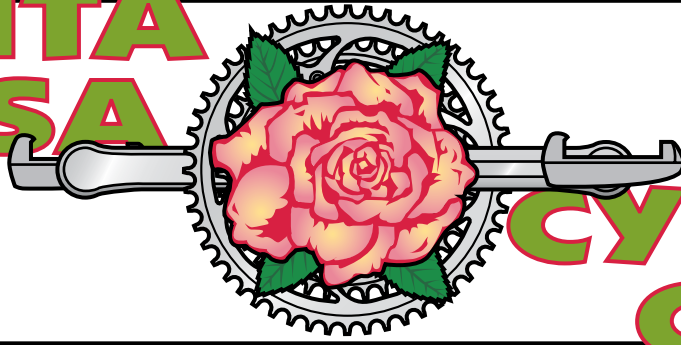


SANTA ROSA



HAPPY NEW YEAR

CYCLING CLUB

JANUARY 2013 NEWSLETTER

Holiday dinner and awards

On Saturday, December 8, nearly 200 SRCC members shoehorned themselves into the banquet hall at Charlie's on the Green in Windsor for the club's annual end-of-the-year celebration. It was great to see so many people there, even if it was a bit crowded. Some felt the packed house made it feel cozy and added a buzz of excitement that might have been lost in a bigger venue...sort of an aging boomer version of a mosh pit. The bottom line is that it worked and that those in attendance had a good time.

We were at Charlie's because we were unable to nail down the deal with the Flamingo that we had in recent years. We think the new venue worked pretty well. (Thanks to David Abramo for being point man on the arrangements for this new watering hole.)

The evening began with an hour or so of free range socializing before we all found our tables and tied on our feed bags. Once we were settled, Master of Ceremonies Mike McGuire kicked off the floor show for the evening by introducing club President Donn King. Donn, nearing the end of his third and final year at the helm of the club, made a nice speech covering the year in review for cycling in Sonoma County and for the club's place in that community.

After that, we launched off into the 2012 awards presentation, beginning with the Volunteer of the Year. Only this year, it was volunteers, plural: many of them. Rather than honor just one worthy, when so many do so much to keep this club afloat, the awards committee decided to spread the wealth around. By some arcane metric known only to themselves, they came up with a pool of *uber-vols* and presented each of them with a handsome pilsner glass embellished with the club logo.

Next up was the award for Leader of the Pack, presented to a member who works hard in the sphere of cycling advocacy, lobbying, and politics. This year's winner was a slam dunk: Gary Helfrich, the new director of the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition.

The Rookie of the Year awards followed, presented to Danielle Martin and Omar Sison. Danielle comes to this honor from the Welcome Wagon incubator, while Omar came to our attention by doing what we always say you should never do: make the Terrible Two your first big ride.

Bill Oetinger took the podium to present the Ride Leader of the Year to the evergreen Janice Eunice (such a marvelous asset for

New Year's Day Rides and Party

Weather permitting, we will be kicking off the new year with a slate of rides around the wine country on the morning of New Year's Day. ("Weather permitting" means not raining.) There will be routes for all levels of riding ambition and tempo (at least ambitions appropriate to the midwinter date). The rides will begin at Schaefer School, near the corner of Coffey and San Miguel, and will follow approximately the same routes as our Wine Country Century 100-K Workers' Ride, with shortcuts inserted here and there for the folks who wish to travel at more leisurely speeds. Check the ride list in the newsletter or at the website for more details on the routes and start times.

After the rides, we will pedal to the club's warehouse/clubhouse (4023 Coffey Lane) for a party to get the new year off on the right foot. Our dedicated, creative volunteers are already planning the party: what to cook, how to organize it, and what to do if it rains. Be aware that parking is very limited at the warehouse. If at all possible, travel to the warehouse on your bike. If the rides are rained out, we will still have the party. In that case, we'll do the best we can with the parking of cars, including parking out on Coffey Lane.

With New Year's Day falling on a Tuesday, we don't have the option of rescheduling the ride to the next day, as we have had in other years, when the date fell on a weekend. We simply have to take whatever Tuesday gives us. If it is raining, we will adjust accordingly: a little rain and we might do a little ride; a lot of rain and we will skip the rides entirely and proceed directly to the party, which happens, rain or shine, ride or no ride.

This is a members-only event and registration is required (so we can accurately estimate food purchases). Registration will be set up at the club's [calendar](#) of rides and events.

We have our volunteer leadership in place for the party—as always, the dynamic duo of Sharron Bates and René Goncalves—and they are being supported (*all of us* are being supported) by a volunteer crew from the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition, led by Tom Helm, looking to give a little back to the club that often supports them. We may still need a few SRCC vols to help the SCBC vols, so if you can assist, please get in touch with...

