

## Record heat wreaks havoc on the Terrible Two

Attendance at the 2012 Terrible Two was as low as it has been in many years, thanks primarily to this being the TT's turn to be rotated out of the California Triple Crown Stage Race. Now that the event is over, we can guess many of the riders who did *not* sign up this year are breathing a sigh of relief over what they avoided. History, both objective and subjective, will record that this was easily the most terrible Terrible Two ever.

The brutal bogeyman was heat, as it often is on the TT. But this was heat like we've never seen before. The official high for Cloverdale on Saturday, June 16 was 109°. That's our objective yardstick and is a record by a degree or two. The more subjective, "real feel" could be measured in the suffering of the riders: strong, fit men and women slumped in chairs at the lunch stop, ice packs on their necks, vacant stares on their haggard faces; or sprawled on the side of Skaggs Springs Road, in a patch of shade, resting, while puzzling out how to convince their exhausted bodies to get back on that damn bike...

177 riders rolled out of Analy High School at 5:30 AM. That's the smallest field since 1994. One very hot, very long day later, 81 riders had made it to the finish, a scant 62 by our traditional 10:00 PM cut-off. (All riders finishing before 11 PM receive CTC credit, but only those finishing before 10 are entitled to wear the coveted "I did it!" t-shirts.) The percentage of riders making it in by ten is 35%, by far the lowest figure in the history of the event (or at least for as long as we've been keeping accurate records). Even adding in those finishing after 10 would still leave us with a record low rate of success (45%).

It was already triple-digit hot by the time the long file of riders hit the Geysers climbs in mid-morning. Off the north face of the mountain, the deep, rocky gorge of Big Sulphur Creek Canyon was like an oven. It stayed hot through Cloverdale, over Dutcher Creek, and on into lunch, where the bodies were piling up like well-cured cordwood. Many opted to call it a day right there, with the mercury topping 110° by midday. Some climbed into the fleet of sags, but about 25 found enough energy left to do the honorable bail-out back down the valley...a 140-mile ride that started at 111° and stayed on the high side of 100° all the way to the end.

Those who continued onto the steep, kiln-dried killing fields of Skaggs faced the daunting prospect of 30 miles of sun-baked, desiccated hell. Bike thermometers were registering between 120° and 130° over this stretch. The stultifying triple-digit heat, coupled with the relentless, double-digit climbs, added up to a sort of science experiment run amok: how much can human minds and bodies be expected to endure?

But as most savvy TT vets know, if you can get through that 30-mile sufferfest with anything at all left in the tank, it does get easier from there on. The cool, blue Pacific awaits, with temps in the mid-70's and even a touch of a tailwind. Of course, there is still the Fort Ross-Black Mountain tag team to grapple with, but by then, you can almost start to smell the barn, to see that t-shirt...

Up at the sharp end of the field, new rider Nate Ripperton from Mill Valley was dancing along as if the horrible heat were a minor inconvenience. He was first into lunch (but only by a minute), stayed out front, and was first at the finish in a very snappy time of 11:31. This was his first double century. Dave Palmeri of Live Oak was 20 minutes back in second. Then popular SRCC homies Robert Choi and Marc Moons finished together in third. Susan Forsman was the first woman to finish. Sarah Schroer and Liz Sinna, both attempting the TT for the first time on this wicked day, completed an SRCC sweep of the women's podium.

Ripperton's impressive numbers notwithstanding, finishing times were generally slow. For instance, a time of 15 hours would have had you in the top 25. In many past TTs, 15 hours wouldn't have cracked the top 100. Some of that is of course due to the small starting field, but most of it is down to the extreme conditions.

Aside from the many riders taken out by the hills and the heat, only two crashed out. We had the typical backside-of-Trinity stack—right in front of the warning Skeleton—resulting in a broken collarbone. Then, on Hwy 128, a paceline tangle took out a woman rider: broken collarbone and four fractured ribs. Others riders crashed—the road rash was on display—but those shunts weren't too serious.

Two things almost every rider said at the finish: this was, hands down, the hardest ride I have ever done; I couldn't have done it without the support of the amazing volunteers all around the course. In this year of low attendance, the workers actually outnumbered the riders, and every bit of that care and kindness was needed to keep the riders moving...and it was hot for the workers too. It was an epic day for all involved, one that those who were there will be talking about for years to come.

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# Terrible Two 2012 Final Results

