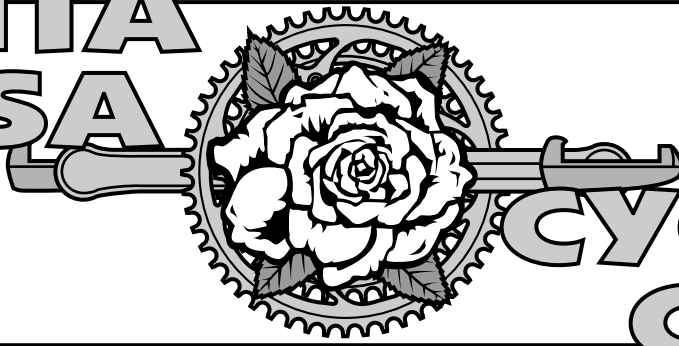


SANTA ROSA



CYCLING CLUB

MARCH 2008 NEWSLETTER

Wine Country Century: full speed ahead

This copy is being written on February 18. The Wine Country Century registration has been open since February 1. In those 18 days, we have logged somewhere over 1600 entries. At this rate, we will hit our 2500 rider field limit by the end of the month, more than two months before the event (scheduled for Saturday, May 3). This rate of registration shatters any previous records...no prior year even comes close.

One thing we've learned with this tsunami of early entries: our new on-line registration system is working very well. There have been a few minor glitches, but overall, it's doing what it's supposed to do, and is easier—and less expensive—for entrants and event staff both. Please give a warm round of applause to Board member Gordon Stewart, who set up the registration for the WCC and also the Terrible Two (and club membership as well). Gordon has done a wizard job on this, and he is monitoring the system day by day, making sure it continues to function smoothly.

So it appears the event's popularity grows and grows, year after year. We may be amazed at the rate at which people are signing up, but we're not surprised that it is pulling them in. No one has to explain to the SRCC members why the WCC is a great draw. It has pretty much all the positives one expects in a good ride. It has great scenery, from the Pacific Ocean to the premium vineyards, from shady woods and orchards to rolling meadows and rippling rivers. Its challenge is moderate enough for beginners but varied enough to keep more

advanced riders entertained (especially on the longer courses). Best of all, it has the support of the Santa Rosa Cycling Club and its many energetic, cheerful, competent members.

But of course, that great support, which is a hallmark of the WCC, is only as good as our most recent staff of volunteer workers. We could easily see the event slip into mediocrity if all our club members found something else to do on the big day. We need you to be there.

WCC Chair Joe Morgan tells us there are still plenty of openings for volunteers on our many crews, before, during, and after the event. He mentions in particular a need for assistance with check-in chores on Friday night and Saturday morning.

He also has a new job for at least one person: he wants someone to take on the task of checking the contents of all first aid kits and tool boxes in the club warehouse. There are a lot of them, and they all need to be checked and restocked as needed. This is a job that can be done any time prior to the event. And as ever, we never have enough sags.

Finally, he notes that we need quite a few people to work during the Workers' Ride on Saturday, May 10. Anyone who pitches in on that project is free to ride the actual century on the 3rd.

If you haven't signed up with your favorite committee, do so soon. If you don't know what you want to do or where you might be needed, get in touch with the Volunteer Coordinator. All the contact info is on page 8. We're serious when we say we need your help.

What's up with the club website?

Anyone visiting our club website will note that it has been looking a bit different in recent weeks. The genesis of those changes stems from our project to reconfigure our registration systems...membership, WCC, and TT. Our first priority was to get those programs running properly by our opening day of February 1, then to monitor them to see that they continue to work efficiently.

Those changes resulted in other changes elsewhere at the site. The thing we want to stress at this point is that this is a work in progress. What you see now is not where we want to end up with the site. We will continue to tinker with the pages until we have everything looking good and working in a way that is user-friendly and dead simple. Meanwhile, pardon our dust during this reconstruction.

League of American Bicyclists salutes SRCC

We're a little tardy in getting around to mentioning this, but some good things are still good even if a little out of date.

In the November-December issue of their membership news magazine, the League of American Bicyclists ran a feature on the Santa Rosa Cycling Club under the heading, "Celebrating Excellent Bike Clubs." Each month they spotlight one or two clubs that have been selected because of all the good things they do: putting on good events, promoting cycling, advocacy, touring, etc.

It was a very nice write-up, accurately describing who we are and what we do. All SRCC members can take pride in knowing their club has been accorded this honor. We were already fairly confident that we're doing a good job, but it's nice when others recognize this as well.

