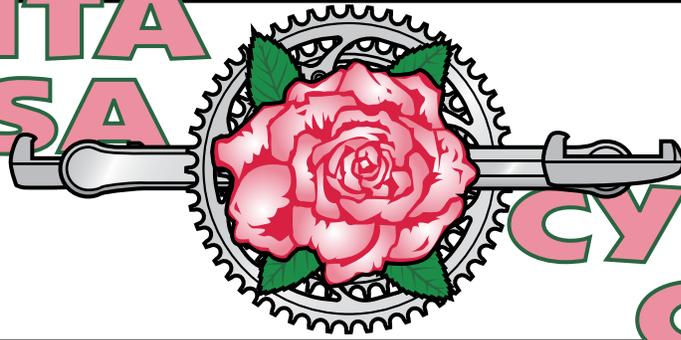


# SANTA ROSA



# CYCLING CLUB

## FEBRUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER

### SRCC launches New Year in style

Picture a resident on one of the neighborhood streets facing Coffey Park. Picture him on the morning of the first day of the year, perhaps still in recovery mode after a late night of seeing in the new year, blearily slurping at that first restorative cup of java...

He hears some mild commotion in the street and peers through the front blind to see what's up. And to his bleary-eyed wonderment, he sees that his normally quiet street is filled with cyclists, as far as the eye can see...a wall-to-wall harlequin horde of cyclists. What the heck are they doing out there at the crack of dawn on New Year's Day? It's cold out there! Are they crazy?

No, they aren't crazy. Or if they are, it's the right kind of crazy to be. Our hypothetical, coffee slurpin' Coffey Parker is simply witness to the opening act of the new year, as choreographed by the assembled members of the Santa Rosa Cycling Club. They are indeed wall to wall out there: a hundred of them at least, and possibly a good many more. They have gathered for the club's New Year's Day rides: three different routes offering something for almost any agenda or level of ambition. (Most of those cyclists were up late last night too, so most of the agendas are a bit more modest than they might be on another morning.)

Fortunately for all of the riders, the day has dawned bright and clear and sunny. It may be nippy, but it's a dry nippy. Extra layers of clothing are much in evidence, but everyone is comfortable. It promises to be a pleasant day. If our resident watcher watches long enough, he will see the entire critical mass of riders roll out promptly at ten minutes after the hour, and within the space of a minute, his street will be returned to its normal, somnolent state.

Meanwhile, the long file of riders will be weaving its way north, out of Santa Rosa and up into the lovely, vine-covered hills of the Russian River Valley. It won't take long for the riders to sort themselves out, and by the time they're rolling past the airport, they will have settled out into several smaller batches traveling at their chosen speeds. Over the course of the morning, they will all beaver away at their appointed routes, with the slower riders nipping off a shortcut here or there, while the faster riders pelt on up into Dry Creek Valley. In theory, the various routes and the various speeds will even things out, so that everyone will arrive at the finish together. It seldom works out quite that neatly, but it's still a reasonable theory.

In the case of this ride in particular, the theory of all finishing

together has added significance, because the bike rides today are only the opening act of the opening day of the year. Once the riders stop riding, they start partying, for the rides are followed by a whacking great picnic at the club's "club house" at the rural end of Coffey Lane. Most of the year, this is our warehouse, home to all of the myriad tools and supplies we use to put on our events. But on this one, festive day each year, it is transformed into party central, with the club's big barbecue smoking away and with long tables groaning under the weight of an almost endless supply of potluck goodies—from guacamole dip to chocolate cake—just waiting to satisfy the well-whetted appetites of the post-ride revelers.

We hope you were one of the one hundred plus who crawled out of bed on that bright, crisp morning to pay homage to the new year. We hope you had a good time. We're pretty sure you did. While some "normal" people might consider it crazy to be out riding bikes on the first day of January, we know better...especially when the bike rides are chased by a delightful party. Thanks to all of the not-so-crazy club members who came out for the big day, and super special thanks to Sharron and René, Rose and Tina, Ginger and Doug, and all the other helpful helpers who put the whole deal together for us.

### 2009 WINE COUNTRY CENTURY

Preparations are under way for the 2009 Wine Country Century. May 2nd—the date of our big event—is just three months away. Reservations have been made for all sites and almost all of the committee chairs are returning. This is the time for all of you to call your favorite rest stop chair and reserve your space on the crew. (The directory of committee chairs is listed on page 8.) You may also call the Volunteer Coordinator for guidance if you have not volunteered previously. We are proud to say that over 300 of our members help to make this a very successful event that draws cyclists from 27 states and several foreign countries.

The 2008 WCC was a very successful event for the club. It is a premier event in this part of the cycling world, and the field last year filled within five weeks following the opening of registration on February 1.

Work parties for the WCC will be on April 11 and 18 (Saturdays) at the warehouse. All the equipment needs to be cleaned before April 25th. Prior to the work party, there will be a club ride leaving

— Continued on page 7

## MINUTE MIX

Highlights from the General Membership and Executive Board meetings for January

**1. Call to Order:** President Craig Gaevart called the general meeting to order at the Round Table on Occidental Road on Wednesday, January 14. 66 members and guests were in attendance.

