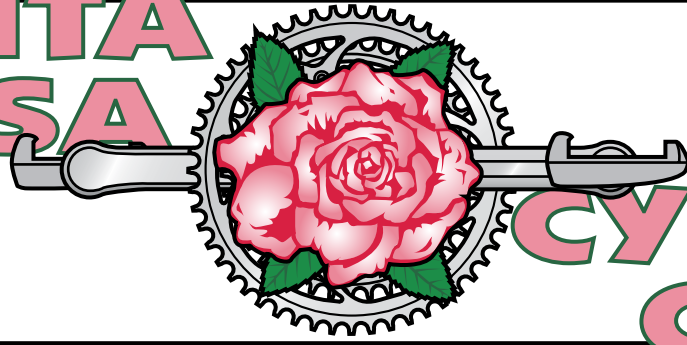


SANTA ROSA



CYCLING CLUB

FEBRUARY 2013 NEWSLETTER

New Year's Day: same big fun as ever

Looking back at the copy for last year's report on the 2012 New Year's Day ride and party, it seems the same words and phrases could be used to describe the 2013 event. The differences were all minor. Last year we estimated a record 200 members took part; this year the estimate was up to 225. Last year, the weather was unseasonably warm and sunny for the date; this year, more of the same: nippy but crisp and clear and dry. Last year, pasta and sausages at the party; this year, barbecued chicken and baked potatoes and all the trimmings. And so on...

If you look back over the history of the club, you will note that not all of our New Year's kick-off events have enjoyed such fortunate circumstances. Winter weather is the usual adversary, with many of the rides either rained out or canceled. The parties have usually gone on, rain or shine, although sometimes with substantially reduced attendance. Parties in the old days were held at members' houses, but have been at the warehouse for several years now. (Yes, it is officially our warehouse, but on happy occasions such as this one, it functions equally well as a *de facto* clubhouse. How many bike clubs can say they have their own clubhouse or, for that matter, their own warehouse?)

This year's event was once again ably organized by Sharron Bates, René Goncalves, and Doug Simon, and they were assisted by a crew from the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition, who offer their volunteer time at this event as a way of saying thank you to the SRCC for supporting their organization every year. It's good to see the synergy between the two dynamic groups.

As far as we know, the A, B, and C rides all went off without a hitch. The fastest group—C—left the start at Schaefer School first. The B group gave them a six-minute head start. The C's had eight extra miles to ride. With the head start, the extra miles, and the speed differential, it was like one of those grade school story problems: who would arrive where first? In fact, both groups rolled into the mid-ride rest stop at the Jimtown Store exactly together...two groups of at least 50 riders each descending on the little cycling oasis *en masse*, arriving from opposite directions.

After that *intermezzo*, everyone pointed their front wheels toward the warehouse, where lunch awaited. Riders trickled into the finish over a couple of hours, but all found good food and good company in abundance. It all added up to another nearly perfect day...a perfect way to ring in the New Year. Thanks to everyone who participated, as riders, party-hearties, or volunteers.

Letter from the President

Dear Members,

Thank you for trusting that the new Board will continue to provide the excellent contributions that former Boards have done for the past 45 years or so that the club has been in existence. Behind the scenes, there is an army of dedicated volunteers that make the Board look very good. I will try to do my best, with the help of all those behind the scenes. I hope to continue to give the club the dedication and support the club has given me in the past years.

Some of my first encounters with the club were with Bill Oetinger, Gordon Stewart, and Donn King. I have ridden hundreds of miles with the three of them, especially with Donn, who gave me support during my hard, long-distance brevet rides in 2001 and 2002. (We even planned to ride Paris-Brest-Paris in 2003 but got separated at the beginning of the event.) Those friendships have continued and now I'm honored to be at the head of the club working for you.

It is amazing that Bill, Gordon, and Donn have continued to serve the club all these years that I have been in and out of the area. And there are many others of you who serve the club unconditionally. There are no words to describe my gratitude and my humbling appreciation for all of you.

I was Rider of the Year in 2003, Gearhead Award recipient in 2010 and Rider of the Year in 2012. I just hope to perform better than I do on the bike as your new President. The Board is a mix of incumbent and new officers, which will make for a nice balance to keep things running smoothly, as they have been for decades.

Get out and ride, seriously ride! (It does wonders for your skin, not to mention your heart, lungs, and well-being.)

