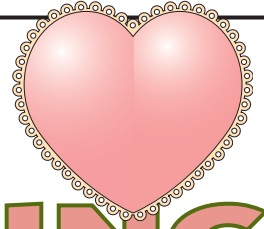
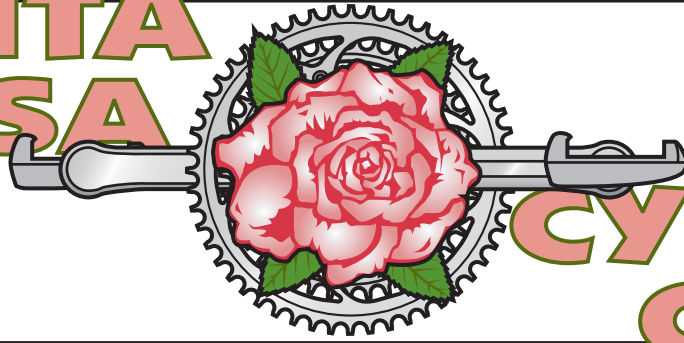


SANTA ROSA



CYCLING CLUB

FEBRUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER

A new year and a new warehouse

The crisp, clear morning of January 1 found well over 100 Santa Rosa Cycling Club members milling about near Coffey Park in north Santa Rosa, forming up for our traditional New Year's Day ride. No doubt many in the crowd felt somewhat frayed around the edges after their midnight revels, but a few minutes on the bikes soon worked as a cure for what ailed them. A reporter and photographer from the daily fishwrap were on hand to document the occasion, and our big biker bash was on the front page of the paper the next day. Fortunately, the coverage was all positive and friendly. (The photographer did not catch anyone *in flagrante dubli*.)

The reason for the start at Coffey Park was its proximity to our new club warehouse, just a few blocks north at the rural end of Coffey Lane. The idea was to follow up the ride with an open-house at the warehouse, affording folks a chance to see our new "home." The lease on the building officially took effect at the start of the new year, but dozens of members had been busy for the two previous days moving all of our club supplies out of our tiny, overstuffed storage lockers and into the bigger, barn-like warehouse. A lavish feed was laid on for the open house, with the club's big barbecue grilling up chicken and sausage to complement a great, groaning smorgasbord of pot luck goodies provided by the many participants.

But first: the ride. Or rides, plural. It was a multi-tempo affair, with routes for every level of fitness and ambition, at least within the context of midwinter agendas. All of the routes began by heading north into the vineyards we know so well. In fact, it was mostly a classic Wine Country Century 100-K course, with just a few small variations. The A group circled around to Windsor; the B's cut across from Dry Creek Valley to Alexander Valley at Lambert Bridge and Lytton Springs; and the C's made it as far north as Yoakim Bridge and Canyon before turning back south and heading for the barn.

The rolling hills did their usual efficient job of stringing the groups out, but eventually everyone straggled back to the barn for the picnic and open house. Although two days had not provided us with nearly enough time to sort all our equipment and shelving and supplies into perfect order, we had managed to make a good start on the project. It was close enough to organized that everyone could see and appreciate what a big improvement this new facility is going to make in the lives of all of the volunteers who work on our events. The lion's share of the credit for this must go to club quartermaster Doug Simon, whose vision has guided the entire process, from the initial proposal about a possible warehouse space through the search for a

likely property, and finally through the removal of all the stuff—several large truck loads of it—and its distribution around the new space. Many thanks are also due to all of those who showed up to assist with the moving on those two prior days, and to the crew that put the open house together: running the barbie and laying out the tables, chairs, food, drinks, etc. And cleaning up afterward.

It has been a big project, but thanks to a little work on the part of a lot of people and a lot of work on the part of a few people, it has all gone smoothly. No doubt Doug will schedule more work days in the months ahead to fine tune all the little details in our new quarters, but for now, most of the most challenging tasks are behind us. We can look forward to easier times ahead when we have occasion to haul out our ice chests and canopies, our "Bikes on Road" signs and water coolers and folding tables.

On your mark...get set...Wine Country Century!

We're off and running on the prep for the club's big event. The Wine Country Century is set for Saturday, May 3 this year, and February 1 marks our official launch date for all the many chores, large and small, that need to be checked off on our list before C-Day arrives.

Event Chair Joe Morgan and several of his committee chairs have been busy for some time already, so that now, as we really begin to ramp things up, we are well prepared to do so. We have our proverbial ducks all in a row.

The big challenge of course is always recruiting our volunteers. In some respects, this isn't a challenge at all: we have such wonderful club members, who are so willing and eager to step forward and fill the assorted job slots. But as good as those die-hard volunteers are—the ones who always know what to do without being told—there are never enough of them. We are always looking for more good folks to jump on the WCC juggernaut. With over 600 members in the club right now, and only a couple of hundred involved in the volunteer efforts at the WCC (and TT), it's clear there's a lot of untapped potential out there. And we want a piece of it! We want you!

To that end, Joe has set himself the goal of bringing in 100 brand new volunteers for 2008. Might you be one of them? We hope so. You'll find out it's fun to be a part of your club's big production; to be part of a winning team.

Check out the roster of Committee Chairs on page 8. If you know what you want to do, call the appropriate chair. If you don't know, call the Volunteer Coordinator and she'll assist you.

