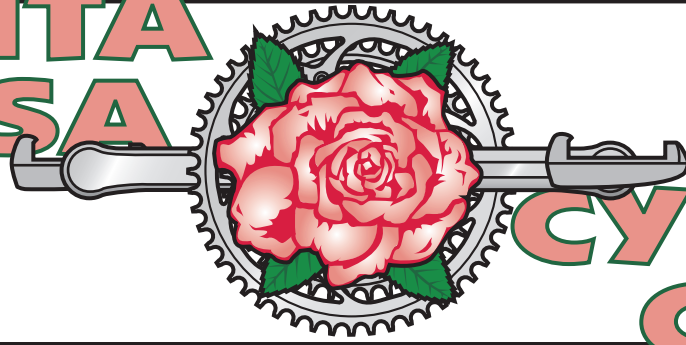


SANTA ROSA



CYCLING CLUB

FEBRUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER

Wine Country Century kicks into gear

Registration opens for the Wine Country Century at midnight on February 1. If last year's rush to register is repeated, the event should be sold out within three or four days.

What makes the WCC so popular? It's a combination of things. The routes are all scenic, and they hit that nice sweet spot between too easy (which might be boring) and too hard. Beginners can tackle their first century here, while veteran hammers can still have fun with the challenge. The traditional date of the WCC—on the first Saturday in May—is another sort of sweet spot: that point when spring fitness and ambition are fully ramped up, and yet the season isn't so advanced that riders are hitting burn-out. The Sonoma County landscape isn't burnt out yet either: the fields are still green and flecked with wildflowers. The early leaders of the club who staked out this date on the calendar made a very wise choice, and even though it does rain on us every so often, as it did last year, overall, it's still just about the best date of the entire year for cycling in this region.

Then there is the superb support the host club provides, a logistical tour de force that we have been fine-tuning for over 25 years...a quarter-century of centuries. This year, that safety net of great support is expanding to include paramedics on the course. Our support may be highlighted by a well-thought-out how-to manual, by an amazing warehouse full of supplies and equipment, and by a solid team of committee chairs with years of experience in leadership roles...but the heart and soul of our support system is our corps of worker bees: all those big-hearted, energetic, cheerful club members who show up on Friday and Saturday and Sunday of the marquee weekend; who turn out at the warehouse for work days in the weeks leading up to showtime, and afterward as well.

A new, "green" feature is being introduced this year: included within the entry process is a link to a website that assists in organizing carpooling to the event. (We not only want to see fewer cars on the road altogether, but we also want to see fewer cars in the parking lot at the start/finish, where space is always at a premium.) We have always encouraged participants to either carpool or ride to the WCC, and now we're helping them to do so.

Just as February is the month in which registration kicks off, it is also the month in which we first publish an updated list of committee chairs for the new year (on page 8). If you are a veteran WCC volunteer, flip to that list and get in touch with your favorite team leader. If you're new to the process, pick a crew that looks good

to you or talk to the Volunteer Coordinator. She can help connect you with an assignment that will be fun for you and helpful for the club and the WCC participants.

If you've never volunteered for a job on the WCC crew, you might not believe it can be fun to "work" on the event, but it really is. Besides, you also get a quality WCC t-shirt for free, and you get to do the WCC Workers' Ride the following Saturday (May 8): all the same routes as the real WCC, all ridden with your club mates, with excellent rest stops and an after-ride party that most workers will agree is actually better than the party after the real WCC...all for free as well. Such a deal!

JANUARY MEETING: ELECTIONS & OTHER GOOD STUFF

The January club meeting is an especially significant one, in that it is the occasion when the assembled members vote in a new slate of officers to lead the club for the coming year. The club bylaws stipulate that all members running for the Executive Board must have their names put in nomination at the meeting one month prior to the election—December. This was done. (Nominations may come from either the Board's nominating committee or from the floor.) This year, thanks to some diligent work by the Board during the waning months of 2009, a good slate of potential officers had been put together, with exactly enough people lined up to fill all the available positions...but not more than enough, as has sometimes been the case.

Because the number of nominees matched the number of Board positions, there was no need to print, circulate, and count ballots. The nominated candidates were introduced, and each made a brief speech outlining their hopes and plans if elected. A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate of officers by acclamation.

There has been an extensive reshuffling of positions on the Board, as well as some old officers retiring and new officers taking their places. Leaving the Board this year are Officers-at-Large Randall Ray, Martin Clinton, and Martha Barton and Treasurer Donna Emery. (A big thank you to all these worthies for their many years of service to the club.)