— Susan Forsman, 2013 SRCC President

Wine Country Century kicks into gear

February is our traditional launching pad for Wine Country Century preparations. In fact, Doug Simon, the event Chair, and his crew of crackerjack committee chairs, have already been checking things off their to-do lists for months already. But this is when the club as a whole gets serious about our biggest event of the year.

Registration opens at midnight of Jan 31/Feb 1, and based on the feeding frenzies that have ensued on that date in recent years, we can expect all 2500 entries to be snapped up within a few hours...

Continued on page 7

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 9. 63 members and friends were present.

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

3. Membership: Registrar Gordon Stewart reported membership of 1660 (combining individual and family memberships). Liz Sinna and Karen Thompson acted as hosts at the New Member Table, with two new members on hand. Karen had created laminated FAQ/info cards, which were handed out to new members to assist in getting up to speed in the club.

4. Rides: Ride Director Bill Oetinger circulated the ride calendar for February.

5. Tour: Bill Oetinger spoke about the proposed Central Coast Tour, scheduled for June 1-9, 2013. He noted that registration for the tour would open at 8 PM the next day. (See item, page 6.)

6. Free Lunch: Doug Simon and Bill Oetinger announced that a fully supported King Ridge ride in April will replace the traditional Free Lunch Ride as a Spring treat for members, and that the funds formerly allocated for the Free Lunch Ride will be used to buy supplies for this ride.

7. Elections: A new Executive Board was elected. (See article on page 6 and new Board roster on page 8.)

8. WCC: Event Chair Doug Simon reviewed preparation for the century. (See item beginning on page 1.)

9. New Year: Doug Simon saluted the work done by René Goncalves and Sharron Bates and the SCBC volunteers at the annual New Year's Day party. (See article on page 1.)

10. Commute Miles: Karen Thompson presented awards to the top placers in the 2012 Commute Miles on-line log. Other participants were presented with raffle prizes. (See article, this page.)

11. Apparel: Sharron Bates distributed new club apparel orders.

13. Miles: Donn King coordinated the annual countdown to see who had ridden the most miles in 2012. The last riders in the competition, with somewhere over 7000 miles, were Liz Sinna and Sarah Schroer, with Susan Forsman nipping at their heels.

14. Club volunteers: Doug Simon presented two poster-sized organizational charts showing all the many volunteer assignments in the club and all the key people who currently fill those positions. The goal was to fully illustrate how many such assignments there are and to encourage other members to become interested in those various committees and tasks and responsibilities.

15. Grizzly: Kimberly Hoffman was honored with an award for her years of work in chairing the annual trek to the Grizzly Century.

16. Prez: Bill Oetinger presented Donn King with a free entry in the upcoming Central Coast Tour as a token of the club's appreciation for Donn's three years as President of the club.

17. Swag: The logo-gear committee reported to the Board on the status of SRCC-branded sweatshirts to be made available to members sometime this spring.

Commute Miles and Century Challenge

Each year the club runs two on-line logs where members can enter data about their riding. One is the [Commute Miles](#) log, which records all the trips and miles riders make by bike that might otherwise have been made by car. The other is the [Century Challenge](#), which records all the rides that members do that approximate 100 miles...centuries.

In each case, the purpose of the interactive logs is two-fold. First of all, it gives members a chance to strut their stuff, to show what good things they've accomplished. In that sense, it is a form of friendly competition. Second, it is supposed to serve as inspiration for other members: seeing someone else's big numbers up there on the screen might make you think, "I could do that too!" But it isn't always about finishing first or being one of the Big Dawgs. It is about participating at all, at any level. Doing one or two centuries is better than doing none; commuting or running errands by bike every now and then is better than not at all. Each little accomplishment is a personal victory, a victory for cycling, and a victory for good health (personal and global). We want to celebrate every one of those moments, large or small.

At the January meeting, participants in the Commute Miles log were honored. Gift cards to local bicycle shops (Echelon Cycle and Multisport, Windsor Bicycle Center, and the Trek Store) were presented to the top "commuters" in both total miles and total trips: David Fitch (6,516 miles), Guy Porter (6,150 miles), Frank Oddy (3,406 miles), Vin Hoagland (799 trips and 3,923 miles), Vicki Duggan (580 trips) and Pat Munsch (424 trips). A raffle was also held, handing out further prizes to other participants in the program. Others taking home swag: Genevieve Navar, Sue Bennett, Karen Cooper, and Barbara Drucker.

