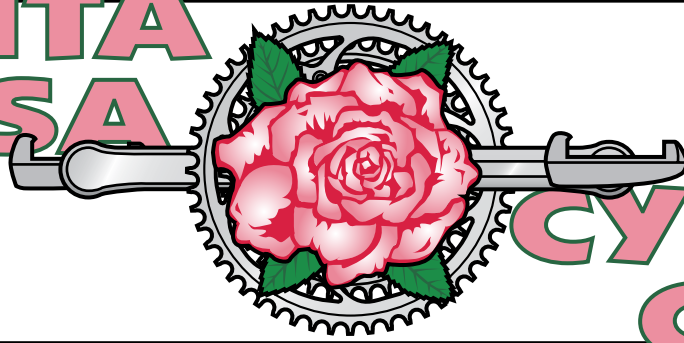


# SANTA ROSA



# CYCLING CLUB

## FEBRUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

### **SRCC kicks off new year in style**

*What a wonderful way to ring in the new year!*

On Sunday, January 1, approximately 200 Santa Rosa Cycling Club members gathered to celebrate the turning of the calendar. They did so by hopping on their bikes and heading out on a crisp, bright morning, tracing the route of our WCC 100-K course through the Russian River, Dry Creek, and Alexander Valley regions. Unseasonably warm and dry weather made the ride a pleasure, and for most folks, one of the biggest challenges of the day was figuring out where to store all that extra winter clothing, once the day and the riders warmed up.

The big crowd—the biggest ever for this mid-winter event—pretty well maxxed out the parking lot of Schaefer School at the start (and that's with many of the riders arriving on bikes). The mass of riders was too big and too much in motion for accurate head counts, but it looked as if it was split fairly evenly between the A, B, and C categories, with of course the obligatory D subset grafted onto the C ride, at least until the first hills. (Next year, let's list a D leader too.) So many people on the road meant that, in each group, any rider would have had around 60 companions with whom to share the journey...lots of friends to keep things lively.

As far as we know, the rides were fun for most of the participants, with only a flat or two to interrupt the smooth progress of the long file of riders.

Afterward, participants enjoyed the other half of the day's entertainment: the big picnic at the SRCC warehouse/club house on Coffey Lane. Sharron Bates, René Goncalves, and Doug Simon had done their usual knock-out job of organizing the festivities, and they were ably assisted by a volunteer team made up, for the most part, of members of the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition. (The SCBC had offered their labor for this affair as a way of saying thank you to the SRCC for their support over the years. Now it's our turn to say thanks back to them.)

Pasta with pesto and tomato sauce, grilled sausages, tossed salads, all the trimmings, tons of iced drinks, hot coffee (mochas and lattés), and a lycra-stretching spread of desserts...plus the cheerful company of hundreds of our best biking buddies, all lazing around in the afternoon sun... What could be better? So many of our New Year's Day rides have suffered the slings and arrows of outrageous winter weather. It was nice for a change to have the whole production run off under clear and sunny skies. Thanks to all who took part, either as riders or as volunteers.

### **Elections and other January excitement**

Our annual January club meeting is always a special occasion, as that is the occasion for electing a new slate of officers to steer the club through the coming year.

This year, most of the current officers were hoping to be returned to office, with only Don Graham stepping down after two years on the Board. Those who care about this leadership issue—who think ahead and do something about it—had done exactly that, with the result that we had one new candidate nominated to fill the vacancy: Susan Forsman. As per club by-laws, her name had been put in nomination one month prior to the January meeting.

However, after that December nominating date, another officer—Gordon Stewart—decided it was time to step aside as well. As this happened after the nomination date had passed, the Board has chosen to announce that opening (which we are doing now), and to leave the seat vacant until a special election is held at the March meeting. This allows potential candidates to submit their names (or have someone submit their names for them) at the February meeting.

So far, five members are considering running for the vacant position, but there may be more by the February nominating date.

Meanwhile, at the January meeting, Susan Forsman and all the incumbent officers were voted into office by acclamation. (All officers must stand for election each year, whether new candidates or incumbents. But if there are not more candidates than open seats, we don't need to vote by ballot.) The slate of officers remains the same as in the prior year, except for Don and Gordon stepping down, Susan coming on board, and Karen Thompson taking over as Secretary, with former Secretary Rick Sawyer becoming an Officer-at-Large. Check out the back page of this newsletter or the [contact page](#) at the club website for the full Board roster.

We wish to express our deepest appreciation to both Don Graham and Gordon Stewart for their years of service to the club, and we should also salute the new and returning officers for continuing to take on the leadership tasks that keep the club pointed in the right direction.

The January meeting also included a raffle of great bike swag for any members who had participated in the on-line Commute Miles log in 2011. Additionally, all members in attendance had their names recorded as being eligible for a free lunch—a \$10 value—at the El Sombrero Taqueria in Healdsburg following the Free Lunch Ride, scheduled for Saturday, March 10.

