

SANTA ROSA

WINE COUNTRY CENTURY
INFO: SEE BACK PAGE



CYCLING CLUB

APRIL 2010 NEWSLETTER

BIKE TRAIL DREAMS

Sometime within the next two or three months, we should see the western end of the Santa Rosa Creek Trail paved. This is the leg between Fulton and Willowside Roads that has been stalled by NIMBY protests for way too long. Finally, the paving contract has been awarded and we are only waiting for dry weather to get the job under way.

Now, just as that project is drawing to a satisfactory conclusion, we begin to see the glimmerings of other bike trail projects on the distant horizon. Three major projects are in what might be called the early, visionary stages. This is a brief look at what we could be seeing in the years ahead.

- **Southeast Greenway.** Remember when Caltrans planned to extend Hwy 12 beyond Farmers Lane, up to and through Spring Lake Park? Fortunately, saner heads prevailed and we do not now have a freeway bridging across the lake. But the block-wide, mile-and-a-half long easement that Caltrans acquired for the project is still there: a long, green, empty meadow through the heart of eastern Santa Rosa. Caltrans has finally declared the property to be surplus to any of its future needs.

Now a group of local citizens has been formed with the vision of turning this prime real estate into a linear park, with a paved nature trail as one of its main features. The parcel begins in the uplands of the park and descends to Summerfield Road across a pretty hillside of oaks and boulders. West of Summerfield, it flattens out into a broad swath of green, with remnant orchards, creeks, and plenty of open space that might be developed into ball fields or community gardens or simply left in a semi-natural state.

The property crosses Yulupa and Franquette before ending in front of Montgomery High School, right across the road from Santa Rosa Creek. From that point, there are tantalizing possibilities for continuing the trail along the creek to Doyle Park and onward to the Prince Memorial Greenway. This linear park would be a spectacular asset for the city of Santa Rosa.

The SRCC Board is very excited about this project and, pending membership approval, will provide funds to help bankroll the feasibility study that will kick off the planning process.

- **Central Sonoma Valley Trail.** Cyclists know that riding between Santa Rosa and the town of Sonoma is not very bike-friendly. Too much traffic and too little in the way of shoulders on both Hwy 12 and Arnold Drive. Veteran cyclists will grit their teeth and ride it, but it's no place for kids or novice riders or the timid. That

may change someday if another bike trail can be put in place. In response to our query, Ken Tam of Sonoma County Regional Parks recently sent us this note about an interesting project...

“This is a proposed Class I bike path that parallels the Hwy 12 corridor from Sonoma Valley to the City of Santa Rosa. In 2001, the County completed a study of this trail from Verano Avenue to Agua Caliente Road. We are now proposing to extend the study area from Agua Caliente Road to Melita Road. The Sonoma County Regional Parks Department will be submitting a grant application to study the feasibility of this trail alignment. If we are awarded the grant, the funds will come from the Caltrans Community Based Transportation Planning Grant. This is an annual grant program. The grant requires a 10% local match, which we have from Measure M funds.”

- **Petaluma-Sebastopol Trail.** All of the not-bike-friendly comments about the Hwy 12 corridor between Santa Rosa and Sonoma can just as well apply to the Hwy 116-Stony Point corridor between Sebastopol and Petaluma. There are some side-road alternatives for portions of this run, but sooner or later, they all lead back to the main roads, which are not great for riding.

A grass-roots coalition of Sebastopol hikers and bikers has been working for some time now on changing this with a Class I bike trail that would spur south off the Joe Rodota Trail near Sebastopol, skirting the eastern edge of town across the Laguna Uplands. They originally imagined the path ending near Bloomfield Road, but when they sought feedback from the County, the response was: why not run the path all the way to Petaluma along the old, abandoned railroad grade, parallel to Stony Point? (If you know where to look, you can see the old grade in Google aerial views.)

Ken Tam again: “Our department is proposing to submit a grant application to study the feasibility of this trail alignment during the next funding cycle in 2011.” Supporters of this trail had hoped to get things moving sooner than that, but the County wants to set the Sonoma Valley Trail project in motion first before turning its attention to this exciting goal.

All three of these projects are a long way from shovel-ready. But then, so were the Joe Rodota Trail, Prince Greenway, West County Regional Trail, and the Santa Rosa Creek Trail at one time. Big projects start with big visions, and that's where we are with these dreams right now. We'll keep you posted on the progress on all of them as they swim their way upstream, through tangles of red tape and economic recovery and all the other challenges ahead. Big journeys begin with a first step...