MINUTE MIX

Highlights from the General Membership and Executive Board meetings for February

1. Call to Order: President Craig Gaeverth called the general meeting to order at the Round Table on Occidental Road on Wednesday, February 13. 53 members and guests were in attendance.

2. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Donna Emery announced that, as of January 31, the checking account balance was \$2957.47, with \$39,793.04 in savings.

3. WCC: Event Chair Joe Morgan reported on registration to date and renewed the call for volunteers for various tasks before, during, and after the event. Bill Oetinger reported that 500 new WCC jerseys have been ordered from Voler Team Apparel. (Members had approved this expense.) Members were shown front and back renderings of the new design, which can also be seen at the club website in the WCC section. (See item on page 1 and Committee Chairs Directory on page 8.)

4. Membership: Gordon Stewart noted that all membership services are now on-line at the club website (along with all registration for WCC and TT). It was noted that the club website is in the process of being revamped as a result of these new services, and that its current design is not final yet. We're still working on it. Gordon also noted that over 100 club members so far have opted for the pdf version of the newsletter, thereby qualifying for a reduction in their dues.

5. Crits: Lars Norlund brought a proposal to the Board for financial support for the Tuesday Night Crit series and Corporate Crits. His request was for \$1000. The Board accepted the proposal and passed it along to the membership for final approval. Approved.

6. TT: Craig Gaeverth reported no news is good news with the Terrible Two. Entries are beginning to trickle in at our on-line reg site, but not much is happening otherwise at this date.

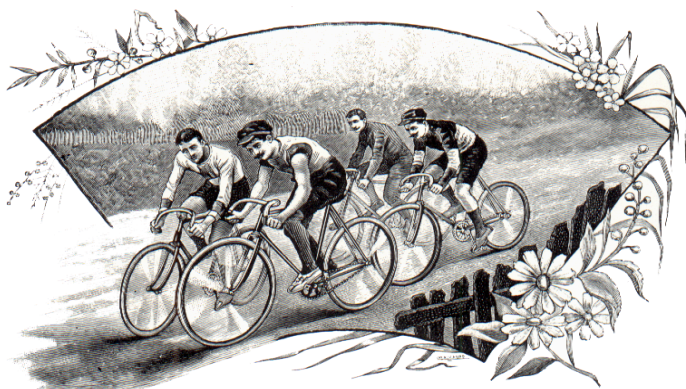
7. TofC: Martin Clinton made one final appeal for volunteers to work on the Tour of California on its two stages in or near Santa Rosa.

8. Free Lunch: Bill Oetinger reported on the recently concluded Free Lunch Ride. (See item in B&B.)

9. Thanks: Michael Teller and other staff members from Community Bikes were on hand to thank the club for its recent funding grant to support their program.

10. Picnic. An appeal was put forward for someone to act as coordinator for the Spring Picnic in April.

11. Speakers: Adrienne Ruggles presented a slide show documenting her involvement in RAAM last summer. Adrienne acted as crew chief in support of a two-rider relay team. Gordon Stewart was a member of her support team and was on hand at the meeting to provide additional commentary.



It's time for March Magic Mileage Challenge!

The seventh edition of our annual March Magic challenge, inspired by the March Madness program of the Davis Bike Club, was initiated to provide inspiration and motivation in jump-starting participants' training early in the year.

Many have found March Magic a great way to build solid base miles for the rest of the year, whether the rest of the year means riding in centuries, tours, races, doubles, or something more in the "Gearhead" category. Others find it useful in helping to shed the "winter coat." It also provides a vehicle for working together with your old and new friends, sharing in the camaraderie that makes the Santa Rosa Cycling Club so special.

Once again, the sign up and mileage tracking is online, thanks to Alan Bloom, and you can find March Magic under the "Site Map" link on the club's website. We have mileage goals for everyone - ranging from 150 up to 2000 miles, including a fixed-gear goal of 300 miles.

This year, March has five full weekends with a calendar full of rides designed to help you achieve your mileage goals. We also encourage riders to get together for rides during lunches, at night, or in the early mornings.

We will have a free MM/Spring Picnic in April to celebrate everyone's March Magic Mileage achievements.

We'd love to see at least 75 riders participate in MM, so sign up, talk it up, and have fun! Let's ride!

While you're at the website opening up your MM log, take a minute to set up your Century Challenge and Commute Miles on-line logs as well. They all work the same way and all mean the same thing: more bike miles and more bike smiles.

—Greg Durbin

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.

Check out the following quotes, all three from the opening paragraph of this column, one quote per year for the last three years...

March, 2005: "...hasn't it been amazing? I mean, we had that day when Santa Rosa tied with Death Valley and Honolulu for the hottest spot in the USA: 78°."

