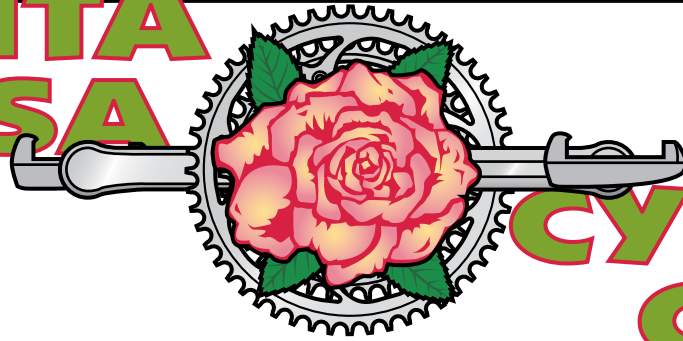


SANTA ROSA



CYCLING CLUB

JANUARY 2011 NEWSLETTER

THANK YOU!

...to the ride leaders of 2010. They dreamed up and listed all of the rides on our monthly ride calendar. They are responsible for all of the great routes; all the miles and all the smiles; all the hills and valleys, vineyards and forests, meadows and beaches; coffee stops and sticky buns. Were it not for their initiative and imagination, our club wouldn't be a *bike* club. *Chapeau!*

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Bill & Evelyn Ellis | Rich Fuglewicz |
| Tony Buffa | Greg Durbin |
| Carole & John Kolnes | Laurie Buettner |
| Tony Lee | Tai Simpson |
| Rick Sawyer | Michael Barnes |
| Sue Bennett | John Olson |
| Darrin Jenkins | Kimberly Hoffman |
| Rose Mello | David Wayte |
| Janice Oakley | Jose Mundo |
| Doug & Deanna McKenzie | Beth Anderson |
| David Abramo | Vin Hoagland |
| Steve & Barbara Drucker | Eric Peterson |
| Bill Oetinger | Karen Thompson |
| Ken Cabeen | Alfred Masy |
| Bill Carroll | Johann Heinzl |
| Ken Russeff | Bob Briner |
| Noelle Rudolf | Greg Stone |
| Donna Norrell | Lou Salz |
| Robin Abramson | Buck Hall |
| Dave Batt | John Russell |
| Sarah Schroer | Gary Grayson |
| Charles Beck | Firouzeh Attwood |
| Christine Logan | Lowell Antze |
| Susan Hester | Kim Nelson |
| Steve & Jessie Kroeck | Nabeel Al-Shamma |
| Jack Hartnett | Greg & Jan Conklin |
| Martin Clinton | Mike & Janice Eunice |
| Kurt West | Bill Dunn |
| Robert Redmond | Marc Moons |
| Don Graham | Matt Wilson |
| Craig Gaevart | Doug Simon |
| Larry Fredrick | Jocelyn Freid |
| Laura Charameda | Scott Allen |
| Linda & Sid Fluhrer | Sunny Mawson |

Holiday Dinner: new venue, same good cheer

We took our annual Holiday Dinner uptown this year—on the evening of Friday, December 3—and it appears most people liked the results. After several years of low-budget, mildly funky affairs at the venerable Druids Hall, with potluck food and lots of volunteer elbow grease, we returned to the roots of these banquets, to a fancier setting in a nice restaurant, with the entire production handled by the restaurant staff. This year's venue was the posh Flamingo Resort Hotel, where close to 200 club members fit comfortably into their big banquet hall.

This holiday dinner is a work in progress for the club. We are constantly tinkering with it, trying to find the right combination of swankiness and economy and informality that best embodies who we are and how we want to have fun (off the bike anyway). So far, the feedback we've received from those in attendance was that the Flamingo did its job pretty well. The facility itself was very nice. The cuisine, from appetizers to entrées to desserts, was above average, although not, perhaps, sensational.

If there was one area that could stand some improvement for next year, it was in the presentation of awards...the part of the evening orchestrated by the club. Simply put, it went on too long. Part of the problem may be that we have too many awards now, but the biggest part of the problem was that most presenters took too long with their individual speeches. Each presentation would have made a nice keynote speech for the banquet, but with so many awards to present, all the anecdotes added up to a long evening...too long for many.

This should not be taken as a criticism of the individual presenters. Each of them came to their tasks with great enthusiasm and a sincere desire to do justice to the recipients of the awards. It's just that no one considered how much time all those accumulated accolades would add up to. Rest assured, those in charge of this event will be working on how to tighten up the show for next year.

So who were all those award recipients? Let's see if we can list them all here in slightly less time than it took to do so at the dinner...