MINUTE MIX

Highlights from the General Membership and Executive Board meetings for January

- 1. Call to Order:** President Craig Gaevert called the general meeting to order at the Round Table on Occidental Road on Wednesday, January 9. 60 members and guests were in attendance.
- 2. Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Donna Emery announced that, as of December 31, the checking account balance was \$7,984.45, with \$39,793.04 in savings. The substantial reduction in bank balance from last month reflects the disbursement of our various charitable grants. (See item on page 7.)
- 3. WCC:** It has been agreed to set the entry fees at \$42 for the 35-mile ride and \$48 for all the other distances, with just one color for all wristbands. Jerseys will be priced at \$55 in advance and \$60 day-of. Older jerseys will be discounted. Gordon Stewart is currently in the process of setting up the Wild Apricot system to run WCC reg in conjunction with a PayPal account. Event Chair Joe Morgan noted that he has set a goal of 100 new WCC volunteers for 2008. (See item on page 1 and Committee Chairs Directory on page 8.)
- 4. Membership:** After a presentation by Gordon Stewart, the club voted to reduce the membership fees for members who receive their newsletters electronically. Fees for Family and Individual memberships were each reduced by \$5 to \$20 and \$15 respectively. Current members who change to electronic distribution will have their membership period extended by 25%. To do this, login at www.srcc.memberlodge.com, edit your profile to select "Newsletter distribution by E-mail." (See item, page 7.)
- 5. Miles:** Bill Oetinger awarded certificates to Dave Trumbo and Joe Morgan, who, along with Craig Robertson (not in attendance), rode over 10,000 miles in 2007.
- 6. TT:** The Board agreed to set the entry fee for the Terrible Two at \$75. We are considering whether to have the Wild Apricot system handle the reg on the TT, along with the WCC.
- 7. Locker:** A report was made on the project of moving the club's supplies and equipment to our new storage facility: a barn-like warehouse on Coffey Lane. (See item on page 1.)
- 8. Free Lunch:** Bill Oetinger suggested that the Free Lunch Ride be moved to February. (See item this page.)
- 9. ToC.** Moe McElroy spoke to the membership and Cory Oakley made a presentation to the Board regarding sponsorship challenges associated with supporting (financially) the Tour of California on its stops in Santa Rosa.
- 10. Raffle.** Alan Bloom conducted a raffle of prizes (bike goodies) for all present who had participated in the annual on-line Commute Miles log. (See item on page 7.)
- 11. Elections:** Martha Barton and Joe Morgan were elected to fill the vacancies on the Board, replacing John Miklaucic and Robin Abramson. All other incumbents were returned to office for another year by voice vote. (See item on page 7.)
- 12. Speakers:** Chris Culver of SCBC and Beth Dadko of Safe Kids made a presentation on several projects relating to bike and pedestrian safety: a \$314,432 Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety and Education Grant in Santa Rosa; two \$250,000 Safe Routes To School grants for Santa Rosa and Sebastopol; a \$180,000 Measure M grant for schools not covered by other grants; a program in Cotati/Rohnert Park and another in Southwest Santa Rosa.

FREE LUNCH RIDE...and more

Free Lunch Ride moves to February Joins forces with Steelhead Festival

The Free Lunch Ride had been scheduled to be run as the Second Saturday Ride for March. However, because of a development explained below, we have elected to move it to the Second Saturday slot this month...February 9.

The development is something known as the Steelhead Festival in Healdsburg, on the weekend of February 8-10. This is an event celebrating the return of wild steelhead to the Russian River and Dry Creek system. The organizers approached the SRCC with the suggestion of staging a ride that would travel from Healdsburg up to the fish hatchery and back, taking time to actually get off the bikes and visit the fish in the hatchery, and further, to mingle with the crowd enjoying the festival in the plaza after the ride. This seemed like a good idea to us, and as it happens, it falls on the date of our Second Saturday ride for February, meaning we can easily organize a ride that would appeal to all members.

Then we got the additional brain wave that we could turn the occasion into our annual Free Lunch Ride. Same approximate routes and same social agenda after the ride(s). Just move the date one month forward. It makes sense. It also makes sense with respect to our ongoing efforts to reach out and connect with our neighbors in the Dry Creek Valley. To that end, our Dry Creek connection, Richard Stone, has agreed to lead the B ride.

The Free Lunch Ride was our club's original multi-tempo ride. Long before the Second Saturday format, it was dreamed up as a way to bring all the branches of the club together, on the road and at the table afterward. It was also conceived to be a counterpoint to the club's annual end-of-summer picnic, half a year away in September. Finally, it carried the added weight of being a reward for good deeds done: those who came to the February club meeting and pitched in on the stamping and labeling of the thousands of fliers that we used to mail out for the WCC and TT were given a voucher good for a free lunch after this ride. Lunch was always a burrito and drink at El Sombrero Taqueria, just off Healdsburg Plaza.

When the sticking and stamping bee became a thing of the past, the Free Lunch Ride disappeared from our calendar. But last year we brought it back, with the *quid pro quo* now being for those who show up to vote at the January elections meeting. (If you were there, we have your name on a list.) This year, because of the connection to the Steelhead Festival, we will hand out the lunch money before the ride, and those of you with the cash in hand can choose to spend it at El Sombrero or at any of the food booths set up on the plaza as part of the weekend's festivities.