March, 2006: "...we have been enjoying one record-setting heat wave after another...balmy days in the mid-70's that make it feel as if we're living in Santa Barbara and not on the north coast."

March, 2007: "...a heat wave that set records with days over 80° and conditions just about as nice as you could possibly imagine."

In all three years, the copy about record-setting heat waves was preceded by descriptions of brutally cold and wet storms that had pounded us right up to the point where the balmy biking weather had begun. You don't need a weatherman to know that this year has followed pretty much the same pattern. We had those whopper storms in early January and then again at the end of the month and on into early February. But after that, the funky fronts went somewhere else, at least for awhile. The skies cleared and it warmed up to at least the low 70's. Maybe not quite a record-setting heat wave this time around, but still very pleasant, especially after the gully-washing, frog-strangling, tree-toppling storms of the previous weeks.

A chronicle of club rides over this reporting period will reflect those slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, both the rain and the sun. We take up our report with the weekend of January 19-20, which coincided with one of the less rainy spells. First up on Saturday was Tom Helm's pace line clinic. I didn't attend this one, but I've participated in Tom's classes before, and I know they're worthwhile. Pace lines can be an intimidating mystery for cyclists new to group riding, and Tom does a good job of demystifying the process. (Many supposedly more experienced riders could benefit from a few pointers in this department as well. Don't assume these clinics are just for newbies.) Tom tells me he had a good crowd on hand for this one, and that it all appeared to go quite well. In support of that impression, we had a nice e-mail from one of the participants to tell us how much he appreciated the mentoring...how much he had learned. Let's hope Professor Tom feels inclined to offer more of these little tutorials in the months ahead.

On Sunday, Rose Mello led an A ride out of Santa Rosa that headed west to Sebastopol and then north to Windsor. She reports: "Today was another good day to ride. It was chilly this morning, but it didn't stop the 32 riders who were out to do the ride. It was a surprise to see that many riders. Some of the riders would like to see more A rides listed, and it would be nice to see new ride leaders leading A rides."

I don't know why Rose was surprised to see over 30 riders for her listing. Seems like every ride she leads pulls in a crowd of about that size. Folks know her and trust her to put together a good route. As for the desire to see more A rides and more new A ride leaders, amen to that! However, I'd take it one step further: we need more new ride leaders in all categories. The conventional wisdom is that the C and B riders are more committed to their so-called agendas and so will be more inclined to list and lead rides than the A riders. But as you can see from the list for this weekend, we had no B and no C rides. Anyone

in either of those groups who wanted a ride had to drum it up among friends or go out solo.

We had more total ride leaders in 2007 than in any prior year, but that happy stat is misleading. For one thing, out of all those many leaders, a very small core group led the vast majority of the rides, month after month. What's more, as a percentage of total club membership, the number of ride leaders is getting smaller all the time. The overall club roster keeps growing—past 600 at last count—but the roster of ride leaders keeps shrinking. Simply put, 95% of the club members are expecting the other 5% to do almost all of the heavy lifting in the ride leading department. Any way you care to spin it, that is not a healthy situation.

I began coordinating the ride lists for the club in 1992. I'm now into my 17th year at the task, which means I'm into my 17th year of harassing and haranguing, pleading and cajoling, for new ride leaders. (If you think it gets old seeing me beating this same tired dog over and over, think how old it feels to me to be doing it.) Having said it all before, I'll keep this pitch basic: if you never go on club rides, then you don't need to think about leading any; if however, you do show up for the rides and you do enjoy them, then every so often you ought to do your part by taking the lead on a ride of your own. It's simple to do; it's fun; and it improves life for you and all your club mates. And all of your riding buddies will thank you for making the effort. How about it...?

The next weekend was the last in January, and the winter storms were swarming ashore once again—had in fact been here all week—swaggering about like schoolyard bullies, looking to put the hurt on some hapless victims. In spite of the nearly non-stop storms, Saturday was actually okay: a tiny window amidst the near flood-level deluge we had been enduring. Martin Clinton was the beneficiary of this little window between fronts, with his Tour of California Prep Ride and Orientation Party. Martin tells me the weather, although not actively spitting down rain, still looked a little threatening, and that kept attendance down. He was leading the troops for awhile but then had to head to the finish to organize the party, so Craig Gaevart was deputized to shepherd folks along. As far as I know, the only glitch was finding Mark West Station Road under the flood waters and therefore having to improvise a detour. While attendance on the ride was not huge, attendance at the orientation party was everything Martin could have hoped for: over 100 on hand to chow down on food (provided by the club) and to learn the ropes for their volunteer tasks attendant on the upcoming Tour of California.