There were no awards for the top guns in the Century Challenge this year. Apparently simply knocking off a lot of centuries is its own reward: knowing you did the rides and seeing the numbers add up at the website. The top finishers in 2012 were...

Craig Robertson (40 centuries), Liz Sinna (30), Sarah Schroer and Fred Schwartz (24), Greg Durbin (23), Bill Oetinger (19), Mike Gire, Rick Sawyer, and Robert Morris (15). Congratulations to these long-haul truckers of the SRCC. You show the rest of the members what's possible.

We suspect that there were many other members whose numbers were possibly as good as those of at least some on this list (and ditto for the commute list). But we can't post them here (or on the website) for all to admire unless those parties take the time to log on to the sites and enter their data. Signing up for the sites takes a grand total of about five minutes, and once you're signed up, your password is good forever, rolling over to each new year. Logging new entries goes even more quickly. It couldn't be much easier.

Seriously...we really, really want to see your numbers there! Those who take part in the series now know it's fun to do (and easy), but it would be much more fun if hundreds of members were involved instead of dozens. And, as noted above, we don't care if you do two centuries or two dozen, four commute trips or 400. Doing the rides is the main thing. And then being a part of the SRCC family by participating in the logs is the rest of it: mixing it up with your club mates in a big mosh pit of miles...the more the merrier. Don't be shy: show us what you're doing out there on your bike.

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.

Several wet and windy storms swarmed ashore around the Christmas holidays, putting a crimp in whatever riding plans most of us may have had. If your schedule was flexible though, you might have found a few hours of weak winter sun here or there to log at least a few miles. But the few official rides on the schedule were all washed out, or nearly so. David Fitch had a ride on December 22. He said one person showed up and they agreed to give it a try. They ended up modifying the route and did the Medio Fondo course. Yes, they got rained on, but not too dreadfully. Sue Bennett's Christmas Day cookie ride was rained out, but the party happened at her house anyway, ride or no ride.

The last weekend of the year began with Bill Ellis' Healdsburg-Sweetwater Loop at C tempo. Bill reports: "On Saturday, 11 brave souls ventured out into what was earlier forecast as possible rain and cold temps to ride the Sweetwater Springs loop out of Healdsburg. Instead of rain, we were treated to a really very nice day with mostly blue skies. It was still a bit on the chilly side early on, but warmed up a little by the time we returned to Healdsburg. We stuck together as a group really well, with nice paceline riding in the flatter parts. There were a couple regroupings on Sweetwater to allow the ride leader to catch back up, but otherwise only stopped once for coffee in Guerneville, as planned. The descent on Sweetwater was wet, but everyone got down without incident. Thanks to everyone who showed up. It was a really nice day on the bike!" (This is, I think, Bill's first foray back into ride leading after a long time away, due to medical challenges. It's wonderful to see Bill back in the saddle and in the thick of club life.)

The only ride on Sunday was Le Tour de Cember, a century carving a big loop around Napa and Sonoma Counties, with groups going off at BC and CD pace. Janice Thomas was the primer organizer, with help from Liz Sinna and Richard Anderson. Richard sent in this note about the CD group: "In temperatures somewhere around freezing, the CD group took off 11 strong from Howarth Park. We picked up four more riders upon turning onto Mark West Springs Road. We stayed together pretty much the whole way, while adding a rider here and there and having several peel off on the way. At times, various breezes made it seem like at some point we might have to face some stiff winds; but no, the day seemed to get better with each passing hour, with clear friendly skies. We finished 13 strong with only one flat in the final mile. Camaraderie ran high as we reconnected with old friends and made some new ones. Marc Moons made a major contribution when he led the group through a double rotating pace line that was a lot like speed dating on wheels. Karl Kuhn was riding strong upon returning from a temporary retirement. There were quite a few Big Dogs in the group, and every once in awhile they'd come off the leash and lift it to a very spirited pace. A good time was had by all."