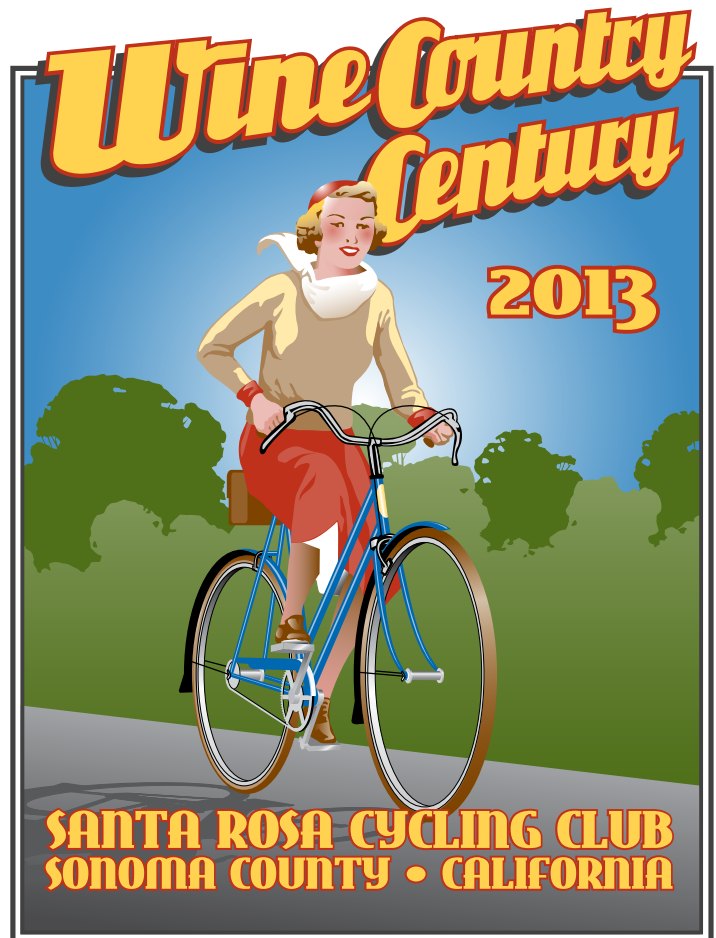
Sharron Bates (526-3512, Sharron@RandalOptimal.com)

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 12. 54 members and friends were present.
- 2. Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Greg Durbin reported on current bank balances, as of November 30. He also made a comprehensive presentation on the proposed budget for 2013. This was approved by vote of the members.
- 3. Membership:** Registrar Gordon Stewart reported membership of 1637 (combining individual and family memberships). Liz Sinna and Karen Thompson acted as hosts at the New Member Table, with one new member on hand.
- 4. Rides:** Ride Director Bill Oetinger circulated the ride calendar for January.
- 5. Tour:** Bill Oetinger spoke about the proposed Central Coast Tour, scheduled for June 1-9, 2013. He noted that all campsites have been reserved and that the services of last year's food-coordinator crew had been retained for this tour as well. (See item on page 8.)
- 6. Swag:** Liz Sinna distributed SRCC license plate frames to members who had been volunteers on club projects in the past year.
- 7. Elections:** Elections coordinator Craig Gaevart noted that nominees for the 2013 Executive Board exactly equal the number of current Board members who have decided to step down, which means that the nominees will run unopposed and that the vote this year—at the January meeting—will be a formality. Candidates are as follows: President: Susan Forsman; VP: Doug Simon; Treasurer: Greg Durbin; Secretary: Sarah Schroer; Officers-at-Large: David Abramo, Liz Sinna, Rochelle Bowman, Sherry Adams, Robert Redmond. Current officers stepping down: Donn King, Karen Thompson, Rick Sawyer, Mike McGuire.
- 8. WCC:** The 2013 Wine Country Century art was unveiled and event Chair Doug Simon discussed plans for the century. (See item, this page.)
- 9. New Year:** Sharron Bates and René Goncalves have graciously offered to once again lend their culinary and logistical support to the annual New Year's Day party, which will be held at the warehouse/club house again. A volunteer team from the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition will assist. (See article on page 1.)
- 10. Donations:** Donn King announced the final list of grant recipients for year-end charitable donations. (See item on page 7.)
- 11. January meeting:** It was mentioned that we were exploring the possibility of moving the January (elections) meeting to a larger facility, but that will not happen after all. Meeting will be at our regular venue.
- 12. Apparel:** Sharron Bates distributed new club apparel orders.
- 13. Holiday Dinner:** Donn King recapped the recent Holiday Dinner and praised the volunteers who had worked so hard to make it happen. (See article on page 1.)
- 14. Scanner:** Board approved \$300 cost for a scanner for Treasurer to assist in recording financial documents.
- 15. Featured presentation:** Slide shows of members' cycling adventures...plus a tsunami of home-made Christmas cookies.



