

Records shattered on Terrible Two!

In its 18-year history, no one had ever broken 12 hours on the Terrible Two—with Jim Daniels coming closest in 1989 at 12:01—but June 18, at the 19th running of the “the toughest double in the US,” no less than three riders broke the record and the 12-hour barrier. Last year’s winner, Victor Czech, blew the record and his fellow riders away with a sizzling 11:19. Czech said his strategy was to take it easy as far as Annapolis and then pour on the coal to the finish. An Expert level racer, he attributes his speed to a vegan diet, 500-mile weeks, and a very trick 15-pound bike. Another factor that contributed to his success was the weather. Mild temperatures (95° max near midday) and light, favorable winds made this a much more manageable TT than in most years. (Daniel’s record was set in the last year of such benign conditions.) In fact, Czech claims he’s prouder of last year’s 12:14 in the wilting 110° heat.

One more factor lending wings to his heels may have been the knowledge that Chaz Fetrow was nipping at those heels all day long. Fetrow, SRCC member and owner of Cotati’s Hub Cyclery, had beforehand targeted 13 hours as a reasonable goal. Instead, he became a major player in his first TT. he and Czech were dead even at lunch and Fetrow lost just seven minutes over the hilly hell of Skaggs Springs. But then Czech kicked in Phase 2 of his strategy and bulked his lead to 26 minutes by Fort Ross...and that was all she wrote. Still, Fetrow has to be pleased with an incredible ride and a great time (11:46).

Former RAAM champion Paul Solon had a fine ride in his first TT and a time that would have copped the record in any other year (11:55), but in ‘94 was good for only third. Bill Albers (Fetrow’s Hub teammate) was a distant fourth at 12:40, perennial TT contender Chris Richards was fifth at 12:42, and ‘92 champ Eric House was sixth at 12:53. What makes House’s time so impressive is that he chose to do the ride on a recumbent (while rehabbing a broken arm). Bear in mind that ‘bents are notoriously poor climbers and that only two dozen riders have ever broken 13 hours on this hilly course. House redefines what a recumbent can do.

Only five women were entered and four started. SRCC member Kristen Scheller, in her first double ever, rode steadily all day and cruised in as the first female in 14:30. Way to go, Kristen!

Another record was broken in this event: attendance. Due in large part to the the publicity generated by the TT being added to the California Triple Crown series, interest was at an all-time high. Nearly 300 people requested entry forms and 118 entered, from as far away as Arizona. Of these, six withdrew ahead of time and 14 were no-shows, leaving us with 98 participants riding off into the sunrise in the 5:30 am mass start. 66 riders earned their coveted “I Did It!” tee-shirts by finishing by the 10:00 pm cut-off, and 12 more finished after ten, which although not a traditional TT finish, still counts towards the Triple Crown. (Being allowed to continue after ten was a voluntary accommodation on our part to riders chasing the Triple Crown.)

In all, 20 riders failed to finish, most because of exhaustion and most by Annapolis. Two riders crashed, both on the twisty Dry Creek downhill off the back of Trinity. Both continued and one finished before going to the hospital for stitches. (He had been temporarily patched up by a paramedic at the scene of the crash.) The other, after hitting a tree and having a dead branch break off inside his intestines, rode another 50 miles before collapsing and being rushed to the hospital. (His shorts had hidden the wound, and it wasn’t discovered until he was in the ER.)

With the possible exception of the 20 riders who sagged in, everyone seemed to have had a great time. Heck, even some of the bail-outs confessed to having fun until they ran out of steam. Much praise was heaped upon the organizers and volunteer support staff for a well-run event.

One final record-breaking note: although we don’t keep track of this, it would appear that this year’s field contained more SRCC members than ever before—eleven—all but one of whom finished by ten.

Terrible Two - Official Finishers

1994

Victor Czech	11:29
Chaz Fetrow	11:46
Paul Solon	11:55
Bill Albers	12:40
Chris Richards	12:42
Eric House (R)	12:53
Michael Ogul	13:05
Dan Shadoan	13:05
Mark Petrucci	13:05
Charlie Miller	13:11
Bill Ripke	13:28
Richard Adolf	13:28
Alan Atkinson	13:28
Tom Davies	13:33
Trent Norlund	13:40
Roger Rehwald	13:40
Dan Fallorina	13:40
Keith White	13:54
Jim Pyatt	13:55
Curt Ferguson	13:59
Peter Pop	14:02
Larry Kluck	14:04
Dana Hoch	14:17
Mark Patten	14:17
Steve Marsh	14:18
Brian Stark	14:27
Bill Ellis	14:30
Kristen Scheller	14:30
Brett Hendrix	14:32
Tom Long	14:34
Doug Laurents	14:40
Dick Koenig	14:42
Jesse White	14:42
Warren Havens	14:43
Lawrence Pon	14:48
Pierre Neu	14:50
Richard Burdick	14:50
Theo Mulder	14:51
Alex Zonoff	14:59
Paul Thober	14:59
Bill Oetinger	15:01

Terrible Two - Official Finishers

Tony Gomez	15:01
Fred White	15:10
Tom Gandesberry	15:20
Marv Rensink	15:20
Bob Rugo	15:33
Greg Sage	15:33
Mark Pryor	15:46
Eric Scott	15:50
Ken Bell	15:50
Bill Bliss	15:53
Mike Aberg	15:55
Gary Toppins	15:57
Doug Graham	15:58
Sue Doss	16:00
Ron Bates	16:05
Charlotte Richard	16:19
Anker Evans	16:19
Fred Stout	16:19
Robin Dean	16:20
Larry Armstrong	16:20
Paul Vlasveld	16:25
Karen Koppenhaver	16:30
David Discher	16:30
Duane Stephens	16:30
Tim Schacher	16:30
Benjamin Lee	
Ron Bobb (R)	
Eric Hjort	
Cynthia Hertzner	
Henry Gong	
Bill Vogel	
Michael Ross	
Paul Kopit	
Jeff Orum	
Richard Warren	
Curt Simon	
Roger Royse	
98 starters; 66 finishers (+12)	