After club President Donn King got things rolling with a review of the club's activities over the past year, Bill Oetinger launched the awards parade by calling Rick Sawyer to the stage for the Ride Leader of the Year award, handed out to the member who led the most rides during the past year. Because we have so many new members these days and so many of them are becoming involved in leading rides, Bill followed up with a new award—presented to Donna Norrell and David Abramo—for Best New Ride Leaders of the year.

Richard Anderson then presented Rookie of the Year awards to John Olson and Megan Arnold. Richard stuck around to also present the men's Most Improved award to Darrin Jenkins. Rick Sawyer returned to the stage to present the women's Most Improved award to Rachael Braga, and then to present the men's Most Inspirational award to Buck Hall. Bill Oetinger hopped back up to the podium to salute Carole Kolnes as the women's Most Inspirational winner, and then to present the Good Shepherd award to Rose Mello, as the most supportive ride leader of the year. *Continued on page 7*

MINUTE MIX

Highlights from the General Membership and Executive Board meetings for December

1. Call to Order: President Donn King called the general meeting to order at the Round Table on Occidental Road on Wednesday, December 8. 58 members and friends were present.

2. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Greg Durbin announced the club's bank account balances, as of November 30. In addition Greg presented the proposed club budget for 2011, including the final resolution of the 2010 budget. The budget had been presented to the Board at their meeting the previous week, and after assorted adjustments had been made in that session, the final version was presented and explained at the general membership meeting. After some discussion, it was approved by voice vote.

3. Membership: Registrar Gordon Stewart reported membership of 1161 (combining individual and family memberships). Steve Sbragia acted as host at the New Member Table, with several new members on hand.

4. Tours: Bill Oetinger agreed to open registration for the Southern Utah Tour on January 2 and to place a promo for the tour in the January newsletter. (See page 8.) Doug Simon announced that he is going to stage a second club-sponsored tour later in the summer: a reprise of the Wild Rivers Tour from a few years back.

5. Holiday dinner: Donn King briefly reviewed the recent holiday dinner. Sharron Bates and René Goncalves were thanked for their efforts in organizing the event. (See article on page 1.)

6. Elections: Donn King introduced the candidates whose names have been put in nomination for positions as Executive Board officers for 2011. (The elections will be held at the January meeting.) David Abramo, Karen Thompson, Mike McGuire, Matt Wilson, and Doug Simon are all new candidates. They join incumbents Don Graham, Rick Sawyer (Secretary), Donn King (President), Greg Durbin (Treasurer), and Gordon Stewart as the full slate of candidates. The Board has indicated that Doug Simon, if elected, will become the Vice-President. Donn asked if there were any other nominations from the floor, but there were not.

7. Warehouse: Warehouse Committee member Rose Mello reported to the Board on the extermination of mice and rats at the warehouse and also discussed the purchase of an oven to be used for food prep during club events at the site. At the direction of the Board, the warehouse committee will be conducting an inventory of the contents of the warehouse for the purposes of insurance valuation.

8. TT jersey: Bill Oetinger worked with the Board to come up with the final order for the new Terrible Two jersey. Quantity is 100 jerseys and 25 wind-shell vests.

9. Awards: Ride Director Bill Oetinger conducted a drawing for two \$25 prizes from a pool of names of all members who had led club rides during the final quarter of the year. Donna Norrell and Beth Anderson were the winners.

10. Featured presentation: It was "open mike night" and Doug McKenzie, Steve Drucker, and Craig Gaevart all made short slide-show presentations of recent cycling tours they've enjoyed. Also, it was announced that Sharron Bates and René Goncalves will be assuming JoAnne Cohn's duties as coordinators of speakers and other entertainments for the monthly meetings.

The long-haul truckers of the SRCC

As we begin the new year, we can look back over the last year and see that the culture of long-distance cycling is alive and well in the Santa Rosa Cycling Club. 2010 was a banner year for the club in the world of double centuries. A scan through the results pages at the California Triple Crown website reveals that at least 16 members achieved the CTC goal of completing at least three double centuries during the year. (These are only the ones we know for sure, either because they listed SRCC as their primary club or because we know them personally. With so many new members in the club, it's entirely possible there were more of them we don't yet know who also met that lofty CTC goal.)

Here's a list of the members we know who pulled off the grand accomplishment, along with the numbers of doubles they did...

Craig Robertson (13), John Witkowicki (12), Greg Durbin (7), Karl Kuhn (6), Garth Powell (6), Rick Arnold (5), Richard Burger (5), Karen Thompson (5), Ken Cabeen (5), Frank Pedrick (4), Megan Arnold (3), Mike Aberg (3), Darrin Jenkins (3), Marc Moons (3), Paul Stimson (3), Michael Leach (3).

