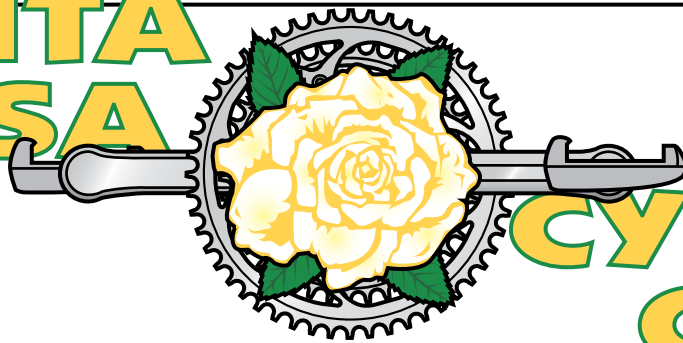


SANTA ROSA



CYCLING CLUB

NOVEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

Holiday Dinner Party & Awards Presentation

On the evening of Saturday, December 8, Santa Rosa Cycling Club members will don their best dress-up duds for an evening of gourmet dining and congenial socializing. The occasion is our annual Holiday Dinner Party.

This year's affair is exploring a new venue: [Charlie's on the Green](#) in Windsor. If you've been an SRCC member long enough, you know our holiday dinner has moved around from one site to another every couple of years—at least eight different venues since the holiday dinner program began in 1996—sometimes because past sites weren't available and sometimes just to try something new. Our dinner committee has come up with this new restaurant and worked out a deal, and we're eager to see for ourselves what it will be like.

Cost will be \$25 per person. This is only a portion of the cost-per-head for the dinner. As is our custom, as a holiday gift to our members, the club will be underwriting the lion's share of the cost for the evening.

As ever, the entertainment accompanying the dinner will be the presentation of the awards. While the Board decides most of these, it does so only with the help of many members who place names in nomination for the various awards. (For a list of all the traditional award categories, check the October, 2012 [newsletter](#).)

As we have noted before, the Board needs as much help as it can get in figuring out the winners. With over 1600 members in the club, riding with different groups, at different speeds, sometimes on weekends and sometimes on weekdays, it's impossible for the small handful of Board members to keep track of what all the members are doing. That's why we ask the members to send us their suggestions. Thus far, many have done so, and we're homing in on some worthy recipients. We also welcome new awards: you can make up one of your own to salute one of your fellow members who has done something special this past year. They don't all have to be for heroic accomplishments either. They can be goofy awards for some slapstick gaffe that happened on a ride. If you can think of the award, we can present it.

We have heard from some newer members that they haven't attended past dinners because they didn't know anyone. To address that, we are adding tables for new members this year, hosted by veterans. We will make every effort to be inclusive and welcoming.

Holiday Dinner Party

Saturday • December 8

Charlie's on the Green

1320 19th Hole Drive • Windsor

5:00—10:00 pm

Awards throughout the evening

• BUFFET MENU •

Hors d'oeuvres

Traditional bruschetta

Mediterranean Skewers

Andouille Sausage Risotto Cakes with red-pepper aioli

Coconut Chicken Skewers

Mixed Green Salad

Entrée

Grilled Salmon

Marinated Tri-Tip

(Vegan options on request)

Roasted Red Potatoes

Basil & Asiago Cheese

Penne with Black Olives & Tomatoes

Seasonal Vegetables and Rolls

Dessert

Wines available from the wine list • \$5 corkage

Cost: \$25 per person

Attendance is restricted to members and their partners

Registration for the Holiday Dinner Party is on-line in the

[calendar](#) section of the club website

Payment is by credit card or PayPal.

Registration closes at noon, Friday, November 30

Optional: in the spirit of the season, the club will be collecting toys (unwrapped) to be donated to needy children.