Craig Gaevart has stepped down as President—after three good years at the front—but remains on the Board as Vice-President. Donn King moves from the position of Secretary to that of President. (See his new column on page 2.) Greg Durbin moves from VP to Treasurer, and Rick Sawyer moves from Officer-at-Large to Secretary. Gordon Stewart stays on as the only incumbent Officer-

—Continued on page 6

MINUTE MIX

Highlights from the General Membership and Executive Board meetings for January

- 1. Call to Order:** Outgoing President Craig Gaevart called the general meeting to order at the Round Table on Occidental Road on Wednesday, January 13. 58 members and friends were present.
- 2. Treasurer's Report:** Donna Emery announced the club's bank account balances, as of December 31.
- 3. Membership:** Registrar Gordon Stewart reported membership of 1144 (combining individual and family memberships).
- 4. Brevets:** Bob Redmond reported that the SRCC Brevets are scheduled, and have been approved by ACP (Audax Club Parisien) in France. Bob explained the filters that will be in place to limit riders in PBP 2011, and the increased demand that that will create in the 2010 brevet season for all brevet vendors. Bob wants to have a \$100 package price for all brevets, and a reduction to \$40 on the 600. Board backed Bob's proposals. The financial impact on the club was thought to be minimal.
- 5. Elections:** Election of new officers. *(See article on page 1.)*
- 6. Holiday Dinner:** Further discussion of plans for the 2011 party, possibly at a new venue.
- 7. Jerseys:** Apparel manager Bill Oetinger reported that the order for WCC jerseys will need to be finalized in early February. Some discussion about orders WCC socks and/or club arm warmers. No final decisions on either item. Webmaster Gordon Stewart reported on revisions to the on-line apparel "store" at the club website.
- 8. Donations:** The Board revisited the issue of donations to non-cycling organizations. Greg Durbin said that another way to look at this issue is the amount of funds donated to any one recipient compared to overall club expenditures: if this is a small ratio, then donations to non-cycling entities would not concern the IRS. Greg suggests using the web site to poll membership on donation choices. Webmaster Gordon Stewart will work on building this in the software. There is \$13,500 available for distribution in 2010. *(See item on page 7.)*
- 9. Warehouse:** Doug Simon reported to the Board on the warehouse. He wants to form a committee to manage warehouse issues; he would prefer a Board member to be on the warehouse committee. There is a need for a loan contract, an inventory control method, and developing a good process for equipment loans and materials movement in and out of the warehouse. Randall Ray volunteered to be on the committee, joining Doug and René Goncalves. The committee will meet, develop ideas and procedures, and report back to Board. Fees for equipment loans will not be rental fees; they will be "wear and tear" fees.
- 10. WCC:** Volunteer Coordinator Kimberly Hoffman noted that the list of committee chairs is almost complete, but urged anyone who wants to get involved at the leadership level to get in touch anyway: always room for more folks to be involved. *(See article on page 1 and committee roster on page 8.)*
- 11. Raffle:** Alan Bloom conducted the year-end commute-miles raffle. *(See item on page 1.)*
- 12. Featured entertainment:** No special presentation at the election-night meeting. JoAnne Cohn asked the members for suggestions for speakers for upcoming meetings.

Letter from the President

— Donn King —

Thank you for selecting me as the president of our bike club for 2010. I accept the responsibility with a mixture of anticipation, awe, and trepidation. When I started cycling in St. Louis in the early '70's, and decided that cycling was about the greatest thing that there was, it was beyond my imagination that someday I would rise to a leadership position in a prominent northern California bike club. I rode in cutoff jeans, t-shirts, and tennis shoes, and I certainly didn't wear a helmet. The first cycling tour that I did in Europe, in 1972, I wore bib overalls and work boots. In those days cyclists were a fringe population, too insignificant to attract much notice, too small a group to exert any political force, too few to arouse motorists' ire on the roads.

Fast forward to 2010. Bicycling is serious business. Cyclists are legion on the roads; we are an intelligent transportation alternative (some would say the future of urban transportation); our representatives sit on city councils and local planning commissions, and cycling activists serve on committees at the state and national level. The Santa Rosa Cycling Club has the budget of a small business. Northern California is at the epicenter of recreational cycling and cycling activism. Our events have real impact on the community. We spend money in the local marketplace and interact with municipal services. We support an internationally recognized professional cycling event in our county.

The days are over when cycling could fly under the community radar. Cycling is approaching maturity. The issues that confront cyclists and our institutions are complicated and will become more so. The good news is that as cyclists, we can look forward to more respect, greater access, and more fun. As President, I will be calling on all of your talent and support to help move the club forward. The challenges we face are diverse; we must be diversified to meet them.

◦ SRCC APPAREL ◦

New look for club on-line clothing sales site

When was the last time you visited the club's on-line [clothing store](#)? If it was any longer ago than last week, you will find things much changed. Our industrious webmaster has been busy streamlining the site for easier navigation. All of our many styles of jerseys are now on display on one, simple, user-friendly page.

Is it possible that you have *never* visited the clothing store at our website? Is it possible that you might not even be aware of all the many goodies available there? If so, consider this your invitation to drop by soon—today even—and check things out.

We have club jerseys in both red-rose and yellow-rose motifs. We have matching vests. We have long-sleeve jerseys, and even a handful of jackets...rare items! We also have an array of Wine Country Century jerseys (and some vests), not only in the current design, but also samplings of two prior designs in a fairly complete spread of sizes. We have the coveted Bad Little Brother jerseys as well, and of course the iconic, prestigious Terrible Two jerseys, both the Father Time design and, while supplies last, the classic Skull-&-Roses design (if you qualify to wear them).

