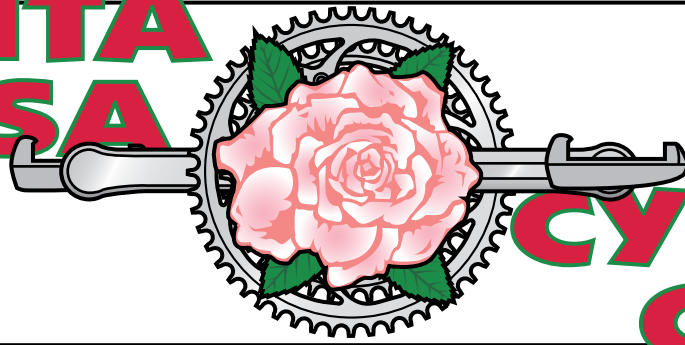


SANTA ROSA



CYCLING CLUB

DECEMBER 2010 NEWSLETTER



New Year's Day Rides and Party

Can it really be that we're already talking about a club ride in 2011? Yes it can. At the other end of this month, we say goodbye to 2010 and celebrate the advent of the new year with a big ride and a bigger party.

The tradition of a New Year's Day ride followed by a party dates back many years in the club. Marty and Sue Powell got the idea going in '93 and then Rich Winegarner took it over in '96. Others tried their hand at it before René Goncalves and Sharron Bates made the occasion their special project, and we are still enjoying their excellent management of the day, many years and many great parties later. Early editions of the party were held in members' homes, but since we acquired our warehouse, it has made good sense to stage the parties there, with the rides launching from a nearby locale.

Check the ride list and the website ride calendar for more information on the rides: where and when they start and where they go. In briefest outline, there will be three rides (A, B, and C tempo), all heading north and following some approximation of the club's Wine Country Century routes. All of the rides will end at the club warehouse at 4023 Coffey Lane (1/4-mile north of Dennis Lane).

New Year's parties are not pot luck. Everything will be provided, except for wine. If you want wine, please bring it and hand it off to volunteers at the start or retrieve it from your car after the ride. Cars will not be parked at the warehouse. We will make use of the lot at nearby Shaefer School on San Miguel Road, as we do for our WCC Workers's rides and End-of-Summer parties.

NOTE: New Year's Day will be on a Saturday; if we're rained out on Saturday, we will attempt a rain check on Sunday. (We did it this year—last January—moving from Friday to Saturday.)

This is a members-only event and an RSVP is required. Go to the club website and find the New Year's Day party [RSVP form](#) and fill it out. The volunteer crew needs to know how many people are coming in order to buy or prepare the right quantities of food. So please do the right thing: take a minute to go to the site and add your name to the list.

René and Sharron note that they will need a little help with setting up the warehouse for the party and cleaning up afterward. Call or e-mail Sharron if you want to help.

Sharron Bates: 526-3512, Sharron@RandalOptimal.com

The last month of the old year is the traditional date when we introduce our biggest event of the new year: the Wine Country Century. The century doesn't happen until the first weekend in May, but long before that, both club members and the general public want to know what lies ahead. What's the exact date of the event? When will registration open?

To answer all of the questions at a stroke, we publish the new event graphics in this space and at the same time at the club website (along with registration info). This tells the world that we are going to be there once again, putting on our popular event as we have done for so many years. It reassures people and it stokes their enthusiasm for the big rides of spring.

The art work for the 2011 WCC is another attempt to pay homage to the grand tradition of travel posters from the early years of the 20th century, with a view across an Alexander Valley vineyard to a distant Mt St Helena. Of particular interest in this case is the fact that the blue of the sky in the logo is only a placeholder: at least as it appears on our commemorative t-shirts, the "blue sky" of the logo will actually be provided by the shirt itself...blue shirts. For the first time in several years, the event shirts will not be white. Our graphic artist has been in consultation with the silk-screener, and they are confident that they can make this work.

Let's hope that the blue skies of the logo will represent a good omen for the event: that we will enjoy one of those perfect, blue-sky days of early May, and that all the elements will be in place for a great event...a positive experience for both our thousands of visitors and our hundreds of member volunteers.