MINUTE MIX

Highlights from the General Membership and Executive Board meetings for October

- 1. Call to Order:** President Donn King called the general meeting to order at the Round Table on Occidental Road on Wednesday, October 10. 74 members and friends were present.
- 2. Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Greg Durbin was absent but had previously reported to the Board on current bank balances, as of September 30.
- 3. Membership:** Registrar Gordon Stewart reported membership of 1618 (combining individual and family memberships). Liz Sinna acted as host at the New Member Table, with six new members on hand.
- 4. Rides:** Ride Director Bill Oetinger circulated the ride calendar for November.
- 5. Jerseys:** Bill Oetinger updated members on the ongoing custom club apparel ordering process, extended to October 12. (See item on page 5.)
- 6. Swag:** Liz Sinna distributed SRCC license plate frames to members who had been volunteers on club projects in the past year. She still has more of these to distribute. If you want one, get in touch with Liz. Mike McGuire, David Abramo, and Liz Sinna constitute a subcommittee to look into other such products to promote volunteerism and reward members for their efforts.
- 7. GranFondo:** Doug Simon acknowledged the tremendous support provided by the club and its members in preparation for the Ritchy Ranch lunch rest stop, as well as during the actual event itself. (See related item on page 7.)
- 8. Budget:** Donn King announced a special budget meeting for the Board and any interested members on Thursday, October 25.
- 9. New Year:** Sharron Bates and René Goncolves have graciously offered to once again lend their culinary and logistical support to the annual New Year's Day party, which will probably be held at the warehouse/club house again.
- 10. Donations:** Rick Sawyer discussed the process for nominating organizations for charitable grants. (See item, this page.)
- 11. Holiday Dinner:** Karen Thompson announced the specifics of the upcoming Holiday Dinner. (See page 1.) She reminded members that we are still seeking nominations for worthy recipients of the many 2012 awards, to be presented at the banquet.
- 12. Copyright:** Karen Thompson and the Board are looking into intellectual property law questions regarding various club logos and graphics. Greg Durbin asserts that the club's name is already subject to legal protection. Karen will consult with Bill Oetinger regarding ownership and copyright issues for the club's traditional rose-gear logo.
- 13. Featured speaker:** Voler Team Apparel sales representatives John and Linda Elgart introduced the Voler product line and had sizing and fabric samples available for folks to try on. Of note was the recent switch to a light weight, SFP fabric called Genesis and that short sleeved jerseys now had a full hidden zipper option. John suggested taller folks may opt for a club cut jersey in a smaller size as club cuts generally ran an inch longer in the torso than race cuts. The speakers also described advances in chamois design to improve off-the-bike fit.

SRCC 2012 Year-End Donations

From excess funds in each calendar year, the Santa Rosa Cycling Club makes donations to various cycling-related organizations and other causes deemed appropriate, as approved by the club membership. In order to have the grants finalized soon enough to have the checks out to the recipients by mid-December, we need to keep the nomination and voting process moving forward through October and November. Members were asked to submit nominations during the month of October. Once the nominations have been recorded and reviewed, the final voting will take place on-line at the club web site in November.

All voting instructions will be included at the web page. We'll open the voting period on November 14 and it will run through November 28. That way, we'll have results in time to issue checks to the donation recipients in December.

Nominations will continue to be accepted until October 31, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the October Newsletter. So far, we haven't exactly been overwhelmed with valid nominations. Many of the groups to which the club has traditionally made donations have not yet been nominated and are in danger of being left out of the final voting unless someone puts their names in nomination. (Last year's grant recipients were listed on page 7 of the February, 2012 [newsletter](#).) We urge members to continue to add nominations, which can be communicated to any club Board member. As we went to press in mid-October, the following organizations had been properly nominated:

Bike Elves
Challenged Athletes Foundation
Earle Baum Center of the Blind
Sonoma County Parks Foundation
Women's Recovery Services
Greenacre Homes & School
Early Birds Women's Racing Team

We'll announce the final list of nominees at the November club General Meeting, in addition to listing them at the web site. Voting opens on the day of the General Meeting. We hope the "turnout" will be vigorous.

If you are reading this before October 31, it's not too late to add nominations to the list. To review our basic nominating criteria: all nominees should be non-profit organizations, and it should be remembered that there is no need to nominate any of the groups we already donate to on a regular basis, such as the SCBC, the local Tour of California organizing entity, the Radio Amateurs, or any of our state or national cycling organizations.

Organizations proposed as candidates for donations should meet some or all of the following general guidelines:

- Should provide support for activities related to cycling.
- Should be local or have a significant local presence.
- Should demonstrate a philosophy that respects people and the environment and a healthy society.
- Should reflect values similar to those of the SRCC.
- Should not have goals or agendas that are discriminatory or otherwise devious.

If you want a group included, don't assume someone else will take care of it. Officers or principals in any organization may not nominate their own organization. (Ask a friend in the club do it for you, if you are in that position.)

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.

Indian Summer: next to that first blush of springtime, this has to be just about the best season in the North Bay. Mother Nature tantalizes and teases us with these glorious, honey-colored days before handing us on to the grim, grey days of Winter. But we make the most of it before it fades away with our usual full slate of club rides...our way of getting you out there to appreciate what the seasons have to offer.