Sunday was back in the soup again. Rain early and often. Randall Ray had scheduled one of our two Century Challenge rides for this day (with the other already having been rained out on the first weekend of the month). Alas, this one was rained out too. On Saturday, I could see that Sunday would be a wash-out, so I did Randall's century ride on my own a day early. I can tell you it was an excellent route—thanks, Randall!—and that the rain had supercharged every little gulch and gully and arroyo to the point where I felt I was in some alpine or Sierra setting, with babbling brooks and cascading torrents at every turn.

Next up—on the first weekend in February—was a rain-check ride for Bill & Evelyn Ellis: their Point Reyes Century, rained out in January and back for another try. Sorry kids, no dice. More rain on a fairly grand scale, so no journey to the end of the continent. Will we ever get to do this ride?

— 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 • 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

Ink Grade - Pope Valley

3/B/35

9:30 AM • St Helena Safeway

Pope > Howell Mtn (including bike path bypass near Angwin) > L on College (in Angwin) > R on White Cottage > L on Ink Grade > R on Pope Valley > R on Chiles-&Pope Valley > R on Sage Canyon > R on Silverado Trail > L on Pope.

Jim Draeger—576-1058

SATURDAY • MARCH 8

SECOND SATURDAY

The Nearly Level Century

2-3/BC/101 • 2-3/BC/50 • 2-3/A/27

8:00 AM • Cotati Dog Park

Century (B or C tempo): R on Myrtle > L on Old Red > R Railroad > L on Stony Pt > R on Jewett > R on Pepper > R on Bodega > R on Pet-Valley Ford > Hwy 1 > R on Valley Ford-Freestone > R on Bodega Hwy > L on Bohemian Hwy > L Moscow (Rest stop in Duncan Mills) > R on River > R on Sunset > R on

Westside > L on West Dry Creek > R on Lambert Bridge > R on Dry Creek > R on Grove > L on Matheson (Rest stop in Healdsburg) > Thru Healdsburg > L on Healdsburg Ave > Old Red > L on Limerick > R on Los Amigos > L on Arata > Hembree (Rest stop at shopping center) > R on Shiloh > L on Skylane > Laughlin > Woolsey > L on Wood > R on Fulton > L on Sebastopol Rd > R on Corp Center > L on North Pt > R on Stony Pt > L on W. Sierra > R on Valparaiso > Myrtle. **Shortride (B or C tempo):** In Occidental...R on Graton > R on Railroad > L on Grey > R on Bike Path > L on Occidental > R on Barlow > L on Mill Station > R on Ragle > R on Bodega Hwy > L on Watertrough > R on Pleasant Hill > R on Bloomfield > L on Canfield > L on Roblar > L on Stony Pt > R on W. Sierra > R on Valparaiso > Myrtle. **A ride:** from Petaluma-Valley Ford Rd...R on Bloomfield > rejoin short BC route with R on Canfield.

B Century: Rose Mello—543-5889

SUNDAY • MARCH 9

Franz Valley-128-Chalk Hill

4/B/35

10:00 AM • San Miguel School

L on Faught > L on Old Red > L on Mark West Springs > L on Franz Valley > L on Hwy 128 > L on Chalk Hill > L on Faught to the finish.

Wayne Kellam—523-1878

Korbel Sparkling Ride

2/AB/30

9:00 AM • Ragle Park

L on Ragle > L on Mill Station > R on Barlow > L on Occidental > R on Bike Path > R on Grey > L on Ross > L on Ross Station > R on Ross Branch > R on Bike Path to Forestville > L on 116 > R on Martinelli > L Old River > R on Forrest Hills > L on River (Rest stop at Korbel) > R on River > R on Sunset > R on Westside > R on Wohler > L on Eastside > R on Trenton/H'burg > R on Laguna (Regroup) > L on Guerneville > R on Frei > L on 116 > R on Mill Station > R on Ragle to Park.

Janice Eunice—575-9439

SATURDAY • MARCH 15

SRCC RUSA 200-K Brevet

7:00 AM • Healdsburg City Hall

200-K route through Alexander, Knights, and Napa Valleys. Check the Brevet page at srcc.com for dates and more info on season-long series.