MINUTE MIX

Highlights from the General Membership and Executive Board meetings for November

- 1. Call to Order:** President Donn King called the general meeting to order at the Round Table on Occidental Road on Wednesday, November 10. 64 members and friends were present.
- 2. Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Greg Durbin announced the club's bank account balances, as of October 31.
- 3. Membership:** Registrar Gordon Stewart reported membership of 1181 (combining individual and family memberships). Don Graham acted as host at the New Member Table, with eight new members on hand.
- 4. Litter:** Mike McGuire reported on the recent Adopt-a-Backroad litter pick-up project from November 7. (*See item in B&B.*)
- 5. Facebook:** Greg Durbin reported to the Board on discussions with Matt Wilson about setting up a club Facebook page. No decision yet on whether to pursue this.
- 6. Board Meetings:** With Craig Gaevert leaving the Board at the end of the year, we will have to give up our meeting venue (Craig's office). President Donn King has agreed to hold the meetings at his home for 2011 (3114 Lucero Ct, SR).
- 7. Holiday dinner:** Donn King explained the details of the holiday dinner to the members. It is set for December 3 at the Flamingo Resort Hotel (see below).
- 8. Elections:** Rick Sawyer and Bill Oetinger made a report to the Board on the results of their efforts to find candidates to stand for election to the Board for 2011. Candidate nominations will be formally announced at the December general meeting, with the election at the January meeting, per the club by-laws.
- 9. Warehouse:** Warehouse Committee member Rose Mello talked to the Board about issues at the warehouse, including policies regarding equipment loans and problems with mice.
- 10. TT jersey:** Bill Oetinger showed the Board a revised version of the graphics for the next generation TT jersey, to be produced early next year. Final quantities on that order will be decided at the December Board meeting. (*See item on page 7.*)
- 11. Awards:** Bill Oetinger and Janice Oakley made a presentation to the Board on nominations for the annual awards, and some discussion followed regarding as yet undecided recipients.
- 12. Featured presentation:** Two representatives from Petaluma-based CamelBak showed a video and gave a talk on the topic of hydration and what their company has planned for future products in that field.

Holiday Dinner: not too late!

If you are reading this when the electronic newsletter first comes out, you may still be able to get in on the fun of the Holiday Dinner party scheduled for Friday, December 3 at the Flamingo Resort Hotel. The event has been filling up quickly in recent days, but as we went to press, there were still a few seats available.

November 22 is the cut-off date to register for the dinner. If you're interested (and if it's still before that date when you read this), go directly to the club website calendar and the [RSVP form](#) for the dinner.

Letter from the President

— Donn King —

It's December and I am nearing the end of my first term as President of the bike club. All politicians wish to justify their existence and I am no different. I feel the compulsion to review the year from the point of view of my presidency. It would be nice to take credit for the Giants' World Series win, but I wouldn't feel right about that. I'd better stick to accomplishments that are closer to home.

One of my main objectives as President was to make the bike club a welcoming place for new members. I feel that some gains were made in this area. Attendance at the General Meetings has been robust, and I think the New Members table has been a success. A concerted effort has been made to draw new members into the culture of the bike club.

Has this translated into more involvement in leadership and participation off the bike? Not as much as I had hoped. I envisioned new members, and experienced members for that matter, getting more involved with leadership and volunteer activities. New ride leaders continue to emerge and our ride calendar is active and full, but I would like to see more members stepping up into active leadership. I know that it takes time to become assimilated into the club, and I know that leadership is not for everyone. In a sense, leaders are born and not made, but the bike club is a relatively safe place to try it out and find out if you are a leader.

There is a very promising slate of Board candidates for 2011 (to be announced at the General Meeting in December). Several Board members will be stepping down and I thank them very much for their service during this past year. It's my intention to serve another term as President, with your approval. It takes at least a year to learn the ropes—maybe we should make the Presidency a two term job. I look forward to seeing you on the road, in the meetings, at the warehouse, and who knows, maybe on the Board.

SEEKING AN IMPRESARIO!

"impresario" noun: a person who organizes concerts, plays, or operas.

Our monthly club meetings are not concerts, nor are they plays or operas. But they do—usually—include a featured presentation of some sort: a speaker addressing some topic of interest to cyclists, from slide shows of past bike tours to a video about training or racing or riding in traffic.