**2. Treasurer's Report:** Donna Emery announced the club's bank account balances, as of December 31.

**3. Membership:** Gordon Stewart presented a detailed breakdown on memberships (pursuant to questions last month regarding the actual count on "family" memberships). Individual members: 430. Family memberships: 188, plus 212 additional family members, yielding a complete club membership of 830. 392 members are receiving their newsletters via e-mail. 228 are receiving them in hard copy. 253 newsletters are being delivered to a variety of comp accounts (bike shops and organizations).

**4. Rides:** Ride Director Bill Oetinger passed around the calendar for February ride submissions. Craig Gaevart orchestrated our annual miles countdown: the winner was Dave Trumbo, with over 14,000 miles logged in 2008. Bill Ellis was runner-up with over 10,000. Bill Oetinger presented each with a commemorative certificate in honor of their achievement.

**5. Drawings:** Bill Oetinger conducted a drawing for \$25 prizes, with the pool of possible winners made up of all members who had led rides during the second half of 2008. (The more rides you lead, the more tickets with your name on them in the drawing.) You must be present to win and several people missed out by not being there when their names were drawn. Winners were Rose Mello, Mike McGuire, Bill Oetinger, and Alfred Mascy.

**6. Holiday Dinner:** René Goncalves and Sharron Bates reported on the Holiday Dinner. They brought the project in under budget. It was noted that the Druids Hall will not be available for the event in 2009, so we are looking for a new site. René and Sharron were also thanked for their work on the New Year's Day picnic. Each was presented with a \$150 gift certificate for Riviera Restaurant.

**7. WCC:** Gordon Stewart presented a mock-up of a new WCC web page to the Board for final tweaking and approval. At the general meeting, WCC Chair Joe Morgan reported on preparation for the event. (*See article on page 1 and roster on page 8*)

**8. Primes:** Membership voted to contribute funds for primes during the women's crit race at the Tour of California.

**9. Elections:** Ballots were circulated, filled out, and counted for the election of new officers for 2009. (*See article at right.*)

**10. Commute miles:** Alan Bloom was not present to conduct the raffle of prizes in the year-end commute miles wrap-up, so this item will be carried over to a future meeting.

**11. Thanks:** Members of Community Bikes addressed the membership to thank the club for its donation to their organization. Craig Gaevart announced that the club has also received several letters of thanks from other grantees.

**12. Tours:** The Board decided to run the club tour registration through the website. (*See insert in this month's newsletter.*)

**13. Warehouse:** It was noted that we need to do some carpentry at the club warehouse. In particular, we need a new door on the bathroom. A work crew will be organized.

## Free Lunch Ride in March

If you were at the January club meeting, you have a free lunch in your future. To reward all you good citizens who showed up to vote in our annual election (of Board officers), we are buying you all lunch at El Sombrero Taqueria in Healdsburg following the Free Lunch Ride on Saturday, March 14. When you show up for the ride, you will be given a little wad of cold, hard cash. You can simply pocket the cash and go your own way, but we hope you will join the rest of us for a pleasant after-ride burrito. In past years, we have pretty well packed the place. (At one Free Lunch Ride several years ago, I was outside the front door when a couple looked in. The wife said, in a worried tone: "Oh, I don't know, Harold; the place is full of bikers!")

The Free Lunch Rides have been around for a long time. They were our original multi-tempo, multi-route rides. That's where the concept was born. The theory was to offer something fun and social for the club members about half a year away from the annual end-of-summer picnic. We still follow approximately the same routes as ever: three loops—A, B, & C—up into Dry Creek and Alexander Valleys, all designed to return their riders to the taqueria around noon. None of the routes is especially tough or long, so many people ride up to Healdsburg from further south.

Look for more info on the rides in the March newsletter.

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## Annual elections at January meeting

The January club meeting is always a bit more of an occasion than the other monthly meetings. That's because it's election night. Democracy in action! We pass around ballots and vote for a slate of officers to lead the club for the coming year.

Typically, in the latter months of the preceding year, members of the Board send out feelers to members who they feel might be good candidates for the next term. Also typically, their feelers produce just enough candidates to fill the available vacancies, so the election ends up being more of a rubber stamp than a true election. This year however, we actually had a real choice: we had seven names in nomination for five at-large seats on the Board.

Of the five at-large officers from 2008, Joe Morgan and John Miklaucic were resigning. Martha Barton, Martin Clinton, and Gordon Stewart had decided to run again. Also throwing their hats in the ring were Jose Mundo, Kimberly Hoffman, Randall Ray, and Rick Sawyer. In addition there were the "position" officers to be elected, and all of them were running unopposed: Craig Gaevart as President, Greg Durbin as Vice-President, Donna Emery as Treasurer, and Donn King as Secretary.

The Round Table hall was packed for the big doings and President Gaevart had also received several proxy votes from members unable to attend. When all the many votes were tabulated, Randall Ray and Rick Sawyer had joined incumbents Barton, Stewart, and Clinton on the Executive Board for 2009. Their names and numbers are always printed on the back page of the newsletter, in case you need to communicate with them.

To outgoing officers John Miklaucic and Joe Morgan: thank you, many times over, for your contributions to the club. To ALL the candidates who volunteered for the job, whether you were elected or not: thank you for offering to take on that task. In this club run by volunteers, you are our best and brightest citizens.