# MINUTE MIX

Highlights from the General Membership and Executive Board meetings for January

**1. Call to Order:** President Donn King called the general meeting to order at the Round Table on Occidental Road on Wednesday, January 11. 80 members and friends were present.

**2. Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Greg Durbin reported on the club's bank balances, as of December 31.

**3. Membership:** Registrar Gordon Stewart reported membership of 1378 (combining individual and family memberships), which is up 21 from last month. Timothy Brown acted as host at the New Member Table, with five new members on hand.

**4. Election:** A new slate of Executive Board officers was voted in (by acclamation). The members thanked outgoing Board officers Don Graham and Gordon Stewart. (See article on page 1 and roster on page 8.)

**5. Trail:** Joe Morgan, representing the Sonoma County Bicycle Advisory Committee, made a presentation to the Board on a proposed multi-use trail along the old rail line extending from south of Sebastopol to north of Petaluma. They are asking the club for a grant to help fund a feasibility study of this project. A final decision on this does not need to be made until March.

**6. Beer:** Gary Helfrich and Sondra Lupien, representing the SCBC, made a presentation to the Board regarding beer sales at the WCC. SCBC has done this before at other events. They have all the proper credentials and insurance, etc. This would be a fund-raiser for the SCBC. The Board agreed to their proposal.

**7. Jersey:** Rick Sawyer presented a slide show of the various designs that have been submitted in the club jersey competition. He and Bill Oetinger explained the voting process that will determine the favored design. (See article on page 7.)

**8. Thanks:** Michael Teller thanked the club for its donation to Community Bikes, and Vin Hoagland thanked the club for its donation to the Southeast Greenway project. Also, Donn King read a note from Matt Wilson's sister Rachelle, thanking the club members for their kindness at Matt's memorial service.

**9. WCC:** Event Chair Doug Simon discussed early prep work for the 2012 Wine Country Century. (See article on page 7 and roster of Committee Chairs on page 8.)

**10. New Year's Day:** On behalf of the members, Donn King thanked all of the SRCC and SCBC volunteers who worked on the New Year's Day event. (See article on page 1.)

**11. Tours:** Bill Oetinger reminded members of the Northwest Oregon Tour, scheduled for August. Doug Simon announced that he would be unable to lead the other club tour: the Wild Rivers Tour, scheduled for July. But since the meeting, Doug has deputized Tim Brown to take over leadership of this tour. Doug will advise and assist with logistics ahead of the tour. (See items, this page.)

**12. Feature presentation:** Because of the election, there was no feature presentation. However, Karen Thompson conducted a prize drawing of bike swag for all members who had participated in the on-line 2011 Commute Miles log. Finally, Donn King led the group in a 2011 bike-miles countdown: who rode the most miles last year? That last three members standing, each with approximately 7000 miles, were John Olson, Rick Sawyer, and Bill Oetinger.



A wonderfully scenic exploration of the remote northwestern corner of the state of California. Travels along the Trinity, Klamath, Salmon, Scott, Illinois, Smith, and Mad Rivers while passing through vast tracts of national forest and Redwood National Park. Deep, rugged canyons, panoramic ridge lines, and the tall trees on all sides. Plus two days on the coast, sometimes on the main highways and sometimes on little roads well off the beaten path. Beautiful swimming holes at many of the camps.

This tour has been offered twice before by the club. If you did either of the previous editions, you know it's a gem. This is the shorter and slightly less challenging of our two 2012 tours.



Rolling farm fields, shady woods, lazy rivers, and rock-ribbed coastline will be the backdrop for this one-week tour around the northwest corner of Oregon. Beginning and ending in the college town of Corvallis, the tour proceeds in a counterclockwise loop, first north for two days, then west to the coast, down the coast for two days, then back inland through deep, tranquil forest.

This tour is not especially hilly, but most of the stages are long: between 70 and 100 miles. It is the harder of the two tours.

Both tours are cooperative, campground-based tours. All participants share in the chores of keeping the tours moving. Luggage and camp gear will be transported each day in trucks by our support staff. Riders will be supported on stages by sags.

**Either tour... Entry fee: \$425 • Roster limit: 40**

For more information on the tours, including details about registration, visit the club website or click on this [link](#) to the tour 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: srccride@sonic.net.*

We read in the paper that the high-pressure system hunkered down over California is keeping all the rain and snow way up north. Cities in Alaska are buried up to their roof tops under mountainous snow drifts. At the same time, the midwest and northeast and parts of the south are getting slammed by the first big storms of the season, with closed highways and schools and disrupted business. Meanwhile, here in sunny California, it remains...sunny. At least for now. Forecasters are saying rain may be just around the corner, but they've been saying that for weeks now, and so far, the skies remain clear and the roads remain dry, perfect for cycling. (This is being written on January 12. It'll be another week before we wrap up this report, so perhaps by then, things will have changed.)