MINUTE MIX

Highlights from the General Membership and Executive Board meetings for March

- 1. Call to Order:** President Donn King called the general meeting to order at the Round Table on Occidental Road on Wednesday, March 10. 62 members and friends were present.
- 2. Treasurer's Report:** Greg Durbin announced the club's bank account balances, as of February 28.
- 3. Membership:** Registrar Gordon Stewart reported membership of 1213 (combining individual and family memberships). Gordon acted as host at the New Member Table. (*For more on this new feature, see Retreat article on page 7.*)
- 4. Brevets:** Bob Redmond reported that we will need a little help with rest stops at upcoming events. Talk to Bob if you want to assist; visit the club Brevet [web page](#) for more information.
- 5. Bike Trails:** Vin Hoagland made a request to the club for \$1000 to assist in funding the feasibility study for the Southeast Greenway project. Also, Lynn Deedler made a presentation on a proposed trail from Sebastopol to Petaluma. (*See article on page 1.*)
- 6. Expo Booth:** Don Graham announced that we will have a booth at the Tour of California finish-line Expo on Monday, May 17. He circulated a sign-up sheet for folks to work in the booth that day and is looking for more folks to participate. (*See item on page 7.*)
- 7. Refunds:** Refunds have been distributed to participants in the rain-shortened Santa Cruzin' Tour of last Fall.
- 8. Retreat:** Board retreat was held on March 6 at home of Craig Gaevert. (*See article on page 7.*)
- 9. WCC:** WCC Chair Bruce Hopfengardner reported on preparations for the big event. (*See article on page 8.*)
- 10. Welcome:** Board members Greg Durbin and Rick Sawyer introduced the topic of ways in which to welcome new members to the club, with the goal of encouraging new members to become more fully integrated into the life of the club. (*See page 7.*)
- 11. Tours:** Ride Director Bill Oetinger announced there are still a few spaces available on both club tours. (*See item on page 6.*)
- 12. Donations:** Treasurer Greg Durbin explained the outcome of the 2009 donation voting process that took place on the club web site until Feb. 28, 2010. The fund of \$13,500 was divided roughly according to the outcome of the votes cast, with the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs getting a somewhat larger percentage due to their participation in the WCC and TT events. A motion was proposed and passed to approve the Board-suggested split of the funds, with the modification of granting SCRA \$2,000 rather than \$1,750. Otherwise the grants followed the Board-recommended amounts. It was suggested that the SCRA should be allotted some set amount of money directly from the WCC proceeds in future and removed from the year-end donation pool of candidates.
- 13. Featured entertainment:** Bill Oetinger presented a slide and video show on the Provence-Alpes Tour, part 2 (stages 7-14).

April is Poetry Month. To honor the occasion, we give you a haiku by Carolyn Hall (Buck Hall's wife, editor of a haiku journal):

*mountain biker
the muddy track
up his back*

Letter from the President

— Donn King —

Our club's policy on donations needs to be revisited. We are giving small, ineffective amounts of money to organizations that are tangential to cyclists, meanwhile missing out on opportunities to support projects that can really improve the quality of life for cyclists and the community as a whole.

Recently, the club has been approached regarding two important projects that involve creating bicycle trails and cycling corridors, and there was no money available to donate to these projects. Partly this was because of the timing of the requests, and partly due to the process that we use. Currently, we wait until the end of the year to select our donation recipients. Until then, we can't be sure that the discretionary money exists for distribution. The limitation of this system is that as funding requests arise, the club doesn't have the ability to respond to those requests on the fly. Ideally, we should be able to reserve a pool of funds for spontaneous requests. The problem is that until our money is in from WCC and all of the accounts are settled, we can't really be sure that we have the money. So we have to work out a way to feel comfortable about keeping that cash pool liquid and available.

A valuable aspect of our present system that we want to retain is the democratic nature of the recipient-selection process. This year we used the SRCC web page to enable voting by members. It's important that all members feel they have a say in the distribution of the club's funds.

I feel that we need to develop a combination of these two processes. We need to have money available when clear and worthy needs arise so that we can respond quickly, coupled with a process for democratic selection of donation recipients, many of which will be our favorite projects from year to year.

One of the tasks before the Board is to create a process for qualifying donation requests that come up during the year. Legitimate requests exist, both from our members and the community, and the club needs better, more objective criteria for sifting through those requests. Certainly, requests that are well thought out, well documented, and tied to a coherent business plan will be much more likely to be considered seriously and approved.

Room for a few more riders on club tours

For the first time in a long time, both of our club tours for this year have not sold out instantly. Both rosters are almost full, but both have room for a few more entrants.

The Mother Lode Tour is a full, seven-stage, week-long tour in the Gold Country foothills of the Western Sierra, scheduled for the perfect spring weather of May 15-23. It's a hilly, challenging tour, but should be manageable for anyone from a mid-B level rider on up. It promises to be a really spectacular tour, both for its great scenery and its cycling fun.

The Alpine Road Trip (July 21-24) is a three-stage mini-tour working out of Grover Hot Springs, in the region of the Markleeville Death Ride...California's Alps. The stages have longer and shorter options, so should appeal to a wide range of riders. No shortage of spectacular mountain scenery on this tour either.