For the past few years, club member JoAnne Cohn has ably filled the bill as our Featured Presentation impresario. She has rooted around in the local cycling community and has consistently turned up interesting speakers or films to entertain and inform the members. (Thank you, JoAnne.)

Now JoAnne is retiring from that volunteer task, and we are looking for someone to fill that role. Ideally, this person will be someone like Jo: someone who is lively and proactive about getting things done; someone who is at least moderately well connected in the local bike community, and who therefore has lots of contacts that can be worked up into possible meeting fodder.

We'd be lying if we said this is an easy assignment. It's not. It takes initiative and imagination. But perhaps you're the sort of person who would enjoy that sort of challenge. If you are, consider taking this on. It might bring you a great deal of satisfaction and it surely will bring you the gratitude of your fellow club members.

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: srccride@sonic.net.

Seems like we're always talking about the weather in this column, and never more so than in the dark, dank depths of winter, when the weather is like a big, grumpy grizzly that can smack us around whenever it feels ornery. Last month, we talked about how October is our month of transition around here: from the hot days of late summer to—quite suddenly—the rainy days of winter.

It's never quite that simple, as the ups and downs of the month of November amply demonstrate, but you can just about set your watch by the first big rain dump at the end of October. This year, Ken Russeff had the first official rain-out of the season (reported last month), and then I followed up with another one on the following weekend (October 23). In retrospect, I have to say: what was I thinking? As in, who would be dumb enough to schedule a ride over the remote ridges of the Geysers on that weekend at the end of October when it rains every year, without fail? I'd have been smarter to have listed a Scrabble tournament, fueled by beer swilling and wine tasting.

David Abramo and Sunny Mawson had their A ride out of Healdsburg on Sunday rained out as well, but they have it back on the calendar this month.

The next weekend was almost as bad, but determined cyclists battled the dodgy weather to a standstill and did get in some miles. Donna Norrell kicked things off with her Rincon Rambler out of Santa Rosa on a gloomy Saturday morning: "About 15 riders joined the ride at various times for a cloudy, drizzly day with hopes the sun would break thru in the afternoon. The clouds never parted, but we had a great day anyway, with fall colors in the countryside and the traffic feeling quite light. The ride leader had a flat right off and it seemed to set the theme, as we ended up with five flats total. It was great to see familiar faces, while also welcoming some new or returning cyclists. The group stayed together well and helped each other out when needed. We got back just in time for a hot shower and the World Series. Thanks to everyone who made this ride an enjoyable happening, from helping out with flats to pulling along 128...a great group effort."

Linda Fluhrer listed a longer, hillier, faster ride on the same morning, starting in Sonoma and visiting obscure roads like Norbom, Cavedale, Mt Veeder, and Partrick...all tough, steep climbs. Rick Sawyer sent in this report about the ride later that evening: "It really wasn't that bad on the bikes today, although I expected no rain at all and that didn't turn out to be the case. Darrin and I skipped the last of the hilly out-&-backs (Partrick), as it started to rain on the lower part of Mt Veeder Road. We started the day with seven people, but two dropped out very early and only Linda and two others did the entire published course. Struggling to keep up with the group has my legs fried, and I'm wobbling around like a 90-year old. The wet descents were very tricky today. As on Donna's ride, we also had flats galore: three out of seven people got them, so nearly 50% of the group." Another anecdotal proof that wet roads generate more flats. I think everyone agrees that this is so, but exactly *why* it is so is a matter of conjecture that lights up chat lists and bike forums every winter. We all have our pet theories,

but none of them seems absolutely, irrefutably convincing.

Noelle Rudolf was taking a flier on her first ride lead on Sunday with an AB ride sporting a Halloween theme, it being October 31. It also included a brunch stop near the end of the ride at a cafe in Santa Rosa. Noelle filed this note about the day: "The ride was well attended by 28 riders, including six in Halloween costumes. A prize was awarded for the best costume. Perhaps the good weather brought out more riders after the prior few days of drizzle. Brunch was enjoyed by many. Several people mentioned that they were planning on returning to the Worth Our Weight Café."