## 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 Oettinger @ 823-9807 or send e-mail to: srcride@sonic.net.*

As I begin this column, on Monday, January 12, Sonoma County is basking in an unreal heat wave: a record-shattering 84° this day. It felt like mid-summer when I stepped out to get the morning paper, and had I not ridden on three out of the last four days, I would have immediately leaped on the bike and headed for the hinterlands. It really does feel strange out there, and not least because it has so recently been so nippy.

Nippy but sunny days have been the norm over the winter holiday season, which is the window of time this column will cover. It begins with my own Tour de Cember, a century on December 20. We could hardly have asked for a nicer day to celebrate the turning of the season, but nippy was certainly in the frame, at least early on. It was a bracing 28° when 15 hardy souls rolled out of Howarth Park at 8:00 am. Fortunately, most of the early miles were uphill—Brush Creek, Wallace, Reibli, Mark West Springs, Franz Valley—so the ice box cold wasn't aggravated by any significant wind chill. It didn't climb above 30 until we were a dozen miles out into the country, and it didn't hit 40 until our first rest stop in Calistoga. (The route was a big loop over to Calistoga, all the way down the valley to the suburbs of Napa, then back around via the Carneros and the Valley of the Moon. Aside from those early climbs, it's one of the flattest centuries one can devise in the North Bay.) The Franz Valley climb busted the group up into two tiers. (Of the 15 starters, three figured out some shorter bail-outs, but the other 12 did the whole thing.) When we in the second tier arrived at the appointed rest stop in Calistoga, none of the first group was there, so we assumed they had simply blown on through, and we followed along accordingly. In fact, the *avant garde* had gone into town to warm up in a coffee shop, so the slower riders became the front group all the way down the valley. The quick kids only caught up just before the second regroup in Napa. After that stop, it didn't take long for the big rollers in the Carneros to break the group up again, and by the final regroup in Sonoma, we were once again traveling in two groups of six apiece. All in all, it was a delightful day. The early-morning chill eventually mellowed its way up into the mid-50's, and we called that comfortable, as we rolled home just a few hours ahead of the solstice.

Robert Hall had a ride listed the same day. This was supposed to be another iteration of his Analy High School Bike Club-SRCC cross-pollination, although it didn't quite turn out that way: "December 20th was a great ride in spite that fact that no Analy students showed up. Eight people showed up and I think eight people is almost an ideal size...kind of like a team. The group stayed together till the end. I carried five loaves of bread home from wildflower bakery in my front panniers." (As "pannier" derives from the French word for bread—as in a bread basket—Robert was putting his to their historically, literally correct use.)

And just to emphasize how fortunate we were with the good weather on Saturday, it rained on Sunday, washing out Rose Mello's Valley of the Moon ride.

We had a ride on Christmas: Sue Bennett's Christmas Cookie Ride. This has been well attended in past years, but for whatever reason,

only a few people showed up this time around. The weather was crisp but clear. Sue says more people showed up after the ride to share cookies and Christmas cheer.

Leading off the last weekend of the year was the Ride Leader of the Year's last ride: Ken Russeff's 40-miler out of Esposti Park. "Twenty AB riders started from Esposti Park, headed for the Dry Creek Store via Chalk Hill Road. After 13 miles and three flats, we were caught in a heavy drizzle/light rain. We stopped at the Jimtown Store until the drizzle subsided, but the temperature took a big nose dive. Subsequently, most of us wimped out, skipped the Dry Creek loop, and headed back to Esposti for about a 30-mile ride."

As our final ride of 2008, Doug and Deanna McKenzie listed the Fast Fixie Forty, which was supposed to attract hammerhead types on fixies or single-speeds for a scorcher up through the vineyards. The weather was more than a little dodgy at the start. It wasn't exactly raining, but the mist was heavy enough so that we could see it drifting down out of the sky like drizzle's next door neighbor. Doug reports: "It was good to see about a half dozen riders at the start of the gloomy day for the D ride and another two for the B ride. I figured there would be more for the B ride, but I guess the D riders are more hardcore when it comes to lousy weather. I was a bit disappointed as I was the only one with a fixed gear, but happy to have good riders out for the company on such a wet, cold day. We picked up two more along the way and had nine riders total for the D group. We had a good ride with no flats, believe it or not, and the group pretty much stayed together. When it opened up on Westside Road, we got our average up over 19, but then with stops and towards the end, we slowed a bit. I ended up with an 18.3 average. We really didn't want to do a tight paceline because of all the road spray from the tires. Only a few had fenders and fenders only help so much. We were all wet and dirty by the end of the ride, but happy to get in some quality miles on such a gloomy day. Deanna's small B group held together at a good pace with no incidents. A good ride, all things considered." I was one of the ones picked up along the way. I set out from home alone with no idea of joining the club ride, but the timing worked out just right and we ran into each other on Trenton-Healdsburg and carried on together.

