhill for the first ten miles of the ride, then work back up out of Kings Canyon with 25 miles of climb in the next 40 miles (all gradual), past Hume Lake, along Tenmile Creek, and south along the Generals Highway into Sequoia National Park. Visit the grand old trees that give the park its name, hike to the top of monolithic Moro Rock, and then get ready: the final 25 miles of the stage are almost entirely downhill. A large chunk of this constitutes one of the greatest descents in the world: 5000' of drop in over 20 miles of writhing, twisting excitement. Our last night will be in lodgings just outside the park gate in the town of Three Rivers. (Cost of final night's lodgings not included in entry fee.)

Tour fee: \$350. Entry form available as a pdf. Also available as a pdf: 38-page preview of tour, with all maps, route slips, profiles, and over 60 color photos (file size: 1.2 MB). To request entry form and/or preview, e-mail Bill Oetinger (srcride@sonic.net).