For the first weekend of November, Bill Ellis had listed a D-tempo ride out of Healdsburg, heading up to Cloverdale. Bill had to bail on the ride at the last minute, but deputized Roberet Redmond to be in charge. Bob sent in this report: "We started with 15 riders. There was an early flat, and while a few continued, a dozen of us waited. Jady Palko announced that he would be setting pace starting at the Madrone. All aboard the crazy train. We quickly went to a single pace line that required a bit more concentration than normal (because of the high speed). I don't ride often enough with Jady to match his power ebb and rise with the terrain. Either that or I'm old and lazy. One or two would take the lead just for short periods; otherwise Jady was still the locomotive. When we turned on Dry Creek to get to Dutcher, we saw Mark, a new member, stopped, so I waved goodbye to the love train to make sure he was okay, which he was. Then Bob Puckett came along and we had three to ride at C-tempo. Leader duties accomplished, I hunkered down and didn't expect to see anyone. But coming into the Cloverdale turnaround, I spied three riders 40 seconds ahead. It was Michael, Paul, and Darrin. Making up 40 seconds was taking *forever*, but after some screaming and whistling, they kindly waited for me. Not sure that was a good idea. The pace they maintained to the finish was awesome. The ride lived up to its D listing: I finished with a 20.4-mph average." Meanwhile, up at the front, Jady Palko and Ken Cabeen kept the pace even hotter, rolling off the 44 miles in about 1:50 for a snappy 24-mph average. Now that's a D ride!

As an alternative to this barn-burner, we had another first-time ride leader—Christine Logan—offering a BC-tempo ride out of Howarth Park, headed out into the Valley of the Moon. There were 25 riders gathered at the start. It's strange these days to see so many unfamiliar faces on a ride. Only one rider turned in a non-member waiver that I saw, and yet of the other 24 people there, I only knew about eight. All the rest were members whom I've never seen before...including the ride leader. A new leader and a new route out of town that worked very well, then a smooth pace line down Petaluma Hill Road in the low 20's. Having the D ride on the same day did exactly what it's supposed to do, drawing off the faster riders and leaving the BC bunch to do their own tempo. There were a couple of peeps on the ride who might have fit better on the D ride, but in general, everyone was comfortable with the pace. Christine had listed the tempo correctly for herself and was doing a good job, still pulling like a diesel down Channel Drive near the end of the ride. Our big climbs on the day were Pressley, Sonoma Mountain, and Adobe Canyon...not monster ascents but considerably more than the D ride was doing. We had nice regroupings at the market in Glen Ellen and at the end of the pavement in Sugar Loaf State Park, where several people accepted an invitation to go into the observatory and look at some solar flares through their big telescope. Weather was way better than we had

— Continued on page 6

RIDE SCHEDULE

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

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.

SATURDAY • DECEMBER 4

Bohemian Sojourn

3-5/C/46-48

9:45 AM • Anly HS

A (mostly) moderately hilly exploration of the wooded pocket canyons and ridges between Sebastopol and Guerneville, with a rest stop at the coffee shop in the latter town. The terrain is mostly a 3. The optional out-&-back on Siri is what gets the 5 rating...and if you haven't done it before, let the fun begin!

Rich Fuglewicz—217-6909

Le Tour de Limantour

3-5/CD/65

9:00 AM • McNear Park, Petaluma

A very hilly journey out to the end of the world at Limantour Beach (Point Reyes National Seashore). Fast tempo, steep hills, and a distant venue make this one a challenge for the hardheads.

Tony Lee—766-9803

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 5

SRCC Welcome Wagon Ride

1/A/10-15

10:00 AM • Joe Rodota Trailhead
(west of Wright Road)

An introductory ride for novice cyclists (but veteran riders are welcome too). Easy, social pace. Plenty of opportunities for learning bike skills with supportive, experienced mentors. Instruction in working on bikes on request.

Mike & Janice Eunice—575-9439

Third Annual

Holiday Chocolate Ride

2/AB/41

9:30 AM • Healdsburg City Hall

A mellow run from Healdsburg to Cloverdale and back, with a stop in Cloverdale for coffee and chocolate. Riders will receive a ticket good for a coffee, tea, or chocolate at Eagle's Nest, compliments of John & Carole.