We enjoyed a bit of *deja vu* later that week with the New Year's Day rides (on Thursday), heading out around approximately the same wine country loop. You can read more about that day elsewhere in this newsletter, as that big shindig gets special mention under its own header. We will fast-forward past that ride and zero in on the rides on the first weekend of January, starting off with Ken Cabeen's Geysers in Winter ride. I'm not sure, but I think this may have been Ken's first attempt at leading a club ride, and he did an excellent job throughout. He is to be commended for having the bold vision to list a ride over the wild Geysers landscape on the first weekend in January—always an adventure—and then for being a responsible leader and waiting for every rider at two or three spots along the way. There was a good crowd—two dozen?—on hand for this one...an amazing crowd, really, considering the challenging route and the frigid weather. And some stout folks even rode to the start in Healdsburg from down in Santa Rosa. It was pretty brisk in the early going: low 30's heading out Alexander Valley Road toward Jimtown. Low 30's temps combined with low 30's mph in the mildly downhill paceline added up to some numb extremities. But the sun was out, and as soon as we hit the big climb up the

— 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](http://www.srcc.com)...go to Calendar of Rides

## SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 1

### Sunday Slackin'

2/BC/45

9:00 AM • Healdsburg City Hall

R on Grove > Vine > R on Mill > Westside > L on River > R on River Dr > L on Old River > R on Martinelli > L on Hwy 116 > R on 1st St > West County Trail > L on Occi > R on trail along Hwy 116 > R on High School > Thru Sebastopol to rest stop at Coffee Catz > N on Morris > R on Eddie > R on High School > R on Occidental > L on Sanford > R on Hall > L on Willowside > L on Piner > R on Olivet > L on W Olivet > Oakwild > L on Old Trenton > R on River > L on Slusser > L on Mark West Station > R on Starr > L on Windsor River > R on Eastside > L on Old Red > R on Front > First > L on North > R on Grove to finish.

Randall Ray - 529-1278

## SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 7

### King Ridge Birthday Ride

5/C/75

10:00 AM • Occidental

North on Boho > Main > L on Moscow > R on River > L on Caz Hwy > King Ridge > L on Hauser Bridge > Seaview > R on Timber Cove > L on Hwy 1 (rest stop in Jenner) > L on Coleman Valley to Occidental.

Charles Beck—874-1678

### Paceline Clinic

1/AB/12

10:00 AM • Willowside School

Having trouble hanging on B rides? Want to make A rides more social? The answer may be the same for both. Learn to ride more efficiently as a group than as a single. After going up and down Hall Road to practice the basics of pacelines, we may see how it feels on a little longer ride to practice new skills.

Tom Helm—332-8792

## SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 8

### TofC Warm-up Ride

3/A/28

10:00 AM • Finley Park

L on College > R on Fulton > R on Gordon Creek > R on Cadence Way > Peterson > R on Pinecrest > L on Francisco > L on Fulton > R on Wood > L on Woolsey > L on River > R on Slusser > L on Mark West Stn > L on Trenton-H'burg > Trenton > R on Laguna >

R on Vine Hill > Mueller > R on Graton > L on Bowen > R on Gray > L on bike path > L on Occidental > R on High School > L on Eddie > bike path > L on Morris > bike path (rest stop at Coffee Catz) > L on Joe Rodota Trail > L on Wright > Fulton to Finley.

Susan Hester—573-1532

## SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 14

### Valentine Sweetheart Ride

2-4/CD/54

9:30 AM • Analy HS

L on 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 > L on Piner > R on Willowside > R on Hall > L on Sanford > R on Occidental > L on HS to Analy. After the ride: up the bike path to our house for Steve's 50th birthday celebration. It's potluck and RSVP.

Steve & Jessie Kroeck—829-0224

### Out Bloomfield Way

2-AB-33+/-

9:00 AM - Southwest Comm. Park

L on Hearn > L on Stony Point > R on Roblar > R on Petaluma-Valley Ford > R on Bloomfield > L on Pleasant Hill > L Covert > R Ragle > R Mill Station > W. County Reg. Trail to Analy HS > L High School > R on Eddie to > bike path > L on Morris > bike path (rest stop at Coffee Catz) > L on Joe Rodota Trail > L on Wright > R Joe Rodota Trail > exit trail R at Brittain Ln > R on Sebastopol Rd > L on Corporate Center Parkway > L on Northpoint > R on Stony Point > L on Hearn to park.

Sue Bennett—523-1322

## SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 15

No club rides scheduled as we participate—either as spectators or volunteers—in the excitement of the Amgen Tour of California. Stage 1 will finish in downtown Santa Rosa between 4 and 4:30. It will be preceded by the Women's Crit on the downtown circuit. For more info, go to the ATofC website.

**SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 21****All over the place**

3-5/C/104

9:00 AM • Village Market  
(Hwy 12 & Mountain Hawk)

R on Mountain Hawk > Queen Anne > L on Melita > R on Montgomery > L on Channel > bike path to R on Oakmont > L on Valley Oaks > R on Pythian > R on Hwy 12 > R on Lawndale > R on Schultz > L on Bristol > Lawndale > R on Warm Springs > L on Arnold > L on Dunbar > R on Trinity (*regroup at fire station*) > Dry Creek > Oakville Grade > L on Hwy 29 > R on Oakville Cross > L on Silverado Trail > L on Brannan > L on Lincoln (*rest stop at coffee shop*) > R on Lincoln > L on Grant, > Myrtle Dale > R on Tubbs > L on Bennett > R on 128 > R on Pine Flat to guard rail > Retrace to R on Hwy 128 (*rest stop at Jimtown Store*) > L on Hwy 128 > R on Chalk Hill > L on Pleasant > on Faught > L on Old Red > L on Mark West > R on Ribeli > R on Wallace > L on Badger > R on Calistoga > L on Dupont > R on St Francis > L on Raters > R on Mountain Hawk.