Both tours have entry forms and full previews (with descriptive copy and loads of color photos) available as pdf's at the club website (in the main [menu](#) on the home page).

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 monthly review of recent rides is a little bit like a daytime soap: a never-ending, ever-repeating chronicle of life on club rides. *Days of Our Rides* or *As the Wheel Turns*. New characters are introduced and old ones fade away; the plot lines have a new twist now and then, but generally remain true to some time-tested formulas. And we always come back to see what's going to happen next.

In the season of Winter-giving-way-to-Spring, one of those familiar plot lines is always the weather: whether it will be nice to us and let us have our rides under blue skies, amidst the green fields, or whether it will smack us around with wind and water in all the wrong places. It is consistently, predictably unpredictable, no matter how accurate AccuWeather claims to be.

The first weekend of this reporting cycle provided us with both of those scenarios. Saturday, the Sonomarin Century squeaked by on dry roads, with nippy but manageable weather. With the forecast they had out there a couple days ahead of the ride, I didn't think that would be possible. But the weather window shifted in our favor, and it ended up being a delightful day. Grey and chilly, but not unpleasantly so. We had just over 20 at the start. Dividing the ride leadership up between me (BC) and Darrin (CD) worked perfectly. Early in the ride, on the Ghericke climb at about mile 8, Darrin's group of nine went off, making a clean break between the groups. There were 12 in the BC group, or more accurately, seven in a C group and five in a B group, a little further back.

At the first rest stop in Point Reyes Station (mile 30), the CD's were just pulling out when the C's pulled in. Never saw them again after that. After the B's arrived, a group of five, C's and B's together, shortcut the course directly to Nicasio Reservoir and Wilson Hill, etc. The rest of the BC group headed south around the century loop: Fairfax-Bolinas, San Geronimo, Nicasio, etc. One rider went off the back on Hicks and Wilson and soldiered on alone...not a good thing to be doing along Chileno Valley, where there was a character-building headwind. Not as bad as it can be down there, but not too good. The rest of us stayed together and shared the work, pretty much to the finish. The ride was about 102 miles and maybe 8500', and with most of the hills and all of the headwinds in the second half, it ended up feeling like a tough ride. Darrin says his group of nine stayed together until the long climbs on Fairfax-Bolinas split them into six and three. The front group all agreed it was a hard ride, but the fact that they finished nearly an hour-and-a-half ahead of the slower group goes some way toward explaining why they were tired. Doing each mile of a century about 50 seconds faster adds up to a lot of energy expended.

So we lucked out with the weather on Saturday, but Rose Mello and her AB pals were not so lucky on Sunday. The predicted rain finally arrived, and she was forced to cancel her Cotati-Tomales ride. (It's back on the list this month.)

Next up, on the last Saturday in February, were two rides working around the same west county hill country, and both working around a mixed bag of weather. It had looked very promising on Friday evening, but it was drizzling on Saturday morning. The forecast was for clearing later. Some chose to believe that and

attempt their rides, while others elected to stay home and reboot for Sunday, when the forecast was much more optimistic. Rick Sawyer had a B-tempo ride out of Willowside School, heading for Sweetwater Springs. He sent in this report: "Six of us endured spitting rain for the first hour or so, along with road surfaces awash with minor mud slides, gravel, and various other detritus. Eventually though, the clouds parted and we were treated to an eyeful of Mother Nature in a short, tight skirt. The air was sweet, streams gushed all around, and the hills were so green it felt as if we were traversing the Emerald Isle itself. One of our number was a visitor from Wisconsin, who was suitably impressed, and we were also joined by a recent Seattle transplant, who said, 'you call this rain?' There was one flat, and we did misplace one rider, but otherwise no mishaps. Shortly after a lingering kiss o' the Blarney Stone at the coffee shop in Guerneville, the group split up to take differing routes home. It turned out to be a good day after all, thanks to my hardy co-conspirators, even though the pace they laid down was seriously B+."

Nick Farats had a C-tempo ride out of Ragle Park, also heading for the same rest stop in Guerneville, but with 30 more miles planned. Bill Carroll sent in a report on the ride: "David Wayte and I made our way from Santa Rosa to the start of Nikola's ride through light, intermittent showers. Four people were already there, including three who drove up together from Marin for the start...but no Nikola. Just as the six of us were getting ready to depart, in rolled four more: Tony Lee, Marc Moons, and two pros from Colavita. We rolled out together, and I was thinking: we'll probably stay together for four or five miles, then that will be the last we'll see of them. But you never know how a ride is going to turn out. Marc and Tony were saving their legs for a big Mt. Tam ride the next day, and all ten of us rode together all day. There was plenty of road spray at the start, but it was really not a big problem, and it turned out to be a great day. The weather improved by the hour, and by the end the skies had cleared and jackets were pocketed. We picked up Matt Wilson on Faught, and he rode with us back to Sebastopol, then with David and me back to Santa Rosa. Those last 40 miles were spectacular: clear blue skies, fluffy white clouds, and spring announcing its arrival with an explosion of color. Sonoma County in all its beauty. An excellent day."