Carole Kolnes—838-3988

SATURDAY • DECEMBER 11

Rerun the Mint Green Ride

2-3/B/45

9:00 AM • Village Shopping Center
(5755 Mountain Hawk Way, SR)

A more-or-less triangular loop, from Santa

Rosa to Sebastopol to Windsor, with a coffee break at Cafe Noto, and then back to SR. No major climbs and a moderate tempo. At the start, please park on the street, rather than in the shopping center parking lot. Better yet, ride to the start.

Rick Sawyer—933-0760

Wildflour Wandering

3/A/36

9:00 AM • Ragle Park

A hilly run west from Sebastopol to Occidental, then down to a sticky-bun break in Freestone, and finally further south and west to the hills beyond Valley Ford: Franklin School and Whitacker Bluff. Fairly challenging for the A group.

Ken Russeff—953-1804

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 12

River Ramble

2+/AB/30

9:00 AM • Finley Park (SP side)

An easy ride from west Santa Rosa north along Trenton-Healdsburg and Eastside to Windsor Town Green for a break at Cafe Noto...and back via Starr, Slusser, Olivet, etc. Moderate pace and no serious climbing.

Rose Mello—543-5889

SATURDAY • DECEMBER 18

Green Pastures

3/BC/64

9:00 AM • Finley Center

A big loop from west Santa Rosa all the way south to the outskirts of Petaluma, then west to Tomales. After a break at the bakery, a hilly leg out toward Dillon Beach to another break at another bakery, this time in Freestone. Finally, a run up to Occidental and then back through the foothills north of Sebastopol.

John Russell—566-0300

Coast Ride

4/D/61

9:00 AM • Piner HS

West to Occidental by way of Green Valley and Harrison Grade. Coleman Valley to the sea, then Bay Hill, Bloomfield, Burnside, Barnett Valley—the Killer B's—and back along Occidental and Cherry Ridge. Tough, steep hills and a hot tempo differentiate this one from the other ride on the day.

Ken Cabeen—799-6969

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 19

Tomales Bakery Run

2/B/35

10:00 AM • Cotati Dog Park

Another chance to keep the bakers in Tomales busy: a classic club ride from Cotati to Tomales and back, going through Two Rock on the way out and along Carmody and Roblar on the way back.

Jack Hartnett—538-5225

SATURDAY • DECEMBER 25

Merry Christmas!

Christmas Cookie Ride

1/A/22

10:00 AM • SW Community Park

Sue's Christmas Cookie Ride is an almost annual club tradition. Start in SW Santa Rosa, head west to Sebastopol, then north along High School, Sanford, Hall, and Willowside. Turn east toward SR along Guerneville and then work south through SR to the finish. Bring some cookies to share at Sue's house after the ride.

Sue Bennett—523-1322

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 26

Lake Sonoma Ramble

2/A/25

9:00 AM • Healdsburg City Hall

A rain-check ride from an October rain-out. It's a simple vineyard foray, north from Healdsburg along West Dry Creek to the Warm Springs Dam Visitor Center, then back south via Dry Creek.

David Abramo—650-533-2330
Sunny Mawson—838-3138

SATURDAY • JANUARY 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

NEW YEAR'S DAY RIDES

2/A/22 • 3/B/52 • 3/C/59

10:00 AM • Schaefer School
(San Miguel Rd, east of Coffey)

Our traditional kick-off for the new year. If the weather is good, expect to see at least 100 riders at the start. If we're rained out on Saturday but it's better on Sunday, we will reboot for the second day. All rides stop by the SRCC warehouse/club house (4023 Coffey Lane) for lunch and socializing. Either ride to the start or park cars at nearby Schaefer School. This ride is members-only and requires an RSVP. See article on page 1 for more information.