Show your club colors! Start the new season off with a new jersey or three...all best quality and all at member-discounted prices.

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.

This reporting period looks backward as far as the Winter Solstice weekend, where the weather was a major player. (No surprise there, in the dead of winter.) B+ through D riders had a tough choice: do Darrin Jenkins' hillier-but-shorter ride on Saturday or Janice Oakley's flatter-but-longer ride on Sunday, with the forecast for better weather to begin the weekend but rain arriving later on Sunday. What to do, what to do...

Darrin's ride started in Cotati, climbed over Sonoma Mountain and then climbed obscure Grove Street, west of the town of Sonoma. Darrin reports: "We had about as nice a ride as you can reasonably expect one day from the solstice. There were 12 at the start, including two nice folks from Marin County taking the club for a test ride. We picked up one more along the way. It was a bit foggy but not dangerously so. At times we glimpsed the sun near the top of Sonoma Mountain Road. Later in the day, the fog was gone and we rode under a blue sky. Grove Street is listed as the fifth hardest climb on the [Sonoma County and Beyond Climb List](#). The consensus was that what we rode was not too bad. Checking the website again now, I see that there is an extension that our route omitted. We agreed that this area should be revisited, as all the roads loop around at steep inclines. I might list it again in the spring with some bonus climbs. In Sonoma, Basque Boulangerie never disappoints, and we enjoyed a brief respite there."

Those of you who stayed away from Janice Oakley's Tour de Cember on Sunday because you feared you might get rained on: you were right! It was a tale of two rides: the first 75 miles and the last 25. That's the spot—just after the town of Sonoma—where we hit a wall of hard rain. Up to that point, it had been a delightful day. It was nippy in the morning, leaving Howarth Park, but not nearly as frigid as it was on the same ride last year. Over in Napa County, the weather was wonderful...a mix of blue skies and sunshine and decorative clouds and fog, all rolled together. For awhile there, we actually began to think we might escape without any wet stuff. But as we turned north toward Sonoma and the Valley of the Moon, we could see the pewter-gray mass of clouds blotting out the whole northern horizon, where we had to go. Rick Sawyer couldn't make the ride, but he was waiting for us at the designated rest stop in Sonoma with snacks and a cooler of drinks. Thanks Rick. It was just after that interlude that we got nailed: at the corner of 5th and Verano, it went from dry roads and clear skies to pouring in the space of 20 yards. It only rained hard for two or three miles and then eased off to somewhere between a light drizzle and not raining at all. But those few miles of downpour were enough to get us soaked, so we were riding wet, whether there was any more of it coming out of the sky or not. It was a chilly slog, but not horrible. We never got terminally miserable, just a bit uncomfortable. And we had some seriously dirty bikes to clean. But we got in a century on Winter Solstice weekend, at the cost of just one minor dunking.

Rose Mello also had a ride on this day, an AB run of 45 miles from SR up to Windsor and back: "Had a good turn out for a cold, gray morning, with 21 riders. We had some blue skies on our ride, but by the time we took a break at café Noto, the gray, gloomy clouds

were moving in on us. By the time we made it to Piner Road, it started to sprinkle, and then it started to rain on Willowside. The only thing left to do was haul butt back to our cars."

We didn't have any rides on the calendar for Saturday, December 26—too close to Christmas, perhaps—but we did have a couple of rides on the Sunday. Doug and Deanna McKenzie listed a ride with a D group for Doug and a B group for Deanna, both on the same course and both tossing out the challenge/invitation to do it on a fixie. Doug reports: "We had about a dozen riders for the start of the ride. It seemed most were not club members. I had talked up the ride at the Windsor shop and a few showed from that. So most were unfamiliar with the D and B pace. I suggested we start all together, then we will naturally split. Well, right off the bat I get a rear flat on Guerneville Road and that idea is thrown out the window. As you might guess, changing a flat on a fixie takes a bit more time. We get rolling again and I'm thinking of a couple of short cuts but decide not to, as someone else might have a mechanical. Sure enough, on Vine Hill School Road, another flat. We get that going, with the B riders ahead at this point, and I get another flat going down Vine Hill. We finally get things going despite a few more minor mechanicals—loose cleat, flying water bottles—and start picking off B riders on Westside. (Turns out the B and D riders were split pretty evenly, and the only two other fixies were in the B group.) We catch up to Deanna at the West Dry Creek turn-off, where she is waiting for the stragglers. We regroup at Memorial Beach in Healdsburg and once again all are together. Everything went smoothly down Old Red and Eastside back into Piner. Despite the numerous stops for mechanicals early on, I recorded a 19.5 average. Turned out to be a nice day for a winter ride."

Kelli Saufnauer took a stab at leading her first club ride on this day, a 35-mile A ride out of Esposti Park. Unfortunately, she was down with a bug on ride day and had to deputize Sue Bennett to lead the ride for her. That's pretty much all I know about it.

And that was that for 2009! Next up was the New Year's Day rides and party, about which you can read more on page 7.