Donn King—823-5461

Sue's Birthday Ride

2-3/AB/55+

9:00 AM • Cotati Dog Park

L on Myrtle > L on Old Red > R on W. Railroad > L on Stony Point > R on Jewett > R on Pepper > R on Bodega > L on Spring Hill > R on Chileno Valley > L on Tomales-Petaluma > R on Hwy 1 (*Rest stop at Tomales Bakery*) > R on Hwy 1 > R on Pet-Valley Ford > L on Bloomfield > R on Canfield > L on Roblar > L on Stony Point > R on W. Sierra > R on Valparaiso > Myrtle.

Sue Bennett—523-1322

SUNDAY • MARCH 16

Cinderella Training (3 of 3)

2-3/AB/55

8:30 AM • Cotati Dog Park

R on Myrtle > Valparaiso > L on W. Sierra > L on Stony Pt > R on Roblar > R on Pet-Valley Ford > L on Middle > R on Marsh > L on Franklin School > L on Whitaker Bluff > R on Middle > L on Dillon Beach (*Rest stop at Tomales Bakery*) > L on Hwy 1 > L on Tomales-Petaluma > R on Chileno Valley > R on Western (*Rest stop at Petaluma Creamery*) > L on Western > R on Cleveland > L on Bodega > R on Thompson > L on Skillman > R on Liberty > L on Pepper > R on Jewett > L on Stony Pt > R on W. RR > L on Old Red > R on Myrtle.

Rose—543-5889

SATURDAY • MARCH 22

15th Annual Apple Cider Century

NOTE: Was listed in Feb on 3/15

3-5/C/100 • 6000' • 3/BC/100K

9:00 AM • Ragle Park

L on Ragle > L on Mill Station > L on Sullivan > L on Green Valley > R on Thomas > Maddocks > R on GV > L on Hwy 116 > L on River > R on Old Monte Rio > R on River (*regroup in Monte Rio*) > 100-K goes L in MR; 100-mile stays on River > R on Austin Creek > R on Caz Hwy > L on Ft Ross > L on Meyers Grd > L on Hwy 1 > L on River > R on Moscow (*regroup in Duncans Mills*) > R on Boho (rejoin 100K route) > R on Bodega > L on VF-Freestone > L on Hwy 1 > R on Middle > R on Marsh > L on Franklin School > L on Whitaker Bluff > R on Middle > L on DB (*regroup in Tomales*) > So on Hwy 1 > L on Tom-Pet > L on Twin Bridge > R on Fallon-Two Rock > L on Carmody > L on Pet-VF > R on Bloomfield > R on Pleasant Hill > L on Covert to Ragle Park. *Rain on Saturday? Reboot for Sunday. RSVP to be sure.*

Bill Oetinger—823-9807

Cotamalesaluma Revisted

3/A/50

9:00 AM • Cotati Dog Park

R on Myrtle > L on Old Red > R on W Railroad > L on Stony Point > R on Jewett > R on Pepper > R on Bodega > R on Pet-Valley Ford > L on Fallon-Two Rock > Whitaker Bluff > L on Middle > L on Dillon Beach (*Rest stop at Tomales Bakery*) > South on Hwy 1 > L on Tomales-Petaluma > R on Chileno Valley > R on Western > L on Cleveland > L on Bodega > R on Lohrman > L on Magnolia > R on Thompson > L on Skillman > R on Liberty > L on Center > Jewett > L on Stony Point > R on W RR > L on Old Red > R on Myrtle to Dog Park.

Ken Russeff—953-1804

SUNDAY • MARCH 23

Skateboard to Cloverdale

3/B/77

9:00 AM • Youth Community (skateboard) Park

R on Fulton > R on Guerneville > R on Laguna > Trenton-H'burg > L on Eastside > R on Wohler > R on Westside > L on W Dry Creek > R on Yoakim Bridge > L on Dry Creek > R on Dutcher Creek > Cloverdale Blvd > R on E. 2nd (*Rest stop at Grape and Grounds*) > E. 2nd > R on N. Main > L on E. 1st > R on Asti > Geyserville > L on Hwy 128 in Geyserville > R on Alexander Valley > L on Healdsburg > L on Grant > R on University > L on Mason > R on Front > L on Healdsburg Ave > Old Red > R on Starr > L on Mark West Station > R on Slusser > L on River > R on Olivet > L on Piner > R on Fulton to park.