One of those who chose to reboot for Sunday was Janice Oakley, who proposed a ride on the chat list on Saturday afternoon: a century pulled from our archives that began at Willowside and went as far north as Jimtown and Lambert Bridge and as far south as Tomales, hitting a wonderful sampler pack of Sonoma County scenery in between. It was, in broad outline, the same route that Bill Carroll and company had done on Saturday, only in reverse direction. I was one of the half-dozen or so riders who picked up on Janice's proposal. It turned out to be a delightful day, and we didn't have to ride for an hour or two in the rain at the beginning to get 'er done. I logged 101 miles and 5500'...3000' less than the previous weekend's Sonomarin Century (and no significant headwinds either), which might explain why we were more than an hour quicker on this one, in spite of three, long, lazy rest stops.

There was an official club ride on this day as well. Ken Russeff had listed an AB ride from Cotati out to Wildflour Bakery in Freestone. Here's his report: "A beautiful day. I guess a lot of riders had cabin fever, as we had 44 riders show up for the ride, including nine guests (non-club members). The Barnett Valley and Burnside hills beat

— Continued on page 6

RIDE SCHEDULE

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

SATURDAY • APRIL 3

TT's Twisted Little Sister 5/C/90 • 9000' 9:00 AM • Monte Rio

L on River > R on Austin Creek > R on Caz Hwy > King Ridge > R on Tin Barn > R on Skaggs-Stewarts Pt > L on Annapolis > L on Hwy 1 > L on Kruse Ranch (couple of miles of uphill gravel) > R on Seaview > R on Timber Cove > L on Hwy 1 > L on Fort Ross > R on Meyers Grade > L on Hwy 1 > L on River > R on Moscow > L on Main.

Linda Fluhrer—925-689-3056

SUNDAY • APRIL 4

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

The Nifty Ten Fifty HC/CD/55 • 10,000'

8:45 (C ride) • 10:00 AM (D ride)
Paul & Janet's house:
6020 Sutter Ave, Richmond, CA

10,000' of ridiculously steep climbing in the Berkeley hills. Earlier starts, any time after 7:00 am, not guided, but maps, and a pat on the back gladly provided. Light snacks and drinks provided at a stop at the half way point. 5:00 pm dinner and beer at Pyramid Brewery. Designated drivers not provided. RSVP a must!

C: Bill Dunn—415-269-0591 & Janet DeHaven—510-526-8873
D: Paul McKenzie—510-409-8873

SATURDAY • APRIL 10

Wine Country Loop New Members' Welcome Ride 3/B/65 9:00 AM • Piner HS

North on Fulton > L on Wood > R on Woolsey > Laughlin > L on W Laughlin > R on Slusser > L on Mark West Station > R on Trenton-

H'burg > L on Eastside > R on Wohler > R on Westside > L on W. Dry Creek > R on Yoakim Bridge > R on Dry Creek > L on Canyon > R on Hwy 128 > L on Geysers > R on Red Winery > R on Pine Flat > L on Hwy 128 > R on Chalk Hill > L on Pleasant > Faught > R on Airport > L on Fulton... *A special invitation to new members to join with club vets on a mellow cruise through the vines.*

Doug Simon—577-0113

Walk on the Wild Side (Knoxville Calling)

5/BC/85 • 5000'
9:30 AM • Pope Valley Grange
(5850 Pope Valley Rd)

East on Pope Valley > L on Pope Valley Cross > L on Pope Canyon > L on Berryessa-Knoxville > Morgan Valley (lunch stop Main Street, Lower Lake) > West (straight) on Hwy 29 > L on Seigler Canyon > L on Big Canyon > L on Hwy 175 (Main St, Middletown) > L on Hwy 29 (rest stop in Middletown) > R on Butts Canyon > Pope Valley to finish. *A challenging route traversing remote territory. Be prepared (self-contained) for weather conditions, mechanical issues, and water for 48 miles to lunch stop. One stretch of gravel road (not too long or difficult) and a few seasonal stream crossings to manage.*

Rick Sawyer—933-0760

SRCC-RUSA 300K Brevet

6:00 AM • Healdsburg City Hall

To Pt Reyes Light Station and back via Westside, River, Hwy 1, Sir Francis Drake. Info and pre-reg at SRCC Brevet [website](http://www.srcc.com).