I can report on the BC ride, although Richard covers most of the highlights. I think we had about 13 at the start in the back group. Three guys dropped back from the front group to our group midway, so we ended up with 16. Added to the fast group's 13 or 14, we had about 30 riders out for a century on December 30. Not bad. The thermometer on the big display at the Fairgrounds said

32° as I drove to the start. And I think it only ever got as warm as 51° later in the day. So nippy, for sure. But it didn't seem that painfully cold, at least not after we got our engines warmed up. We didn't quite have Marc's rotating paceline, but we did have a nicely organized line heading down Silverado Trail and anywhere else with a similar open, level or rolling road. There was a bit of a tailwind pushing us along, all the way from Hwy 128 to the Carneros, helping us keep our tempo lively. We feared it would turn into a contrary head or cross wind on the way back west and north from the bottom of the loop, but it didn't happen (as Richard notes). All in all, an excellent day. We really could not have asked for better weather. The forecast had been for partly cloudy, but it was nothing but blue skies, all day long. Blue skies, green fields, tailwinds, and good company. A nice way to wrap up the year.

The next thing on our dance card was the New Year's Day rides and party, about which you can read more on page 1.

A few days after the New Year's hoopla, Marc Moons had a D-pace ride on the list, heading out of Petaluma and down to a run up and over Fairfax-Bolinas Road. Marc reports: "Cloudy, 50's and rain in the forecast...typical Belgian summer day. Eleven at the start: locals Greg, Aaron, Hunt, Dale, Bob, Barley, Brian, Mike and Marc. Russ from Florida and Michele from The Cayman Islands, a 2x Olympic and 4x Commonwealth Games track cyclist. Bob, Barley and Dale decided to tag along a bit before doing their own gig. On Hicks Valley, Bill Ellis joined us for a short chat. Everyone did their share in the chain gang on the flats and rollers. On the climbs, all played their own pairs of aces. Short rolling regroupings kept everyone together. The last few climbs on the home stretch broke things up, but we all reached Petaluma without any hiccups, just in time before the rain hit. A strong group and a sweet pace...a good kick start for a new year on two wheels!"

The next day, Ron Hodges had a 70-mile C ride out of Healdsburg. The weather was funky looking at the start, so only three people showed up. Ron says in the end, it turned out to be a decent day, and they had a good ride.

Also on this day, Susan Hester listed an A ride from Santa Rosa out into the west county hills: "20 people started out on a cold, chilly morning from Juilliard Park. In less than two miles we would have our first of three flats. One of the later flats belonged to Carole Kolnes, who rode all the way up Cherry Ridge before she discovered her back tire was flat. Sue Bennett almost kissed a deer as it flew past her nose on the downhill of Cherry Ridge. We all made it back in one piece. Afterwards, some of us gathered at Atlas Coffee for hot cocoa, coffee, and conversation."

The next weekend—January 12—the crowd gathered at the Healdsburg City Hall lot looked to be almost as big as the one for the New Year's rides. Wall to wall riders. We eventually ballpark-estimated the crowd at around 75 for the three different categories. This was for a big loop up and over the Geysers for two of the groups and up to Geyserville for the third. Liz Pepperpot Sinna was the ringleader for this big adventure. Here's her report: "The day started out in the low 30's and warmed to low 50's at the finish. It was nice feeling the sun on your back, but still had that cold nip in the air. I'm glad that we had a 9:30 start time! The views were spectacular going out and got even better as the day unfolded...or defrosted. The AB group split off to Geyserville Mudd while the BC and CD groups hit the Geysers. The views were stunning of the streams, the skies

— Continued on page 6

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](#).

RIDE SCHEDULE

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

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 2

Ground Hog Day Ramble 2/AB/40

10:00 AM • Healdsburg City Hall

Join us for a fun social Groundhog Day ramble through the upper Russian River and Dry Creek Valleys. We'll cross all four bridges from Wohler Bridge to Yoakim Bridge as we take this scenic 40-mile ride through wine country. Bailout options will allow you to shorten your ride to 20 or 30 miles if needed. We'll stop at mile 25 for coffee at the Dry Creek Store. Afterwards come join us for lunch join to celebrate the day with "Ground Hog" (i.e. sausages) at Wurst Sausage Grill and Beer Garden in Healdsburg. Vegetarian and vegan options are available.

Bill Finkelstein—478-7945
bill@williamfinkelstein.com

Mary Mack—695-8228
mary@marymackdesigns.com

Short 'n Not-So-Sweet 4/C/42

9:00 AM • Ragle Park

A little jaunt through some West County hills, with a good portion of your afternoon left for other things.