On the second weekend in the new year, Bill Carroll listed the first club century of the year, a variation on the old Nearly Level Century. Some version or other of this ride has been a fixture on the club list early in the year for many years. They usually start in Cotati and make a big, clockwise loop south and west toward Valley Ford, then north through Occidental to the river and on up into the wine country before looping south again. Bill sent in this note about it: "Let's start with this: two thirds of the country is struggling with sub-freezing temperatures, so it's a little difficult to complain that our day of cycling was a touch cold and gray. Let's face it, there aren't too many places where you can ride a hundred miles on your bike in early January. We had about 20 riders at the start, with a couple of other riders leaving a half hour early to get a jump on the field. The dogs were after it from the start, and the pace was fast into Duncans Mills, where we had a regroup. I suggested we all stay together on River Road until we got to Westside. We formed a comfortable, even leisurely paceline making our way east, but sure enough, as soon as we hit Westside, the guys at the front hit the gas, and the group fractured from there. At least three riders diverted at Wohler Bridge, but the bulk of us stayed with the route to regroup at the Oakville Grocery. From there it was an easy pace for the seven of us who left together from Healdsburg, making our way through the suburbs of Windsor, Santa Rosa and

— Continued on page 6

RIDE SCHEDULE

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 30-60 minutes; waits for all riders. 23-26 minutes*

C: brisk pace; pacelines likely; regroupings every 45-90 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.**

PDF route slips available at www.srcc.com...go to Calendar of Rides

THURSDAYS • FEBRUARY 3 & 17

Ride • Yoga • Swim
8:00 AM • Tom Schopflin Fields
(Across from Cardinal Newman)
Jose Mundo—528-0829

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 6

Quest of the Mustard Patch
2/B/51
9:00 AM • San Miguel School

R on Faught > R on Chalk Hill > L on Hwy 128 > R on Pine Flat > L on Red Winery > L on Geysers > L on Hwy 128 > L to stay on 128 (*rest stop at Jimtown Store*) > Retrace to Alexander Valley > R on Lytton Station > R on Lytton Springs > R on Dry Creek > L on Lambert Bridge > L on W Dry Creek > R on Westside > L on Wohler > L on Eastside > R on Trenton-H'burg > L on Mark West Station > R on Slusser > L on Laughlin > L on N Laughlin > R on Airport > L on Faught.

Janice Oakley—568-7062

King Ridge et al
5/C/75 (or less)
10:00 AM • Occidental

North on Bohemian Hwy > L on Moscow > R on River > L on Austin Creek > Cross Caz Hwy to cont on AC > L on Caz at tennis courts > King Ridge > L on Hauser Bridge > Seaview > Fort Ross > Meyers Grade > L on Hwy 1 > L on Coleman Valley to Occidental. *Alternate finishes—Boho or Willow Creek—to be considered at Jenner regroup.*

Charles Beck—874-1678

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 7

Howarth to Mom's Apple Pie
2/AB/30
9:30 AM • Howarth Park

L on Summerfield > R on Sonoma > R on D > L on 1st > L on Santa Rosa Ave > R on Prince Greenway > SR Creek path > R (south) on Fulton > S. Wright > R on Sebastopol Rd > Joe Rodota Trail > R on side trail to Morris > R on Eddie Ln path > L on High School > R on WCR Trail > R on Hwy 116 > R on Vine Hill > L on Guerneville > R on Hwy 116 (*break at Mom's Apple Pie*) > Retrace Hwy 116 > L on Guerneville > R on Willowside > L on Hall > L on Fulton > R on SR Creek path > L on Sonoma > L on Summerfield to Park.

Susan Hester—573-1532

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 13

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 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 > 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 > 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. *Coffee at Coffee Catz after the ride.*

Steve & Jessie Kroeck—829-0224

Valentine Day Shortcut
3/B/32
9:30 AM • Analy HS

Same as Sweetheart Ride (above) until Occidental Road, then > R on Facendini > Tanuda > R on Harrison Grade > R on Green Valley > R on Ross > L on bike trail > L on Occidental > R on Hwy 116 bike path to High School.

David Batt—546-5301

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 14

Valentine Day Ride for the Heart
2/AB/39
9:00 AM • SW Community Park

L on Hearn > R on Stony Point > L on Northpoint > R on Corporate Center Pkwy > R on Sebastopol > R on Brittain > L on Joe Rodota Trail > R on S. Wright > Fulton > L on Hall > R on Willowside > L on Piner > R on Olivet > L on W. Olivet > R on Oakwild > L on Trenton > R on River > L on Slusser > L on Mark West Station > R on Starr > R on Old Red (*rest stop at Ana's Coffee Cafe*) > R on Windsor > L on Slusser > L on W. Laughlin > R on Laughlin > Woolsey > L on Olivet > L on Guerneville > R on Willowside > L on Hall > R on Fulton > S. Wright > L on Joe Rodota Trail > Exit trail at Brittain > R on Sebastopol > L on Corp Cntr Pkwy > L on Northpoint > R on Stony Pt > L on Hearn. *Wear Red to celebrate Valentine's Day and National Heart Month (AHA).*