So the Free Lunch Ride lives! And now, not only is it an opportunity to meet and mingle with all of your club mates, it is also an opportunity to meet and mingle with our neighbors in Healdsburg and in the Dry Creek Valley and at the fish hatchery. The ride will be advertised in the Steelhead Festival promotions as open to all, so we anticipate that we may be joined on the ride by many non-member visitors. In light of all this, we hope that you—the SRCC members—will wear your club jerseys on this ride so that we show ourselves to the community as who we are.

NOTE: You can come on the Free Lunch Ride even if you were not present at the January meeting. You just have to buy your own lunch.

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: srcride@sonic.net.

Here we are, one whole month of 2008 already down the rainy drain, and yet to catch up with our chronicle of club rides, we have to step into our time capsule and launch ourselves backward, all the way beyond the ghost of Christmas past. Last month in *B&B*, we left off in the middle of the middle weekend of December, with Doug McKenzie's Geysers ride. There was another ride on the same day, and it departed from the same place and at the same time: Piner High at 9:30. That was Richard Stone's Healdsburg Ramble. While Doug was leading his Geysers ride, his wife Deanna was doing Richard's ride. She sent in a report about it: "We got some sprinkles on Westside Road on the way up to Healdsburg. We all made it to the Starbucks rest stop and had a chance to dry off. The rain held off as we started up again, but by the time we got to the Eastside-Trenton intersection, it was starting up again. Richard was at that intersection counting riders like a good leader. I think, due to the wet weather, everybody just got home as quickly as they could."

On Sunday, Rose Mello had a ride around the Russian River valley. She sent in a brief note to say the weather was great and that everyone had a good time, including new member Chase (16 years old and stoked to be joining the club).

The next weekend—just before Christmas—I listed the Gravenstein Grinder. Some of you may not be familiar with this ride. Its name implies a connection to the apple orchards of Sebastopol, and that is where it spends most of its time. It used to be a standard on the club calendar back in the mid-90's and was scheduled to coincide with the apple blossoms in early April. Then it got elbowed off the regular list by the Apple Cider Century, another orchard-oriented ride. Now it shows up infrequently in odd months unrelated to apple blossoms. Then again, there aren't nearly as many orchards as there were ten or fifteen years ago anyway...swept aside by pinot noir vines. Apples or no apples, it's still a good ride, but, as the listing promised: "The dumbest ride ever." That's because the route is gratuitously, excruciatingly twisted and sick, even by my standards. In its 50-plus miles, it never strays farther than 6.75 miles (as the crow flies) from its start in Ragle Park. All of those miles are bundled up into a dense knot of noodles in the west county hills, intentionally seeking out every little steep pitch that can be found amidst those ruggedly corrugated ridges, adding up to nearly 6000' of steeep climbing. Two things make the ride especially challenging: first, all those steep little walls, and second, the fact that it so often twists and turns in ways that make it way too easy to bail. There are a dozen spots along the way where you can quickly and painlessly nip five or ten miles off the route with an all-too-obvious shortcut. Confronted with the prospect of several more leg-breaking pitches, it's very tempting to succumb to the lure of these lazy escapes. Finishing the entire ride is not just a matter of endurance and vigorous climbing; it's also a test of sheer will power: I...will...not...bail! We had a little over two dozen riders at the start, and of that total, slightly more than half stuck with it all the way through. That's a good finishing rate for an average Grinder. Especially one on a nippy Winter Solstice.

There was no club ride on the 23rd, but we made up for it with a ride on Christmas morning: Sue Bennett's now nearly traditional cookie ride. "The weather on Christmas Day was better than it has been for

several years, and 23 people found time in their busy holiday schedules for a bike ride. The group split into several smaller groups and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. About half the group even had time to stop by the house after the ride to chat and do a little cookie carbo-loading in preparation for Christmas dinner."

That brought us up to the final weekend of the year. Saturday's offering was a whopper: Charles Beck's King Ridge-Coleman Valley loop. It looked inviting, except the weather was very threatening and most of us took a pass on the deal. But not quite everyone, as Charles reports: "Despite being in my 60's, there are times when it would be good to have an adult around when the decision to ride or not ride is made. 'Not today boys. It is raining and you are going to get cold,' would be a mature adult order. Unfortunately, Georg, Tony, Marc, and I had to rely on our own ability to make a sound decision. Result: we hop on our bikes and down the road we go, heading for King Ridge. For all of us, it's a pleasure to ride with Marc Moons again. (Visiting from New Zealand and riding a borrowed mountain bike.) Speaking for myself but assuming others felt the same, seeing Marc on a full suspension mountain bike instead of his sleek road steed gives one a small feeling of relief. We hang close together to Caz, riding offset to avoid the continuous wheel spray from a very wet road. Austin Creek is beautiful as always, as are the wet redwoods and bays that overhang the graveled banks. We turn right and follow the creek upward. Georg and Tony lead the climb up Kings and Marc, in tennis shoes, and I follow. I thought the climb a bit brisk after holiday gastronomical indulgences but dared not say anything after getting the KOM (at the awards banquet). Any hint of a whine and my award would be stripped from me and given to another more worthy. On top we meet fog or a blanket of suspended water. We stop at the junction of King and Tin Barn for a quick break under the old oak. A bite to eat and a dram of GU and off down Hauser. The descent is successful, meaning all stay upright to the bridge, fishtailing across the metal grating, and begin the climb. Marc, on one of the hills, lags a bit. This is unusual but no cause for concern since he has been riding a rear-wheel flat up the ascent. Tony chases down Georg to let him know and we all stand around and watch the tire change in front of the Buddhist property. A koan could have been invented here but we wring pints of water out of gloves instead of pursuing metaphysics. And off we go again heading for Meyers. The descent is usually pure pleasure, a view without rival. Today, close attention to pavement sets the range of vision. The accompanying tune is grit scraping on pads and rims. The enveloping fog is gone by the time Hwy 1 is reached. Still grey but lighter over the ocean. We weave along the road heading down the coast, catching glimpses of the Russian River and Goat Rock as we pass. Maybe four miles from Coleman Valley a band of light strikes distant water and the hills glow warm on the spots where light penetrates broken cloud. A sign perhaps? Left and up. Back to wet fogland. We pedal on. Joy Road is reached. Georg, soaking wet and cold, heads to his car in Occidental. Tony, Mark, and I head to my place and their car. Would we do it again? Of course. It was a great ride and besides that, we never learn."