There wasn't much going on over the holidays, except for the New Year's Day ride and party. Prior to that, we had just one ride on the Christmas weekend. That was Sue Bennett's traditional Christmas Cookie ride, which backs up a 41-mile AB ride with a potluck cookie spread at Sue's place to celebrate the season. Sue sent in this report: "Unlike last year's ride, which was rained out, the weather this Christmas could not have been better. With the 10:00 am start, things were warming up nicely when we hit the road. The group of a dozen people was in no hurry, staying together the entire ride. The focus was social, both during the ride and afterward at the house. There are some good cookie bakers in our club! Of course on Christmas Day, all the calories disappear up the chimney...right?"

We hope that's true for the rest of the holidays as well, as we packed away a lot of calories at the New Year's Day party. With an extra paragraph here, we can add a little to the page one story about the big day. The A group got on the road first, led out by Barbara Drucker. Then, while Timothy Brown was organizing his B group, the C-and-CD gang hit the road. I was the nominal leader of this group, but I made an appeal for some co-leaders from amongst the faster contingent on hand. Whether anyone officially took on that role is unclear, but the group functioned smoothly throughout. The C and CD riders all stayed more-or-less together across the valley and through the little rollers heading to Wohler Bridge. Then the bigger rollers along Westside began to exert their gravitational influence, such that a split began to widen between the fast and not-quite-so-fast riders. A regroup at Madrona Manor had everyone back together for awhile on West Dry Creek, in fact, pretty much all the way to the bigger climb over Canyon. That finally put a definitive break between the CD and C gangs, and by the time we hit the second (longer, lazier) rest stop at Jimtown, the two groups were far apart. At the stop, the not-quite-so-fast C group met up with a number of riders from the B group, coming across on their Lytton Springs shortcut, and those two groups joined forces for the final run down Alexander Valley and up and over Chalk Hill. By the time this BC bunch arrived at the warehouse, festivities were at high tide. The joint was jumpin'. It really was just about as good as a bike day could be.

On the following Saturday, we had two rides that had some similarities but also some significant differences. Both offered 40-mile short routes and 50-mile long routes. Both had moderate and faster ride

leaders. And both had added activities after the biking portions of the program. Don Graham and Rob Connors collaborated on a ride that wandered around in the hills just down Hwy 12 from Santa Rosa, including out-&-backs on Adobe Canyon and Los Alamos, a loop up Sonoma Mountain, down (and up) Enterprise, down Bennett Valley, and up and down Lawndale and Schultz. It all added up to a punchy, tough ride, in spite of the relatively low miles. But there was a reward waiting at the end of all that effort. Club member Jeff Kuhn invited all of the two dozen or so participants to drop by Doc Holliday's Saloon, his newly opened sports bar in the shopping center at the corner of Calistoga Road and Hwy 12. To make the invitation more compelling, he provided Don with a hefty gift card, which Don used to buy the beer for all the thirsty riders...not a bad way to wrap up the ride. Thanks to Jeff for that hospitality...and good luck with the new pub.

In contrast to this elbow-bending finale, there was a full-body-bending finale on the other ride. Janice Thomas, Ramona Turner, and Jack Hartnett shared the lead on a ride that went from Santa Rosa out into the hills around Graton—up the Graton speed trap, down Harrison Grade, plus a stop at Kozlowki's—then finished up with a yoga class at the Lomitas School House. There were close to 50 riders on hand for this one, split about evenly between BC and AB groups. How cool is that? Two rides on the same day, both with biking as the main attraction, but each with such different after-ride activities...and both very attractive propositions.

If it was a longer ride you wanted on this weekend, we had that for you too. John Olson and Greg Cockcroft offered a century out of Healdsburg which, for the most part, followed the route of our season-opening brevet (coming up at the end of January). That is, a not-too-hilly run out through Alexander Valley, Knights Valley, and on down into the heart of Napa Valley. John reports: "We had a great turnout this morning: 20 riders. Most were SRCC'ers, although we had visitors from the Berkeley Bike Club, Marin Cyclists, and Mendo Velo. It was a beautiful day through the valleys. Pace was mostly moderate, with a few feeling spunky and heading off the front to loosen up the legs. A quick water stop in Calistoga and we were off across Napa Valley and down to Yountville where we replenished ourselves and enjoyed each other's company. Two riders chose to head over the slight rolling hill of Spring Mountain to meet their time constraints and two others headed back in via Chalk Hill. We did have a recurring mechanical on a beautifully restored classic CIOCC. That darn italian threaded BB just wouldn't stay tight. A trip to St. Helena Cyclery for a fix only lasted to Calistoga. The Calistoga shop seemed to get it tight enough to hold until the finish. No crashes! No flats!"

Finally, to round out the weekend's varied bill of fare, we had a Welcome Wagon ride, courtesy of Mike and Janice Eunice. Janice sent in this note: "It was an outstanding day for a ride in Sonoma County, cold and sunny. We had 18 riders come out to enjoy a short and social ride, most of whom were SRCC members and most of whom rode to the start. We had two new visitors: Lillian from Novato, who used to ride with the Friendly Friday A riders and is 80+ years old, and Mary, Danielle's friend. We rode the bike trails and ended up at Coffee Catz for a very nice social hour."