In addition to these worthies, there were many more members who did one or two doubles in 2010. For instance, there were no less than 34 clubsters who finished the fearsome Terrible Two in June...almost one-fifth of the entire finishers' list.

Completing any double century, regardless of how many hours it takes, is a herculean task worthy of great praise...a feather in any cyclist's cap. But some doubles are harder than others, and contained within the CTC schedule in another challenge called the Triple Crown Stage Race, wherein the elapsed times for three of the hardest, most extreme doubles are added up, as in a regular stage race, with rankings published at the end of the year for the fastest finishes. In this series, it's not enough just to finish: you also need to be fast.

In the 2010 Stage Race, the SRCC also excelled. Marc Moons finished first overall, after first-place finishes at Mulholland and Devil Mountain and a second at the Terrible Two. Karl Kuhn was sixth overall, Paul Stimson 8th, and Ken Cabeen missed the top ten by two minutes after a flat tire late in the Terrible Two. Karen Thompson, in her first attempt at the Triple Crown, finished second in the women's ranks. John Witkowicki, Frank Pedrick, and Greg Durbin also did well in the Stage Race.

Craig Robertson didn't do the Stage Race this year, but his 13 doubles brought his career total to 119 doubles completed. Those are the official ones. If you also count doubles-sized brevets and unofficial doubles, such as his annual Winter Solstice Double, his lifetime total is close to 200. Are you tired yet?

Did we just mention brevets? That subset of long-distance cycling is thriving in the club as well. Many members completed brevets of between 200-K and 600-K in 2010, with all wheels pointed to 2011, when the big prize will be Paris-Brest-Paris, a pleasant 1200-K (750-mile) stroll across the French countryside.

The double century and brevet calendars for 2011 are set, and eager riders are already sending in their entries for the early-season events, beginning this month. If 2010 is anything to go by, we can look forward to more big results—and amusing ride reports—from SRCC members in the months ahead.

Hats off to all who did well in the past year and good luck to all who plan to tackle the big rides in 2011.

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.

Across the gutter from this space, you can read about the exploits of the club's long-distance riders over the course of the year just past. Here's one more factoid about the club's long-distance riders: in the 15 years that the California Triple Crown Stage Race has been in existence, 33 SRCC members have completed the Stage Race a total of 47 times, including 23 times—almost half of all their finishes—in the top ten. I can't off-hand think of any other club in California that comes close to that record of consistent excellence. We have a lot of good bike riders in this club!

Okay...now back to our never-ending saga of club rides. We pick up the thread back before Thanksgiving, with Steve Drucker's BC-tempo Lotsa Hills and Two Rocks ride on November 20. This is a run from Cotati down into the rolling hills around Two Rock, northwest of Petaluma. It wasn't actively raining at the start, but it was pretty nearly doing so, and Steve decided to stay home. But three riders did show up. After calling Steve and finding out he had called it off, they decided to ride anyway, and their optimism almost paid off. They got over 40 miles of the 46-mile ride done before the rain finally tracked them down and gave them a brief spanking just before they finished. They got wet, but only a little, and, all in all, they felt like they'd gotten the better of the rain gods on this murky, misty day.

On Sunday of that weekend, Ken Russeff had another Cotati-based ride. I asked Ken about it and here's his report: "Although a bit embarrassing, here's the ride report for November 21 from Cotati to Tomales. Only two of us showed up for a 9:10 start and I assumed everyone else thought there was a chance of rain. Upon retracing part of the route following our stop at the Tomales Bakery, I noticed several riders traveling toward Tomales and recognized Alan Bloom and Sue Bennett. As it turns out, the ride was scheduled for 10:00 AM, which slipped by me. Anyway, Sue reported that they had 11 riders in their group. Two flats, a little confusion, but otherwise a nice day. My apologies to all." Anyone who leads as many rides as Ken does shouldn't have to apologize for one goof. Anytime we list rides at anything other than the default 9:00 AM, we run the risk of someone getting it wrong, although it's usually not the ride leader who gets mixed up.