First up on that slate of rides in this reporting period was a longish A ride out of Esposti Park on September 22, hosted by Sunny Mawson and David Abramo. Sunny checks in: "Twenty-four people showed up for a 60-mile A ride, most of them before the 8:30 chilly start, a few somewhere between then and 9:15. There was a little catch-up going on at the beginning. We had one visitor, Kevin, and he seemed to be having a great time, making friends while biking. Stops at the Dry Creek Store and, with a little detour, Jimtown, provided nice breaks. Coming over Chalk Hill at the end of the ride was a little challenging for some. We could not have had a more beautiful Sonoma County riding day, and it appeared the ride was thoroughly enjoyed by all participants."

Also on this day, Laura Stansfield listed a ride out of Corte Madera that went to the summit of Mt Tam and then down to Muir Beach and north along the coast to Olema before turning back inland...a big, hard day of nearly 80 hilly miles. Laura reports there were between seven and ten riders, with some folks joining late or leaving early. She says the weather was perfect for the first weekend of Fall, with no fog at all, so spectacular views from up on Tam. She also reports that Hwy 1 has recently been beautifully repaved between Muir Beach and Stinson. After the ride, some of the participants repaired to a local watering hole for beer and grub (hence, the ride's title: *Tam to Tap*)...a nice finish for a great day.

On Sunday, Joyce Chang offered another sort of stout ride: a BC listing starting at her house north of Healdsburg and heading part-way out Skaggs Springs...essentially an out-&-back. She reports; "A dozen or so riders showed, including Karen Thompson and relative newcomer Paula Sauers. Several folks turned around at the top of the climb before the 4-mile descent to the high bridge (thereby avoiding the 4-mile uphill slog). Those of us who continued hung out at the bridge a while and admired Karen Thompson's alternating fluorescence: yellow leg reflectors, universal orange vest and fluorescent yellow arm warmers. The weather stayed cool the entire time. After regrouping at the Lake Sonoma Visitor's Center, we returned by way of West Dry Creek to my house, where I treated all to some homemade green tea ice cream. For several riders, this ride was their first time out Skaggs!"

The next weekend was highlighted by the GranFondo. As this is not technically a club event, we are not covering it here, but there are other items about it elsewhere in this newsletter.

On Sunday, I listed a ride called the *NotFondo*: an alternative century for those who weren't caught up in the big event the day before. Apparently that didn't apply to too many people, as there were only three of us on hand for the start at Middletown High School. (The distant start in Middletown may have had something

to do with the low turn-out too. I recall having three for the last ride I started there.) I won't spend a lot of ink on reporting about the ride, except to say that the loop explored some wonderful roads we never get to ride: Spruce Grove and Sulphur Bank, Kelsey Creek and Bottle Rock. Also, it was hot: over 100° late in the ride, in most painful particular on the long Bottle Rock climb. It took its toll on the tired riders.

Also on this day, Tom Helm hosted a ride entitled Mellow Sunday for All Categories, with the teaser: "Gear down and chat up," meaning it was slated to be an easy-paced ride with the emphasis on socializing and working on group-riding skills. I asked Tom how it went and this is what he said: "It went well. Eight plus me. We stayed together the whole time. People had conversations. Very mellow pace. Most were capable of a B-pace ride, but we sauntered at A pace, and all were happy. So, I will do it again." And sure enough, Tom has a similar ride on the calendar this month.

This was also the weekend of the Knoxville Double Century. If it was even close to as toasty as it was on my NotFondo Century—the two routes overlapped a couple of roads in Lower Lake—then it must have been a warm day. I'm sorry to say I have no eyewitness reports on this ride and the Knoxville organizers only publish the most rudimentary finisher's list, so all I can do is pass along the names of club members I could find on that list: Garth Powell, Tina Forsman, Craig Robertson, and Frank Pedrick. Other club members attended the California Triple Crown Hall of Fame breakfast, which followed in Vacaville the day after the ride. Robert Choi and Susan Forsman were honored for their placings in the 2012 CTC Stage Race: Choi, second overall; Forsman, ninth overall and first woman.

That wraps up September for another year. First up in October was our annual trip to the Grizzly Century, down at Bass Lake. Event coordinator Kimberly Hoffman says there were ten club members on hand for what turned out to be a perfect Fall day. I don't know too much more about the weekend except that it was fun for everyone. We have seen participation on these Grizzly weekends tapering off in recent years. (We once had as many as 50 riders making the trek and camping and riding together.) Kimberly is thinking about stepping down as coordinator of this weekend adventure—she's been managing it for over ten years... thank you, Kimberly!—and that raises the question: does the club want to continue its unofficial affiliation with the century? It is a wonderful event, perhaps the nicest century in the state, with great roads, great scenery, and superb support. But it is a long drive. If club members are voting with their wallets not to take part, we have to pay attention to that.