When the new graphics for the upcoming Wine Country Century make their debut in the newsletter, we can start counting down the days to the big event, scheduled this year for Saturday, May 4.

For event Chair Doug Simon and his dedicated crew of committee chairs, that countdown began months ago with planning meetings to sort out many little details. (It's that continual fine-tuning of the details that makes the event better each year.)

Registration is set to open at 12:00 AM on February 1, with registrar Gordon Stewart standing by in the wee hours of the morning to make sure the process runs smoothly. This past year, all 2500 slots in the field sold out in 14 hours, and we have no reason to think this year will be any different. It's a *very* popular ride!

For the most part, early planning for the event follows a business-as-usual trajectory. We know what needs to be done, and those in charge are working their way down their long lists, checking things off as they come due. Once registration launches and we begin to see real numbers, not only for entries but also for apparel sales, things will really kick into gear.

From the point of view of our many member volunteers, perhaps the biggest news at this stage is that Doug and the committee chairs have all agreed to stage the WCC Workers' Ride & Party the day after the WCC, on Sunday, May 5, and to have it at the Wells Fargo Center (the same start/finish venue at the main event the day before). We used to do it this way, years ago, then switched to having the workers' event one week after the WCC and did it that way for several years. Last year, we switched back to the day-after format and felt it worked better, for a variety of reasons.

Look for lists of committee chairs and volunteer sign-up forms beginning next month.

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.

I broke off this chronicle of club rides a week early last month. That is, there was one more week I could have covered before the last newsletter deadline, but didn't. That was because it appeared that weekend—November 17-18—was going to bring us our first official rain-outs of the season, so I buttoned up the newsletter before the weekend, assuming there would be no rides and nothing to report. For the most part, this turned out to be true. Rick Sawyer and Adrienne Johnson called off their Saturday rides in the face of stormy weather, and so did Tom Helm for his Mellow Sunday ride. Turns out Tom was maybe a bit premature in pulling the plug on his Sunday ride, as the forecast (and the real weather) took a turn for the better overnight. Sunday ended up being a reasonably nice day, without a drop of the wet stuff and not even all that nippy.

I was the leader of the other ride on Sunday and am happy to report that we got it done. This was a century starting in Petaluma and heading west to Tomales, down Hwy 1 to Bolinas—including a cute little loop around quirky old Bolinas—then up and over Fairfax-Bolinas Road and finally back toward Petaluma through San Geronimo and Nicasio Valleys. Due to a scheduling glitch (newsletter and web site not being in sync), some folks started at 8:30 and some at 9. They never met up on the road, but all reported having had a good day. I believe about a dozen people did the ride, with all but four opting for a shortcut: east from Point Reyes Station to Petaluma for 70-plus miles. The four who did the full century arrived back in Petaluma nearly at the same time. Everyone, long route or short, felt blessed to have snuck this ride in on a weekend which we had pretty much given up as a lost cause.

The mix-up on the start time was unfortunate. In spite of all the whiz-bang systems we have introduced to take potential human error out of the process of creating and publishing the ride list, we still manage to find ways to mess things up. We hope we learned from this latest goof. Steps have been taken to eliminate that particular sort of mistake.

There were two rides on the last weekend in November, and the weather was pleasant, allowing many overfed folks to burn off a few Thanksgiving calories.

First up was Sue Bennett's ride from SR out to the Twin Hills Ranch near Sebastopol, which does a nice, traditional holiday festival this time of year. Sue sent in this note: "I had 25-30 people for the Twin Hills Ride the Saturday after Thanksgiving. The weather that weekend was great, making for a good ride. While still on Stony Point, a newer member had a flat caused by a staple. While putting the tire back on the rim, a small bulge was discovered in the crown of the tire. We booted the tire for her. At the apple farm, cyclists were sitting on the porch and in a new picnic area enjoying cider, pie and other apple goodies. Alan and I checked the bad tire: it had gotten a lot worse. She did not have anyone to call and really wanted to complete the ride. We told her to go SLOW down Elphick, knowing that after that the ride was flat. By the time she got back to the parking lot, we could see the boot through the hole in the tire. Thank goodness it was an oversized boot. It did its job."