So let's see: after having close to 200 on hand for the New Year's Day rides, on this, the second weekend in January, we had *only* around 110 riders out, collectively, on four rides that ranged from A to CD. Not bad for participation levels in the dead of winter!

— Continued on page 6



# RIDE SCHEDULE

PDF route slips available at [www.srcc.com](http://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; pacerlines likely; regroupings every 45-90 minutes. 19-22 minutes\*

D: aggressive pace; pacerlines; 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 slips. Riders must carry ID, emergency contact and medical info, and should carry cash, tube(s), flat repair kit, and water bottle(s).

### HELMETS AND ID 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 • FEBRUARY 4

### Occidental and the River 3/CD/63 9:00 AM • Piner HS

A classic west county loop: approximately the early miles of the WCC as far as Green Valley. Then north along the trail to Forestville and further north and east to Windsor along Eastside, etc. Back home heading south on Starr, Laughlin, etc.

John Olson—490-6252  
[johnrolson@yahoo.com](mailto:johnrolson@yahoo.com)

Michael Garner—527-6242  
[mkgectasy@aol.com](mailto:mkgectasy@aol.com)

### Night Ride for Beginners 1/A/10

5:30 PM • Joe Rodota Trailhead

Helping beginners become comfortable and competent with riding after dark. An easy run west on the trail to Sebastopol for a break at Coffee Catz, then a return. You must have appropriate lighting, front and back, and bright, reflective clothing.

Ken Cummings—733-9969  
[minesrah@gmail.com](mailto:minesrah@gmail.com)

## SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 5

### Super Bowl Century 4-5/BC/100 8:00 AM • Piner HS

A reprise of the classic Two County Coastal Century: out to the coast via Coleman, then south into Marin, then back north over Bloomfield, Burnside. Light traffic everywhere on this day, and if you keep it moving, you should be home in time for the second half.

Megan Arnold—322-4847  
[em2ay@hotmail.com](mailto:em2ay@hotmail.com)

## SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 11

### Valentine Sweetheart Ride 2-4/CD/54 9:30 AM • Analy HS

One of the longest-running ride listings on our calendar, this is a classic, annual Rite of Spring. A speedy jaunt up into the west county hills—Bloomfield, Burnside, Barnett Valley—out to Occidental, then a rollicking run down to Monte Rio and back home up the river valley. Coffee at Coffee Catz after.

Steve & Jessie Kroeck—829-0224  
[kroecks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kroecks@sbcglobal.net)

### Valentine Shortcut Ride

3/B/32  
9:30 AM • Analy HS

Same route as the Sweetheart Ride until about mile 20, then cuts off a chunk by heading down Harrison Grade and back in on Green Valley.

David Batt—546-5301  
[dcbatt@att.net](mailto:dcbatt@att.net)

### Stop Draggin' My Heart Around 2/AB/40

9:30 AM • Youth Community Park

A Westside-Eastside cruise up and down the river, with Guerneville, Laguna, and Vine Hill to start and Mark West, Slusser, and Olivet to finish.

Sunny Mawson—838-3138  
[sunny.mawson@yahoo.com](mailto:sunny.mawson@yahoo.com)

David Abramo—650-533-2330  
[djabramo@yahoo.com](mailto:djabramo@yahoo.com)

## SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 12

### SRCC Welcome Wagon Ride 1/A/10-15 10:00 AM • Ragle Park

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  
[nicenice@sonic.net](mailto:nicenice@sonic.net)

### Rollers to Tomales 3/BC/55

9:00 AM • Cotati Dog Park

Pepper, Spring Hill, Chileno Valley, and Tomales-Petaluma Roads out to the obligatory bakery break in Tomales. Then Hwy 1 north, Petaluma-Valley Ford, Roblar, West Sierra, etc back to Cotati. Rolling dairy country, all decked out in its winter greenery.

Donna Norrell—292-0565  
[donna.n@comcast.net](mailto:donna.n@comcast.net)

### Valentine Day Ride for the Heart 2/AB/39

9:00 AM • SW Community Park

An easy roll from SW Santa Rosa up to Windsor along the usual roads around the airport. A coffee break at Café Noto on the Windsor Town Green and a return along a slightly different route. Wear red to celebrate Valentine's day and National Heart Month (AHA).

Sue Bennett—523-1322  
sbenn@sonic.net

## SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 18

### Geysers in Winter 5/CD•BC/56

9:00 AM • Healdsburg City Hall

Out to Jimtown and Red Winery and up the south face of the Geysers...then down the north side into the canyon of Big Sulphur Creek...a real walk on the wild side. Straight south from Cloverdale on Asti and Geyserville Roads. Geysers in winter: can't beat it!