Also on this Saturday and a bit closer to home, Tony Lee had a 70-mile CD ride from Petaluma out to the top of Mt Vision in the Pt Reyes National Seashore. Tony sent in this note about the ride: "Eleven showed up for Saturday's *Sharing the Vision* ride. In summary, good weather and good riding all day. The climb up Mt Vision was warm and scenic and at the top we got what the mountain was named for: beautiful views. Taking the single track trail down the backside was tough. Despite my warnings to the group, three of us crashed, although Luke claimed he did not crash. Covered in dust, he said he did a 'controlled endo.' On top of Limantour pass, with the dirt behind us, it was smooth sailing back to Petaluma with tailwinds behind us and cold beer waiting for us at the end."

— 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 & Rides

SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 3

Comfortably Numb

2/A/38

9:00 AM • Esposti Park

North along Faught, Chalk Hill, and Hwy 128 to Jimtown. Further north to Geyserville and a stop at Geyserville Mud Coffee. Back south via Geyserville, Fredson, Lytton Springs, Chiquita, Grove. South of Healdsburg: Old Red, Arata, Hembree, etc.

David Abramo—650-533-2330
djabramo@yahoo.com

Sunny Mawson—838-3138
Sunny.mawson@yahoo.com

One Big Damn Out-&-Back

4/B/43

10:00 AM • Galvin Park, SR

Short and sweet. Start a little later to let it warm up in the morning and then climb beautiful Grove Road, a 6-mile, lightly traveled lane. Road is in good condition and the descent can be fun. Lunch in Glen Ellen. Give your legs and heart a good workout.

Christine Logan—577-1422
christinelogan@comcast.net

SUNDAY • NOVEMBER 4

Adopt-a-Backroad

Litter Pick-up Day

9:00 AM • Target parking lot
Kawana Springs Road, SR

Semi-annual litter pick-up program, this time along Petaluma Hill Road. Lunch afterward at Third Street Ale Works.

Mike McGuire—542-6687
mmcguire@pacbell.net

Ramona Turner—479-7539
rturner@sonic.net

SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 10

Calistoga to Yountville

2/A/45

10:00 AM • Calistoga Spa Hot Springs, Calistoga

Ride along Silverado Trail to Yountville, where we will have lunch at Bouchon Bakery. Back along same route. After the ride optional hot tubbing and an early dinner in Calistoga.

Susan Hester—573-1532
susanmhester@yahoo.com

Trinity-Howell Mtn-Spring Mtn

5/C/64

8:30 AM • Dunbar School

Over Trinity, Silverado Trail, up Howell Mtn to Deer Park, stop at Model Bakery in St Helena, over Spring Mtn, Calistoga Road, Oakmont, Lawndale, Bennett Valley, Henno.

Doug Schrock—318-3089
dschrock@keypointcu.com

SUNDAY • NOVEMBER 11

Healdsburg North, East, South, West and Back

4/C/69

9:00 AM • Healdsburg Cith Hall

A ride from Healdsburg north to Alexander Valley, south over Chalk Hill, west to Graton, back via Boho, River and Westside. Moderate hills with long, flat sections for good pace line riding and mostly good pavement.

Ron Hodges—481-4500
ronalde.hodges@gmail.com

SRCC Welcome Wagon Ride

1/A/10-15

10:00 AM • Keiser Park, Windsor

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

SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 17

Pope Silverado MMXII

3/BC/46

9:00 AM • Jacob Meily Park
Pope Street, St. Helena

A rerun of the 2010 Pope Silverado ride, modified to include a start location with indoor plumbing. From St. Helena, out Sage Canyon to Pope Valley, climb Ink Grade and descend Howell Mountain to Silverado Trail, then a final loop of Sanitarium and Crystal Springs. Check out the fall colors of Napa County, then convene at nearby Silverado Brewing Company for midday restoration. CD riders also welcome.

Rick Sawyer—415-519-0760
sawyer.rts@att.net

Howarth to Annadel and Back

1/AAA/8

9:30 AM • Howarth Park

Bring your kids, or just come to amble. Bike trail through Howarth and Spring Lake. Snack stop (bring your own!) at the end of

Channel Drive. Retrace to the Howarth Park playground and join us for some park fun.