Next up was a ride on Thanksgiving. Karen Thompson was making her first foray into ride leading, and she took what might be called a crash course in learning how to plan and lead a ride. She came up with a clever route, with a 43-mile loop first, returning to the start site, then a 57-mile loop later. Riders could do the first loop, the second loop, or both, which offered flexibility for people with holiday obligations. Karen was exceedingly conscientious in planning this ride. She pre-rode the entire course, timing it carefully, to make sure it all worked. You may recall Thanksgiving fell during a cold snap that had overnight lows down into the mid-20's. Worried about the possibility of icy roads on that first loop, Karen decided to preride that part again on the day before the ride. She was looking for black ice, and on the steep little dipper on Riebli, she found it, at 28 mph. She went down hard and spent the rest of the day at Kaiser, dealing with an assortment of injuries. The poor girl showed up at the ride start on Thursday with both arms out

of commission, one in a sling from a separated shoulder and one in a splint from a bad sprain. She handed out route slips and sent folks on their way. There were around half a dozen at the start of loop #1, and despite it being a very nippy 25° at the start, they had no problems with ice. Another half dozen or so were waiting for them when they returned. Most of the first group retired to home and hearth and turkey at that point and left loop #2 to group #2. Only the stalwart duo of Rick Sawyer and Michael Garner did both loops, adding up to a stout century. It warmed up very comfortably on the second loop, and by the time we were climbing Coleman Valley in full sun in the early afternoon, it was hot enough to stow our outer layers of clothing. Great thanks to Karen for planning such a good ride, and best wishes for a speedy recovery.

The rain was back on the Saturday of the next weekend, and both Sue Bennett's Twin Hills ride and Firouzeh Attwood's Ida Clayton ride were wash-outs. In spite of calling off her ride, Sue says three people showed up and tried to make a go of it, but they got bombed by heavy rain shortly after the start, and after seeking shelter at the Washoe House for awhile, they beat a hasty retreat. But it cleared off on Sunday, and those who wanted to ride had a choice between Donna Norrell's B ride out of Cotati or David Abramo's and Sunny Mawson's AB ride out of Youth Community Park in SR.

Donna showed up at the start of her ride in street clothes, the same as Karen. She wasn't beat up to quite such a degree, but she was laid low by a cold and not up to doing the ride. She handed out ride slips to the two dozen or so riders and then waved us off, feeling lousy and depressed as well...sorry to be missing the ride. She was right to be sorry. It was an excellent ride. It took a fairly standard route out to Tomales, and then, after the obligatory break at the bakery, took a slightly unusual swing down through Chileno Valley before looping back north through the hen house belt north of Petaluma. It was in the mid-30's when I left Sebastopol to ride to the start in Cotati, and with the rain from the previous day still fogging up out of the fields, it actually felt colder—clammier—than the Thanksgiving ride. But it didn't take long for both the riders and the ambient temperature to warm up to comfy levels, with the extra clothes once again getting shed and stowed. I don't recall any mishaps. No flats, no crashes, no bonks. Just a lovely ride through the winter-green hills.

The David-Sunny ride headed out into the hills and valleys to the north and west of Santa Rosa, up to Forestville and onward to Hacienda and the Russian River, then bent back around toward town on more of the same sorts of rolling roads along the river. David reports: "Thirty two riders set out on this extremely cold morning. No doubt we had the same goal in mind: to burn off some of those Thanksgiving leftovers. As the morning began to warm up, the dew fell from the tree branches above. I couldn't help but think, boy I sure hope that was just water that hit my head. It was a great day to be out on the bike exploring what were for me some new roads. This one was a keeper, and several riders wrote to me and said nice job on this one."

The on again, off again rain was back on the following Saturday—the first Saturday of December—and Rich Fuglewicz called off his ride out of Analy HS, although, once again, a handful of die-hards showed up to tilt with the weather. And, once again, they lost. However, a bit further to the south, things were a bit better. Tony Lee had another edition of his steep Tour de Limantour ride on the list for this damp day. He sent this note about it to the chat

—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

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 of the December [newsletter](#) for more information.

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

SATURDAY • JANUARY 8

Freestone-Valley Ford-Two Rock

4/C/40
9:00 AM • Cotati Vets

A run through the hills south and west of Sebastopol—Bloomfield, Burnside, Barnett Valley—then down to the Valley Ford region—Middle, Whitacker Bluff, Fallon-Two Rock—and finally back to Cotati by way of Walker, Pepper, Mecham, etc. Pump up the miles by riding to the start.

Sarah Schroer—364-7560

SUNDAY • JANUARY 9

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. Rescheduled from December.

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. Rescheduled from December.

Carole Kolnes—838-3988

SATURDAY • JANUARY 15

Petaluma Hill-Penngrove

2/ABC/38
9:00 AM • Howarth Park

A moderately complicated meander—often on local, residential roads—from SR down through Cotati and onward to Penngrove, with a stop for coffee at Jav'Amore.