BC: Bill Conklin—838-3363  
bconklin@sonic.net

CD: Luke Scrivanich—479-8599  
Lscrivanich@aol.com

## SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 19

### Sonapa Century 2-3/BC/105 • 4000'

8:00 AM • San Miguel School

The Great Circle Route: through SR and south down the length of the Valley of the Moon, through Sonoma and out around the Carneros and into Napa. Then north, all the way through Napa and Knights Valleys and into Alexander Valley before bending west on Chalk Hill to the finish. A good winter century: not too hilly.

John Olson—490-6252  
johnrolson@yahoo.com

Laura Stansfield—415-613-3302  
laurastansfield@yahoo.com

### Trek to Mom's Apple Pie 2/A/30

9:30 AM • Howarth Park

West through SR to the Prince Greenway and SR Creek Trail. Onward to Sebastopol and the West County Trail to a break a Mom's for a slice of pie. Return via Guerneville, Willowside and the creek trails.

Susan Hester—573-1532  
susanhester@yahoo.com

## SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 25

### SRCC-RUSA 200-K Brevet 3-4/BCD/200 K

7:00 AM • Healdsburg City Hall

Our second 200-K of the year. This route heads out into Alexander Valley, up through Cloverdale and then up and down along Hwy 128 to Boonville. Over the mountain to Ukiah, then down the valley to Hopland, up Mountain House and down 128 back to Cloverdale and on south to Healdsburg. Ride requires registration and an entry fee. For more information, visit our [brevet page](#) at the club website.

## SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 26

### Nikola's Birthday Ride 3/C/79

9:00 AM • Nick's home  
(424 Carillo, SR)

A modified WCC route...out to Wohler Bridge and then north on Westside and West Dry Creek and Dutcher Creek. South on Asti to a break in Geyserville. Hwy 128, Red Winery, more 128, Chalk Hill, Faught, Etc. Beer and brats at Nick's place after the ride.

Nikola Farats—535-0399  
nikola@sonic.net

### Easy Like Sunday Morning 2/B/51

9:00 AM • San Miguel School

Another loop up through the Russian River, Dry Creek, and Alexander Valleys (but shorter and with a more moderate tempo than Nick's ride.) Also does Chalk Hill to finish.

Liz Sinna—484-2459  
lizsinna@gmail.com

Vicky McKay—537-0826  
vmckay@sonic.net

Janice Thomas—568-7062  
jmt.bike@gmail.com

## SATURDAY • MARCH 3

### Soda Springs • Orr Springs 3-5/C/81 • 8000'

9:00 AM • Mendocino College  
(1000 Hensley Creek Rd. Ukiah)

This is a lesser known route but a great one for climbs, views, and descents. Absolutely no drop. D's are encouraged to co-lead up ahead of us. We'll segregate at the start.

Garth Powell—523-1284  
garth@furmansound.com

## SATURDAY • MARCH 10

### Free Lunch Rides

2/A/25 • 2/B/30 • 2-3/C/40  
9:30 AM • Healdsburg City Hall

Classic wine country loops, with a few extra miles for the faster riders, so that everyone ends up finishing together...in theory, anyway. All those who attended the January meeting (and voted in the Board election) are entitled to a free lunch at El Sombrero Taqueria after the rides. All others welcome on rides, but must pay for their own lunches. More information next month.

A, B, C ride leaders needed

## REGULAR RIDES

### Sunday Winter Training Rides

C/40-50 • 8:30 AM • Bad Ass Coffee  
*Training rides with hard efforts*

John Olson—490-6252  
Ray Rodriguez—322-6367

## Mix-it-up Mondays

All 10:00 AM • Decide-&-Ride

Jan 9 & 23: Windsor Bike Shop, C pace, road  
Jan 16 & 30: Howarth Park, mountain biking

John Olson—490-6252

Laura Stansfield—415-613-3302

## 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

Jerry Fabiano—823-4201

Fourth Wednesday: Ragle Park, Sebastopol

Paul Musson—303-246-3182

Fifth Wednesday: Esposti Park, Windsor

Alfred Masy—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 leaderless C rides are decide-&-ride)