Bill Carroll—539-7568

**Franz Valley-Chalk Hill Loop**

3/B/32

10:00 AM • San Miguel School

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

Wayne Kellam—523-1878

**February Follies**

2/A/36

9:00 AM • Willowside School

R on Hall > L on Sanford > R on Occi > R on West County Trail to Forestville > L on Hwy 116 > R on Martinelli > L on Old River > R on Grays > L on River > R on Westside > R on Wohler > L on Eastside > R on Trenton-H'burg > L on Mark West Station > L on Starr > R on Reiman > L on Windsor > R on McClelland (*rest stop at Cafe Noto*) > Retrace to south on Windsor > L on Slusser > L on Laughlin > Woolsey > L on Oakwild > L on W Olivet > R on Olivet > L on Guerneville > R on Willowside to school.

Ken Russeff—953-1804

**SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 22****Let's Have Lunch in Sonoma**

2-3/AB/45

9:00 AM • Howarth Park

Thru parks to Channel > Thru Oakmont > R on Hwy 12 > R on Lawndale > R on Warm

Springs > R on Arnold > L on Verano > R on 5th > L on Sonoma Bike Path > R on 1st St W. to Sonoma Plaza for lunch break > Retrace route to Glen Ellen > L on Warm Springs > Thru Kenwood > L on Hwy 12 > L on Pythian > Thru Oakmont to Channel > Thru Spring Lake Park to end.

Rose Mello—543-5889

**SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 28****Ode to Joy**

4/BC/45

9:00 AM • Ragle Park

L on Ragle > L on Mill Station > L on Sullivan > L on Green Valley > L on Harrison Grade > R on Graton > L on Boho > R on Coleman Valley > L on Hwy 1 > L on Bay Hill > L on Hwy 1 > L on Bodega Hwy > L on Joy > R on Bittner > R on Boho > L on Bodega Hwy > L on Jonive > R on Occidental > R on Cherry Ridge > R on Mill Stn > R on Ragle.

Janice Oakley—568-7062

**Almost 40 miles of Back Road**

1-2/A/37

9:00 AM • SR City Hall

Prince Greenway > R on Joe Rodota Trail > R on bike path to Morris > R on Eddie > R on High School > R on Occidental > L on Sanford > R on Hall > L on Willowside > L on Guerneville > R on Olivet > L on W. Olivet > R on Oakwild > R on Woolsey > Laughlin > R on Copperhill > L on Brickway > R on Aviation (*rest stop at Kaffe Mocha*) > R on Airport > L on Laughlin > Woolsey > L on Wood > R on Fulton > R on Piner > L on Willowside > L on Hall > L on Fulton > R on SR Creek Trail > Prince Greenway to City Hall.

Jack Hartnett—694-0922

**SUNDAY • MARCH 1****A Tandem Ride for Robert**

2-3/B/45

9:00 AM • San Miguel School

L on Faught > R on Airport > L on N. Laughlin > R on Laughlin > R on Slusser > L on Mark West > R on Trenton-H'burg > L on Eastside > R on Wohler Bridge > R on Westside > L on West Dry Creek > R on Lambert Bridge (*regroup at Dry Creek Store*) > L on Dry Creek > L on Lytton Springs > L on Lytton Station > L on Alexander Valley > Hwy 128 (*regroup at Jimtown Store*) > L on 128 > R on Chalk Hill > L on Pleasant > R on Faught. *Robert Rand led these dedicated tandem rides for many years, so with Robert in mind, bring out your tandems. Let's get the jump on March Magic. Singles welcome.*

Craig Gaevert—545-4133

**SUNDAY • MARCH 8****Sonoma Mtn. Rd.#1**

5/B/35

9:00 AM • Cotati Vets

L on Myrtle > Thru Cotati > L on E RR > R on Petaluma Hill > L on Dutch > R on Davis > R on Woodward > L on Main > L on Old Red > L on Ely > L on Son. Mtn Parkway > L on E Washington > L on Adobe > R on Son. Mtn # 1 to top > Retrace to R on Adobe > R on Lynch > Hardin > Corona > R on Ely > > Elysian > Goodwin > L on Penngrove > R on Minnesota > L on Old Red > R on Myrtle.

Dave Batt—546-5301

**SATURDAY • MARCH 14****FREE LUNCH RIDE(S)**

2/A/25 • 2/B/30 • 2-3/C/40

9:30 AM • Healdsburg City Hall

Route details in March issue.