Alan Bloom—538-7115

SATURDAY • MARCH 29

Double County • Double Metric

2/BC/126

7:30 AM • Howarth Park

Thru SR to Third > Hall > R on Willowside > L on Piner > R on Olivet > L on River > R on Slusser > R on Windsor > L on Reiman > R on Starr > L on Old Red > H'burg Ave > Thru town to H'burg Ave north > L on Lytton Springs > R on Geyserville > R on Hwy 128 > L on Bale > R on Silverado Trail > L on Oak Knoll > L on Solano > R on Orchard > L on Dry Creek > R on Redwood > L on Westview > L on Browns Valley > R on Thompson > L on Congress Valley > R on Old Sonoma > R on Hwy 121 > L on Duhig > Ramal > L on Acacia > R on Burndale > L on Napa > R on Denmark > Bike path to E. Second > L on bike path > R on W. Fifth (unsigned) > L on Verano > R on Railroad > L on Boyes > R on Arnold > L on Warm Springs > L on Hwy 12 > L on Pythian > Thru Oakmont to Channel > L thru park > R on Newanga > R on Hoen > R on Summerfield to

finish. *Quality miles without monster hills!*
Ride leader plans to take about 10 hours with minimal stops at Jintown, Calistoga, Browns Valley, and Glen Ellen. Carry food!

B: Martin Clinton—569-0126

C: Steve Drucker—538-5256

SUNDAY • MARCH 30

Cheese Factory Ride

3/B/45 • 9:00 AM

Rouge & Noir Cheese Factory

L on Pt. Reyes-Petaluma > L on Hicks Valley > L on Marshall-Petaluma > R Hwy 1 (*Rest stop at Tomales Bakery*) > Continue north on Hwy 1 > R on Fallon-Two Rock > R on Alexander > L on Tomales-Petaluma > on R on Chileno Valley > R on Wilson Hill > L on Hicks Valley > R on Pt. Reyes-Petaluma to Cheese Factory.

Rose—543-5889

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

On Sunday, Randall Ray had listed a loop up and around the Geysers, one of our real walks on the wild side, and a long way from home if and when the weather turns nasty. As the weather did appear to be turning nasty, most of us gave this one a miss. But the ride did go on, barely. Five people showed up and made it as far as Cloverdale. Two elected to bail back down the valley to Healdsburg, while three plucky souls stuck with it over the mountains. Both groups got nailed by a brief but substantial downpour just after Cloverdale. After that, it was grey and chilly for awhile until a weak winter sun peeked out. All claim to have had a good time, in spite of the rain, at least after they had dried off and warmed up a little.

A little bit closer to the warmth and comfort of home, Ken Russeff had another ride on this iffy day: his Mid-County Meandering. Ken sent in a note about it: "Despite a night of rain and threatening skies, ten brave AB riders gathered at Esposti Park on Super Bowl Sunday and decided to go for it. Picking up our 11th rider on the way, we headed to Healdsburg, caught a little rain on Westside Road but warmed up with coffee at Cousteaux's Bakery. Because of the continued threat of rain, most of us went directly back to our cars via Old Red, ending with 33 miles or so."

Finally—*finally!*—the sun came out in earnest for the Second Saturday ride on February 9. We could hardly have asked for a nicer day. This was a special Second Saturday ride because it was also our annual Free Lunch Ride, and more than that, it was held in conjunction with the Healdsburg Steelhead Festival, a big event commemorating the run of wild steelhead in the Russian River and Dry Creek. The organizers of the festival had invited the club to list a ride that would dovetail with their goings-on, and we agreed, then got the brain wave of making it our Free Lunch Ride as well...roll all the different projects up into one big package. Throw in the first really nice weather in several weeks, and it was a slam dunk. With all those positives lined up in our favor, it's no surprise that well over 100 riders showed up to take part in our classic trek up Dry Creek Valley and back down Alexander Valley. At the half-way point, we stopped at the Warm Springs Dam Visitor Center, and at least some of the riders got off the bikes long enough to visit the fish hatchery and see the stars of the day: the steelies. Steelhead are sea-run trout. They start life as regular rainbow trout, but some of those rainbows decide to swim downstream and head out to sea, like salmon. When they do, they come back upstream (to spawn) looking a lot more like salmon than trout. Geez, those lunkers are big! (I know you fishermen out there will be cringing at my oversimplified steelhead taxonomy, but it's essentially correct.)

That made a nice *intermezzo* in the ride, and then we all poured back down the valley, with another regroup at the sunny Jimtown Store. After the ride, a fairly sizable fraction of the original crowd hung around for either the festival on the plaza or for the lunch at El Farolito. Our traditional Free Lunch venue of El Sombrero was closed for renovation—thanks to Steve Drucker for alerting us to this fact early in the week—so we made alternate plans to patronize El Farolito, across the plaza, and it worked out great. We took over their back room and polished off a large ration of burritos and other taqueria munchies, washed down with several pitchers of liquid refreshment. All in all, it was about as nice a Free Lunch Ride adventure as we have enjoyed in quite some time. The day pretty well summed up what we all like about club rides.