Adrienne Johnson—503-863-1713
adriennecycle@gmail.com

SUNDAY • NOVEMBER 18

Mellow Sunday 2

1/ABC/25

10:00 AM • Piner Youth Park

It's a group ride, or, ride as a group. No destination. No route slip. Just show up, be social, ride together. Stay in the small chain ring, spin. A good follow-up to a hard day before. Ride two-abreast where safe. 2.5 hours. more or less.

Tom Helm—332-8792
tomhelm@sonic.net

Petaluma-Bolinas Century

3-4/BC/98

8:30 AM • Walnut Park, Petaluma

A scenic journey to West Marin, via Chileno Valley and Hwy 1, with a kinky circuit of Bolinas at the midway point. All of the hard work is in the second half, including the full length of Fairfax-Bolinas Road. Rest stops in Marshall, Bolinas, and Fairfax. Will honor the BC pace (not C or D).

Bill Oetinger—823-9807
srccride@sonic.net

SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 24

Twin Hills Holiday

2-AB-30

9:00 AM • SW Community Park

From south Santa Rosa out to Sebastopol and up into the hills southwest of town for a visit to the Twin Hills Apple Ranch, always a nice place to take a break, especially in the holiday season. Back to the Joe Rodota Trail by more little Sebastopol back roads.

Sue Bennett—523-1322
sbenn@sonic.net

SUNDAY • NOVEMBER 25

Sonoma-Napa

Chutes and Ladders

5/BC/80

9:00 AM • Howarth Park

Out through the parks and Oakmont into the Valley of the Moon. Up and over Cavedale and Trinity and down to the Mt Veeder climb and descent into the town of Napa. Rest stop in Browns Valley. Back via the climbs of Dry Creek, the descent of Trinity, Dunbar, Henno, Warm Springs to Kenwood, then back through Oakmont and the parks.

Janice Thomas—495-0353
jmt.bike@gmail.com

REGULAR RIDES

Sunday Training Rides

C/40-50 • 8:30 AM • Bad Ass Coffee

Training rides with hard efforts

Ray Rodriguez—322-6367

Monday Monday

C • 40-50 miles • 10:00 AM

[Windsor Bike Shop](#)

Howard Hesterberg—321-1696

Wednesday Wanna-B's

B • 30-50 miles • 9:00 AM

First Wednesday: Galvin Park, Santa Rosa

Christine Logan—577-1422

Second Wednesday: Healdsburg City Hall

Chris Jones—938-2669

Third Wednesday: Finley Park, Santa Rosa

Dave Batt—546-5301

Fourth Wednesday: Ragle Park, Sebastopol

Paul Musson—303-246-3182

Fifth Wednesday: Esposti Park, Windsor

David Fitch—228-9705

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-gear 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

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

Fifth Friday (B only): Esposti Park

Gary Grayson—538-9262



Custom Club Apparel set for Dec. delivery

On October 12, we wrapped up another ordering period for purchasing custom club apparel from our vendor, Voler Team Apparel. Project coordinator Bill Oetinger tidied up the loose ends on the order over the following weekend, and on Monday, October 15, the order was finalized and headed for production.

Delivery of the merchandise is scheduled for the first week of December, well in time for Christmas. All product will be shipped to the club and distributed locally to the individual buyers, as was done with the last shipment in August. We will follow up with information on picking up your orders in the December newsletter.

After our initial order period in May and delivery of those goods in August, there was some level of demand for an opportunity to reorder. We had initially stated that we would not reorder for at least a year, but demand appeared sufficient that we agreed to set up this reorder window in October. For a while, this looked like a mistake, as sales started out very weak. However, after a blast e-mail reminder near the end of the ordering window, folks got busy and sales picked up. A presentation at the October meeting by Voler sales reps John and Linda Elgart, complete with full sets of sizing samples, no doubt helped.

In the end, we purchased a total of 163 units, divided between the two new designs. Coupled with sales of almost 400 units back in May, that means we will soon see over 550 items in new club livery out on the roads...jerseys, vests, jackets, shorts, and arm warmers. All in all, we think that represents a successful project.

At this point, we really do believe it will be a year or so before we order again. We figure we've satisfied demand for the time being. But with new members joining all the time, the demand will begin building soon.

In the meantime, there are a few members who ended up with products that didn't fit them as well as they expected. (These are rare, but they have happened.) If you have one of these items and want to sell it, use whatever networks the club offers—chat lists, forums, facebook—to let folks know what you have. We know of several garments that have changed hands so far, finding happy buyers.