RBA Bob Redmond—799-0764

SUNDAY • APRIL 11

River Ramble

2-3/AB/30
9:00 AM • Finley Park

R on Stony Pt > L on Guerneville > R on Laguna > Trenton/H'burg > R on Eastside > R on Old Red > R on Starr > L on Mark West Station > R on Slusser > L on River > R on Olivet > L on Piner > R on Marlow to Park. *Lunch at Stony Point Grill afterward?*

Jan (A) & Greg (B) Conklin—539-4099

SATURDAY • APRIL 17

Second Half of TT

5/C/106
9:00 AM • Healdsburg City Hall

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.

L on Grove > L on Dry Creek > L on Skaggs Springs > L on Hwy 1 > L on Fort Ross > Caz Hwy > L on Austin Creek > L on River > R on Sunset > R on Westside > Mill.

Bill Carroll—539-7568

Ride & Donate

2/AB/40

9:00 AM • Galvan Park

L on Yulupa > Bennett Valley > R on Sonoma Mtn (regroup) > R on Pressley (regroup @ Crane Canyon Pk; restroom) > Roberts > R on Petaluma Hill > L on E Cotati (regroup @ Plaza; restroom) > R on W Sierra > L on Stony Point > R on Roblar > R on Peterson > L on Blank (regroup) > R on Canfield > R on Bloomfield > L on Pleasant Hill (regroup) > R on Lynch > L on McFarland > L on Dowd > R on Jewell > R on Willow > Thru parking lot to Joe Rodota Trail > L on Forest Trail to Coffee Catz (rest stop) > Retrace to L on Joe Rodota > L on Wright > Fulton > R on SR Creek Bike Path > Prince Greenway > Sonoma > R on Hoen > Cypress > R on Creekside > R on Yulupa > L on Bethards to Blood Bank. *Larry will soon be leaving on another ride across America, similar to one he did in 1996, promoting blood donations and paying tribute to the many anonymous donors whose gift of blood saved his life. Help launch his trip with your own blood donation. (Do the ride whether you can donate or not.) There will be secure bicycle parking provided by SCBC.*

Larry Fredrick—579-3555

Ride & Donate (short option)

1/A/10

9:30AM • Galvan Park

This will be a shorter, easier ride held in conjunction with Larry's ride (above).

Janice & Mike Eunice—575-9439

SUNDAY • APRIL 18

Pine Flat Challenge

3-5/BCD/62

10:00 AM • Piner HS

N. on Fulton > L Old Red > R on Shiloh > L on Faught > R on Chalk Hill > L on Hwy 128 > R on Pine Flat > Regroup, mass start at first bridge on Pine Flat before the climb at approx. 11:30. Ride to top (regroup at top) > Retrace to Piner High. *If you want, your time to the summit will be recorded. Times vary from approx. :50 to 1:30+. For more info, visit the Pine Flat Challenge [website](#).*

Doug McKenzie—523-3493

Susan's Birthday Ride

2/A/49

9:00 AM • Esposti Park

L on Shiloh > L on Faught > R on Chalk Hill > L on Hwy 128 > R on Pine Flat > L on Red Winery > L on Geysers > R on Hwy 128 > L on Hwy 128 (rest stop at Jimtown Store) > Retrace to Alexander Valley > R on Lytton Station > R on Lytton Springs > R on Geyserville > L on Canyon > L on Dry Creek (rest stop at Dry Creek Store) > Lambert Bridge > L on W Dry Creek > L on Westside > Mill > R on H'burg Ave > R on Old Red > L on Arata > Hembree > L on Shiloh to Esposti Park.

Ken Russeff—953-1804

SATURDAY • APRIL 24

Clear Lake Double Metric

4/CD/121 • 10,000'

8:30 AM • Foss Creek El. School
BC start at 8:00 AM

L on Healdsburg Ave > R on Alexander Valley > R on Hwy 128 > L on Ida Clayton > Western Mine (2 miles of steep, downhill gravel) > L on Hwy 29 (Rest stop in Middletown) > L on Hwy 175 > R on Barnes > Big Canyon > R on Siegler Canyon > L on 29 > R on Point-Lakeview > R on Soda Bay (Rest stop in Soda Bay) > L on Clark > L on Gaddy > L on State > R on Main > L on Big Valley > L on Argonaut > R on Highland Springs > L on Matthews > L on Hopland Grade (Rest stop in Hopland) > L on 101 > R on Mountain House > L on 128 > R on Cloverdale Blvd > Dutcher Creek > L on Dry Creek > L on Lytton Springs > R on Chiquita > R on H'burg Ave to school. If it rains on Saturday, reload for Sunday. RSVP to be sure. Lowland (BC) option from Hopland: south on Hwy 101 > Geysers Road into Cloverdale > rejoin course. Only a mile or two shorter but bypasses climbs on Mountain House.