A: Barbara Drucker—538-5256
B: Tony Buffa—824-4466
C: Bill Oetinger—823-9807

REGULAR RIDES

Wednesday Wanna-B's

B • 30-50 miles • 9:00 AM

First Wednesday: Howarth Park, Santa Rosa

Beth Anderson—874-3685

Vin Hoagland—584-8607

Second Wednesday: Healdsburg City Hall

Chris Jones—938-2669

Third Wednesday: Finley Park, Santa Rosa

Lowell Antze—237-7014

Fourth Wednesday: Finley Park, Santa Rosa

Alfred Mascy—484-5885

Fifth Wednesday: Esposti Park, Windsor

Alfred Mascy—484-5885

C • 30-50 miles • 9:00 AM

First Wednesday: Howarth Park, Santa Rosa

Second Wednesday: Healdsburg City Hall

Eric Peterson—433-7737

Third Wednesday: Ragle Park, Sebastopol

Fourth Wednesday: Ragle Park, Sebastopol

Johann Heinzl—539-7991

Fifth Wednesday: Howarth Park, SR

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

Friendly Fridays

A • 25-30 • 9:00 AM

Same schedule as other Friday rides

Janice Eunice—575-9439

Fifth Friday: Ken Russeff—953-1804

B & 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, Hburg

B: Buck Hall—537-1946

C: Nabeel Al-Shamma—479-6246

Fifth Friday (B group only): Esposti Park

B: Gary Grayson—538-9262

on-line ride calendar at the club website, which includes links to turn-by-turn route slips that can be downloaded as pdf's and printed. To some extent, this has rendered the old-fashioned route listings in the newsletter obsolete.

Aside from the matter of being obsolete or redundant, the system with two route slips being published each month sets up an opportunity for confusion: if, for some reason, the two route slips don't agree exactly, we could have riders showing up on rides with two different notions of where the turns will be. It could quite literally be a case of riders not being on the same page. At the very least, this could be confusing and disruptive on a ride—if some people are turning right while others are going straight—and in a worst-case scenario, it could even lead to a crash. (This is not just a hypothetical notion: it has happened more than once on club rides in the past.)

In theory, both published route slips should agree precisely. In real-world practice, we have seen several cases where details were missed or misunderstood and the finished products did not agree. In spite of our best efforts at proofreading, a few glitches are still getting past us. We believe most of you are already getting your turn-by-turn instructions from the route slips at the website (and not from the newsletter), but as long as both lists coexist, the possibility remains for the routes to differ.

The obvious solution is to stop double-posting the turn-by-turn instructions. So, from now on, the newsletter will only provide general descriptions of what to expect on the ride, and riders will have only the pdf route slips at the website for precise directions.

It is still *very* important for each ride leader to take a few minutes to proofread the route slip that we generate for the website ride calendar, and to do so promptly when it becomes available. Even without the double-posting problem, those of us preparing the routes for publication still can and still will make mistakes. We need you to help us catch the errors.

The webmaster will send a note to all of a given month's ride leaders when the latest batch of route slips is ready, and that's when you ride leaders need to check your own ride listing to see if it matches up with what you had in mind. Getting around to proofing your listing a week later—after dozens of members have already visited the site—is too late.

Ride lists and route slips

Beginning this month, you will see a change in the ride list published in the centerfold of this newsletter. At a glance, it may look approximately the same, but closer inspection will reveal that the turn-by-turn route directions are gone, replaced by short copy blocks describing each ride in general terms.

Why the change? It's a function of advancing technology in the way we prepare and present our ride calendar. Once upon a time, this two-page spread was the only source for finding out the details about club rides. However, over the course of the last few years, we have been developing our

More BACKROADS & BREAKAWAYS

any right to expect, given the forecast. Cool and gray for the first few miles, but mostly sunny from mid-ride on. I had ridden to the start from Sebastopol, and the weather turned out to be so pleasant in the afternoon that I rode home from Santa Rosa by way of Healdsburg, ending up with a mellow 100 miles.

Overnight though, the rain was back, coming down hard and steady. We awoke on Sunday morning to the sound of gurgling gutters and raindrops plopping in puddles. This did not bode well for our semi-annual Adopt-a-Backroad litter pick-up day (along Chalk Hill), nor for Laura Charameda's Team Swift Cycle With Champions ride out of Sebastopol. Had I been contemplating a bike ride, I think I would have given it up and stayed home, but it didn't seem impossible to pick up litter in the rain, so I drove off to San Miguel School with a heavy sweater, heavy boots, a rain slicker, and even a golf umbrella. As I was heading east on Hwy 12 out of Sebastopol, I could see a steady run of cars heading toward Sebastopol with bikes on the roofs, all presumably headed for Laura's big do at West County Revolution. I was feeling sorry for all those folks, figuring they'd be riding in the rain. But in fact, at that point, the rain had already stopped for the day, and it only got better from about 9:00 AM on. The Cycle With Champions ride encountered damp roads but no rain or other problems.