Once again, Wayne Kellam was the confident lad who chose to list a ride on the day after our popular Second Saturday extravaganza. His confidence in his drawing power was justified, as nearly 30 riders turned out for a Chalk Hill-Alexander Valley loop. (Just like Rose, Wayne is a well-known and trusted ride leader.) Many of his riders had been on the SS ride the day before and must have felt a bit of déjà vu at finding themselves once again basking in the sun on the front porch of the Jimtown Store. Wayne says that aside from the regular winter crop of flats, nothing out of the ordinary happened on this pleasant day. A few ambitious people added an out-&-back on Pine Flat. Otherwise, it was all the same old same old, and that was just about as nice as it could be.

A week later, and we were into the sphere of influence—and excitement—of the upcoming Tour of California. The marquee attraction on the weekend—for our club, anyway—was the ToFC preview ride on Saturday, Feb 16. A, B, & C groups all explored various parts of the route of Stage 1 from the Tour, which came through for real on the following Monday. At the start at City Hall in Santa Rosa, it looked as if there were about a dozen A riders and two dozen each for the B and C rides, and we continued to pick up riders as we headed west along Santa Rosa Creek and out through Sebastopol. At our first rest stop in Tomales, the place was teeming with cyclists...not just our bunch, but also a large contingent of Petaluma Wheelmen and many others from further afield. The C route was the most ambitious, following the course up the coast through Bodega Bay and then up and over Coleman Valley. After beginning the day under a moist, grey overcast, the sun came out near Tomales, and the rest of the ride was crisp and clear and magnificent, and maybe even warm. We were certainly warm enough climbing Coleman Valley. That bad boy never gets any easier. After struggling up those steep pitches at a snail's pace, it's impressive (and humbling) to see how fast the pros zip up it. Amidst all those milling bikers on the roads, we managed to bump into our old club mate and riding buddy Tony Guillory. He and some friends were doing the whole of Stage 1, from Sausalito to Santa Rosa. It was a superb day to be out there next to the ocean, rolling out the miles, cranking up the hills, ramping up the thrills...priming the pump for the big circus of the pro peloton coming to town in the days ahead.

Rose Mello was back in charge on the next day with the first of her three training rides leading up to the Cinderella Century. As noted earlier, she always seems to have 30+ riders, and on this day, she had 35. She says it was a bit chilly heading out of Youth Community Park and up along the bike path to Forestville. But chilly or not, it was a nice day to be out on the bikes.

Ditto for Monday—Presidents' Day—when thousands of cyclists were out in force to welcome the pro tour peloton to Sonoma County and Santa Rosa on Stage 1 of the Amgen Tour of California. Not only were cyclists swarming the roads everywhere between Santa Rosa and Coleman Valley, but the roadsides were thickly settled by non-cycling spectators. It all added up to a high level of excitement and anticipation as we headed toward our chosen spots for watching the passing parade (either as course workers or simply as race fans). Last year I worked downtown; this year I was persuaded by friends to take in the scene at the top of Coleman Valley. Looking at the live coverage log on CyclingNews later, I could see that when our little group left my house in Sebastopol at 12:12, the peloton was passing through Dogtown, just north of Bolinas. We arrived at the summit about ten minutes ahead of the lead riders. In other words, it took us slightly less time to ride about 18 miles than it took the peloton to cover around 48 miles. Admittedly, we weren't hurrying, but then neither

were the riders in the race. Not at that point anyway. They appeared to be moving at a pretty good clip by the time they passed us at the top of Coleman, and they certainly wound it up to full race pace when they hit the closing circuits around downtown Santa Rosa. It was a thrill to be standing on the side of our own little back road watching the superstars of the highest ranks of cycling pounding past: Paolo Bettini, Tom Boonen, Mario Cipollini, Jens Voigt, Fabian Cancellara, Oscar Friere, George Hincapie, Stuey O'Grady...and of course our own Levi. Coleman Valley may not be l'Alpe du Huez and February may not be July, but still, for our little backwater, way off on the left coast of a far away land, it's pretty dang cool. And speaking of cool, how cool was it to see Santa Rosa's Jackson Stewart from our hometown Team BMC, cresting the hill first? Wow!

It looks as if the same on-again, off-again weather that has made life interesting for us over the past couple of months will make life interesting for the boys in the Tour of California peloton, as they make their way down the state. (This is being written, and the newsletter is going to the printer, on the day of Stage 2. By the time you read this, we will all know who won and just how wet they all got on their way to that final outcome in Pasadena.) It's raining this morning, which is why I'm at home typing this up rather than out on Trinity Grade, cheering the riders up the hill. (By the way: I did *not* say they would go up that hill in their big rings, as reported in the *Press-Democrat*. How the reporter took that away from our interview, I have no idea.) Drizzly weather notwithstanding, the pros are back out on the roads, and like a robin singing amidst the plum blossoms, that's a sure sign that spring is just around the corner.