Ken Cabeen—799-6969
kencabeen@yahoo.com

SRCC-RUSA 200-K Brevet 3-4/BCD/200 K (124 miles) 8:00 AM • Novato

This is a new route for 2013. Starts in Novato, over Wilson Hill, Chileno Valley to Tomales, north to Occidental, up to Cazadero and back. Ride requires registration and an entry fee. For more information, visit our [brevet page](#) at the club website.

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 3

Easy Winter Century 3/BC/100

8:30 AM • Analy HS

North to the river, west to the coast, then down the coast through Bodega Bay and on to Valley Ford, Tomales, and Chileno Valley. Finally north through the butter-and-egg belt back to Sebastopol. An easy century for the winter, with plenty of bail-outs for those who want fewer miles, or for all of us if the weather turns nasty. Regroups in Monte Rio (mile 27), Valley Ford (52), and Helen Putnam Park (78).

Bill Oetinger—823-9807
srccride@sonic.net

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 9

Two Hill Winter Trainer 2-4/CD/65 10:00 AM • Howarth Park

The 10 am start time allows participants to add extra miles by riding to the start. We begin with a trip up the "easy" side of Spring Mountain via St Helena Road, followed by an opportunity to practice paceline skills down the Napa Valley; then Dry Creek Road over Trinity (there is no easy way up *this* hill!). We will have a brief bathroom/water break at the halfway point in Yountville.

Sarah Schroer—364-7560
sarahschroer@gmail.com

Valentine Day Ride for the Heart 2/AB/38

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 American Heart Association National Heart Month and Valentine's Day which is next week.

Sue Bennett—523-1322
sueb631@yahoo.com

Medio Fondo

3/BC/57

9:30 AM • Youth Community Park

Medio Fondo in the wintertime.

david fitch—228-9705
davidcfitch@gmail.com

liz sinna—484-2459
lizsinna@gmail.com

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 10

Westside to Occidental and back via Chalk Hill 3/C/70

9:00 AM • Healdsburg City Hall

Rolling climbs with good opportunity for paceline work. Some long moderate climbs. Coffee at Jimtown, regroup at tops of climbs and Hwy 128-Chalk Hill. B riders are welcome, but the pace is C.

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

SRCC Welcome Wagon Ride 1/A/10-15

10:00 AM • Howarth 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

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 16

Valentine Sweetheart Ride

3/C or BC/54

9:00 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.

C: Jessie & Steve
Kroeck—829-0224

kroecks@sbcglobal.net

BC: Susan Noble—303-4275
noblesusan1@yahoo.com

Mystic Mile

3/A/35

10:00 AM • Cotati Dog Park

Out into the Two Rock area, then past the Coast Guard base and south on Chileno Valley into Petaluma for a break at the creamery. Then back to Cotati through the hen house hills north of Petaluma and west of Penngrove.

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

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

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 17

Sebastopol-Valley Ford

3/B/38

9:30 AM • Ragle Range Park

I plan to lead a ride a month from the club's *Ten Great Rides* list. This is the first one. This ride explores the hills and valleys to the southwest of the town of Sebastopol. It contains quite a few hills and at least one mile of heavily traveled highway, so, although short, it is not recommended for novice riders.

Susan Forsman—415-225-9405
susan.forsman@volagi.com

Gone Wonderin'

3/A/43

9:30 AM • Cotati Dog Park

Karen's birthday Ride. No-drop A pace, but

everyone welcome to join us. A moderately hilly loop out to Valley Ford via Roblar, Canfield, Bloomfield. Then Franklin School, Whitacker Bluff, Middle to a bakery break in Tomales. Home via Hwy 1, Fallon-Two Rock, Carmody, Roblar, West Sierra, etc.

Karen Cooper—540-1441
blubird@sonic.net

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

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 23

To Windsor for Coffee

1-2/AB/36

9:30 AM • Howarth Park

A moderate to easy ride out to Windsor for coffee. Bike trails through town, then out around the airport, etc.

Jack Hartnett—694-0922
jack71542@gmail.com

SRCC-RUSA 200-K Brevet

3-4/BCD/200 K (127 miles)

7:00 AM • Healdsburg City Hall

Our third 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 24

Journey to Jimtown

2/BC/51

9:00 AM • San Miguel School

North along Faught, Chalk Hill, and 128 to Jimtown, including a loop around Red Winery. Then Lytton Station, Lytton Springs, Lambert Bridge. South on West Dry Creek and Westside, back toward home on Eastside, Mark West Station, Slusser, Laughlin, Shiloh.