Ken Cabeen was one of those more prudent souls who didn't take the bait on Saturday, but he organized a rain check ride of the same course for Sunday: "I was pleasantly surprised when seven others showed up for this ride. We took off from Occidental and made the chilliest descent of the day on Boho. The eight of us were a very well-matched bunch, and regrouped took little to no time. Things warmed up on King Ridge, and the sun was out in a very clear sky. One of those

— 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

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 2

Point Reyes Century

4/C/100 • 4/B/60

9:30 AM • 1634 Hill Rd, Novato

So. 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 after. **B route:** skip Light Station out-&-back.

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

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 3

Mid-County Meandering

2/A-B/35

9:00 AM • Esposti Park

R on Shiloh > L on Skylane > Laughlin > R on W Laughlin > R on Slusser > L on Mark West Station > R on Trenton-Healdsburg > L on Eastside > R on Wohler > R on Westside > Mill > L on Center (*Coffee at Oakville Grocery*) > R on Matheson St East > R on Ist > L on Front > L on Healdsburg Ave > Old Red > L on Limerick > R on Los Amigos > L on Arata > Hembree > L on Old Red > L on Pleasant > Faught > R on Shiloh to Esposti Park.

Ken Russeff—953-1804

Geysers, Clockwise

4/C/58

9:00 AM • Healdsburg City Hall

South on Grove > R on Mill > R on Kinley > L on Dry Creek > L on Lambert Br > R on West Dry Creek > R on Yoakim Bridge > L on Dry Creek > R on Dutcher Creek > S. Cloverdale Blvd. > R on First (*Stop at corner market to refill bottles*) > Crocker > L on River R on Geysers (*Regroup at TT rest stop*) > L on Red Winery > R on Pine Flat > R on 128 > (*Regroup at Jimtown*) > R on 128 > Alexander Valley > R on Lytton Station > R on Lytton Springs > L on Chiquita > R on Grove to finish.

Randall Ray—433-2555

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 9

SECOND SATURDAY FREE LUNCH RIDE

Steelhead Festival

2/A/31 • 2/B/36 • 2-3/C/46
1-2/A/10 (Welcome Wagon Ride)
9:30 AM • Healdsburg City Hall

B route: Mill > Westside > R on W. Dry Creek > R on Yoakim Bridge > L on Dry Creek to Fish Hatchery (*Break for hatchery tour*) > Retrace on Dry Creek > L on Canyon > R on Geyserville > L on Hwy 128 > L on Geysers > R on Red Winery > R on Pine Flat > R (straight) on Hwy 128 > R on Lytton Station > R on Lytton Springs > L on Chiquita > R on Grove to finish. **C route:** Add Magnolia loop at start and Fitch Mtn loop at finish. **A route:** in Geyserville, straight south on Geyserville Ave to R on Lytton Springs, etc. **Also a short, easy Welcome Wagon ride for novices.** After rides, lunch at *El Sombrero* or visit the *Steelhead Festival on the Plaza*. Better yet, do both. See article on page 2 for more information.

A: Robin Abramson—569-0620
B: Richard Stone—292-3006
C: Bill Oetinger—823-9807
WW: Janice Eunice—575-9439

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 10

Chalk Hill – Alexander Valley

3/B/33

10:00 AM • San Miguel School

R on Faught > L on Pleasant > R on Chalk Hill > L on Hwy 128 (*Rest stop, Jimtown Store*) > R on 128 > Straight on Geysers > R on Red Winery > R on Pine Flat > L on Hwy 128 > R on Chalk Hill > L on Pleasant > R on Faught

Wayne Kellam—523-1878

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 16

T of C Preview Rides

2-3-4/ABC/30-60-73
9:30 AM • SR City Hall lot

C route: Prince Greenway > SR Creek Bike Trail > South on Fulton > R on Hall > L on Sanford > R on Occidental > L on High School > R on East Hurlbut > Bike Trail > Mill Station > L on Ragle > R on Bodega > L on Watertrough > R on Pleasant Hill > R on Bloomfield > L on Canfield > R on Roblar > L on Pet-Valley Ford > R on Carmody > R on Fallon-Two Rock > L on Twin Bridge > R on Tom-Pet > R on Hwy 1 (*Rest stop at Tomales Bakery*) > From Tomales, the route will follow that of Stage 1 of the Tour

of California back to Santa Rosa: North on Hwy 1 > R on Coleman Valley > L on Bohemian Hwy > R on Occidental > L on Sanford > Hall > Third into downtown. **B route:** same as C to Valley Ford, then R on Valley Ford-Freestone > R on Bodega > L on Bohemian Hwy > Rejoin C route in Occidental. **A route:** Same as C & B to Mill Station, then follow MS to L on Cherry Ridge > R on Occidental, rejoin B & C routes.