On Sunday, Ron Hodges had a 55-mile ride around the classic Geysers loop, from north to south. Ron reports: "We had a dozen riders show up. Two or three were B level riders, and they dropped behind or turned back before the steep stuff. We had one mechanical issue with a broken shift cable on the way up. Harry Williamson was able to do a jerry-rigging that allowed the rider to finish. The rest of us stayed together for the rest of the ride. The weather was perfect. I would say that we rode at a moderate C pace. A couple of the riders said that they appreciated me leading the ride so I feel comfortable doing some more rides as a leader."

There was also a skills clinic scheduled for this Sunday, led by Jonathan Lee. There were 24 riders in attendance, learning group riding skills and also how better to be an efficient part of the traffic mix. We heard from a few participants who felt it was time well spent. They enthusiastically encourage others to take part. We will list other skills clinic as often as we can enlist qualified instructors to organize them.

A long way away from basic group riding skills and dealing with traffic, this was also the weekend of the annual Furnace Creek 508, the grueling ultra-marathon through Death Valley and other desolate, empty regions. No traffic at all, except for one sag wagon following each rider or team, and no group riding either...all solo and lonely. This year, the club was represented at the 508-mile grinder by Robert Choi, Greg Lester, and Craig Robertson. Robert turned in a time of 31:07, which we think was good for third overall. Greg was six hours back, knocking off his seventh solo 508...an amazing record. Craig was teamed up with friend Lyresa Pleskovitch in the mixed, two-bike category. We have no idea how many 508's that is for Craig, either solo or as part of a team. A lot.

On the last weekend we can cover this month, we had five rides scheduled, representing a spread of paces and ambitions that could truly be said to offer something for everyone.

Doug McKenzie got things rolling early on Saturday morning with his annual *Two County Coastal Century*, which also doubles as his birthday ride. It heads west and south from Santa Rosa, out to the coast and down into Marin. Pace is listed—accurately—as D. Doug reports: "About 25 starters with only a handful committing to the full 100. All bailout points were used: 35, 50 and 75. Jady was there and patiently waited in Tomales to pull us down to Marshall. Seven of us finished the whole thing: 100 miles and 9100' of climbing. Some ended up with more miles as they rode to the start. It was a good, strong group. We kept the regroups short...just long enough to enjoy the views. Deanna's rest stop in Bloomfield was well timed as we all ran out of water within a mile of the stop." (*That would be Deanna McKenzie, Doug's wife —Ed*)

Christine Logan had a BC ride of 58 miles on this day, billed as an easy recovery ride a week after the Fondo. Here's what she had to say about it: "About 18 people showed up for our meandering ride, with a wide range of abilities, some B- to a few D's, but what a good bunch of riders. One rider had a minor crash at mile 7 with some road rash, but insisted on continuing, and he was just fine the rest of the ride. What a trouper. It was sunny and beautiful from beginning to end. I think our route had more bicycle traffic than car traffic. A good day."

Sunday kicked off with a listing from Steve and Janice Thomas

called Three Parks and Zen. The title reflects visits to three state parks—Hood Mtn, Sugarloaf, and Jack London—each of them via long, challenging climbs. The "zen" refers to passing the zen center on the long climb of Sonoma Mtn, late in the ride. But this was a bit more than just a standard weekend club ride. It was run in conjunction with a Red Peloton race team ride. Both groups met at NorCal Bike Sport, with probably close to 70 riders on hand. Once clear of Santa Rosa, everyone climbed Los Alamos Road to the summit for a memorial ceremony for Matt Wilson. It was exactly one year ago on this date that Matt died on that same spot on the summit of Los Alamos. (If you are unfamiliar with Matt's story, read about it in the November, 2011 [newsletter](#) or in this [column](#).) Shaun Ralston made a nice speech, reminding us how Matt used to say, after almost every ride: "This was one of the best days ever!" He suggested we take that to heart and live each day as if it were the best day ever. Henry Stroud, who had been with Matt when he died, made a brief, heartfelt speech, and then Matt's ashes were scattered over the field of golden grasses, overlooking the long sweep of view down into the valley. It was a special moment, one Matt would have enjoyed.