A: Barbara Drucker
BC: Steve Drucker—538-5256

Fast Fixie Forty

2/D/40
10:00 AM • Piner High

A Westside-Eastside loop to Healdsburg and back, run off at a spanking pace. Fixies & Single-speeds encouraged, but all welcome!

Doug McKenzie—523-3493

SRCC-RUSA 200-K Brevet Healdsburg

A relatively flat route with rollers along Hwy128 and Silverado Trail into Napa. The only real climb (in a Sonoma County sense) is the Sonoma-Napa county line. An unbalanced out-&-back with 70 miles to the Napa control and 50 miles to the finish. A full lunch will be provided at the Napa turn-around. You must register for this ride. \$20 entry fee. For more information, visit the [brevet page](#) at the club website.

SUNDAY • JANUARY 16

Cavedale-Trinity

4-5/B/46
9:00 AM • Howarth Park

Out through the parks and Oakmont, along Lawndale and Warm Springs, and then up and up to the top of Cavedale and down Trinity, back into the Valley of the Moon. Lunch in Glen Ellen and then back to Howarth Park.

Donna Norrell—292-0565

SATURDAY • JANUARY 22

Sweetwater Century

3-5/C/100
8:30 AM • Youth Comm. Park, SR

A challenging ride with a number of big climbs. West from SR to Green Valley and

Harrison Grade, then onward to Coleman Valley. Up the coast and inland along the river to Guerneville, then up and over Sweetwater Springs. Into the vineyards along Westside and West Dry Creek, over Canyon, and then south along Hwy 128 and Chalk Hill.

Megan Arnold—322-4847

Franz Valley-Hwy 128-Chalk Hill 4/B/32

9:00 AM • San Miguel School

The header says it all: the classic loop out Mark West Springs to Franz Valley, north through Knights Valley, and back home along Chalk Hill.

David Batt—546-5301

SUNDAY • JANUARY 23

Mid-County Meandering 2/A/30

9:00 AM • Esposti Park

An easy-going run out to the river at Wohler Bridge, north along Westside to Healdsburg and a coffee stop at the Oakville Grocery, then back to Esposti along Old Red, Pleasant, Faight, and Shiloh

Ken Russeff—953-1804

SATURDAY • JANUARY 29

A Good Winter Century 3/BC/102

8:30 AM • Ragle Park

This century heads as far south as Spring Hill and Chileno Valley, then works back north through Tomales, Occidental, and Monte Rio. It takes the easy way up River before bending north again on Westside, into Healdsburg. Then it heads back south along Eastside, Trenton-Healdsburg, and Vine Hill. Designed to be relatively easy and to allow for several simple short-cuts, for those who want less than a century, or for all of us, should the weather turn bad.

Bill Oetinger—823-9807

SUNDAY • JANUARY 30

New Year, New 'A'ptitude 2/AB/39

9:00 AM • Esposti Park

A lot of old, familiar roads but in some new combinations. Up to Healdsburg by way of Old Red, then further north along West Dry Creek to a break at the Dry Creek Store. Lytton Springs and Chiquita...and then back out into the country to Jimtown and south along Hwy 128 and Chalk Hill. What's old is new again.

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

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, 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

appropriate to remind all of our members, including ride leaders, of what is covered and what isn't, along with the thinking behind the coverage.

One crucial element is non-members on club rides. It is imperative that non-members sign our waiver before participating in a club ride. This protects us as a club, offers some protection to the ride leader, and for first-time riders extends to them the same protection club members enjoy. This is offered as a way to make new folks feel comfortable and to encourage them to learn about us and then join the club.

However, that coverage for non-members does not continue indefinitely. After that first "free" ride, non-members may come on club rides, but they will not be covered by our insurance, whether they sign the waiver or not. Ride leaders should provide the waiver form for the first-timers and remind any other non-members of the terms of our policy: no coverage after the first ride.

Another question came up as to which "club" rides are covered. The short answer is that regularly scheduled rides are covered: those that are listed in the club newsletter and on the web site. Impromptu rides that pop up on a chat list or by other means are not considered club rides. (The chat list may appear at times to be an official organ of the club, but it is in fact an independent forum which happens to be used by many club members. It is not officially affiliated with the club, and the club is not responsible for its content.)

Most of you know that we have insurance to cover our big events: the WCC, TT, and brevets. What you may not know is that this insurance covers club members in just about every aspect of the events. This is important for folks such as SAG drivers, where there is an opportunity for the odd accident. For instance, were something to happen to a participant's bike during the WCC, such as falling off the roof of the SAG vehicle, the cost to replace that bike is covered. Stuff happens, and it's reassuring to know just how much our insurance covers us during these big events.