Sue Bennett—523-1322

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 20**Sonomarin Century**

2-4/BCD/101

8:30 AM • Twin Hills School

L on Watertrough > R on Pleasant Hill > R on Bloomfield > R on Pet-VF > L on Ghericke > R on Fallon-Two Rock > L on Hwy 1 > R on Cypress > R on Mesa > R on Hwy 1 (*rest stop in Pt Reyes Station*) > South on Hwy 1 > L on Fairfax-Bolinas (*rest stop in Fairfax*) > L on Broadway > Past library > L on Olema > L on Sir Francis Drake > L on San Geronimo Valley > Nicasio Valley > R on Pet-Pt Reyes (*rest stop at Cheese Factory*) > L on Hicks Valley > R on Wilson Hill > L on Chileno Valley > L on Tom-Pet > R on Alexander > L on Fallon-Two Rock > R on Carmody > L on Pet-VF > R on Roblar > L on Canfield > R on Bloomfield > L on Pleasant Hill to finish.

BC: Bill Oetinger—823-9807

CD: Darrin Jenkins—206-9773

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 21**Ride the Rollers to Tomales**

2-3/AB/50

9:00 AM • Cotati Dog Park

R on Myrtle > L on Old Red > R on W. Railroad > R on Stony Point > L on Mecham > 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 Roblar > L on Stony Point > R on W. Sierra > R on Valparaiso > Myrtle to park.

Rose Mello—543-5889

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 27**East Side, West Side****All Around the County**

3/C/75-90

9:30 AM • Ragle Park

Optional start: 8:45 AM • NorCal

L on Ragle > L on Mill Station > L on Sullivan > L on Green Valley > L on Harrison Grade > R on Morelli > R on Boho > R on River > L on Armstrong Woods (*rest stop at Coffee Bazaar*) > Retrace to L on River > R on Sunset > R on Westside > L on Kinley > R on Dry Creek > L on Grove > L on Chiquita > R on Lytton Springs > L on Lytton Station > L on Alexander Valley > Hwy 128 (*rest stop at Jimtown Store*) > R on Chalk Hill > L on Faught > L on Old Red > R on Mark West Springs > River > L on Fulton > R on Hall > L on Sanford > R on Occidental > L on Hwy 116 bike path > R on Mill Station > L on Ragle to park.

Nikola Farats—535-0399

Return to Sweetwater

4/B/45

9:30 AM • Willowside School

W on Hall > R on Willowside > L on Piner > R on Olivet > L on River > R on Slusser > L on Mark West Station > R on Trenton-H'burg > L on Eastside > R on Wohler > R on Westside > L on Sweetwater Springs > L on Armstrong Woods (*rest stop at Coffee Bazaar*) > L on River > R on Hwy 116 > R on Mays Canyon > R on Hwy 116 > R on Green Valley > R on Sullivan > R on Mill Station > Cross Hwy 116 to bike path > L/R on E. Hurlbut > L on High School > R on Occidental > L on Sanford > R on Hall to Willowside School.

Rick Sawyer—933-0760

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 28**Wheels to Wildflour**

3/AB/35

9:00 AM • Cotati Dog Park

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

Ken Russeff—953-1804

SATURDAY • MARCH 13**Free Lunch Rides**

2/A/25 • 2/B/30 • 2-3/C/40

9:30 AM • Healdsburg City Hall

B route: Mill > Westside > R on W. Dry Creek > RonYoakimBridge>RonDryCreek>Lon Canyon > R on Geyserville > L on Hwy 128 > LonGeysers>RonRedWinery>RonPine Flat>RonHwy128>RonLyttonStation> R on Lytton Springs > L on Chiquita > R on Grove to finish. *C route:* Add Magnolia loop at start and Fitch Mtn loop at finish. *A route:* in Geyserville, straight south on Geyserville Ave to R on Lytton Springs, etc. *All those who attended the January meeting (and voted in the Board election) entitled to a free lunch at El Sombrero Taqueria after the rides. All others welcome on rides, but must pay for their own lunches.*

A: Barbara Drucker—538-5256

B: Rick Sawyer—933-0760

C: Bill Oetinger—823-9807

SATURDAY • MARCH 20**17th Annual Apple Cider Century**

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>RonCazHwy>LonFtRoss>Lon 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 Carmody > L on Pet-VF > R on Bloomfield > L on Pleasant Hill > L on Covert to park. *Ride leader follows 100-mile course.*

Bill Oetinger—823-9807

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

B or C • 30-50 miles • 9:00 AM

First Wednesday: Howarth Park, Santa Rosa

B: Beth Anderson—874-3685

Vin Hoagland—584-8607

Second Wednesday: Healdsburg City Hall

C: Eric Peterson—433-7737

Third Wednesday: Ragle Park, Sebastopol

B: Lowell Antze—237-7014

Fourth Wednesday: Ragle Park, Sebastopol

B: Alfred Mascy—546-0898

C: Johann Heinzl—539-7991

Fifth Wednesday: Howarth Park, SR

B: Bob Briner—799-7146

(All leaderless C rides are decide-&-ride)

Friendly Fridays

A • 25-30 • 9:00 AM

Same schedule as other Friday rides

(Fifth Fridays: call Janice)

Janice Eunice—575-9439

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: Kim Nelson—573-6882

Fourth Friday: City Hall lot, H'burg

B: Buck Hall—537-1946

C: Nabeel Al-Shamma—479-6246

Fifth Friday (B group only): Esposti Park

B: Gary Grayson—538-9262

More BACKROADS & BREAKAWAYS

Rohnert Park. Congratulations to Liz Sinna, who completed her first century on this ride.”