A: Looking for a leader
B: Dave Batt—546-5301
C: Bill Oetinger—823-9807

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 17

Cinderella Training (1 of 3)

2/A-B/40

9:30 AM • Youth Community Park

L on Fulton > L on Piner > L on Olivet > R on Guerneville > L on Frei > Graton > R on Ross > L on Ross Station > R on Ross Branch > R on West County Bike Trail to Forestville > L on 116 > R on Martinelli > L on Old River > Thru Hacienda > L on River > R on Westside > R on Wohler > L on Eastside > R on Trenton-H'burg > L on Mark West Station > Windsor > R on Shiloh > R on Skylane > Laughlin > Woolsey > L on Wood > R on Fulton to Park.

Rose Mello—543-5889

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 23

Belated Sweetheart Ride

2-4/CD/54

9:30 AM • Analy HS

Lon HS > L on Hwy 116 > L on Joe Rodota Trail > R on Llano > R on Todd > L on Old Grav > L on Hwy 116 > R on Lone Pine > L on Cunningham > R on Schaeffer > R on Canfield > L on Bloomfield > R on Burnside > L on Barnett Valley > Jonive > L on Occidental (*Regroup in Occi*) > North on Boho > Over river to R on River > R on Sunset > R on Westside > R on Wohler > L on Eastside > R on Trenton-H'burg > Laguna > L on Trenton > L on River > R on Trenton (aka Woolsey) > R on Oakwild > L on W. Olivet > R on Olivet > R on Willowside > R on Hall > L on Sanford > R on Occidental > L on HS to Analy.

Steve & Jessie Kroeck—829-0224

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 24

Cinderella Training (2 of 3)

2-3/A-B/45

9:00 AM • Esposti Park

R on Shiloh > R on Hembree > Arata > R on Los Amigos > L on Limerick > R on Old Red > Healdsburg > Thru Healdsburg to Westside > R on West Dry Creek > R on Lambert Br (*Rest stop, Dry Creek Store*) > So. on Dry Creek > L on Lytton Springs > L on Lytton Station > L on

Alexander Valley > R on Hwy 128 > R on Chalk Hill > L on Pleasant > Faught > R on Shiloh.

Rose Mello—543-5889

SATURDAY • MARCH 1

Cotati Circulator

2/AB/BC/24/48/72

8:30/10:15/Noon • Cotati Vets

R on Myrtle > L on Old Red > R on RR > L on Stony Point > R on Jewett > > R on Pepper > R on Bodega > R on Pet-Valley Ford > R on Roblar > L on Stony Point > > R on W Sierra > R on Henry > (Opt. Redwood Café) > L on Charles > R on E Cotati > R on Lancaster > R on Myrtle to Park. Repeat as necessary....

AB: Martin Clinton—569-0126
BC: Steve Drucker—538-5256

SUNDAY • MARCH 2

Fabulous Fifty

2/AB/50

9:00 AM • Esposti Park

L on Shiloh > L on Faught > R on Chalk Hill > L on Hwy 128 > R on Pine Flat > L on Red Winery > L on Geysers > L on 128 (*L to regroup at Jimtown Store*) > West on Alexander Valley > R on Lytton Station > R on Lytton Springs > R on Geyserville Ave > L on Canyon > L on Dry Creek (*Regroup at Dry Creek Store*) > Lambert Bridge > L on W. Dry Creek > L on Westside > Mill > Healdsburg Ave (thru town) > Old Red > R on Eastside > L on Windsor River > R on Windsor > L on Shiloh to Esposti Park.

Jack Hartnett—694-0922

SATURDAY • MARCH 15

15th Annual Apple Cider Century

3-5/C/100 • 6000' • 3/BC/100K

9:00 AM • Ragle Park

Bill Oetinger—823-9807

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 Mascy—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 leaders

2-3/A/25-30 • 9:00 AM

Same schedule as other Friday rides

Janice Eunice—575-9439

Fourth Friday: George Gallegos—544-3178

& Carole Kolnes—838-3988

• FOR SALE •

DT Swiss Rims, new & used

1450's (1450 grams a set) • 28 spokes, bladed, front & rear • Radial front, 2x rear

Used • Retail: \$750 a set; asking \$275
340's (1685 grams a set) • 28 spokes front,

32 rear

New • Retail: \$600; asking \$400

Wes—545-3240

Trek 520 Touring Bike

Double-buttressed chrome moly frame

Size: 21" • Chainrings: 50-44-28

Cogs: 14-32 • Shimano Deore DX

\$150

Gary—538-9262

Saddle & pedals

Specialized Alias 143 saddle

Lightly used • \$70

Speedplay X pedals • Stainless spindle

Pedals very good, cleats rather worn • \$75

Bob Hasenick—573-1426

Stationary 'bent trainer

Free to a good home: stationary recumbent

trainer • Health club model (very heavy)

Bunni—544-3999

Brooks Saddle

Brooks B17 Champion saddle

Very lightly used • Tan. • \$50

"Old School" Cycling Shoes

Sidi • Black • Men's 47 • Excellent condition • For toe-cage type pedals

(not clipless) • \$25.