After the ceremony, the huge crowd of riders descended the mountain and then broke up into many smaller groups, heading off in many directions. Having knocked off the first of its three state parks (Hood Mtn, at the top of Los Alamos), our club ride headed east to the climb of Adobe Canyon to tag Sugarloaf. And after that out-&-back, it was onward, via Lawndale, Schultz, and Warm Springs, to London Ranch Road and the third state park. We were surprised to find the entire town of Glen Ellen in party mode, with Arnold Drive turned into a street fair, entirely shut down from Warm Springs to London Ranch. Bands playing, vendors vending, and huge crowds thronging the roadway or midway. After a nice break at this unexpected fair, we tackled the last big challenge of the day: up and over on Sonoma Mtn, then back to SR via the nicely repaved Bennett Valley. After a bit of a chill in the air in the morning, it turned into one of the nicest Indian Summer days one could dream up...just perfect. Perfect would also be a good word for the scenery around the Valley of the Moon: good enough to be in a state park...or three.

Mike and Janice Eunice had another of their Welcome Wagon Rides on this day, this one launching out of Julliard Park in SR. Janice sent in this note about it: "We had 11 cyclists participating in the Welcome Wagon Ride on Sunday. There were two new riders, one from the women-only group ride and another who is a super volunteer at Community Bikes. Ken Russeff, who has not ridden his bike for a year, recovering from an injury, gave it a try and did well. The ride was 12 miles round trip and all had a good time. We look forward to the next ride."

Halfway down the state, another double was unfolding on this weekend. That was Bass Lake. It's too soon (as we go to press) to have official results up for this ride, but we know of at least four SRCCers who were there: Greg Durbin, Brian Gully, Brian Hecker, and Liz Sinna. They tell us it was a lovely autumn day and that the ride was not too hard (if any 200-mile ride can be "not too hard"). Greg decided to do it at the last minute and had a great ride, finishing in the top five. Greg and Brian Gully finished off their California Triple Crowns with this ride, and Lil Liz brought her first doubles season to a close with a rockin' five doubles. We'll try to have a list of all the club's Triple Crown winners in next month's newsletter.

GranFondo letters...

I want to thank all the volunteers who made the GranFondo Ritchey Ranch Lunch Stop a success. Special thanks go to the people who worked extra shifts and helped before and after the event: Rich Steiner, Sue Bennett, Alan Bloom, Anne and Gary Graver, David Fitch, Rose Mello, Carole and John Kolnes, Barbara Drucker, Debbie Wymer, Bill Stites, Ramona Turner and in so many ways, Doug Simon.

— *Steve Drucker, SRCC Ritchey Ranch Lunch Stop Chair*

October 15, 2012

Dear Santa Rosa Cycling Club members,

I want to express a heartfelt thank-you for your continued support of Levi's GranFondo over the last four years. This year's event was more successful than ever, and it is an upward trend we hope to continue. It is no small task to continually raise the bar and the caliber of an event this large. Many people don't grasp the total effort that goes into creating an event of this magnitude, and I'll touch on that in a moment.

Right now I want to acknowledge that the last couple of days have been challenging, to say the least. It's very difficult to go from the high of the success that we had with the GranFondo in its fourth iteration to the low that has gripped the world of professional cycling this week. Nowhere is that felt more closely than right here in Levi's home of Santa Rosa.

We have anticipated this news for some time, but as much as we prepared for it nothing can compare to the difficulty of committing to facing it head-on. I want to assure you that while the weight of this is heavy, our outlook is very positive. We believe in the success and the positive impact of Levi's GranFondo, and we remain devoted to the future of that success. I can personally assure you that it is in my blood. It is something that I live and breath because of what I have seen it do for a community in which I am deeply rooted. It has my devotion for as long as I am around.

The Santa Rosa Cycling Club has played no small part in that success. Many of the GranFondo's accomplishments have been borrowed from the years of experience that many of the SRCC's members have earned through years of service producing their own events. The craftsmanship that's applied to ensuring their success has more than rubbed off on the GranFondo by the involvement of the club's members. A value cannot be placed on that involvement. So I want to make sure each of you knows how much it means to us that you have lent your support to Levi's vision towards giving back to our community.

Since its inception, the GranFondo has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for notable and worthy charities inside and out of our community. It has ensured the return of the Amgen Tour of California. It has brought huge notoriety to Sonoma County as a cycling destination, along with millions of dollars in tourism spending. And it has become somewhat of a staple for many luminaries in both Hollywood and the sports industry. It has been a major success, and we see no end in sight to that.

I feel it's important that the club board and members understand the value that they bring to the table each year, that I am grateful for it, that Levi is grateful for it, and that the charities and community non-profits that benefit from the event are grateful for it.

I hope that you will be involved for as long as the event continues to strive to perpetuate its positive impact in our community.