Bill's century was not the only ride on this day. David Wayte was leading his first-ever club ride, a B-tempo 53-miler around the Wine Country: “Those of us who chose not to ride 103 miles gathered at San Miguel School for the Wine Country Loop. Thirteen started the ride and another two on a tandem joined us shortly thereafter on Chalk Hill. The group remained intact until Pine Flat, where flats and differing speeds of riders spread out the group. Buck remained with Alfred to assist with a particularly nasty flat: a 3/8” long slit in the tire tread which eventually forced them to turn back. One faction forged more speedily ahead while a core group of seven of us toured pleasantly along West Dry Creek, enjoying vineyard views, cats, and winery gardens along the way. Crossing our path in the opposite direction on West Dry Creek were Bill's century riders, hardy souls who smiled at us and didn't seem any the worse for the many miles they had already racked up. We appreciated the warmth of the electric fireplace inside Café Noto, which made us realize how cold we had been on the road, despite the relatively mild January temps and lack of rain. The sun finally peered out from between the clouds along our home stretch on Faight Road, warming us for the finish.”

Robin Abramson listed a Cotati-Tomales AB ride on Sunday. But she was injured and couldn't be there, so she got Rose Mello to fill in as leader. Rose tells us 21 riders showed up on a chilly, foggy day. All went well except for a total of four flats...three on the same tire. When you see multiple flats on the same tire, it usually means you didn't find the cause of the puncture the first time around. This time, they finally found the culprit—a little chip of glass—on the third fix. A reminder to us all: find what caused the first flat and save yourself a whole lot of bother.

Next up—on January 16—was my old Gravenstein Grinder, but with some new flourishes added to make it harder and crazier than ever. The GG was a fixture on the April ride list from 1991 to 1996 before going irregular. It has popped up in other months in other years ever since. Its general premise is to hit every possible steep climb (and their companion descents) in the hills immediately west of Sebastopol, with Camp Meeker and Occidental as its outer limits. The traditional route was 55 miles with 5000' of steep climbing. The new, “improved” route is 61 miles with somewhere over 7000' of climbing. It's an absurdly, gratuitously difficult ride (for its distance), with a tangled mare's nest of a route so confusing I felt it necessary to go out and mark some of the trickier sections the day before. With a weather forecast predicting rain by midday, and with the fierce route, I expected maybe half a dozen die-hard idiots at the start at Ragle Park. I was therefor much surprised to find three dozen die-hard idiots waiting to take the plunge. The ride was listed at C tempo, but the usual D ringers were there in force, and it only took a few miles and a few climbs for a big gap to open up between that front group and the rest of us. There was one rest stop at Pony Espresso on Bodega Hwy just past the midpoint of the ride, and at that point, the front group was about 15 minutes ahead of the back group. Most riders were muddling along, metering out their energy reserves to see the thing through to the finish. Judging from the comments on the chat list afterward, the ride beat up everyone, regardless of which group they were in. It's an equal-opportunity destroyer. Having done all the

past GG's, on the shorter course, I can tell you the new additions make what was a hard ride substantially harder. The predicted rain never showed up, although a few roads under the redwoods were wet. One rider crashed early on a slippery descent on Green Valley, north of Maddocks. He had a friend with him, and together they figured out how to get back to the start.

And that's the end of cycling as we know it for this month. The Sunday listing—Steve and Barbara Drucker's ABC ride from SR down to Cotati, was called off in the face of drizzle and wet roads. That marked the beginning of a series of storms barreling into California that the forecasts said would be very intense. We went to press before the worst of these storms swarmed ashore, but by the time you read this, we should all know just how accurate those predictions turned out to be.

JANUARY MEETING

— Continued from page 1

at-Large, and he is joined by four new officers: Rose Mello, Janice Oakley, Don Graham, and Richard Anderson.

Once the election was wrapped up, the agenda moved on to some other fun items. Alan Bloom administered the prize raffle for all members who had participated in the 2009 Commute Miles on-line log. Many excellent prizes were distributed to the happy commuters whose names were drawn. Prizes were donated by the following bike shops: West County Revolution, NorCal, The Trek Store, Cambria Bicycle Outlet, and The Bike Peddler. (Patronize these stores!) If cycle-commuting isn't reward enough, on its own merits, then the bike swag in this raffle makes it a bit more appealing.