As for the litter picker-uppers, event coordinator Mike McGuire had told several people who called up early on Sunday morning—when it was still belting down rain—that the day was probably a bust. As a result, many who had RSVP'd for the project stayed away. But then, in the end, around 15 people—too dumb or too optimistic to call ahead—did show up after all, and we did manage to clean up all of Chalk Hill and some of Faught and Pleasant. Not quite as many miles of road as we might have done with a full crew, but a lot better than nothing. The weather continued to get better all day, and by the time we were in full litter-lifting mode, all those heavy clothes had become a heavy burden...all were stowed in the car and I was down to shirtsleeves. It really turned out nice, and it got even better when we repaired to Johnny Garlic's in Windsor for a hearty, restorative lunch—compliments of the club—after the work was done. Thanks to all who showed up, and special thanks to Mike for organizing the day and for hauling all the trash off to the dump later. As is often the case, we received thank-yous from several residents along the route, and we made sure they knew it was the cycling club doing the good deed.

The only club event on the day that didn't happen was Mike and Janice Eunice's entry-level Welcome Wagon ride along the Joe Rodota Trail. Janice called it off, but she has listed it again this month.

After all those ins and outs and ups and downs of autumn weather—never knowing whether it would be pouring or drizzling or maybe even dry—the second weekend in November turned out to be a no-doubter, but of exactly the right sort. It was sunny and dry and in the mid-80's both days. This is not quite as extraordinary as it might seem, as we often enjoy days in the 80's in mid-November, including a record 88° Sunday just two years ago. Among the grateful beneficiaries of all this balmy largesse were the nearly 30 riders who showed up for Rick Sawyer's B loop around Napa and Pope Valleys on Saturday, November 13. Of those 30 riders, almost half were brand new to SRCC rides...either new or non-

members, including no fewer than 13 women I'd never seen before. The ride was only 45 miles, but it packed a huge payoff into those miles, with picture-postcard panoramas of fall color in the vineyards and in the poplars and plane trees and so forth up and down the valleys...an incredibly lovely day. About the only fly in the ointment was a blustering wind out of the northeast. We got to ride it down Silverado Trail like a runaway freight, but in other places it knocked us about as either a brickwall headwind or as a dicey crosswind that demanded some careful bike handling. There were a couple of confusing corners that fractured the group, but most folks found a few friends for company in the later miles, and afterward, at least half the group replenished their fluids and calories with a lunch on the sunny terrace at Silverado Brewery (the start-finish venue for the ride). All in all, it was just about as nice as a day on the bike could be. Lots of great scenery. Mildly challenging climbs and killer descents. Enough work involved to make it feel as if you'd done something worthwhile, but not so much work that anyone felt trashed at the end. Perfect!

But wait...there was another ride on this beautiful day. Carole Kolnes and Barbara Drucker had an A ride out of Esposti Park. Carole sent in this report: "We started with approximately 15 riders (mostly club members). The temperature was already in the 60's with a promise of hitting the high 70's and maybe even 80. Most riders were strong A's and the rest B's, so the pace up Old Redwood Highway was about 16-17 mph. We picked up a couple of riders at the Rio Lindo turn-off and proceeded to the end of Bailhache Road, which revealed a treat for those first experiencing this road: a panoramic view over the Russian River from atop that tiny hill. Mother Nature had outdone herself, splashing her palette of golds, oranges, reds, yellows, greens, and browns everywhere, turning each tree and shrub into a masterpiece. What a sight to behold!" The "In and Out" of the ride's title referred to its assortment of dead-end out-&-backs: not only Bailhache, but Magnolia and Soda Rock, which Carole felt was the best of them all. She continues: "At about 40 miles, most of us met at Jimtown for a brief break. At that point, separate groups split off to find their own way back to Esposti Park. As there were different routes explored on this beautiful day, the mileage inevitably varied. We were close to 60 miles on our return. Barbara and I would like to thank all the riders who participated. They were a great group!"