CD: Tony Lee—766-9803
BC: Bill Oetinger—823-9807

Spring Up the Hills

3-2/AB/40

9:00 Am • Howarth Park

L on Summerfield > R on Bethards > L on Yulupa > Bennett Valley > R on Sonoma Mountain > R on Pressley > Roberts > R on Petaluma Hill > L on E. Cotati (regroup at Plaza) > R on W. Sierra > L on Stony Point > R on Roblar > R on Peterson > L on Blank > R on Canfield > R on Bloomfield > L on Pleasant Hill > R on Lynch > L on McFarlane > R on Hayden > L on Litchfield > R on Palm > L on Hwy 116 > R on Joe Rodota Trail > L on Forest Trail to Coffee Catz (rest stop)

> Retrace to L on Joe Rodota Trail > L on S. Wright > Fulton > R on on SR Creek Trail > Prince Greenway > R on Mendocino > L on Sonoma Ave > L on Summerfield.

Sue Bennett—523-1322

SUNDAY • APRIL 25

SR-Cloverdale-SR

3/B/78

9:00 AM • Youth Community Park

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

John Olson—916-222-2858

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 Masy—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

up a few of us who haven't been riding for awhile. Outside of one flat, it was an ideal Sonoma County day for cycling."

Onward to March, beginning with Greg Durbin's King Ridge Express on Saturday, March 6. This was a very challenging ride of 110 miles and some ridiculous amount of climbing, with King Ridge, Tin Barn, Stewarts Point, and Fort Ross as the marquee attractions in the middle of the ride. Numerous reports were bouncing around the chat list on this one afterward. The main topic was an ugly crash on the very twisty Stewarts Point descent. Paul Stimson went head-on into the front corner of a big pick-up. Amazingly, Paul seems to have come out of it better than the truck, which sustained some expensive damage, while Paul appears to have escaped with nothing worse than a scuff on one elbow. The truck's driver, although understandably upset, was very helpful and accommodating. Paul at first appeared badly injured, so 911 was called. Once his status appeared less grave, the red alert was called off, and eventually Greg's wife Jane drove all the way out to the Stewarts Point store to bring in Paul and Greg (who had stayed with him). This very scary incident threw something of a wet blanket over what would otherwise have been a truly epic day, with good weather and a good crowd, logging big, hard miles for March Magic. Although it was obviously a bad accident, everyone was thankful that it wasn't much worse, as it very easily could have been. Fortunately, the riders were descending that tight, treacherous road cautiously. GPS tracking indicates Paul was only going 20-mph around the corner where he met the uphill truck. We've had other nasty crashes on this road, some on club rides and some during the Terrible Two. It demands great care and even then, even with caution and attention-to-detail, it can still slam you with a blunt-trauma dose of Murphy's Law.

On the same day, Steve Drucker had listed his Cotati Circulator ride, which is a March Magic tradition. Riders are challenged to do as many repeats as they can manage of a rolling, 24-mile loop west of Cotati. Steve checks in: "We had 10 riders for the 8:00 am loop, 20 for the 10:00 am loop, and another 10 for the noon loop. Nice weather throughout the day: warming, low wind. Only I did all three circuits. We had the usual flat or two. There was a mix of all types of riders from A to C."

The only officially listed club ride on Sunday was Jack Hartnett's AB ride, which departed SR City Hall on a journey around some of the west county's bike trails. Jack reports on their adventure: "Great ride today with the AB group, on another beautiful, sunny, Sonoma County day. Approximately 30 riders at the start. A rough start though, with two or three flats before we even left the parking lot. The group got spread out, but as far as I know, all had a great ride. Lots of thanks at the end."

There was an unofficial club ride on Sunday as well, set up on the chat list. Rick Sawyer proposed a loop ride from Glen Ellen, over the Mayacamas to Napa, the Carneros, and Sonoma: "We had seven complete the entire loop. One more started with us but doubled back up Dry Creek Road, and we were also joined for a time by a few others who met us at the Trinity fire house. Bill Carroll amused himself by riding ahead, stopping to take photos, and then catching us again. It was a picture perfect day: sunny, with mild temps. Not even a flat. A bit of a west wind slowed us on the way out of the Carneros."

The last weekend we can cover this month was March 13-14, and that brought us our annual Free Lunch Rides. In case the name draws a blank with you, this ride—or more accurately, the lunch that follows it and gives the ride its name—is a payback to the members who come to the January meeting and vote in our annual Board election. (Like the old Chicago mayor Richard Daley, handing out Thanksgiving turkeys to all who would vote for him, we're not above bribery when it comes to having a good turnout for our election. Only in our case, we hand out burritos at El Sombrero Taqueria in Healdsburg.) Over 70 people attended that meeting, so we were a little surprised when only 25 people claimed their lunch vouchers on this Saturday. That's the lowest number of voter-rider-diners we can recall. We certainly can't blame the low number on the weather, which was just about as nice as a day in early Spring can be (after a downpour of nearly biblical proportions all day Friday). And in fact, there were over 60 people at the start, divided equally between the A, B, and C groups. We're not aware of any problems with any of the groups. There was a flat early on in the C group, and after all had waited, it took awhile longer than usual for that faster group to reel in the B and A gangs. With the smaller-than-usual number of vouchers in play, we didn't quite swamp the food service at El Sombrero, as we sometimes have. But there was still a lively, congenial crowd there afterward. And then quite a few people rode back south after lunch, fueled by high octance Mexican food and beer.