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

Harry Williamson—423-322-4151
hbwillia44@gmail.com

SATURDAY • MARCH 16

20th Annual Apple Cider Century

3-5/BC/100 • 3/BC/100 K

8:30 AM • Ragle Park

Both routes together through the west county hills—Green Valley, Pocket Canyon, River—to the first regroup in Monte Rio. At MR, the 100 K heads south on Boho, through Occi and down to Valley Ford, Whitacker Bluff, and Tomales. Meanwhile, the full century

heads out to Caz and then climbs Fort Ross Road to Meyers Grade before returning to Monte Rio and picking up the 100-K course. A fairly challenging century, but not brutal,, with some of the best scenery on any ride, anywhere. We are looking for a leader to be at the front at C+ pace and for another leader to manage the 100-K course.

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



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

and the beautiful mountains. Happy to report that there were no accidents and only one mechanical. The frost on the roads was a big concern for many of us and everyone heeded our warnings. We (about 30) rewarded our efforts afterwards, gathering at the Bear Republic and filling our bellies with beer and burgers and the like. Special thanks to my wonderful ride leaders: AB: Jack Hartnett and Sean Butler, BC: Janice Thomas joining me and CD: Mike Pucci and Richard Anderson. These multi-level/tempo rides are fun and they couldn't happen without these club members who helped create great routes that all could enjoy."

The next day, Sarah Schroer had a ride up and over St Helena Road and Spring Mtn and down into Napa Valley, listed at CD pace. Sarah sent us this note about it: "The official temperature was 28 degrees as our group departed Esposti Park. Eight cyclists, multi-layered and mitten-handed, set off at an easy warm-up pace. St Helena Road was strewn with red gravel, and a heavy frost dusted the roadside greenery. An unexpected sight: long icicles hanging from moss covered rocks at a particularly chilly turn of the road. Once over the summit, the sun was stronger and the road was clear, although we descended with care, knowing there could be water or ice on the road in several areas. Back on level ground in the warming sunshine, the group settled into a mile-eating paceline and we quickly reached Calistoga. A few layers were shed as the temperature reached 50 degrees. We crossed the county line again and were on the home stretch, Knights Valley and Chalk Hill Road, arriving back at Esposti Park ready for a well-earned lunch."

Also on this day, Mike and Janice Eunice had another installment of their Welcome Wagon rides, and Janice sent in this note about it: "This is to let you know that Mike led the Welcome Wagon ride today. It was 30° when he left home, thinking no one would come out in this cold weather. There were 15 participants including Mike. There were two or three non-members and a couple new to the club rides. The sun was out on this beautiful morning, so it made it less cold, and all seem to have had a great time at the coffee stop." (Many of you may not know that Mike broke his neck in a crash on Sonoma Mtn a few years ago. At the time, there was a great deal of doubt as to whether he could ever ride a bike again. So seeing a note like this is more than just a happy ride report.)

Central Coast Tour sells out quickly

Registration for the club's summer tour—the Central Coast Tour, scheduled for June 1-9—opened at 8:00 PM on Thursday, January 10. Within a little over half an hour, all of the available spaces on the tour had been booked.

The roster had been set at 45, which includes six spaces reserved for staff (sag drivers, truck drivers, and the tour director). After the 39 remaining spots were snapped up, names began piling up on the wait list. Within a couple of days, the total number of SRCC members who had signed on with the hope of doing the tour had reached 70.

This is not the first time a club tour has sold out so quickly, The 2011 Southern Utah Tour booked out in under ten minutes. But last year's Northwest Oregon Tour, which really was every bit as good and as appealing as either the Utah trip or this year's tour, never did sell out, eventually hitting the road with only 37 participants.

Board officers elected at January meeting

The regular club meeting in January is the traditional time and place for voting in the officers who will serve on the Executive Board of the club for the coming year.

In some years, there are more candidates than there are openings, so it really turns into a contested election. In other years—such as this one—the number of officers leaving the Board exactly matches the number of candidates for the available vacancies. When that happens, the voting process is simplified. There are no secret ballots, but just an election by acclamation (a show of hands) of the members present.

All candidates must be elected in any year: not just new nominees, but also incumbents. Each of the prospective office holders stood up and introduced themselves and said a few words about why they want to be on the Board.

Four members of last year's Board had decided to step aside this year: President Donn King, Secretary Karen Thompson, and Officers-at-Large Rick Sawyer and Mike McGuire. The assembled members honored them for their years of service to the club.