Debra—415-641-9147

More BACKROADS & BREAKAWAYS

clear, crisp winter days—a beautiful day for riding. The descents called for some extra caution, as there were quite a few wet spots. And that cattle guard on a corner on King Ridge always gets my attention. We made the trip along Hwy 1 to Coleman Valley Road pretty rapidly, thanks to the NW wind. It's really cool how when you're going in the same direction as the wind that the only thing you hear is the low hum of your wheels spinning along the road surface. The pack fractured a bit on the Coast-to-Occidental leg along Coleman Valley, or at least it seemed that way because of my characteristic dropping-off-the-back-near-the-end-of-the-ride routine." Quite a few more of us might have done this ride, as it's difficult to resist the attraction of King Ridge. But we were busy with the move from storage lockers to warehouse.

Finally, for the last ride of the year, Ken Russeff had an AB ride out of Healdsburg. He reports: "Fifteen riders from Healdsburg to Cloverdale via West Dry Creek and Dutcher Creek Roads. The cool headwind north brought a welcome tailwind on the return. We split into three groups in Geyserville with total mileage ranging from 37 to 49 miles." And on that short note, we can lay the 2007 cycling season to rest. A good year. Perhaps even a very good year.

Just two days later, having wrung out the old year, we rang in the new year with our traditional New Year's Day ride and party, as described in the report on page 1. What an excellent way to kick things off!

After that pleasant ride on New Years, our luck with the weather ran out. The first weekend of 2008 had a Point Reyes century on the card—offered by Bill & Evelyn Ellis—but a monster storm rolled in, beginning on Friday, and knocked the whole Bay Area for a loop. Power outages, trees through roofs, roads flooded, gale-force winds, and rain pounding down like crowbars and clawhammers. No way were we going to ride one hundred miles in that, especially not with the mid-point of the ride out at the Point Reyes Light Station (the end of the continent and official windiest spot on the California coast). B & E have the ride back on the schedule for this month, on the *deja vu* date of Groundhog Day.

That same day, Joe Conway had an attractive AB ride on the schedule that included a crab feed afterward at his place in Bodega Bay. But Bodega Bay was at least as badly mauled by the storm as Point Reyes. No power, lots of rain and wind, and no crab either. So that one was a wash-out as well.

Sunday was a different story, sort of. The storm had passed and our local world was staggering back to normalcy. The roads were still damp but the sky was dry, and riding was at least theoretically possible. (I went out solo and would have had a fine ride except for a Murphy's Law debacle of six flats.) The official ride on the day was Wayne Kellam's Rockpile jaunt from Healdsburg. Maybe it was the prospect of Rockpile's butch climbs. Maybe it was the prospect of Rockpile in uncertain weather. Maybe it was shell shock from the recent storm. Whatever it was, only two brave troopers showed up to join Wayne on the ride, and one of them discovered, upon taking the bike out of the car, that it had no pedals on it! (Removed to be used on a mountain bike and not replaced...*Doh!*) So only Wayne and Vicki made the long trek to the end of the line on the road we call "Skaggs Springs Lite." Wayne had seriously underestimated the miles (at 35). It was more like 50. Wayne says it didn't rain, and they even saw a few spots of sun now and then. But it was cold, and the spray off the damp roads got the tootsies wet, so it felt even colder.

That brings us around once again to the Second Saturday rides. We were doing a fairly classic wine country loop out of Healdsburg, up Dry Creek Valley and down Alexander Valley, with a break at Grapes & Grounds in Cloverdale (on their nicely reinvented town plaza). Hard to say just how many riders were there in the City Hall lot at the start. There were some already on the road when we arrived, getting an early start. The B and C riders were all mixed together too, all day long, or at least until the C-route out-&-back. If I had to hazard a guess, I would say there were 50 riders somewhere on the route. At the front of the field, the D's in C clothing soon went up the road, leaving a mingled BC band to trundle along at a more dignified pace, with the A's a bit further back. Aside from a few tussles with flats, it appeared to be a dandy day. The weather was brisk but not brutal. The roads were sometimes damp but never dangerously slick or sloppy. Everything went about the way a good club ride should go.

The next day there were two rides on the schedule. Tony Lee had a challenging hill-fest in the Valley of the Moon, with Dave Batt leading an alternate B route that skipped a couple of climbs. That all started at the Vets in Cotati. Meanwhile, just around the corner at the Dog Park on Myrtle, Ken Russeff had an AB ride forming up to head out to Freestone. Let's start with Ken's report: "Thirty-three AB riders out of Cotati to the Wildflour Bakery via Valley Ford with all easy riding to this point. The return trip was a bit more challenging via Barnett Valley and Burnside. Since the published route listed the hills as a category 2, I received some good-natured flack from those expecting a less challenging ride. The overcast skies finally gave way to sunshine during the last two miles of the ride."