Levi and I work very closely on the collaborative efforts on how to make this event better every year. He is not a silent partner in the production of the GranFondo, but rather, a very active one. His idea of producing the event was born out of goodwill and a desire to give back to the people and the place that helped him to achieve his success on the bike. For a vision like that to be realized is no small feat and one that he and I both remain committed to. But this event has already grown beyond what we both initially brought to it and become something that the community has embraced and calls their own. That is one of the best signs of its success; the GranFondo can now live beyond its originators and take on a life of its own. (Not that we're going anywhere, just for the record.)

Some of you might judge Levi based on the recent news of his doping admissions over a period of time in his career. While it is not in my authority, I ask that you open yourself to further understanding of the circumstances and the complicated environment that he and many other riders faced several years ago. I'd also ask you to consider that, as a result of their collective admission, they hope to make the sport a better place where young riders no longer have to confront the pressures that existed in the past.

Levi will be addressing this directly with many of the people and groups that have shown their support over the years, opening himself to be a subject of inquisition within his community. He feels this is important and we will be facilitating this in the coming weeks and months. It's important not only for us, but for the good work that we will continue to strive to achieve for many many years to come.

Thank you for being involved at so many levels with the effort to make Sonoma County the greatest place on earth to live and ride a bicycle. I hope that you take to heart my sentiment that the Santa Rosa Cycling Club is a moving force in ensuring our collective success. For this, you all have my personal gratitude and my hope that we're all proud of what we've produced together.

Sincerely,

— *Carlos Perez*
Director, Levi's King Ridge GranFondo

Editor's note: Letters to the club newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the SRCC Board, nor of this Editor, nor of the club's many, diverse members. We realize that opinions and reactions vary widely regarding the recent revelations concerning Levi Leipheimer and professional cycling, and it is not up to the Board or the Editor to attempt to distill all those varied sentiments into one, official club position.

Some might construe publication of this letter as a tacit form of support for Levi...for what he has done. We don't see it that way. We neither support nor condemn. Any such judgments will be made by our members, individually.

Our intention in publishing Carlos Perez' letter is, first of all, to share with our members the gratitude that is due them for their continuing support and leadership at the GranFondo and, second, to allow them to read and judge for themselves the information and thoughts provided by the Director of the event, with an eye toward moving forward.

SANTA ROSA CYCLING CLUB

PO Box 6008

Santa Rosa, CA 95406

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



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

10/22/12 13:23

- President: Donn King.....490-9115
- Vice-President: Doug Simon577-0113
- Secretary: Karen Thompson479-1864
- Treasurer: Greg Durbin217-1549
- Officers at Large
- Rick Sawyer933-0760
- Mike McGuire542-6687
- David Abramo 650-533-2330
- Susan Forsman 415-225-9405
- Bob Redmond799-0764
- Newsletter editor, ride director: Bill Oetinger.....823-9807
- Webmaster: Gordon Stewart823-0941
- Club apparel sales: Sharron Bates.....526-3512
- Membership registration: Gordon Stewart.....823-0941
- Meeting program 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, November 14 • 6:30 PM

Occidental Road Round Table Pizza

Featured presentation: Slide show from Northwest Oregon Tour

Wednesday, December 12

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

(Open to all interested members)

Thursday, November 8 • 6:00 PM

Marlow Center Round Table Pizza (Marlow & Guerneville)

Thursday, December 6

Adopt-a-Backroad Petaluma Hill Litter Pick-up Day

Sunday, November 4, 9:00 AM

Target parking lot on Kawana Springs

It's time once again for our semi-annual litter pick-up program. This time we'll be cleaning up the length of Petaluma Hill Road (approximately 10 miles). We need a dozen or so crews of two workers each to divide the road up into easy, 3/4-mile sections.

Petaluma Hill will be a new site for our twice-a-year work party. Those most involved with the project feel we've scoured the Dry Creek Valley and Chalk Hill areas clean—at least for the time being—and they are looking for new worlds to conquer, or at least to clean up. We take this on not only because it is simply a good thing to do, but also as a form of community outreach: from our cycling club to our neighbors along the roads where we ride.

Meet at the Target parking lot on Kawana Springs. After the ride head over to Third Street Ale Works for lunch...the club's way of saying thank you for your help with this worthy project.

Believe it or not, it's actually fun: a nice walk along a country road, doing a good deed, then lunch, on the club's tab.

To sign up or to learn more about the project...

Mike McGuire: 542-6687, mmcguire@pacbell.net

Ramona Turner: 479-7539, rturner@sonic.net