On Sunday, Janice Thomas listed a seriously hard ride: 80 miles in the mountains between Sonoma and Napa Counties...Lawndale, Cavedale, Mt Veeder, and the wicked climb up the backside of Trinity. There were about 20 at the start in Howarth Park. We stayed together pretty well until the stiff pitches on Cavedale stretched things out. After a regroup at the firehouse, we pussyfooted our way down Dry Creek, mindful of the recent slip-n-slide misadventures there. We made it through that minefield okay, but one rider slid out on the Veeder descent, down in the damp, mossy canyon of Redwood Creek. He wasn't hurt much and the bike was fine, so we carried on. The amazing Janice, our Good Shepherd of 2012, proved what a competent, supportive ride leader she is by whipping out an incident report form at our regroup in Napa. She had all the paperwork buttoned up on the spot. That was the only bump in the road on an otherwise delightful day...delightful if you like climbing hill after hill at over 10%.

For the first weekend in December, the rain was back, and this time with no let-up. The whole weekend was a washout. Jessie Kroeck's skills clinic on Saturday, Sarah Schroer's CD ride over Spring Mountain on Sunday, and John and Carole Kolne's Chocolate Ride, also on Sunday. However, Carole used the chat list and club grapevine to reschedule her ride. More about that later.

On the following weekend, the weather was better. Bill Carroll listed a mellow BC ride on the day of the holiday dinner. Not a huge ride, but just enough to whet a few appetites for the banquet that evening. He reports: "My Saturday ride was one of my favorites of the year. We had a great group of 30-35 meeting at the civilized start time of 9:30. It was still cold, but not unmanageable, and after all the recent rain, the clear, blue sky was welcome. There was the usual mix of riders, and I asked everyone at the start to respect a neutral zone until Willowside. No one seemed to mind, and even the fastest riders stayed together until well into the West County. We had one flat on Green Valley, but no other major issues. After a long, leisurely regroup in Guerneville, I suggested a modest pacerline for the ride up River Road. Cooperation was the spirit of the day, and we had the entire peloton *en masse* back to Westside, where it heated up a little, but not much. By the time we got back to the start, many had peeled off to their various starting spots. But there were about 15 who made it back to the house together. Pam had hosted a work party at the house the night before, so we had lots of extra food. About half a dozen stayed for lunch, and we had an impromptu pre-party party."

On Sunday, Janice and Mike Eunice had another of their Welcome Wagon Rides. "We had 11 people on our WW ride out of Healdsburg City Hall. No new riders; just people who wanted an easy ride and who wanted to revel in the beautiful Sonoma County scenery. After our basic 13-mile route around the Magnolia Loop, West Dry Creek, Lambert Bridge, etc., David Albamo suggested a ride around Fitch Mountain. Several of us agreed to do this steeper loop and we completed it."

This was also the date chosen by Carole Kolnes to reboot her annual Chocolate Ride. Here's her report: "This year's annual Holiday Chocolate ride could have been renamed: First Annual Balmy Lemonade Ride. Of the five years we have done this ride, it has never been 66°! Usually we are shivering and dressed like overstuffed elves. This year I even purchased a Smartwool base shirt in anticipation of our annual freezing ride. Of course none of us was complaining.

— 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 pitches (Coleman Valley Road, Franz Valley Road)
 - 5: Very hilly; lots of long climbs (Cavedale, 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 and compare your time to the list above. Ride it once as fast as you can manage (if you want)—an uphill time trial—and then, on another day, ride it at an easy sustainable pace. Your true, natural tempo will be somewhere in between those times.

DISTANCE

The last figure in the formula is miles.

HELMETS ARE MANDATORY ON ALL CLUB RIDES

Ride leaders should provide maps and/or route instructions. Riders should carry ID, emergency info, cash, tube(s), flat repair kit, water bottle(s), and have their own map in case they lose the group.

Non-members are welcome on club rides but must sign a liability waiver provided by the ride leader or available at the club [website](#).

If the course seems too long or difficult, the ride leader may be able to suggest an alternate starting place or bail-out route.

Rain cancels all rides unless otherwise noted.

Rides depart at 10 minutes past listed time.

More info on club rides [here](#).

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

TUESDAY • 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. 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. Party happens rain or shine (whether we ride or not). This ride is members-only and requires an [RSVP](#). See article on page 1 for more information.

A: Barbara Drucker—538-5256
BDrucker@sonic.net

B: Donn King—480-3961
donnk@pacbell.net

C: Bill Oetinger—823-9807
srccride@sonic.net

SATURDAY • JANUARY 5

Roller Toaster

3/D/70
9:30 AM • Lee's Farm
514 8th Street, Petaluma

A winter roller toaster to the base of Mt Tam and back...pretty sure to keep you warm! Out past Nicasio Res. to Olema, down Hwy 1 and up and over Fairfax-Bolinas, home via San Geronimo and Nicasio Valleys and Petaluma-Pt Reyes Road.