No mistake about the climbing designation on the Tony/Dave ride: both were listed at 5. Tony sent in this report: "Total number of riders for the B and C rides were about a dozen or so. (Actually, there were at least six on the B ride and over a dozen on the C ride.—*Ed.*) Bill O, who rode in from Sebastopol, was doing the C ride after having led his own ride the day before. What a guy! We headed out together in 50° weather with grey skies. At the first regroup at the end of Sonoma Mtn we picked up two more riders and Scott McEldowney joined us on Arnold Drive. Most of the C riders rode in from their homes, and I'm not sure we all realized (I know I didn't) how much climbing this 60-mile ride had packed into it (somewhere near 7000'). Moon Mtn was our first major climb. (Tony apparently doesn't count the Pressley-Sonoma Mtn climb as major.—*Ed.*) The Moon was covered in a thick fog. Visibility was less than 20' but it was still beautiful. Since none of us had been there before, we all imagined stunning vistas. The first King of the Mountain prize went to Georg. Not surprising with *Herr Hammer* on the ride. On Cavedale we caught up with Dave Batt and the B team, and Lou was there too, who also rode in from home. The fog thinned as we ascended the mountain, giving way to sunshine at the top. King of the Mountain for Cavedale went to Greg Durbin. And this guy just got done from riding 100 miles the day before! After refilling at the fire station and a chilly descent on Trinity, we headed for our last major climb, Nelligan. Back into the fog belt and then back into sunshine at the top. And who should come charging out of the fog to take King of the Mountain? Bob Puckett! He's looking strong. I think he is in full training mode for the Three Parks Tour this year. On our descent we passed Lou heading up and hooked up again with Garth who had flatted earlier on Cavedale. By now the sun was out in full, providing comfortable temperatures for our return ride." Tony apparently doesn't count going back up and over Sonoma Mtn on that return trip as a major climb either. Anyway you slice it or dice it, this was stiff stuff.

2007 Grants/Donations Report

Each year, the SRCC allocates excess funds for grants to various charitable organizations and cycling-related projects. This money is generated primarily by the Wine Country Century and Terrible Two—entry fees and apparel sales—and “excess” money represents what is left over after expenses have been covered and seed money has been set aside for future events and contingencies.

Members help to select the grant recipients by filling out survey forms at club meetings and at the club picnic in the fall. The survey forms list recipients of past grants, with new names added each year based on input from members. The results are tabulated by the Board and presented to the membership at the November or December meeting for final approval. Checks go out near the end of the year.

Community Bike Project	\$1750
Landpaths	\$1500
Sonoma County Trails Council	\$1500
Sonoma County Radio Amateurs	\$1500
Safe Kids	\$1250
Ross Dillon Hope Fund	\$1000
Big Brothers and Sisters of Sonoma County	\$1000
Earl Baum Center of the Blind	\$1000
Team Swift	\$1000
Canine Companions for Independence	\$500
Total	\$12,000

January: elections and other stuff

January’s club meeting seemed almost like a normal monthly meeting, except for an above-average crowd of around 60 members. But January meetings are never quite run-of-the-mill, because that’s when we elect our new Board of Directors to lead the club through the coming year. This time around, it was a fairly simple matter. All incumbents had offered to serve another term except for two: John Miklaucic and Robin Abramson were stepping aside. In their place, Martha Barton and Joe Morgan had volunteered to serve. With all the politicking being so uncomplicated, the voting was done not by ballots but by a show of hands and a rousing chorus of “Aye!” Check out the directory of officers on the back page if you need to be reminded who these hard-working worthies are.

Check the Minute Mix for more details of what went down at the meeting. Of special significance was a measure proposed by the Board and passed by the membership that creates a two-tier membership fee structure, based on whether one receives the club newsletter in hard copy, snail-mail form or in pdf, electronic-delivery form. (Membership dues barely cover the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter the old-fashioned way, whereas e-newsletters cost almost nothing.) Members who elect to receive their newsletter as a pdf will receive a \$5 discount off the regular dues (individual or family rates). There is a check-off box for this on the form at the new on-line membership services site (www.srcc.memberlodge.com). Members who switch to pdf delivery in the middle of a paid-up membership period will not receive a discount but will have their current membership extended by 25%. The pdf newsletter looks exactly like the conventional newsletter but offers a couple of advantages (aside from saving the club money and saving paper): it arrives several days before the snail-mail copy; it contains some color images and graphics. The color images may not be that big a deal, but having the ride list in

hand a few days earlier can be significant when it comes to planning for rides in the early part of the coming month.

The other special event of the evening was the raffle of bike goodies for all those present who had participated in the club’s Commute Miles on-line log. Alan Bloom was in charge and dished out some very nice swag to the assembled commuters. Overall numbers were down a bit in 2007 for the log. Perhaps we didn’t promote it enough. So let’s begin to rectify that now. It’s fun and it’s easy to do: log your bike-commute miles at the site and be an inspiration to your club mates. Any bike trip counts that might otherwise have been done by car. This includes not only commuting to work but running errands and even riding to club ride starts...especially riding to ride starts!

Amgen Tour of California 2008

More than déjà vu all over again?