Staying on for another year are Vice-President Doug Simon, Treasurer Greg Durbin, and Officers-at-Large David Abramo and Robert Redmond. Former Officer-at-Large Susan Forsman is taking over as President. (See her note on page 1.)

New to the Board this year are Sarah Schroer, who will be taking over the job of Secretary, and Liz Sinna, Rochelle Bowman, and Sherry Adams, who will serve as Officers-at-Large.

Four out of nine positions on the Board changing hands in one election cycle is a slightly higher rate of turnover than we usually see. But it has always been the conventional wisdom in the club that we need new folks becoming involved in club leadership roles; that this is better than all the power and decisions being concentrated in the hands of a few old vets, year after year. With that in mind, we are happy to see the changes (even as we salute the outgoing officers, who have all served ably). While, in general, we don't think the club is in need of any serious fixes, and that the recent administration has been excellent, we also welcome the fresh perspective and energy that new people will bring to the task. Thank you to all who have served on the Board and to those who will be serving in the new year.

Part of the reason for this year's rush to register is that it is the only tour on the club's calendar so far. (Another one may be in the works, but nothing is settled yet, and it probably will only be a mini-tour, not a full week tour.) Also, the Central Coast Tour offers longer and shorter options each day, so is accessible to more riders...moderate riders as well as the more advanced ones.

In the past, we have always tried to bring along everyone who has signed up for a tour, but the current situation makes that goal almost impossible. Two things may happen: a few who have signed up may withdraw. (This is almost a given.) And we may be able to expand the roster slightly. Both will open up a few spaces for folks on the wait list. How many we can add won't be known for some time yet. People near the top of the wait list have some reason to be hopeful, but those a good way down the file had probably better start thinking about other vacation plans. We couldn't be more sorry to say this. We wish we could take everyone who wants to go, but it seems unlikely at this point.

amazing, really, when you consider that the club does not do one bit of advertising or promoting for the ride.

Once the dust has settled from that tsunami of registration, we can look at our numbers and figure out how many jerseys and t-shirts and other souvenir items to buy (including, for the first time this year, commemorative WCC arm warmers).

Then we roll up our collective sleeves and get to work. Volunteer registration opens on February 22, and while we don't expect all the slots to fill in a few hours, like rider reg, we do know a great many plum assignments will be bagged quite quickly. If you're new to the club, this might surprise you: people in a hurry to sign up to *work*? You may not have discovered yet what many of the club veterans already know: working on the WCC is almost like playing. It's actually fun, most of the time. Some of the rest stop crews act like they're having parties out there.

Whatever the task, it's nice to be a part of such a winning team; to be part of the group that puts on one of the best centuries around. It's no exaggeration to say that the WCC is known far and wide, and that the SRCC members who put it on get major props wherever they show up in their SRCC jerseys.

There are good reasons why the event is so well known and so highly regarded. The courses are *juuuust* right: hard enough to give experienced riders a good workout but easy enough for newbies to be comfortable. The scenery is wonderful, and it's all an easy drive from anywhere in the Bay Area. The weather is (usually) about as good as it can be...that magic moment of perfect springtime.

But the one thing the WCC/SRCC has in spades—the one intangible that really sets it apart—is the support we provide. There is, first of all, the well-oiled logistical machine we have developed (over more than 30 years), and then there is the contagious enthusiasm and energy of all the club members. It's easy to be energetic and enthusiastic when the organization behind the scenes is so slick, and it's easy for all that organization to work so well when all the volunteers are so upbeat and efficient. It's a winning combination, and it feeds on itself and just keeps getting better.

If you're a veteran of past WCC's, this must be preaching to the choir. You already know all this. But if you're new to the juggernaut that is the WCC, you will be impressed at how well it all functions. And that word "function" begins with "fun." When it comes to volunteering, we in the SRCC are not saints: not too many of us would line up to do it, year after year, if it weren't at least some kind of fun for us. We do it because we get a big charge out of it. (And we haven't even mentioned the free t-shirts or the super-fun WCC Workers' ride and party that happens the day after the real WCC...probably the best ride and party of the year in these parts.) It all adds up to the best day of "work" you'll ever put in.