A & B: Looking for leaders  
C: Bill Oetinger—823-9807**SATURDAY • MARCH 21****14th Annual Apple Cider Century**

3-5/C/100 • 6000' • 3/BC/100K

**REGULAR RIDES****Wednesday Wanna-B's**

B or C • 30-50 miles • 9:00 AM

*First Wednesday: Howarth Park, Santa Rosa*

B: Beth Anderson—874-3685

Vin Hoagland—584-8607

*Second Wednesday: Healdsburg City Hall*

C: Eric Peterson—433-7737

*Third Wednesday: Ragle Park, Sebastopol*

C: Jeff Burton—217-2756

*Fourth Wednesday: Ragle Park, Sebastopol*

B: Alfred Masey—546-0898

C: Johann Heinzl—539-7991

*Fifth Wednesday: Howarth Park, SR*

B: Bob Briner—799-7146

**Friendly Fridays**

B or C • 30-50 • 9:00 AM

*First Friday: Cotati Dog Park*

B: Greg Stone—527-6116

*Second Friday: Howarth Park, Santa Rosa*

B: Martin Clinton—569-0126

*Third Friday: Ragle Park, Sebastopol*

B: Doug Newberg—579-0925

*Fourth Friday: City Hall lot, H'burg*

B: Buck Hall—537-1946

C: Warren Watkins—433-4403

*Fifth Friday (B group only): Esposti Park*

B: Gary Grayson—538-9262

2-3/A/25-30 • 9:00 AM

Same schedule as other Friday rides

Janice Eunice—575-9439

*Fourth Friday: George Gallegos—544-3178*

&amp; Carole Kolnes—838-3988

## More BACKROADS & BREAKAWAYS

south face of mama Geysers, we were all warm enough. That did not last though. After a regroup at the TT rest stop, it was down, down, down, into the shady canyon of Big Sulphur Creek on the north face, and the mercury dropped even faster than we did. We did not drop all that fast, as we were dancing carefully around and through patches of ice on the road. By the time we reached the old iron bridge, most of us were heartily glad to see the descent coming to an end. It isn't often we look forward to the end of a nice downhill and the resumption of climbing, but this icy day was one of those times. As you might expect, the big climbs and hairball descents disintegrated the group pretty thoroughly. We did manage a partial regroup in Cloverdale, although the fastest cohort had already flown the coop by the time the back-markers rolled in. Still, a good group set off south together, and if we were not exactly executing a tight-knit paceline down the valley, we at least were keeping one another in sight, all the way back to Healdsburg. This was a maiden voyage over the Geysers for a couple of people, so to celebrate this rite of passage, a few of us repaired to the Beer Republic afterward and put away a pitcher of Racer 5 while basking in the weak winter sun on the terrace.

Ken Russeff had a ride on the same weekend, but which day was it? Ken checks in: "I went to Cotati Dog Park to lead a ride to Tomales but no one showed up...? Well, it was probably because I was a day early. Oops! So, on Sunday, I tried again and 16 AB riders met for the Cotatamalesaluma Ride on a cool but bearable morning. It remained cool but we did see a lot of sunshine for a great day of riding. No known incidents and a shade under 50 miles."

Bill Carroll offered us an opportunity to knock off a century in January on the following Saturday, with the semi-traditional Nearly Level Century out of Cotati. (One version or other of this flatland loop has been on the books more or less once a year since Marty and Sue Powell introduced it somewhere back in the last Ice Age.) Once again, it was wicked chilly at the start, and in a perverse way, it was made worse by the prospect of warmth later in the day. The forecast called for it to flirt with 70° at midday, so many people, including this clever lad, left home around 8:00 am with fewer layers of winter clothing than we might otherwise have donned. It did in fact warm up nicely later—the first harbinger of that unreal heat wave—but when it was still 30° at the start, the missing garments were much regretted. This really is a fun route, and with around 3500' of elevation gain, it truly is nearly as level as a century ride in this county can be. The easy topography, coupled with the group dynamic, contributed to a fairly lively tempo. Out of 20 riders at the start, about 15 stayed close together for a good portion of the ride, even with the paceline spending a lot of time up in the mid-20's. This was due in part to a good, cooperative vibe in the group: although the pace was high, no one was launching stupid attacks. I like the fact that this route visits several distinct local landscapes: it starts with the green, rolling dairylands down around Two Rock and Valley Ford, then samples the deep, dark redwood groves of Bohemian Hwy, Moscow Road, and the lower Russian River corridor, and finally it breaks out into the vineyards of Westside and Dry Creek Valley. Actually, its final act is a run thru the suburbs, but we won't dwell on that part. It was an excellent day, all around. A lively group, lovely weather (once it warmed up a little), and a variety sampler-pack of Sonoma County countryside.

Robert Hall once again had a ride listed on the same day as a club century, and once again it was an attempt to pull the Analy kids into the club scene. "We started with 16 riders (one Analy student, Patrick). We lost Dan in Graton when he flatted and then realized his back tire was showing threads and seemed to be a blow-out waiting to happen. In Occidental we regrouped and saw the B/C 100-milers go by. Tom and Janet were overwhelmed by the beauty of Coleman Valley Road that day and decided to turn back after a bit of absorbing the view from one of the highest points along the road (truly a exceptional day). Dick and Charlie began riding at their own pace and I never saw them again. (Thanks to them for calling to let me know they both decided to go a different way.) Guy's front derailleur wouldn't shift down to his smallest ring but he rode through it by manually adjusting when needed. Wildflour Bakery was closed and that's where Rose peeled off for home. The group kept breaking up into twos and ones, so it didn't feel like a group ride until we regrouped at stops along the route. Such a beautiful day." That business about seeing the 100-milers in Occidental: the two rides hit Occi almost simultaneously, and I at least was momentarily baffled as to where all these new people had come from who were all of sudden milling around with us. Where had they been on the ride up to that point? Then, later in the ride, I was vaguely wondering where they all had gone. It was only when reading Robert's note here that I finally—duh!—tumbled to the fact that we were two different rides briefly intersecting.