## Thursday Fixed-Gear Rides

CD • 20 miles • Noon  
Spoke Folk Cyclery, Healdsburg

Multi-geared bikes welcome too

Doug McKenzie—523-3493

## Friendly Fridays

A • 25-30 • 9:00 AM

Same schedule as other Friday rides

Janice Eunice—575-9439

Fifth Friday (A group): Youth Comm. Park

Ken Russeff—953-1804

B & C • 30-50 • 9:00 AM

First Friday: Cotati Dog Park

B: Christine Logan—577-1422

Don Cropper—795-3236

Second Friday: Howarth Park, Santa Rosa

B: Bob Owen—291-4401

Third Friday: Ragle Park, Sebastopol

B: Christine Logan—577-1422

David Henry—338-9125

Fourth Friday: City Hall lot, H'burg

B: Buck Hall—537-1946

C: Nabeel Al-Shamma—479-6246

Fifth Friday (B only): Esposti Park

Gary Grayson—538-9262

**Looking for C leaders for FF, WW rides.**

## Friday Mountain Bike Rides

CD • 10:00 AM • Howarth Park

Single-speed or geared mtb bikes

2-3 hours • Decide-&-Ride

John Olson—490-6252

Roger Simmons—695-847

## More BACKROADS & BREAKAWAYS

One week later and we had another four rides on tap...three on Saturday and one on Sunday. Tim and Chris Brown (father and son) took charge of a 50-mile BC ride out of Howarth Park that included the big Cavedale climb. Timothy sent an amusing report to the chat list about the proceedings. He said they had "a great turnout," but he neglected to specify what that meant in real numbers. We will assume a big crowd. For awhile there, heading out to Cavedale, they were joined on the road by the Red Peloton ride, so at that point, it really was a big crowd rolling down the highway. But the Red Sled went on down the Valley of the Moon, leaving our gang to tackle Cavedale on their own. Which they did, with the varying degrees of fitness and panache we each bring to these tasks. The always exciting descent of Trinity Grade was next, and then a nice regroup at the market in Glen Ellen before the trek back to Santa Rosa. Tim said it was nice to see Donna Norrell back on the bike after her auto accident a month ago. She claims she's not 100% yet, but if she can get up and over Cavedale with the gang, she's not doing too badly.

Meanwhile, just a mile away, at Maria Carillo HS, Garth Powell was gathering a smaller group together for a longer ride: an almost 90-mile run over the mountains (St Helena, Spring Mountain) and down into Napa Valley, then over more mountains and down to Lake Berryessa. Back over the mountains through Pope Valley, over more mountains and through Angwin and down to Napa Valley again for a stop for sustenance at Buster's BBQ in Calistoga. (The ride was billed as the Matt Wilson Memorial Buster's BBQ Run, as Garth and Matt used to stop there for ribs, back in an earlier epoch.) After the break, there was just the small matter of riding from Calistoga back to Santa Rosa to wrap it all up with a big red ribbon. With close to 9000' of sometimes steep elevation gain, this was a butch ride. Garth could easily ride and list rides at D pace, but he listed this one at C and promised that it would be a no-drop ride. He was as good as his word, keeping track of everyone, all day long, and keeping the group working at a reasonable C tempo, with no crazy launches or attacks.

It probably helped that there were only around ten riders on this one...a bit easier to control...and because of Garth's leadership, everyone else was content to go with the stated agenda. I found myself somewhat loosely affiliated with this ride. I wanted to plump it up to century length, so I started early from a different location, trying to time it so I would meet up with the group on the road somewhere. I figured the fastest riders would reel me in on the long Calistoga-St Helena climb, ten miles into the ride. But my calculations were a little off. I got going too early and stayed ahead of the bunch all the way to Pope Valley, at about mile 55, where they found me relaxing on the porch when they rolled in. I also added an extra loop later: dropping down the old section of Howell Mountain toward St Helena. Someone had posted to the chat list that week, noting that the big landslide that had closed that road for most of a year has been fixed, and that the road is open again. I said a few months ago that I thought the damage was so severe they'd have a hard time fixing it, or paying for it. But they did it. With a massive backfill job, they topped up the hole and paved it over. They also repaved a few other bad sections along the road, although the overall paving quality is still fairly sketchy. Sketchy or smooth, that still ranks as one of my all-time favorite North Bay descents. It's nice to have it available again.

And by the way, I paid for that early, 8:00 AM start: along Riebli Road, five miles into my ride, it was a painfully nippy 27°.

Also on this day, David Abramo and Sunny Mawson had a 40-mile AB ride out of Healdsburg. Sunny reports over 45 rides on hand in the morning. I'm not sure whether she counted Alfred Masy, who showed up to ride...but couldn't. When he got out of his car, he was stunned to find his bike missing from the roof rack. The bad news is his bike flew off the rack at freeway speed somewhere between Windsor and Healdsburg (without Alfred knowing it). The good news is another driver saw it happen, pulled over, and collected the bike. His name is Mark, and his initiative in this matter is very impressive. First he dug in the seat bag and found an old copy of Alfred's drivers license. Then he used his I-Phone to look up local cycling club rides, quickly zeroing in on the SRCC and eventually tracked down Sunny, the ride leader. (The guy is an avid cyclist although not local to this area.) Long story short, he was able to return the bike to Alfred. And if all that isn't amazing enough, we're happy to report that the bike is only slightly scuffed up, after bouncing along the freeway at 70 mph.

Aside from that excitement, Sunny says it was an uneventful ride. A few people started early and a few more shorted the ride near the end. Sunny thinks it was so they could get home and watch the Niners' playoff game (and what a game it was).