Marc Moons—766-9803
mmoonsca@yahoo.com

SUNDAY • JANUARY 6

January Jaunt

2/A/28
10:00 AM • Julliard Park
(A Street side)

West on SR Creek Trail and into Sebastopol. Then a western hills loop: up Cherry Ridge and down Occidental. Home via Joe Rodota Trail. Socializing at Atlas Coffee after the ride.

Susan Hester—573-1532
susanmhester@yahoo.com

Ron's 70th Birthday Ride

3/C/70
9:30 AM • Healdsburg City Hall

Moderately hilly ride with some good long flat sections. Regroup at the top of the Graton

Road climb. Coffee break in Guerneville. Late lunch at Agave in Healdsburg. B riders are welcome, but pace will be at C level.

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

SATURDAY • JANUARY 12

Jumping into January

1-3/AB/34 • 4/BC/55 • 4/CD/55
9:30 AM • Healdsburg City Hall

AB route heads north along Dry Creek and Dutcher Creek to Cloverdale and returns south down Alexander Valley. BC and CD routes head north the same way but then go over the Geysers, Red Winery, etc. Get ready to jump in on a New Year of fun! All groups are welcome. Join us afterwards for lunch and libations at the Bear Republic.

AB: Jack Hartnett—694-0922
jack71542@gmail.com
Sean Butler—664-8289
smbutler@sonic.net

BC: Liz Sinna—484-2459
lizsinna@gmail.com

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

CD: Mike Pucci—650-888-3793
mpucci40@yahoo.com

SUNDAY • JANUARY 13

One Hill Winter Trainer

4/CD/60
9:00 AM • Esposti Park

This ride takes the "easy" way up Spring Mountain. From St Helena, it follows a relatively flat route north and returns to Windsor via Chalk Hill Road. There will be a brief water/bathroom stop in Calistoga.

Sarah Schroer—364-7560
sarahschroer@gmail.com

SRCC Welcome Wagon Ride

1/A/10-15
10:00 AM • Julliard Park, SR

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 • JANUARY 19

SRCC-RUSA 200-K Brevet

Healdsburg City Hall

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.

Ride the Plank

2/BC/60

9:30 AM • Esposti Park, Windsor

If this was a hiking club, this ride could be called Walk the Plank. But since it's a cycling club we'll have to settle for Ride the Plank. Plank Coffee in Cloverdale, that is.

David Fitch—228-9705 David-CFitch@gmail.com

SUNDAY • JANUARY 20

Pleasant Valley Sunday

2/A/33

9:00 AM • Keiser Community Park Windsor

West to the river, Eastside, Wohler, Westside to Hacienda. Martinelli to Forestville and then the West County Regional Trail to Occidental Road. Sanford, Hall, Willowside, Slusser, etc back to Windsor.

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

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

SATURDAY • JANUARY 26

Wine Country Loop

3/B/C/74

9:00 AM • 135 Alderbrook Dr, SR

Traditional wine country loop. Stops at Dry Creek Store and Jimtown Store. Out of Santa Rosa via Wallace and Riebli and back via Parker Hill and Montecito.

Bill Carroll—623-9783 carrollpb@comcast.net

SUNDAY • JANUARY 27

Anniversary Ride

2-3/B/40

9:30 AM • Santa Rosa City Hall

Prince Greenway, Willowside, Hall, Sanford, Occidental, Cherry Ridge, Jonive, Bodega Hwy, BoHo, Graton, West County Trail, High School Road, Joe Rodota Trail. Help us celebrate our anniversary.

Paul Stimson—480-9109 pstimson@sonic.net
Mary-Jane Stimson mstimson@sonic.net

Can't Get Enough of Mom's Apple Pie

2/A/30

10:00 AM • Howarth Park

Out the bike trails to Willowside, then round about to a break at Mom's for pie. Back in on Guerneville to the trails.

Susan Hester—573-1532 susanhester@yahoo.com



REGULAR RIDES

Sunday Training Rides

C/40-50 • 8:30 AM • Bad Ass Coffee

Training rides with hard efforts

Ray Rodriguez—322-6367

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-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): TBA

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: Looking for a leader

Fourth Friday: City Hall lot, H'burg

B: Buck Hall—537-1946

Fifth Friday (B only): Esposti Park

Gary Grayson—538-9262

THANK YOU!

...to the ride leaders of 2012. 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; all the coffee stops and sticky buns. Were it not for their initiative and imagination, our club wouldn't be a *bike* club. There are considerably more names on this list than in recent years, which bodes well for the health of the club. Keep it up in 2013!