• 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...you move)

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

• A little SRCC history lesson •

We are often asked about the origins of the Santa Rosa Cycling Club. In an effort to answer those questions, the following item is reprinted from an SRCC newsletter dated September, 1982.

"Ever wonder how Santa Rosa Cyc. Club got started? Well, the roots of the club go back to '63 or '64, according to Steve Kaiser of the Bike Peddler. The original name was Century Cyclers. The club was sponsored by Kaiser's Hardware (run by Steve's dad, so Steve ought to know), which was selling bicycles at the time. To bolster bicycles and, thereby, to bolster bicycle sales, Kaiser's started the club. This lasted until about '66. When Kaiser's Hardware went broke in '65, the core fell out of the club. Kaiser's was reorganized in '66 with a new store selling skis, pools, and bicycles. In turn, the club revived. At that time the (original) club colors were dark blue with a broad yellow band. When Club Endspurt, a racing club which included some of the hottest riders in the state, folded around '68, some of their top riders were lured to Santa Rosa. Also, around this time some major reorganization was taking place with the Santa Rosa club. Kaiser's was organizing the club but the Kelly Institute was sponsoring the club financially. The name was changed to the Santa Rosa Cycling Club, and Endspurt colors, bright red and white, were adopted. Here are the names of some of the national class riders: Tim Kelly, Eric Hinge, Dan Butler, Tony McMillan, and Bob Beatty. These racers were all seniors. There were no hot juniors, but there was a group of big (large for their age) intermediates which placed among the top five finishers in the state.

"This glory period lasted until about 1970, when the core fell out of the club for a second time. Some members moved to Canada to avoid the draft. The club was revived again under the guidance of Tim Kelly as a fast touring club, the type of club that SRCC remains today. There were still some racers, but most of the members were tourers. Many people joined in this period, '71-'72. After awhile, however, the club became bottom-heavy. The leadership fell apart. Tourers lost interest in sponsoring races. As the years dragged by, the club dragged along. In '75, the club colors were changed to solid yellow. In '76 the present club colors of yellow and blue were adopted. This aside, the club existed on a diminished level until it was revived once more in '79. We may thank Donald Toomin for getting the club back together. Now it is '82, and DT is still at the head of SRCC. He wants to step down, but nobody wants to step up. Thus SRCC is aiming for another down phase, UNLESS..."

End of the origin story. Tom Helm—still active in the club—took over from Donald Toomin as President in '83. Steve Kaiser is still around, still working as a wrench at NorCal.

Almost all official club documents were lost right around 1981, so it's fortunate this account was written when it was, preserving the history of the club's beginnings while all that lore was still fresh in the memories of those who were involved in the club at the time.

Our oldest surviving newsletters from 1982 make interesting reading. Articles about the club helping to construct Bike 'n Hike campsites at Bodega Dunes State Park. A question about what to do with the \$1000 in the club's bank account. An appeal for someone to take on the job of Ride Director. The Wine Country Century was then called the Century Tour and the start/finish was at Cardinal Newman. The '82 event almost didn't happen. There was talk of simply blowing it off as too much bother. But one or two dedicated souls stayed the course and it happened. There were 132 participants, 86 of whom did the full century, including Louis Thomas, age 80.

SANTA ROSA CYCLING CLUB

PO Box 6008

Santa Rosa, CA 95406

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Vice-President: Greg Durbin 528-4450

Secretary: Donn King 823-5461

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Officers at Large

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Charlie Rowell 432-4538

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Gordon Stewart 823-0941

Martin Clinton 569-0126

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Webmaster: Bill Osburn 477-6974

Club apparel sales: Sharron Bates 526-3512

Membership registration: Gordon Stewart 823-0941

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.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, March 12 • 6:30 PM

Round Table Pizza

(Occidental Road, west of Stony Point)

Joe Morgan & Gordon Stewart will present a slide show on their trip to the World Track Championship in Los Angeles

Wednesday, April 9

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

(Open to all interested members)

Thursday, March 6 • 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, April 3

• Directory of WCC Committee Chairs •

WCC Chair Joe Morgan, 778-8209, themorganfamily@comcast.net
Volunteer coordinator Kimberly Hoffman, 579-3754, kdhoffman10@yahoo.com
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