There were two more good rides on Sunday of this weekend, including Sarah Schroer's C-tempo King Ridge ride. Sarah reports: "Thanks to all who came out for my ride. We couldn't have asked for better weather! Seventeen riders, including a few visitors from out of town, assembled in Monte Rio at the ride start. Although many started out with arm and knee warmers, those layers came off pretty quickly as we began the climb out of Cazadero. Once we reached the top of the ridge, I was struck by how calm and clear the air was, with great views across the hills and down the coast. The riders separated after the first regroup and water stop, but to my knowledge there were no mishaps and only one flat tire. A few hungry folks stuck around for cold beer and food at nearby Don's Dogs, a perfect end to a perfect ride." I suspect Sarah would have had even more than 17 on this ride had it not been for Rick's ride on Saturday and for the fact of all the folks who did King Ridge so recently on the Gran Fondo.

Rose Mello had a ride out of Esposti Park on this day, heading up to Healdsburg and onward into Dry Creek Valley. Rose reports a whopping 40 in attendance on this warmest of all possible fall





days. She reports the same vibrant color extravaganza up along West Dry Creek that we had enjoyed over in Napa the day before. She even sent in a glorious photo (above) of the Liquid Ambers in front of Lambert Bridge Winery, battling with the vines to see who could do the most outrageous color splashes.

Nine more of us organized an impromptu, unofficial “club” ride on this Sunday, heading from Sebastopol to Windsor and back. Then, joined by non-cycling spousal units, we had an afternoon-long lunch out on the lawn, comfortable in t-shirts until a pretty pink sunset. I mention this unofficial ride primarily for new members: when you first join the club, you may not know anyone, but if you hang in there and let the club grow on you, eventually you’ll make your own friends out of the vast mass of members. Once you have your own little club of friends within the bigger club, you’ll find opportunities like this one for scamming up your own rides (and lunches), independent of the published club ride list. It’s not something you would ever find listed as a specific benefit of club membership, but it’s at the heart of what is valuable about the club: that sense of community and family.

New Terrible Two jersey for 2011

What’s old is new again: the original Terrible Two graphic from 1976 becomes the centerpiece of our third generation TT jersey, which will be in our hands early next year. The little suffering cyclist, drawn by Art Read, was the face of the big ride through all its formative years. We have trotted it out—with Art’s permission—as the t-shirt graphic for some of our anniversary years, and now it will grace the next round of jerseys. (Old jersey designs will still be available, as long as supplies last.)

The poor rider, with spots in front of his eyes and with sweat raining down behind, is silhouetted against a vast and implacable sun, perhaps on one of the many, endless walls of a Skaggs Springs afternoon. Or, if he’s running late, it might be a big full moon in a darkening twilight sky, with time running out...

On the back, our infamous elevation profile is liberated from its rise-and-run grid and now marches all the way across the back, looking much like the steeply folded landscape the profile represents.

You want one of these? You know what you need to do...



SANTA ROSA CYCLING CLUB

PO Box 6008

Santa Rosa, CA 95406

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



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

11/19/10 14:16

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 Stewart.....823-0941

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, club 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, December 8 • 6:30 PM

Round Table Pizza

(Occidental Road, west of Stony Point)

Featured Presentation: Christmas cookies and short slide shows or videos from member bike adventures (Talk to Craig Gaevert if you wish to participate in the presentation.)

Wednesday, January 12

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

(Open to all interested members)

Thursday, December 2 • 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, January 6

• CLUB JERSEYS AND SIZING SAMPLES •

Sometime in the coming year, the club will be placing an order for SRCC club jerseys. It's possible this will be a new design, or it may be another order of the traditional red-rose design. In any event, we are going to make an effort to accommodate some range of special orders, in particular women's cut jerseys.

We will place the bulk of the order as a bell curve of sizes in the standard size range (what we think of as unisex sizing, but which is in fact simply men's cut). Then we will take advance orders from members who want something different. This could be women's cuts, or it could be sleeveless jerseys or race-cut jerseys (a slimmer fit than our standard club-cuts). Race cuts and sleeveless are available for both men and women.

In the past, some women have not liked the fit of the women's cut jerseys. For what it's worth, Voler assures us that this in an entirely redesigned women's cut now, and is playing to rave reviews. To make sure that you know what you're getting when you place a special, advance order, Voler has sent us a full set of new women's cut sizing samples. We will be bringing these to future monthly club meetings so interested women can try them on. Most months, we'll have a matching batch of regular jerseys (men's sizes) for comparison.