Craig Gaever choreographed our annual miles sit-down, wherein the member with the most miles for the previous year ends up as the last man (or woman) standing. Gordon Stewart was that person for 2009, with something over 9000 miles, thanks to a transcon and a tour in France, as well as loads of miles on local rides. Several others were close behind with over 8000 miles.

Finally, Ride Director Bill Oetinger was taking down the names of all in attendance. To reward those who showed up for our annual election, the club will be sponsoring a Free Lunch Ride on the second Saturday in March. All those on the list from the January meeting will have their after-ride lunches at El Sombrero Taqueria in Healdsburg paid for by the club. (More info next month.)

Coming this July: Alpine Road Trip

There is a mid-Summer club cycling trip brewing for July 21-24. We'll call it a mini-tour, for lack of a better descriptor. Sign-ups won't officially begin for another month or so, but we felt it was time to get the word out, for those who might be interested and need time to incorporate this into their vacation schedules. We're calling it the Alpine Road Trip. It's a 3-stage tour near Markleeville, in beautiful and aptly named Alpine County, the locale of the Tour of the California Alps, also known as the Death Ride.

All rides will be essentially out-and-backs and will stage out of Grover Hot Springs State Park. Or, for those who prefer, there are a couple of small motels in Markleeville itself (three miles from the park) that provide basic comforts at moderate prices. Longer routes will range in length from 45 to 70 miles per day, with short options at 35 to 55 miles each. Climbing is moderate to difficult. The routes offer a broad range of challenges for riders from moderately strong B and up.



BBQ dinners are included as part of the after-ride gatherings on the second and third nights of the trip. Otherwise, food provisions will be left to participants to work out individually. There will be no sag support or paid staff. Costs are not fully determined yet, but we plan to charge roughly \$80 per person for those staying at the campground. Campsites have been reserved for up to 25 people. Those opting to stay in town will be charged a reduced rate to cover the BBQ costs only, but their motel accommodations are not included in the entry fee.

Look for the announcement of the sign-up period beginning in mid-February. Meanwhile, feel free to contact Rick Sawyer at 933-0760 or sawyer.rts@att.net with questions or to express your interest in attending. Rick will be assembling an “interested parties” e-mail distribution list for making future information available.

2009 SRCC grants: a work in progress

Each year, the SRCC allocates excess revenue for grants to various charitable organizations and cycling-related projects. This is money generated primarily by the Wine Country Century and Terrible Two—through entry fees and merchandise sales—and “excess” money represents what is left over after expenses have been covered and seed money has been reserved for future events and other contingencies. By the end of each year, when the club budget is finalized, we know how much money we can allocate for grants. For this budget year, the amount is \$13,500. This does not count funds channeled to the Sonoma County, Bay Area and State Bicycle Coalitions, all of which receive funds directly from set-asides in WCC entry fees.

Aside from those automatic allocations to the bike coalitions, the club membership decides which other organizations receive the grants. Input from members has been solicited and tabulated in various ways over the years. In the past, forms have been circulated at club events, such as the end-of-summer picnic and club meetings, listing potential grant recipients. Members could vote for their preferred donees or write in additional potential recipients. This year, we hope to make use of our website to allow more members easy access to the voting process.

Here are the organizations that received grants last year:

- \$3000 each to [Community Bikes](#) and [Team Swift](#)
- \$2000 each to [Sonoma County Radio Amateurs](#), [Safe Kids Project](#), and [Landpaths](#)
- \$1000 each to the [Ross Dillon Hope Fund](#) and the [Earl Baum Center of the Blind](#)

These organizations were voted onto the list by the members. If you wish to suggest another organization for consideration, please send an e-mail with the specifics of your proposal to anyone currently on the Board. We need any such proposals by February 3. The Board will consider the suggestions and, if deemed appropriate, will add them to a new list which will be posted at the website in an interactive format that allows votes to be tallied. A blast e-mail will notify the entire club when the page is posted. The page for logging votes will be active from Feb 6 to 28, at which point we will close the site and tabulate the results. Based on these member preferences, a final draft of grant recipients and amounts will be presented to the members at the March meeting for approval.

Note Treasurer Greg Durbin’s observations regarding grants to non-cycling organizations in item 8 of the Minute Mix (page 2).

E-mail saves the New Year’s Day rides

The club had big plans for New Year’s Day: our traditional kick-off ride followed by a big party at the club warehouse. However, the weather forecast for Friday, January 1 was not good: lots of rain, early and often. No one wanted to do the rides, nor the party, in heavy rain. So two or three days before the event, the Board conferred (via e-mail) and decided to reschedule the whole shootin’ match for the next day, when there were no other rides scheduled and when the forecast called for “sun and high clouds.”

Rescheduling a big ride (and party) at the last minute is not something we would have considered a few years ago, but thanks to the wonders of modern communication, we can now do so. An e-mail advisory was sent to every single club member and almost everyone got the message. Three people (who apparently don’t check their e-mail) still showed up in the rain on the morning of January 1, but another 150 or so showed up on Saturday morning, January 2 to tackle the rain-check rides. (No one could accurately count the riders at the start, but we know how many people RSVP’d for the party.) Our weather auguries turned out to be dead on: it poured on January 1, but was delightful on January 2: bright and clear and dry and not too chilly.