17 June 2012 16:55

	Bib	Finish Time		
1	142	11:31	1. Nate Ripperton, 30, Mill Valley	M
2	123	11:51	2. David Palmeri, 32, Live Oak	M
3	111	12:15	3. Marc Moons, 46, Petaluma	M
	27	12:15	4. Robert Choi, 51, Santa Rosa	M
5	26	12:17	5. Gabriel Cheése, 30, Santa Rosa	M
6	168	12:20	6. Steve Smead, 48, Lincoln	M
7	161	12:33	7. Bob Shebest, 38, Santa Rosa	M
8	108	12:40	8. Maximiliano Mehech, 50, Santa Clara	M
9	151	12:42	9. Carl Sanders, 43, Lagunitas	M
10	122	12:53	10. Jady Palko, 39, Windsor	M
11	45	13:00	11. Bob Fisher, 56, Spokane, WA	M
12	73	13:10	12. Eric House, 50, Emeryville	M
13	138	13:52	13. Reve Ramos, 65, South Lake Tahoe	M
14	23	13:53	14. Ken Cabeen, 49, Santa Rosa	M
15	41	13:56	15. Greg Durbin, 55, Santa Rosa	M
16	93	14:07	16. Tony Lee, 53, Petaluma	M
	46	14:07	17. Barley Forsman, 40, Cotati	M
	175	14:07	18. Tommy Taylor, 37, Fort Collins, CO	M
19	24	14:14	19. Dale Capewell, 48, Agoura Hills	M
	104	14:14	20. Paul McKenzie, , Richmond	M
21	150	14:18	21. Miguel Sanchez, 35, Santa Rosa	M
22	54	14:28	22. Leland Gee, 57, Santa Rosa	M
23	50	14:31	23. Jim Frink, 49, Folsom	M
24	49	14:52	24. Pauli Frey, 43, Santa Rosa	M
25	115	15:03	25. Mark Mularz, 44, Ashland, OR	M
26	72	15:05	26. Eric Horning, 55, Livermore	M
27	11	15:08	27. Bob Beede, 59, Arcata	M
28	18	15:22	28. Keith Buckingham, 47, San Francisco	M
29	16	15:30	29. Michael Brochier, 51, Redwood City	M
	58	15:30	30. Joe Gorin, 61, Santa Rosa	M
	77	15:30	31. Rick Jacobson, 53, Van Nuys	M
32	47	15:33	32. Susan Forsman, 41, Cotati	F
33	44	15:42	33. David Elliott, 55, Sebastopol	M
	97	15:42	34. Joseph Lynch, 37, San Miguel	M
35	94	15:47	35. Jason Liao, 46, Cupertino	M

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	Bib	Finish Time		
36	65	15:55	36. Sean Harrell, 30, Healdsburg	M
37	74	15:56	37. Larry Huebert, 54, Parlier	M
	19	15:56	38. Mark Buettner, 42, Auburn	M
	133	15:56	39. Kenneth Prager, 50, Granite Bay	M
	61	15:56	40. Andrew Griffiths, 38, San Carlos	M
	78	15:56	41. Andrew Jae, 28, San Pablo	M
	144	15:56	42. Norman Rohr, 35, San Francisco	M
43	153	16:01	43. Laurent Sauvignon, 62, Novato	M
	2	16:01	44. Mark Abrahams, , Berkeley	M
45	80	16:04	45. Keith Jensen, 46, Ramona	M
46	63	16:06	46. Bashar Haddadin, 45, San Francisco	M
	166	16:06	47. Omar Sison, 35, Petaluma	M
48	181	16:11	48. Mar Villaflor, 43, oakland	M
	40	16:11	49. Scott Duncan, 58, Healdsburg	M
	28	16:11	50. John Clare, 48, Long Beach	M
	157	16:11	51. Sarah Schroer, 40, Santa Rosa	F
52	81	16:13	52. Anthony Johnson, 46, Citrus Heights	M
	98	16:13	53. Tom Mac, 49, San Jose	M
54	177	16:14	54. Tertius Thakar, 50, San Francisco	M
	117	16:14	55. Matthew Nalywaiko, 30, Rohnert Park	M
56	163	16:16	56. Dave Signor, 54, Ben Lomond	M
57	90	16:18	57. Vaughan Landrum, 47, Berkeley	M
58	75	16:22	58. Osman Isvan, 60, Aptos	M
59	179	16:26	59. Metin Uz, 46, Palo Alto	M
	110	16:26	60. Ernesto Montenero, 46, Oakland	M
61	6	16:27	61. Kamran Azmoudeh, 56, Santa Rosa	M
62	165	16:30	62. Liz Sinna, 46, Santa Rosa	F
63	120	16:41	63. Robert Okano, 46, San Jose	M
64	140	16:45	64. Douglas Richardson, 48, Martinez	M
65	5	16:47	65. Bob Andrews, 53, La Jolla	M
66	82	16:48	66. Matt Johnson, 41, Napa	M
	21	16:48	67. Michael Burke, 48, Mill Valley	M
	71	16:48	68. Mark Homrighausen, 58, Berkeley	M
69	48	16:59	69. Jules Freedman, 43, Berkeley	M
70	1	17:03	70. Michael Aberg, 46, Palo Alto	M

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	Bib	Finish Time		
	17	17:03	71. Scott Brown, 47, Elk Grove	M
	95	17:03	72. Jim Light, 50, Carmichael	M
	152	17:03	73. Dan Sartin, 28, Santa Rosa	M
74	112	17:04	74. Mike Moore, 53, Fremont	M
75	55	17:07	75. Raphael Gernez, 49, Los Altos	M
	52	17:07	76. Tom Gandesbery, 50, Piedmont	M
77	51	17:09	77. Robert Gade, 53, Rocklin	M
78	56	17:16	78. Lonni Goldman, 47, Monte Sereno	F
	188	17:16	79. John Witkowicki, 61, Sonoma,	M
	33	17:16	80. Keith Cook, 56, Loomis	M
	69	17:16	81. John Hoenigman, 47, Santa Barbara	M