If you have any questions on our insurance, feel free to contact me to discuss. It is an important club benefit. If you ever have a crash on a club ride, please be sure to fill out the accident report and get those off to the insurance company immediately, and be sure to get a copy to me. Thanks for reading and stay safe.

Club Insurance Information

— Craig Gaever —

The SRCC is fortunate to be a part of the League of American Bicyclist's insurance program. We have extensive coverage for our featured events and for our regularly scheduled rides. Some of you who have crashed have been surprised to get a call from the insurer, offering to cover your extra, out-of-pocket expenses. This is one of the most obvious benefits for all members. Some of you also know that our insurance helped cover us during a recent legal wrangle involving a rider in one of our events.

I recently participated in a conference call with LAB and their insurance broker, American Specialty. Many of the aspects of our coverage were discussed, and it seems

More BACKROADS & BREAKAWAYS

list: “After sending out my notice this morning about possibly canceling the ride, I headed over in a light rain to the start to see what the decision would be. I should have known what it would be. Anyone hardcore enough to show up for Le Tour de Limantour will not let a little rain stop them. Five of us headed out with fenders and rain jackets: 2010 Gearhead winner Marc Moons, Hunt Moore, Ken Cabeen, Richard Burger, and me. The rain stopped shortly after we started, and by the time we reached the top of the Marshall Wall, we could even see a little sun shining on the coast. The air was clean and fresh as we rode along Tomales Bay. Traffic was amazingly light on Hwy 1 from Marshall to Pt. Reyes Station. Only one car passed us on the 10-mile stretch. New pavement too! Each year I’ve led this ride I’ve had the opportunity to share the Balboa climb with someone new. This year was no exception but the newbie was a surprise: climbing animal Marc Moons. He didn’t seem fazed by it though, climbing its 18% grade in his big ring. At Limantour Beach we could see the waves picking up for the next approaching storm, so we turned around and enjoyed tailwinds back to Petaluma.”

The next day brought more intermittent rain. Mike and Janice Eunice had two new members show up for their entry-level Welcome Wagon Ride along the Joe Rodota Trail. The weather looked bad, but they decided to give it a try. But just a couple of miles into the ride, the rain started plopping down steadily, so they turned tail and headed back to the barn.

Carole Kolnes cancelled her Chocolate Ride out of Healdsburg (and Carole was down with the flu anyway). The only problem was no one got the word out about the cancellation, so about a dozen riders showed up at the start, wondering where Carol was. Same story all over again: after calling Carol and learning she had called it off, they determined to go ahead anyway, in spite of the rainy forecast. And, same story there too: they got thoroughly hammered by the rain.

Our Ride List clearly states: rain cancels all rides, unless otherwise noted. That seems pretty clear, but in most of the cases listed here, it was not actually raining right at the starts of the rides. There was only the prospect of rain in the offing. What do you do then? On Steve Drucker’s ride, they almost got it done all dry. On Tony Lee’s ride, they started damp but rode into the dry. But on all the others, the forecast was accurate and the results were predictable. Our ride list also asks people to RSVP with the ride leader before a ride. Had this universally ignored courtesy been practiced by more riders, they would have known about the cancellations. They might have ridden anyway, but at least they’d have known the score ahead of time.

The weekend of December 11-12 had a nice range of club rides and decent weather to go with them. (Not great weather, but at least mild and dry, which seemed like more than enough for mid-December, when a big chunk of the country was paralyzed under blizzards so bad even the snow plows couldn’t get out.) Rick Sawyer had one of the Saturday rides, a B ride from SR up to Windsor and back...45 easy miles. “It was still a mix of thin clouds and low fog at the start of the Mint Green ride, but spirits were high and the peloton grew to nearly 30 by the time we reached our planned regroup at West County Revolution (who should be thanked for offering us water and the use of their facilities). From there, we spread out

some over the heart-shaped loop and I tried to keep to the rear and herd the cats as best as I could. By the time we reached Windsor and our coffee stop, it was certified balmy for December and that continued until the skies were clear and blue at the finish. No wind and only one flat, fixed during the coffee stop. It was encouraging to see so many familiar faces, including some newly familiar ones, contributing to a decidedly social ride.”

On the same morning, Ken Russeff had a ride out of Sebastopol, heading for Freestone, and this time, he was at the start on time. “Our Ragle, Freestone, Valley Ford loop had 18 riders on an ideal winter day. A little overcast, a little sun and moderate temps. Some of us had a brief stop in Occidental to ogle a gathering of a Ferrari club’s cars. Some of the car owners seemed more interested in Charlie Nile’s new Trek than in the cars. Finally, as always, a nice break at the Wildflour Bakery.”