This was also the date of the first SRCC brevet of the season, the 200K, also staging out of Healdsburg. Bill Carroll was there and sent in a report: "It was cold at the start: I recorded a low of 37° as I dropped from Alexander Valley into Knights Valley. Other than the early chill, it was an excellent day for a long ride. Bob Redmond reported 94 signed up for the event, an excellent turn out. The pace was hot from the get-go, with Craig Robertson and Tony Lee on one tandem and the Forsmans on another. Knights Valley was spectacular. After a heavy rain the day before, the visibility was excellent, and Mt. St. Helena stood out clear and magnificent.

"After just a few minutes to regroup at the turnaround in Napa, I rolled out with a big group. It was great to have the shelter of a strong paceline, as the wind was brisk out of the northwest heading home. We stayed together all the way into Healdsburg, with just a quick stop in Calistoga. Late morning and early afternoon temperatures were ideal, in the low 60s. After checking in, Susan Noble and I added some bonus miles to get to 140, then settled in for a couple of Bear Republic recovery beverages. There were a bunch of people hanging out at the Bear, and not just local clubsters either. It was nice to talk with other riders, who were unequivocal in their assessment that the support for this brevet was the best they had ever seen. A big thanks to Bob Redmond, with the essential help of Ginger Kuhn and Bill and Evelyn Ellis. It was nothing less than a great day of cycling."

Ken Russeff took up the challenge of following up the Free Lunch Rides with a ride of his own on Sunday, an A listing heading out to the Valley of the Moon. Here's his report: "A few of us remembered to set our clocks ahead as we inaugurated Daylight Savings with 27 riders out of Howarth Park on a very clear but very cool morning. The participants in a 10-mile running race at the park filled the parking lot before our arrival, but we managed. Taking the normal route through Oakmont and the 'no bicycles' trail, we finally peeled off a layer at the top of Lawndale. The sunshine at the Glen Ellen Market was welcome, as it did warm up a few degrees."

March Board Retreat Topics

On a recent Saturday, your club Board members held an all-day retreat to discuss goals and policies for 2010 and beyond. Similar retreats have been held in the past and have been helpful in dealing with some of the complex issues we have difficulty fitting into the agenda of the regular Board meetings. Recent Board meetings have been running three hours or longer, so it makes sense to bundle some of the thornier topics together and give them a thorough airing in a special session. While many subjects were touched upon at this latest retreat, we wanted to call to your attention a few of them we thought would be of particular interest.

• **Donations:** The club's charitable donations are an ever-evolving subject, and we spent considerable time (again!) trying to fine-tune the way those are handled. SRCC President Donn King, will speak to this issue in his monthly column (see page 2).

• **Club Culture and New Members:** We all know that the SRCC has over time evolved a relatively stable "club culture" that we mostly find so comfortable as to be nearly invisible, at least to those 200 or so members who are the club regulars. The various interactions of those forming this core group—those most often seen and heard at club events: volunteering, managing, participating—have created, for better or worse, a status quo. Meanwhile, there are hundreds of other club members we seldom see. Over the past year or so, club membership has grown by roughly 25%, and even before taking those newest members into account, we realize there are many other, not-exactly-new members we barely know.

We have decided to make it a priority this year to revitalize the club culture with the goal of encouraging more club members (new and old) to become actively involved.

Among the suggestions is an effort to enliven the general meetings. Starting this month, blast e-mails are to be sent to announce the upcoming meetings and introduce the agenda. There will also be a New Members Table, dedicated to welcoming those new to the club or just new to the monthly meetings. This was successfully launched at the March meeting. Beer and sodas will be provided by the club at this clearly marked table, and we will have at least one old-timer there each month to facilitate introductions and answer questions. Come out and join us!

It was further decided that if we have difficulty finding interesting speakers for the meetings, we will try to substitute other activities that are supportive of increased mingling and schmoozing. In fact, it might be a good idea to make this a regularly scheduled part of the meetings, even if we do have a good feature presentation on the agenda.