Check out the directory of committees and committee chairs on page 8 of this newsletter. (It will be there every month until May.) This gives you some idea of the areas where we will need to deploy our 350-400 volunteers. Then, when volunteer reg opens on February 22, you may be able to sign up for exactly the job you want. If you're new to this process and unsure of where you might best fit in, look at line two of the directory: Volunteer Coordinator Kimberly Hoffman. She will know where the holes are that most need filling, and she can hook you up with a little tour of duty that will be a good fit for you and your schedule.

Looking for our SRCC roots

— Bill Oetinger —

A question that comes up frequently concerns the origin of the club: how did it get started and when did that happen? Gordon Burns, who is a member today and was back there at the beginning, says the club officially became known as the Santa Rosa Cycling Club in 1972. But other documents appear to claim the club took on its current name as early as 1968. And in any event, the club had existed under another name—Century Cyclists—since the early 60's.

Part of the fuzziness surrounding our beginnings has to do with the fact that most of whatever passed for club documentation was lost around 1982 (in a garage fire, according to club lore). We didn't quite lose everything, because some members kept their own files, and we have been able to retrieve and save some of that in the years since. I have a complete set of newsletters dating back to 1983 and a spotty archive of old papers covering some club life as far back as 1976. Unfortunately, those producing the newsletter and other club information back in the day didn't always do a very good job of dotting their i's and crossing their t's when it came to providing us, their successors, with meaningful facts and figures we could use for historical research. There were years, for instance, where it was only mentioned in passing that the Wine Country Century had happened. No details about registration or volunteer numbers, etc.

So we end up now, approximately 50 years after those hazy beginnings, with many a gap in our historical record...many blanks spots about which we wish we knew more.

Club member Mike McGuire, recently finished with a tour of duty on the club Board, has taken on the task of filling in some of those blank spots, or at least trying to do so. He has asked for my assistance in this quest, and I am in turn asking members—older members—for help.

We want to create an archive of information and images that we can eventually put in a sort of on-line history museum at the website. So we are asking for access to any old documents you might have, especially for the period from the 1960's through the 1980's.

In my spare time, I am using those old newsletters to put together a club timeline, putting statistics and names in one long file, going backward, year by year. I have it back to 1990, and I can tell you, each year further back becomes more difficult to document. Our predecessors in the club simply did not do a good job of taking notes! They must have been too busy riding their bikes.

We have good copies of all the WCC, TT, and SRCC graphics dating back to around 1993, and somewhat sketchy, black-and-white images of art dating back to 1980 for the WCC and to 1976 for the TT (with a few exceptions, both good and bad). Prior to that, it's an unexplored wasteland for us. If you have anything at all from those days of yore, we would love to borrow it and make copies. Old jerseys or t-shirts. Cycling caps. Fliers. Newsletters. Patches. If the club produced it, we'd like to see it.

Dig out that box in the attic and see if the stuff is still in there. If you find any nuggets, get in touch with either Mike or me...

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

Bill Oetinger: 823-9807, srcride@sonic.net

SANTA ROSA CYCLING CLUB

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- Vice-President: Doug Simon577-0113
- Secretary: Sarah Schroer.....364-7560
- Treasurer: Greg Durbin217-1549
- Officers at Large
- Liz Sinna.....484-2459
- Rochelle Bowman.....544-7363
- David Abramo 650-533-2330
- Sherry Adams.....294-7442
- 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, February 13 • 6:30 PM

Occidental Road Round Table Pizza

Featured presentation: Gary Helfrich
Director: Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition

Wednesday, March 13

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

(Open to all interested members)

Thursday, February 7 • 6:00 PM

Marlow Center Round Table Pizza (Marlow & Guerneville)

Thursday, March 7

• 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
- Site reservationsJohn Miklaucic, 318-8231, jmiklaucic@comcast.net
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- CHP/Medics/Permits Bruce Hopfengardner, 494-1155, k6bdh@me.com
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- Clothing 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 Mike McGuire, 542-6687, mmcguire@pacbell.net
- Wohler Bridge Tony Buffa, 824-4466, tbuffa@sonic.net
Evelyn Ellis, 415-898-2998, evbuch@yahoo.com
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- Alexander Valley.....Steve Drucker, 538-5256, bdrucker@sonic.net
- Food Service, WFC Michelle Kane, 292-5707, kearykane@yahoo.com
- Overall, WFCJoe Morgan, 778-8209, TheMorganFamily@comcas.net
- Workers' Ride, Picnic ..Susan Forsman, 415-225-9405, susan@volagi.com