We had an amusing incident on the century ride that deserves a little extra ink. Let's begin with this note from a woman named Mona Thompson: "Hurray for cyclists!!! So many thanks to the eight or so cyclists on Bohemian Highway in Freestone. This Saturday morning I managed to navigate my Prius into a culvert. Wheels spinning on a slick, muddy, steep driveway. I discovered there was no cell service in this location. This little old lady (ME) spotted eight or so BRAVE, DASHING CYCLISTS heading in my direction. I ran to the side of the road, waved my arms and cried for help. Unbelievably, the two-wheel champions actually turned their chariots around and pushed the car back up onto a more level spot. The Prius started up and we all continued on our way." One of the riders—Greg Durbin, I think—let her know that it was the Santa Rosa Cycling Club that had hefted her out of the ditch. Mona went on to a lunch date at the Willow Wood Cafe in Graton, and who should she run into there but some more SRCC members, in club jerseys. She chatted them up, and one of them—Martha Barton—gave her an e-mail address so she could write to us. I wrote back to her and received another cheery note, concluding with the line, "Occasionally it is a beautiful day in a great world." How nice that a simple, one-minute effort on our part can produce such a positive response. And if you read your local paper carefully, you will note that Chris Smith ran a little item on it in his column a few days later.

The next day, Rose was back on the calendar with an AB ride out of Healdsburg, and this time she wasn't rained out. "It was a big show of 32 riders. The weather was a lot warmer than Saturday's ride. For some reason I was thinking that Mill Creek Road was five in and five back and that the ones that did not want to do the optional out and back, would still be able to get 30 miles in. Instead it was only 20 miles." Mis-listing the miles wasn't the only inaccuracy here. Rose listed it as a 2 for climbing, and I didn't catch it or question it. In fact, Mill Creek is more like a 3 in the early going and a 4+ if you go all the way to the end. Of course,



that was only the optional add-on, so maybe it wasn't completely wrong to list the basic ride as a 2. For the record: Mill Creek is ten miles long, so 20 miles round trip. It's one of the longest out-&-backs in the county, and certainly one of the hardest, if you do the whole thing.

For the final weekend covered in this period, we had a mixed bag of rides. On Saturday, we had two ghost rides: that is, they weren't in the hard copy newsletter but were promoted via the club's chat list and web site. The first one should have been in the newsletter. That was a joint AB ride led by Carole Kolnes and Steve Drucker. But all of us together—the ride leaders and newsletter editor—somehow managed to lose track of it until after the copy went to the printer. After dropping the ball like that, we made an effort to get the word out via the chat list and the website. I talked to Carole after the ride, and she estimated they had ten riders in her A group and another 12 or 15 in Steve's B group, so it doesn't appear the newsletter mix-up hurt attendance too badly. Carole reports no unusual or unwelcome snafus on the ride. Just a pleasant run down the valley from Santa Rosa to Penngrove and back, with a break at a nice coffee shop in Penngrove at the midpoint. Add in wonderful weather—more like April than January—and you have all the ingredients in place.

The other phantom ride was one pulled together by Donn King with a post on the chat list. (This is one of the best uses of the chat list: last-minute ride organizing. If you don't subscribe to the list, you miss out on these opportunities.) Donn proposed a BC ride out of Glen Ellen: up and over Trinity and Veeder, then down and out into the vast, rolling emptiness of the Carneros. A dozen people answered the e-mail call, and a good group it turned out to be, and an excellent ride. It was brisk at the start, but not nearly as chilly as it has been in recent weeks, and anyway, hitting the big climb on Trinity at about mile 3 soon had everyone thoroughly heated up. We made the most of our Carneros exploration, pushing out into the marshy wetlands that sprawl down around the mouth of the Napa River, where it flows into San Pablo Bay: Edgerly Island, Coon Island, Skaggs Island, Hudeman Slough, Fly Bay... It's a fascinating world of water and levies, little humpbacked bridges, shore birds, old sailboats, and one remote, sleepy village. Definitely off the beaten path, but very much worth the visit, especially on a clear and nearly windless day. After a fairly conventional return journey up through Sonoma and the Valley of the Moon, we capped off our nice day with beer and munchies on the patio at the Glen Ellen Market. Our new Board member Rick Sawyer sliced a tire rather badly, requiring a boot job, but aside from that little challenge, it was a most excellent day.

On Sunday, Rose Mello was back in the mix with an A ride out of Youth Community Park. Rose reports: "There were 29 riders at the start. We had two riders—husband and wife—who turned around on Trenton-Healdsburg Road before Eastside and headed back. It was her first longer ride and she was wearing jeans with tennis shoes. There was a Highway Patrol car tucked away in the driveway of Shone Farm (SRJC school farm), just waiting for the right moment. That moment came when a person—not with our group—riding a bicycle up Eastside from Windsor went through the stop sign. He was pulled over by the CHP. Ha! Beautiful day for a wonderful ride. Everyone seemed to have had a good time."