Were you in Santa Rosa on President’s Day—Monday, February 20th, 2006—when the professional bicycle racers rode into Santa Rosa for their three circuits of downtown and a sprint finish in Courthouse Square? Maybe you are in the famous photo of spectators watching from the Third Street Parking Garage.

February 19th, 2007 brought more men’s international teams to Santa Rosa. Did you see the big crash on the finish circuit, or had you gone out to watch how fast the pros could climb Coleman Valley?

Also in 2007, Tuesday morning gave an opportunity for fans to get close to the athletes as the teams assembled in Railroad Square to warm up, sign in with race officials, and be introduced to the crowd. At 10:00AM the race rolled out of town via Bennett Valley Road, Glen Ellen, and the climb up Trinity Road on the way to Sacramento.

For 2008 the Tour of California has changed some stages and has some new cities participating: the Prologue will be in Palo Alto instead of San Francisco, and the race finishes on the eighth day in Pasadena. What about Santa Rosa? We get even MORE racing than before! Monday, February 18 (President’s Day), and Tuesday February 19th will see Stages 1 and 2 on routes and at times almost exactly as in 2007. What is different is the addition of a professional criterium for women riders on a one-mile course in downtown Santa Rosa, held on Monday from noon until 1:00PM before the men’s peloton arrives. This is the only women’s event in the 2008 Tour schedule, and shows how highly Santa Rosa is regarded by the race organizers.

Also on race day there will be helmet-decorating and a race round part of the finish straight for child cyclists, and the Lifestyle Festival will return to Courthouse Square.

As you know by now, the race has and will require months of planning by the organizers and the cities involved, and needs participation by literally thousands of people. For most of those people, like the volunteers from the Santa Rosa Cycling Club, the race offers an opportunity for their enthusiasm for bicycling of all types to be turned into a very visible demonstration of just how widespread that enthusiasm is in the community.

We want to get as many bicycles downtown as possible, and the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition will again provide secure bicycle parking, back in Courthouse Square for the Monday celebration, and in Railroad Square Tuesday morning.

See you there! Volunteer at amgentourofcalifornia.com

—Martin Clinton, Local Organizing Committee, Santa Rosa

SANTA ROSA CYCLING CLUB

**PO Box 6008
Santa Rosa, CA 95406**

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Member:
LAB • CBC • CABO • REBAC • SCTC • IMBA • SCBC

- President: Craig Gaevart 545-4133
 - Vice-President: Greg Durbin 528-4450
 - Secretary: Donn King 823-5461
 - Treasurer: Donna Emery 546-6359
 - Officers at Large**
 - Martha Barton 538-9315
 - Charlie Rowell 432-4538
 - Joe Morgan 778-8209
 - Gordon Stewart 823-0941
 - Martin Clinton 569-0126
 - Bill Oetinger (newsletter editor, ride director) 823-9807
 - Bill Osburn (webmaster) 477-6974
 - Sharron Bates (club apparel sales) 526-3512
 - Craig Gaevert (membership registration) 545-4133
- cgarch@sonic.net

SRCC website: <http://www.srcc.com>

srccride@sonic.net (Bill Oetinger, e-wrangler)

To join the club or renew membership please go to
www.srcc.memberlodge.com



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, February 13 • 6:30 PM

Round Table Pizza

(Occidental Road, west of Stony Point)

Speaker not final at press time.

Wednesday, March 12

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

(Open to all interested members)

Thursday, February 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, March 6

• Directory of WCC Committee Chairs •

- WCC Chair Joe Morgan, 778-8209, themorganfamily@comcast.net
- Volunteer coordinator Kimberly Hoffman, 579-3754, kdhoffman10@yahoo.com
- Site reservations John Miklaucic, 545-3470, jmiklaucic@comcast.net
- Registration Gordon Stewart, 823-0941, gordon@gsathome.com
- Sags & Communication Craig Gaevert, 545-4133, cgarch@sonic.net
- Food & Materials Doug Simon, 577-0113, desimon@sbcglobal.net
- Equipment cleaning Dave Batt, 546-5301, irenebatt@hotmail.com
- Course marking Tony Lee, 776-9803, dr_tony_lee@yahoo.com
- Course hosts Tom Bahning, 525-1960, duncansmills@sbcglobal.net
- Course signs Vicki Duggan, 525-1960, duncansmills@sbcglobal.net
- Course marshals Ron Bates, 526-3512, technical@randallnutrition.com
- Customer service Dave Trumbo, 765-9022, jumpin@sonic.net
- Day-of merchandise Sharron Bates, 526-3512, technical@randallnutrition.com
- Graton Janice Eunice, 575-9439, nicenice@sonic.net
- Ocean Song Wayne Kellam, 523-1878, kkellam@sonic.net
- Monte Rio Bunni Zimberoff, 544-3999, bunnizim@gmail.com
- Wohler Bridge Cynthia Spigarelli, 824-4466, cstar3@sonic.net
- Warm Springs Dam Jim Williams, 538-3793, jjwilliams@earthlink.net
- Alexander Valley Steve Drucker, 538-5256, sdrucker@santarosa.edu
- LBC John Miklaucic, 545-3470, jmiklaucic@comcast.net
- Volunteer Ride Joe Conway, 875-9056, bodegajoe@comcast.net