Sunday, Rose Mello had an AB ride out of SR doing much the same thing that Rick’s ride did on Saturday: up to Windsor for coffee. As usual, Rose kept her ride report to the minimum, noting only that there were 31 riders and two flats and no rain. We can probably take Rick’s report and lay it over this ride and have a pretty good fit on the assorted details: same routes, same number of people, same weather, same good time had by all.

Sarah Schroer used the chat list to add to the weekend’s bill of fare with two challenging rides: a Sweetwater-Mays-Canyon-Green Valley loop out of Sebastopol on Saturday and a Pressley-Sonoma Mtn-Cavedale-Sonoma Mtn loop out of Cotati on Sunday. Both rides were well attended by the CD end of the club. If you did them both, and some did, you would have ended up with 100 miles total and well over 9000’ of gain—steep gain—a tough weekend for this time of year.

Century Challenge & Commute Miles logs

It’s the end of one year and the beginning of a new one, and that means two things: it could be time for you to wrap up your entries in the club’s annual [Century Challenge](#) and/or [Commute Miles](#) logs for 2010, or it could be time for you to open your new logs for 2011. In the case of the 2010 logs, it’s not too late to start fresh there as well: you can still open your account, dig out your personal log book for the year, and enter all the relevant data in one, massive session, filling in all twelve months of the log at once.

There are explanations of how the logs work at each site, but essentially, the logs serve as forums for promoting either cycle-commuting or riding centuries. We post our own numbers there and check out what our friends are doing. We congratulate and encourage and inspire one another to do more of the same. It’s simple and easy and fun.

With a week or two to go in the year (as we go to press), we can see Vern Weirich is approaching 60 centuries, Karen Thompson is close to 50, and Greg Durbin is not far behind...big, impressive totals. Over on the commute log, we can also see some amazing numbers, with several people approaching 4000 commute miles for the year. Those are some very glossy entries, but don’t let those big figures intimidate you. Even if you’ve only done a handful of centuries or have only used a bike for the occasional errand, we’d still like to see your entries at the two logs. Every century is worthy of praise, as is every trip and mile covered on a bike instead of in a car. Check out the two sites. Better yet, open your own account and get in on the fun.

Holiday Dinner and Awards — *Continued from page 1*

Next up, Karen Thompson presented Matt Wilson with a copy of Tim Krabbe's classic cycling novel, *The Rider*, in honor of his "Accidental Randonneur" adventure on the club's 400-K brevet (where he showed up in the morning just to ride a few miles with the gang, then somehow ended up doing the entire 250-mile ride).

Donn King then presented the Comeback Kid award to Chris Jones. This honors someone who has bounced back from an injury or other medical crisis. In Chris's case, we're happy to note that he is riding well (again) after not one but two broken hips.

The 2009 winners of King and Queen of the Mountain presented those awards to the 2010 winners. Karl Kuhn saluted Paul Stimson, who not only excelled in all the hardest, hilliest doubles this year, but also turned in a fine finish in the infamous Leadville 100 mountain bike race. Susan Noble honored Linda Fluhrer, whose climbing exploits this year added up to meeting her own self-imposed challenge of accumulating no less than one million feet of elevation gain for the year.

Donn King reclaimed the mike to present the very important awards for Volunteer of the Year to Mike McGuire (who organizes our Adopt-a-Backroad litter pick-up program) and to Sue Bennett (who has been on the job, everywhere, on the volunteer front for more years than most of us have been members).

President King stayed on the stage to honor our 2010 and 2011 Wine Country Century Chair Bruce Hopfengardner for his leadership on that most important of all club events. Finally Donn choreographed a little audience participation game to find out which folks in the audience had been members longest. There were a few who could claim to have been in the club for a quarter century, but we believe Gordon Burns—saluted a bit later as the founder of the Terrible Two—was the only member present to have been in the club for over 30 years.

Janice Oakley took the stage to salute our two Leaders of the Pack (the award that honors good work in the field of cycling advocacy). Sherry Adams was the women's winner for her work with the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition, and Bill Harrison was the men's winner for his many years of service on the Sonoma County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Don Graham presented a new award called the First Responder award to Laurie Buettner. Don explained that this award honors a club member who exhibited a cool head and appropriate first aid skills in dealing with a rider who had crashed on a club ride.

Greg Durbin and Rick Sawyer together presented a special award—the Samuel Abt Press Award—to Bill Oetinger for his years of work as newsletter Editor and for other contributions to the club.