The other ride on Sunday was Wayne Kellam's B listing heading out of Howarth and down into the Valley of the Moon. This ride had an added wrinkle in that we were trying to coordinate

it with the camera crew from KRCB—the local public television affiliate—who were hoping to knock off a few more interviews for their project on the bike paths of Sonoma County. Wayne says they did get in some interviews at the start, and then they hustled around to a spot along the bike trail in Spring Lake Park where they could wait in ambush to film the riders rolling by. This too appears to have worked out pretty well. There were 14 riders in the B group, plus three women who described themselves as "A+" riders. They started early, were reeled in by the main group, hung in with the group for awhile, and then continued along the course at their own tempo. The B bunch regrouped at the Glen Ellen Market and then headed for the big challenge of the day: Sonoma Mountain Road. As you may know, Sonoma Mountain has been closed to through traffic for a couple of years now, thanks to a massive washout near the summit. For a long time, cyclists were able to walk through the big hole, but a few months back, the county finally went to work attempting to fix the problem and get the road open again, and while they have things under construction, the road has been closed to even cyclists. I went up there a week or two ago and talked to one of the crew members. He said that, not only is it closed, it will still be quite awhile before it's anywhere close to being done; that it has turned out to be a much more complex repair than anyone anticipated. (I could have told them that. Anyone looking at that subsidence could have told them that.) Anyway...the Plan B for Wayne's group was to detour off Sonoma Mountain on Enterprise if the road was still closed. But some in the group simply could not believe they wouldn't be able to get through (on a Sunday, with the work site shut down). So up the hill they went—the very steep hill—and after looking at the impassible chasm, they came back down the hill and did Enterprise after all. Some people won't believe something until they see it with their very own eyes.

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## 2009 WCC —continued from page 1

from the warehouse. The work party will commence after the ride and refreshments will be served. When the listing appears in the April ride calendar, please RSVP with the Volunteer Coordinator, Kimberly Hoffman.

In an attempt to broaden our leadership strength and plan for the future, we are assigning assistant committee chairs in some of the most crucial areas. This year Jim Williams will be assisted by Janice Oakley (food) and Richard Anderson (equipment) at the all-important Warm Springs lunch stop. There are 50+ workers helping at this rest stop. At Monte Rio, John Herrick has assisted Bunni Zimmerhoff for the last few years. If you would like to become as assistant to a chair, please call the chair and offer your services. We need to do move forward with this training for the future. This will ensure that the WCC remains a first class event for years to come.

The Workers' Ride will be on the Saturday following the WCC: May 9th. Everyone who works on the WCC is invited to ride the same routes as our guests did the week before. Following the ride, a thank you picnic will be held at Shilo Park.

*Joe Morgan, WCC Chair, 2009*

778-8209 or [comotandem@hotmail.com](mailto:comotandem@hotmail.com)

**SANTA ROSA CYCLING CLUB**  
**PO Box 6008**  
**Santa Rosa, CA 95406**

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- Secretary: Donn King .....823-5461
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- Officers at Large
- Martha Barton .....538-9315
- Randall Ray .....433-2555
- Rick Sawyer .....933-0760
- Gordon Stewart .....823-0941
- Martin Clinton .....569-0126
- Newsletter editor, ride director: Bill Oetinger .....823-9807
- Webmaster: Gordon Stewart .....823-0941
- Club apparel sales: Sharron Bates .....526-3512
- Membership registration: Gordon Stewart .....823-0941
- Meeting program coordinator: JoAnne Cohn .....566-9169

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

[srccride@sonic.net](mailto:srccride@sonic.net) (Bill Oetinger, e-wrangler)

To join the club or renew membership, please go to  
[www.srcc.com](http://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, February 11 • 6:30 PM

Round Table Pizza

(Occidental Road, west of Stony Point)

**Guest speaker: Steve Urbanek, the Pavement Preservation  
 Manager for the County TPW Department**

Wednesday, March 11

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS**

(Open to all interested members)

Thursday, February 5 • 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 5

• **Directory of WCC Committee Chairs** •

- WCC Chair ..... Joe Morgan, 778-8209, [themorganfamily@comcast.net](mailto:themorganfamily@comcast.net)
- Vol. coordinator ..... Kimberly Hoffman, 579-3754, [kdhoffman10@yahoo.com](mailto:kdhoffman10@yahoo.com)
- Registration ..... Gordon Stewart, 823-0941, [gordon@gsathome.com](mailto:gordon@gsathome.com)
- Sags & Communication ..... Craig Gaevert, 545-4133, [cgarth@sonic.net](mailto:cgarth@sonic.net)
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- Wohler Bridge ..... Cynthia Spigarelli, 824-4466, [cstar3@sonic.net](mailto:cstar3@sonic.net)
- Warm Springs Dam ..... Jim Williams, 538-3793, [jjwilliams@earthlink.net](mailto:jjwilliams@earthlink.net)
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