Club rides specifically dedicated to helping new members (or any member) get into the fold have also been proposed. For example, there is a B-tempo ride to be led by Doug Simon on April 10 that will be the one of these. Additionally, Janice Eunice has been for quite some time hosting "Welcome Wagon" rides at A-tempo for this same purpose. Look for them on the Ride Calendar. We also have under consideration an expansion of the new member ride concept that would include multi-tempo rides in the near future. It has been suggested that these new member rides have more than one ride leader for each tempo, so people can form smaller groups and better get to know each other and their leader. In all cases, these rides will be open to all members. The idea is to foster good fun for all of us.

• **Survey:** Another idea discussed at the retreat was to again conduct a member survey, asking members for their opinions on what the club is doing well and what it is not. Member surveys have been used in the past with some success, but we can barely remember when the last one was conducted. We want to know what you think might be any barriers to more member participation and enjoyment of club life. You don't like the status quo? Then give us your thoughts, without sugar-coatings.

• **Key Role Support:** It has been noted that several of the key club management positions continue to grow in responsibility and complexity (and are filled by overworked volunteers). Making things worse, we have no real plan for succession. Our club now has over 1200 members, which is both the bad news and the good news. Bad news, in that there is more administrative work to do, but good news in that we must at the same time have tremendous potential human resources within the club that could be tapped. In no particular order, positions identified as critical include: WCC Chair, Web Master, Membership, Terrible Two Chair, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Warehouse Manager, Ride Director, Retail Sales and Party Management. And of course, that multi-headed monster of a job, club President.

Those who currently hold key positions are being encouraged to identify other reasonably competent and compatible members, with the goal of asking them for help; to better spread the work load and to protect against a possible crisis if they are somehow unable to continue in their current positions, even temporarily. This assistance might be in the form of committee participation, eventual successors, or just part-time, fill-in assistance.

For now, we feel it best to let the key management people handle their individual circumstances as they see fit. That might mean quiet recruiting on their part or even a "help wanted" notice in the newsletter. There is a third way for this link between the club's needs and your skills to take place: you know best what your talents are and how much time you might have to spare on behalf of your club. But we may not know you or your circumstances all that well. Think about approaching one the current club leaders and initiating a dialogue about how you might help. Who knows? You may be a future club President!

— Rick Sawyer, SRCC Secretary

SRCC booth at Tour of California Expo

The Santa Rosa Cycling Club is going to have a booth in the Expo area at the finish of Stage 2 of the Amgen Tour of California in downtown Santa Rosa (Monday, May 17). We did not plan to have a booth at the event, but it comes with our contribution to the local organizing committee, so we thought: why not? Let's do it!

We're not actively looking to build membership. That seems to happen all on its own, as our rapid increase in membership in recent years will testify. But we felt it was a good opportunity to remind the larger community who we are and what we do. Look for more information on this in next month's newsletter.

Board member Don Graham is taking the lead on setting up and staffing the booth. He already has a few members signed on to work the booth, but could use a few more. If you are free on that Monday and would like to get in on this neat project, hangin' at the booth for an hour or two, track Don down and let him know...

Don Graham: 538-3664 or ccmtg@sbcglobal.net

SANTA ROSA CYCLING CLUB

PO Box 6008

Santa Rosa, CA 95406

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

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Vice-President: Craig Gaevert.....545-4133
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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, April 14 • 6:30 PM

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

Guest Speaker:

Chris Culver, Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition

Wednesday, May 12

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

(Open to all interested members)

Thursday, April 8 • 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, May 6

Final push for Wine Country Century prep

We're coming down the home stretch on our preparations for the Wine Country Century (Saturday, May 1), the biggest event of the year for the club. Event Chair Bruce Hopfengardner and Volunteer Coordinator Kimberly Hoffman tell us that most of their ducks are in a row: most crews are fully staffed, and most other tasks have been checked off on their to-do lists. However, the key word in that last sentence is "most" (not "all"). There are still a few places where we can throw more volunteers into the fray.

If you have been procrastinating about getting involved with WCC support, it's not too late to take the plunge. And remember: if you do volunteer, you get the big payback of doing the WCC course the following weekend with all your club pals, including the very well catered lunch at the club's warehouse after the ride. Not to mention getting a cool WCC t-shirt...all for free.

Ahead of the actual event, we have some work days at the warehouse, cleaning and organizing all of our equipment.

Sunday, April 18, 2-6:00 pm; 12 volunteers needed

Saturday, April 24, 2-6:00 pm; 12 volunteers needed

Sunday, April 26, 9:00 am-1:00 pm; 4 volunteers needed

Sunday, April 26, 1-5:00 pm; 4 volunteers needed

Debbie Wymer is in charge of these cleaning parties. She can be reached at d.wymer@sbcglobal.net or 481-1102.

To volunteer for other assignments at the WCC, talk to Kimberly (kdhoffman10@yahoo.com or 579-3754) or check out the full [directory](#) of WCC committees and chairpersons at the club's website. If you've never been part of the WCC team, you should give it a try. It's a sure-fire way to be on a winning team.