Although there were three rides listed—at A, B, and C tempi—it looked as if the group was actually divided in four, with an ad hoc D group setting off with the C’s. It only took a few miles for that D cohort to assert itself at the front and open up a gap ahead the true C riders, while behind, the B’s and A’s were settling into their own comfort zones.

Barbara Drucker was leading the A-train and decided, afterward, that their route could be a bit longer. (It will be next year.) They were generally the first ones back to the warehouse and the party. Rick Sawyer was leading the killer B’s, and he said there was little to report, aside from a nice ride. Bill Oetinger was the C leader. After hanging with the D gang for a few miles, his legs reminded him that he ought to drop back and keep track of the C’s. Then he stopped three times to help folks with flats and a broken spoke. Aside from those little wrinkles, it was smooth sailing all day long, as far as we know.

Meanwhile, back at the warehouse, several members were hard at work, setting up tables and the barbecue and even a fire pit, setting out food and utensils and so forth. The menu was highlighted by fajitas and burritos, with spicy tri-tip hot off the barbie. Doug Simon, René Goncalves, Sharron Bates, Matt Ehlers, Rose Mello, Tina Maddux, Arlene Morgan, Wendy Sternberg, Jon Dick and several others all pitched in so that the rest of us could have a easy day of it. Thanks to all of them. Thanks also to Rick Sawyer for lugging the iron fire pit out there from home so we could all sit around in a cozy circle, toasting our tootsies on that cool but pleasant afternoon.

Looking around at the party, at all those folks having a good time—relaxing after the rides, eating good food, and hangin’ with old friends and new—the comment was made, more than once, about what a neat institution this club is: a community of like-minded folks that provides the mechanism for channeling all that volunteer and participant energy into something as wholesome and rewarding and just plain fun as a bike ride and a picnic on the second day of the year. How cool is that?

SANTA ROSA CYCLING CLUB

PO Box 6008

Santa Rosa, CA 95406

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

- President: Donn King.....823-5461
- Vice-President: Craig Gaevert.....545-4133
- Secretary: Rick Sawyer933-0760
- Treasurer: Greg Durbin528-4450
- Officers at Large
- Rose Mello.....543-5889
- Janice Oakley568-7062
- Richard Anderson431-0374
- Gordon Stewart823-0941
- Don Graham538-3664
- Newsletter editor, ride director: Bill Oetinger.....823-9807
- Webmaster: Gordon Stewart823-0941
- Club apparel sales: Sharron Bates.....526-3512
- Membership registration: Gordon Stewart.....823-0941
- Meeting program coordinator: JoAnne Cohn.....566-9169

To join the club or renew membership, please go to
<http://www.srcc.com>
 srccride@sonic.net (Bill Oetinger, e-wrangler)



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 10 • 6:30 PM

Round Table Pizza

(Occidental Road, west of Stony Point)

**Bill Oetinger presents Part 1 (Stages 1-6)
 Provence-Alpes Tour slide show**

Wednesday, March 10

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

(Open to all interested members)

Thursday, February 4 • 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 4

• Directory of WCC Committee Chairs •

- Chair Bruce Hopfengardner, 494-1155, winecountrycentury@gmail.com
- Vol. coordinator ..Kimberly Hoffman, 579-3754, kdhoffman10@yahoo.com
- Registration..... Gordon Stewart, 823-0941, gordon@gsathome.com
- Sags & Communication Craig Gaevert, 545-4133, cgarch@sonic.net
- Food & Materials Doug Simon, 577-0113, desimon@sbcglobal.net
- Equipment cleaning . Debbie Wymer, 481-1102, d.wymer@sbcglobal.net
- Course marking Tony Lee, 776-9803, dr_tony_lee@yahoo.com
- Course hosts Tom Bahning, 525-1960, duncansmills@sbcglobal.net
- Course signs Vicki Duggan, 525-1960, duncansmills@sbcglobal.net
- Course marshals..... Ron Bates, 526-3512, technical@randallnutrition.com
- Customer service..... LOOKING FOR A CHAIR
- Day-of sales Sharron Bates, 526-3512, technical@randallnutrition.com
- Graton Janice Eunice, 575-9439, nicenice@sonic.net
- Ocean Song..... Wayne Kellam, 523-1878, wkellam@sonic.net
- Monte Rio Bunni Zimberoff, 544-3999, bunnizim@gmail.com
- Wohler Bridge LOOKING FOR A CHAIR
- Warm Springs Dam..... Jim Williams, 538-3793, jjwilliams@earthlink.net
- WSD co-chair..... Janice Oakley, jmo_bike@yahoo.com
- WSD co-chair..... Richard Anderson, r.c.ander@comcast.net
- Alexander Valley..... Steve Drucker, 538-5256, sdrucker@santarosa.edu
- LBC..... Michelle Kane, 292-5707, kearykane@yahoo.com
- Volunteer Ride Joe Conway, 875-9056, bodegajoe@comcast.net