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Bill & Evelyn Ellis | Greg Durbin |
| Tony Buffa | Laurie Buettner |
| Carole & John Kolnes | John Olson |
| Tony Lee | Kimberly Hoffman |
| Rick Sawyer | Beth Anderson |
| Sue Bennett | Vin Hoagland |
| Darrin Jenkins | Eric Peterson |
| Janice & Steve Thomas | Alfred Masy |
| Doug & Deanna McKenzie | Buck Hall |
| David Abramo | John Russell |
| Steve & Barbara Drucker | Gary Grayson |
| Bill Oetinger | David Fitch |
| Bill Carroll | Nabeel Al-Shamma |
| Ken Russeff | Mike & Janice Eunice |
| Donna Norrell | Bill Dunn |
| Dave & Irene Batt | Marc Moons |
| Sarah Schroer | Sunny Mawson |
| Christine Logan | John Mills |
| Susan Hester | Chris Jones |
| Steve & Jessie Kroeck | Jerry Fabiano |
| Jack Hartnett | Paul Musson |
| Robert Redmond | Don Cropper |
| Don Graham | Doug Newberg |
| Craig Gaevert | David Henry |
| Tim & Chris Brown | Roger Simmons |
| Rob Connors | Michael Garner |
| Ramona Turner | Ken Cummings |
| Greg Cockcroft | Vicky McKay |
| Garth Powell | Nikola Farats |
| Megan Arnold | Liz Sinna |
| Bob Stiles | Bob Owen |
| Steve Michel | Paul McKenzie |
| Seth Wood | Doug Schrock |
| Anne Graver | Johann Heinzl |
| Donn King | Susan Forsman |
| Holly Johnson | Sherry Adams |
| Tom Helm | Peter Potrebic |
| Brian Gully | Howard Hesterberg |
| Adrienne Johnson | Ron Hodges |
| Craig Johnson | Paul Stimson |
| Joyce Chang | Wayne Kellam |
| Like Scrivanich | Eric Heitz |
| Bill Conklin | Richard Anderson |
| Laura Stansfield | Bob Hasenick |
| Scott Duncan | Ray Rodriguez |

“Thirty-two of us gathered at Esposti Park. Everyone was handed a bag of chocolate, a ticket and a route slip, and by 9:45 sent on their way with the instructions to have a great ride and remember to ride single file and be considerate of one another.

“A few of us stayed back and waited for a couple of people who had called and were running late. I also had to call Mud Coffee in Geyserville and give them a count. We didn’t leave until almost half past ten. We never saw any of the riders for the rest of the ride. Valerie, the owner of Mud Coffee, had nothing but praise for the Santa Rosa Cycling Club riders. She said they were polite and extremely considerate.

“We had a few new club members who said they had heard what a great club we have and were pleasantly surprised. One lady asked me ‘where do we pay?’ At the risk of sounding a bit trite, I told her, ‘The smiles on the faces of the riders when receiving their goodies is the payment.’

“No flats, yummy hot chocolate and coffee, beautiful weather, I guess you could sum it all up and say: just another beautiful day in Paradise.”

One week later and the funky weather was at it again, but did not quite wipe out our entire weekend schedule. This time, Sunday was the day washed out, with David and Sunny calling off their Ride the River A listing. However, on Saturday, I dodged the bullet again with my West Country Winter Loop out of Ragle. This 60-mile BC listing carved a big, simple loop north to Forestville and Guerneville, west to Duncans Mills and onward to the coast, then straight south on Hwy 1 all the way to and through Valley Ford and finally back home via Roblar, Canfield, etc. I almost didn’t ride over to Ragle in the morning. The sky was grey and in was only 38° and looked as if it might start raining at any minute. But I did go to the start and found a dozen hearty cock-eyed optimists, ready to try their luck with the weather. A couple of modest west county hills broke the group into the usual fast and not-so-fast groups, but we all plugged along at a pretty good clip, happy to be out riding on a day that on Friday had looked like a no-hoper. We did not quite get the whole loop done dry though. Out on Hwy 1, there was the lightest sprinkle plinking down, off and on, for a couple of hours. It was enough to get us worried but not enough to get us really wet. We thought about bailing once or twice—running for the barn—but each time we conned ourselves into continuing. And in the end, we managed to do the whole ride, which is no small thing in the week leading up to Winter Solstice.

We ran into SRCC members Michael and Sarah Burke and Rob Hawk (SF region randonné coordinator) at the Valley Ford store during the heaviest of the misty drizzle on this ride. While we were only doing 60 miles, with about 16 to go at that point, they were part way through a 200-K brevet, with 50 miles still to go. Their day kind of put our little jaunt in perspective.