Sunday's ride was one of our rare experiments in listing a D ride. There has been a lot of discussion lately about the club's faster riders poaching down into the C and even BC rides because they don't have enough D rides of their own. This is an age-old issue, and if I had a dollar for every time it has come up in club conversations over the years, I could retire in comfort tomorrow. Most of the time, when the fast riders show up for a ride that's listed below their natural speed, we make it work. The fast kids go off the front early and are never seen again. But the fact remains that we do need and want more rides that cater to that cohort: the really fast riders. So, after following along on a recent chat list discussion on this topic, Scott Duncan decided to do his part and list a D ride from Piner High out to Green Valley and Harrison Grade. The day after the ride, I sent him an e-mail to ask how it had gone. His answer: no one showed up. Nobody...zip...nada.

So what's the deal? I know a number of D riders did the two rides on Saturday: the "no-drop" ride listed at C pace and the one listed at BC. Why, why, why did those D riders not go on the D ride? Why did they instead choose to crash the C and BC parties? I can understand folks who wanted a longer ride going on the 90-miler, but the BC ride on Saturday and D ride on Sunday were essentially the same distance, around 50 miles. Both started in Santa Rosa and both did some good climbs. Perhaps a few people had other commitments on Sunday and could only ride Saturday. But every single D or CD rider? C'mon, folks... Absent any other excuses, I can only speculate as to why the D riders took a pass on a perfectly good D ride—a ride designed for them—and instead elected to do a BC ride. No, I take that back: I *can't* speculate about it. I'm frankly at a loss. I wish someone could explain it to me. Put it this way: if you've done our Graton Road speed trap in under 20 minutes, and if you didn't have some compelling reason why you could not ride on Sunday, then please tell me why you chose the ride way outside your designated category. We are trying very hard to present a ride schedule that will work for everyone here. But you have to meet us halfway on this: you have to be honest about your own abilities and behave accordingly.



## Club jersey search hits the home stretch

Three months ago we announced to the members that we were in the market for a new club jersey. We solicited designs from the members. We weren't exactly sure what to expect, but we were encouraged to see that six different club members submitted designs before the deadline at the end of December. Each of them presented at least two designs, although in most cases that only amounted to the same design rendered in two different color schemes.

While there has been a push in some quarters for a new design, there is also a faithful following for the existing design (the red roses on a white background). So the traditional design is included as one of the options as we move forward in the selection process. That traditional design will also be offered for your consideration in a new color range.

So...where do we go from here? We have a total of 14 different designs available now (counting the varied color schemes as individual designs). Images of all of them are available for your viewing at the club website at a special [page](#) created for this project. Also at the page will be a mechanism for voting for the jersey(s) of your choice, much as we have done in the past to record your preferences for our end-of-year donations.

You must be a member to vote. Each individual member has three votes. A family membership is entitled to two sets of three votes. The votes are not weighted: that is, they do not represent first, second, or third preferences. They are equal. You can put all your votes on one design or you can spread them out over two or three designs.

The jersey design page will be open for voting beginning in late January and will remain open until the end of January (about ten days). If the link above does not work for you, go to the club website and follow directions there to the page in question.

With so many choices, it is unlikely that any one design will gather a substantial majority of the votes, so it is almost certain that we will have a run-off among the top vote-getters. The Board has decided that only if one design pulls in a supermajority of the votes in the primary round—67%—will we skip the run-off.

This is an important decision for the club. The design chosen may be the public face of the SRCC for years to come. We want it to be a jersey that most of the members will want to buy and wear. We want a jersey that makes the club look good out there in the wider world. If you care about this at all, go to the site and consider the choices, then cast your vote(s). And then, a couple of months into the future, be prepared to come back to the site and vote again in the run-off.

Special thanks to all the club members who have submitted designs. Regardless of which proposals garner the most votes, all of the designers deserve our applause for devoting their time, energy, and creativity to this project. We wanted more club involvement in this effort and we got it. Now the rest is up to the rest of you: to consider the choices and mark your ballots. In the spirit of this big election year, it's good to remember that this club is a democracy too, and that every vote counts.

Once we have finally settled on our best choice, we can move on to questions regarding special orders and the exact features to be incorporated in the jersey order: women's cut, race cut, zipper length, raglan or straight shoulders, etc. Nothing is settled yet. We'll keep you posted as we learn more.

## End-of-Year Donations for 2011

At the December General Meeting, results were presented from the recently completed End-of-Year Donations voting. As you may recall, members were asked to vote for nominated organizations during the month of November. A total of \$13,000 was available for donations from surplus funds in the 2011 club budget. (We anticipate having a surplus in most years.) This year, 375 votes were cast at the club web site for the various nominated entities. Those nominees not receiving at least 5% of the vote got no donation, as previously explained. The others were allotted donation amounts according to the number of votes received, rounded to the nearest \$25. The results are as follows:

Community Bikes: \$2,375.00  
Southeast Greenway Campaign: \$1,825.00  
Sonoma County Parks Foundation: \$1,500.00  
LandPaths: \$1,350.00  
Sonoma County Trails Council: \$1,325.00  
Reach Helicopter Paramedic Scholarship Fund: \$975.00  
Team Swift: \$975.00  
Ross Dillon Hope Fund: \$925.00  
Early Bird Women's Developmental Cycling Team: \$900.00  
Healdsburg High Mountain Bike Club: \$850.00

These contributions are in addition to other grants from the club that are already set aside elsewhere in the annual budget, such as the donations to local, regional, state, and national cycling advocacy organizations, the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, and the Santa Rosa organizing committee for the Tour of California.