Craig Gaevert presented the Golden Shoe award to Jane Robinson. In simplest terms, the Golden Shoe honors a most supportive spouse. It could be for a lifetime of help and support for a rider in his (or her) cycling ambitions. Or it could be for one, notable act of selfless assistance in time of need. In this case, in answer to a call for help from husband Greg Durbin, Jane dropped what she was doing and drove from Santa Rosa to Stewarts Point to sag in Greg and an injured rider stuck way out there in the hinterlands...a round trip of over 120 miles.

Craig Gaevert and wife Michelle Bellefeuille, 2009 recipients of the Lewis & Clark award, passed that prize on to Bunni Zimberoff. This award honors a member who has undertaken (and completed)

a substantial, self-supported cycle-tour. Bunni's 2010 adventure was to cycle the length of the Mississippi River, from its mouth at New Orleans to its headwaters.

Greg Durbin returned to the stage to begin wrapping up this long, long awards ceremony with the honors for men's and women's Rider of the Year. These prestigious awards went to Karl Kuhn and Karen Thompson. Both riders had performed at a very high level in the California Triple Crown double century series in 2010. (There is another article in this issue about the performance of many club members in the CTC series this year, so rather than covering the same ground twice, look to that article for more details about the accomplishments of Karl and Karen and their long-haul cohort.)

Finally, Bill Oetinger had the honor of presenting the most prestigious Gearhead Awards for 2010. Yes, that is Gearheads, plural. Up until this year, there has only been one Gearhead trophy, but this year we were presented with the happy but difficult problem of honoring two members—one man and one woman—whose accomplishments on the year were equally impressive and worthy of praise. After much debate, it was ultimately decided that the situation called for drastic measures, to wit, the creation of a second Gearhead in the women's category. Santa's elves went to work in the shop and soon crafted a new trophy almost as garish and outlandish as the original. (Thanks to Michael Teller of Community Bikes for supplying the goofy gear cluster.)

The winners of the now dual Gearheads were Marc Moons, whose stellar accomplishment of 2010 was finishing first overall in the very important California Triple Crown Stage Race....and Susan Forsman, who did our super steep Mother Lode Tour on a fixed-gear bike and then won the women's fixed-gear category at the Furnace Creek 508. (That's 508 non-stop miles...on a single-speed fixie, upon which you can never shift gears and never stop pedaling.) Susan now joins husband Barley in holding both the men's and women's fixie course records at 508.

Before announcing the Gearhead winners, Bill talked about the culture of long-distance riding in the SRCC: how it has been a fixture in the club since Gordon Burns and his buddies dreamed up the best double around (the Terrible Two); how so many members have done well in doubles over the years, and how the quirky subculture of randonneuring and brevets has now joined the doubles scene as a place where riders can satisfy the urge to keep on riding, right off into the sunset...and even around to the next sunrise. Bill took a moment as well to tip the hat to Craig Gaevert, who has been the Chair of the Terrible Two for several very successful years, and who is now stepping down from that lofty perch.

In addition to all the speeches and presentations that constituted the floor show for the evening, there was also a good deal of time spent on the happy task of mingling and chatting with old and new friends, away from the bikes and dressed up in something other than lycra and smartwool. In the convivial spirit of the season, it was a time for members from different branches of the club to come together; for A riders to be on the same page with D riders, finding common ground amidst the canapés and chardonnays.

If the speechifying went on a little too long, that is something we can fix before next year's party. What doesn't need fixing though is that sense of *esprit* and community that makes the Santa Rosa Cycling Club such an enjoyable extended family of friends.

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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- Officers at Large
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- 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, January 12 • 6:30 PM

Round Table Pizza

(Occidental Road, west of Stony Point)

**Featured Presentation: Elections of new Board officers
and more end-of-2010 fun, including
the Commute Miles raffle**

Wednesday, February 9

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

(Open to all interested members)

Thursday, January 6 • 6:00 PM

TLCD Architecture • 111 Santa Rosa Ave. (SW corner at 1st St)
Door open between 5:45 and 6:00pm • After that, call 478-9387

Thursday, February 3



An exploration of some of the most famous and most scenic red rock wonderlands of the Southwest: Capitol Reef National Park, Escalante-Grand Staircase National Monument, Kodachrome Basin State Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Cedar Breaks National Monument, and Zion National Park.

This is a camping tour. It follows our traditional cooperative touring format, with all participants sharing in the chores that keep the tour organized. Luggage and camp supplies are transported by truck and two sags follow the riders each day.

Limited to 40 participants (members only), including support staff. Registration opens January 2 at the club website. Entries are logged in chronological order. For more information, go to the Southern Utah Tour [page](#) at the club website.