Near the end of this cold, damp adventure, I invited the riders who were with me to detour to my house in Sebastopol. Everyone was tired and at least slightly soggy and chilled, so they all accepted. I made grilled cheese sandwiches and handed around mugs of hot chocolate laced with coffee and Makers Mark. Snatching a ride right out from under the drippy noses of the rain gods, then having a warm, cheery lunch afterward...good stuff!

200-K option added to Terrible Two

The Terrible Two double century—one of the club’s premier events each year—will be adding a 200-K option beginning in 2013. (The TT is scheduled for Saturday, June 15.) The primary reason for doing this is simple: revenue. Every year, the cost of staging the event goes up, especially with the addition of paramedics on the course. We’ve raised the entry fee more than once in recent years, but we don’t feel comfortable continuing to raise the fee for the riders, year after year. The only way to keep revenues ahead of expenses without raising the fee to ridiculous levels is to expand the pool of paying participants. But the TT is so hard, so intimidating, that it pretty much limits itself as to how many riders are willing to sign up for it each year. So...how do we bring in more participants and more entry fees? Add a 200-K, running concurrently with the double.

After the doubles riders have left (at 5:30 AM), the 200-K riders will gather for check-in. They will be allowed to start anytime between 6:30 and 7:30. They will not be timed and will not be tracked through the stops, as we do with the doubles riders. They will have numbers, but of a different color. The riders will head directly north to Vine Hill, where they will pick up the WCC route and follow it to the lunch stop at Warm Springs Dam, which will come up at mile 32. They will then follow the second half of the TT course, including the daunting climbs on Skaggs Springs and Fort Ross. We will have a somewhat expanded lunch service at the Rancheria rest stop during the passage of the 200-K riders. That’s about halfway around their loop.

Total distance for the course is 121 miles, with between 10,000' and 11,000' of steep gain. It will be a very challenging 200-K. (We will be sure, with our website copy, that prospective riders understand just how challenging it will be.) We intend to limit the 200-K field to 250 riders, at least to begin with, until we fully understand the logistics of this new undertaking.

Depending on their start time, the 200-K riders should arrive at the dam at least a couple of hours ahead of the fastest doubles riders. We expect most of the 200-K riders will stay ahead of most of the doubles riders all day, although there may be some overlap between the slowest 200-Ks and the fastest full TTs later in the day.

Having 250 riders on the course two hours or more ahead of our current schedule means expanding the time windows for all of the rest stops after lunch, including the finish. This will require additional rest stop personnel—perhaps two shifts for each stop—and more sag drivers. It will be a challenge, but we think it’s worth the extra work. With the added revenue, we will be able to continue to support the event at the highest level...the level that has made the Terrible Two the #1 ranked double in rider satisfaction in the California Triple Crown series.

The 200-K will give many riders a chance to experience the dreaded second half of the TT under “game day” conditions, with full support. It will offer an opportunity for riders to learn the course before—perhaps—coming back another year to try the full TT. And then, for some riders, it may be a worthy prize all by itself: a very challenging and beautiful ride...epic!

200-K riders may buy t-shirts that will say “200-K” instead of “I DID IT!” 200-K finishers will not qualify for TT jerseys and no special jerseys are planned for the 200-K at this time.

Stay tuned in the months ahead as we iron out the details and bring this exciting new venture forward. Registration for both the Terrible Two and the Terrible 200-K will open on February 15.

Holiday Dinner

—Continued from page 1

the club). After honoring Janice, all ride leaders in the crowd were asked to stand and accept a round of applause. Ride leaders who had been especially active this year were presented with natty black SRCC cycling caps.

The Matt Wilson Spirit Award (formerly Most Inspirational) was next. This was presented to Karen Thompson, who has indeed inspired many with her year-and-half-long battle back from serious injuries sustained in the 2011 Terrible Two.

The next presentation was the Golden Shoe (most supportive spouse or partner). First there was an Honorable Mention in this category—literally, Golden Shoelaces—presented to Donn Frankin, husband of Genevieve Navar. Typically, the Golden Shoe goes to a partner who has helped their mate accomplish great things on the bike. This year, it was a little different. The award went to a man who has supported his wife in her never-ending efforts to support other cyclists (all of us, in fact). That would be Ron Bates, husband of Sharron Bates.

Then we had a 20-minute intermission, where we stretched our legs and had a chance for more chatting with folks at other tables (a nice addition to the program this year).

After the break, we moved on to the Good Shepherd award, for the most conscientious, supportive ride leader. This went to Janice Thomas. (See this month's *Backroads & Breakaways* for an example of Janice in action as a ride leader.) Most Improved Riders was next. Liz Sinna was an easy choice on the female side, improving from nursing a gimpy leg all the way to doing five double centuries, including that infamous Terrible Two. Scott Duncan was the men's winner, knocking off his first two doubles in 2012.