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## Wine Country Century update

### Wine Country Century Saturday, May 5th

The wheels are turning and we are moving forward: event registration opens Wednesday, February 1st, and if the past few years are anything to go by, the event will be sold out within a few days.

We will need at least 350 volunteers for our club to play host to the 2500 visitors who will participate in this annual springtime spectacle. Most of you know the drill: get in touch with one of the committee chairs listed on page 8 to volunteer for your favorite assignment. If you are new to this event and would like some guidance, please follow up with our wonderful WCC Volunteer Coordinator, Kimberly Hoffman. She will assist you in hooking up with a fun, productive volunteer task.

Check back with us in the March newsletter for more information regarding the WCC, the club's most important event for 2012. Find out how *you* can get involved in the fun. In that newsletter, we will have more details about volunteer opportunities and specific dates for the pre-event work parties at the club warehouse, plus lots of great info about the spectacular WCC Workers' Ride and Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. (Note that the Workers' Ride and Picnic is looking for a committee chair. Could this be you?)

Meanwhile, if you want to see the WCC wheels in motion, join us for the next WCC Organizing Committee Meeting; Sunday, February 12, 5:30—8:00 pm, Round Table Pizza, Occidental Road, Santa Rosa. Please contact me if you have questions...

**Doug Simon, WCC Chair: 547-7403, [desimon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:desimon@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: Doug Simon .....577-0113  
Secretary: Karen Thompson .....479-1864  
Treasurer: Greg Durbin .....528-4450  
Officers at Large  
Rick Sawyer .....933-0760  
Mike McGuire .....542-6687  
David Abramo ..... 650-533-2330  
Susan Forsman ..... 415-225-9405  
One seat temporarily vacant .....*See article, page one*  
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 coordinators: Sharron Bates....526-3512  
René Goncalves.....570-6653

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, February 8 • 6:30 PM

Round Table Pizza

(Occidental Road, west of Stony Point)

**Featured presentation:**

**Alfred Masy slide show on his 2011 cycle-tours**

Wednesday, March 14

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

(Open to all interested members)

Thursday, February 2 • 6:00 PM

Marlow Center Round Table Pizza (Marlow & Guerneville)

Thursday, March 8

## • Directory of WCC Committee Chairs •

Chair ..... Doug Simon, 577-0113, desimon@sbcglobal.net  
Vol. coordinator ..Kimberly Hoffman, 579-3754, kdhoffman10@yahoo.com  
Registration..... Gordon Stewart, 823-0941, gordon@gsathome.com  
Sags & Communication ..... Craig Gaevert, 545-4133, cgarch@sonic.net  
CHP/Medics/Permits ..... Bruce Hopfengarder, 494-4455, k6bdh@me.com  
Food ..... Rene Goncalves, 527-1248, leslierene@hotmail.com  
Equipment..... Rose Mello, 543-5889, rmello57@comcast.net  
Course marking ..... Tony Lee, 776-9803, dr\_tony\_lee@yahoo.com  
Course hosts..... Tom Bahning, 525-1960, duncansmills@sbcglobal.net  
Course signs ..... Vicki Duggan, 525-1960, duncansmills@sbcglobal.net  
Course marshals..... Ron Bates, 526-3512, sharron@randaloptimal.com  
Customer service..... Jack Hartnett, 694-0922, cyclingjack@yahoo.com  
Day-of sales ..... Sharron Bates, 526-3512, sharron@randaloptimal.com  
Graton ..... Janice Eunice, 575-9439, nicenice@sonic.net  
Ocean Song..... Wayne Kellam, 523-1878, wkellam@sonic.net  
Monte Rio ..... Bunni Zimberoff, 544-3999, bunnizim@gmail.com  
Wohler Bridge..... Tony Buffa, 824-4466, tbuffa@sonic.net  
Evelyn Ellis, 415-898-2998, evbuch@yahoo.com  
Warm Springs Dam.....Janice Oakley Thomas, jmo\_bike@yahoo.com  
Richard Anderson, r.c.ander@comcast.net  
Alexander Valley.....Steve Drucker, 538-5256, sdrucker@santarosa.edu  
Food Service, WFC ..... Michelle Kane, 292-5707, kearykane@yahoo.com  
Overall, WFC .....Joe Morgan, 778-8209, TheMorganFamily@comcas.net  
Workers' Ride and Picnic ..... *Looking for a committee chair!*