Moving up (metaphorically) from there, we had the King and Queen of the Mountains awards. Marc Moons, our Flandrian flahutie, was once again nearly a lock on the men's side, completing the Colorado Triple Crown, plus climbing Mt Evans while he was in the Rockies, not to mention finishing third on the TT. Sarah Schroer took home the women's prize (first woman at the Mt Tam double and second woman at the TT, among other things).

Club Treasurer Greg Durbin—who can ride a bike as well as he can balance the books—was given a special tribute: the Buster Posey Award. Like the Giant's hometown hero, Greg fought back from injuries to complete the CTC, including a brilliant ride at the TT, in spite of the brutal conditions.

Karen Cooper was presented with the legendary Gearhead award for her part in a group challenge to complete 50 centuries in 50 states in 50 days.

Finally, Robert Choi and Susan Forsman were honored as SRCC Riders of the Year. Robert finished second overall in the California Triple Crown Stage Race (plus finishing with Marc in third at the TT) and Susan was the top woman finisher in the Stage Race (plus being the first woman at both Devil Mtn and the Terrible Two). They were our only two members to complete the all-Southern California Stage Race this year, but they did the club proud.

Throughout the evening, in between the awards, names were being drawn for door prizes...our gifts to the members. And at the same time, many members were giving gifts as well: contributing toys that were later delivered to a Santa Rosa fire station, to be distributed to needy children.

Karen Thompson took the lead role in both figuring out the awards and organizing the entire evening. She deserves a huge "*Chapeau!*" for that. But she wants us to also recognize all the other people who helped to make the dinner and the presentations a success. Aside from those already mentioned, here are a few more laurels for jobs well done...

Table hosts (helping new members feel more at home): Ron and Sharron Bates, René Goncalves, Bob Redmond, Tim and Chris Brown, Ron and Ramona Turner.

Behind the scenes: Liz Sinna, Sunny Mawson, Ron and Ramona Turner, Rick Sawyer, David and Fern Abramo.

Presenters: Susan Forsman, Joyce Chang, Sarah Schroer, Sunny Mawson, Megan Arnold, Robert Redmond

The Holiday Dinner has been a fixture on the club calendar for 17 years now. It has been held in eight different restaurants or other venues (Chez Peyo, Hotel la Rose, Mistral, Union Hotel, Vineyard Creek Inn, Druids Hall, Flamingo Hotel, Charlie's). Prior to 1996, the year-end awards were all presented at the regular January club meeting, where free beer and pizza and the election of club officers spiced up the proceedings.

Things were getting so crowded at the January meetings that several members came up with the idea of the Holiday Dinner, complete with the awards presentations, to take some of the pressure off the overcrowded Round Table group room...and also to dress up the occasion a bit more, with fancier clothes and better food, etc. For 17 years, we've been tinkering with the details, trying to refine the original package. Overall, we think it's working pretty well, thanks to the efforts of those many volunteers.

SRCC 2012 Charitable Donations

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 nominate organizations as possible grant recipients (in October) and then to vote for nominated organizations during the month of November.

A total of \$10,000 was available for donations from surplus funds in the 2012 club budget. (We anticipate having a surplus in most years.) Nominees totaling less than 5% of the vote receive no donations, 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:

Santa Rosa SE Greenway Campaign: \$1725.00

Community Bikes: \$1500.00

Landpaths: \$1375.00

Challenged Athletes Fund: \$1275.00

Women's Recovery Services: \$1225.00

Sonoma County Parks: \$1125.00

Sonoma County Trails Council: \$900.00

Team Swift: \$875.00

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, state, and national cycling advocacy organizations, the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, and the Santa Rosa organizing committee for the Tour of California.

SANTA ROSA CYCLING CLUB

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- 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, January 9 • 6:30 PM

Occidental Road Round Table Pizza

Featured presentation: annual election of Board officers, plus assorted awards and other fun

Wednesday, February 13

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

(Open to all interested members)

Thursday, January 3 • 6:00 PM

Marlow Center Round Table Pizza (Marlow & Guerneville)

Thursday, February 7



The Central Coast Tour starts and ends in Monterey and heads south down the legendary Big Sur coast, then east and north along the quiet backroads of San Luis Obispo and San Benito Counties. It returns to Monterey via Carmel Valley. With longer and shorter options each day, it is appropriate for both moderate and advanced riders. A thumbnail [preview](#) of the tour is available now at the club website. Included in that preview is a link to a much more extensive guidebook about the tour.

This is the only one-week tour the club is sponsoring this year...at least that we know of so far. Entry fee is \$425. Roster is limited to 45, including staff. Registration will open at 8:00 pm on Thursday, January 10.