

1995 TT Wrap-up: cool weather, fast times

The Terrible Two's reputation for withering heat was doused by unusually cool weather June 17, thanks to one last, soggy blast from this weirdest and wettest of winters. In conditions that made mid-June feel like mid-March, riders stayed bundled up all day in whatever extra clothing they'd brought. The early-morning arm warmers and windbreakers that figured to be just excess baggage by Calistoga were very much appreciated in the persistent fog and drizzle. Although the murky mists obscured some of the spectacular scenery, most participants seemed willing to miss the views in exchange for escaping the dreaded 100° death march on Skaggs Springs. Listening to the riders afterward, one mainly got the impression of relief, as if they felt they'd tiptoed past the dragon's cave without feeling his hot breath on their necks.

Cool weather, good support, and most of all, a course shortened from 211 to 200 miles contributed to a great finishing percentage. Of the 143 riders who started, 123 made it in by the 10:00 pm cut-off and three more finished shortly thereafter. (Adding in the no-shows, there were 164 paid entrants. All of these numbers are records for the TT.) Most folks who had ridden the old route seemed to prefer the new, shorter course, although the new "short-cut" up the Rancheria Wall left everyone gasping and wheezing and looking for adjectives lurid enough to describe it...most of them unprintable. In fact, a measure of its nastiness was the debate one heard over whether it might be tougher than the climb on Fort Ross. However, the general consensus was that, nasty as it is, the new route still saves 15-30 minutes.

There were several notable individual achievements. With the first three finishers from last year not entered this time around, the "race" was wide open. Ken Eichstaedt of Mill Valley finished first in the fastest time ever. He checked into every rest stop with former winner Eric House (back on a normal bike after his recumbent ride last year) and rookie Rob Ifflander. After that he pulled away for a ten-minute margin at the finish. His time of 11:20 tops Victor Czech's '94 record by nine minutes. Victor's record for the old, longer course still stands, while Ken's mark sets a new, very high standard for the revised course, one that will challenge riders in the years ahead, especially if those years are hotter. Ken is an ultra-distance veteran, with Paris-Brest-Paris and Furnace Creek in his resumé, but his only other TT was in '93, when he dropped out with a mechanical less than one mile into the ride. This time he did a little better.

There needn't be any short-course asterisk next to Muffy Ritz's line in the record books: her 12:25 demolished Lea Brooks' 1984 women's record of 14:06. Tom and Cindy Long of Piedmont also set a record, bringing in their tandem in 13:43, bettering Tom and Terry Dempster's 13:50, set way back in 1981. The Longs led in three tandems (all from the Grizzly Peak bike club), an impressive showing when you consider that only four other tandems have ever made the time limit in the 19-year history of the event.

We also saw records broken for oldest and youngest finishers. John Abbe, 67, of the Sacramento Wheelmen, dethroned his fellow club member Bill O'Donnell as king of the greybeards. (Bill was just a spritely 64 when he last did the ride.) Santa Rosa Cycling Club homeboy Lars Norlund wiped fellow club member Jon Moore off the books by doing it at just a few ticks over 15 years of age. (Jon was 16 when he did it in '93.) Lars rode in with his dad Trent in a very good time of 13:41...a nice, early Father's Day present. Trent then set off alone on a mad quest to be the first ever to do the TT twice around. He made it as far as the Geysers before heavy rain stopped his bid.

Overall, the 20th Anniversary Terrible Two went off very smoothly, from the exciting, peleton-sized mass start to the final, late-night sags. There were only a couple of minor crashes and no injuries, in spite of all the rough roads left over from the the winter-that-wouldn't-die. The support from our volunteers was better than ever, and many riders went out of their way to praise our efforts. This was our first year offering showers and our first attempt at something resembling an after-ride dinner, and both were very popular. We thought we'd run way short on our chili at one point, but then found two more big kettles in reserve, staying warm at a volunteer's house next door. Our apologies to the few hungry folks who found themselves between kettles and missed out. Finally, congratulations to all the riders who completed this very challenging double. We look forward to seeing you back again next year.

Terrible Two - Official Finishers

1995

Ken Eichstaedt	11:20
Eric House	11:30
Rob Ifflander	11:30
Daryn Dodge	11:57
Mike Cockrell	12:03
Charlie Miller	12:08
Noah Armstrong	12:14
Steve Born	12:16
Jim Frink	12:20
Dan Shadoan	12:20
Muffy Ritz	12:25
Bruce Hildenbrand	12:29
Steven Fox	12:42
Bob Dickman	12:42
Dean Peckham	12:43
an Fallorina	12:43
Larry Brill	12:43
Kevin Hodge	12:47
Peter Pop	12:49
Rod Mowbray	12:50
Alan Atkinson	12:50
Larry Kluck	12:54
Brian Stark	12:55
Keith White	12:55
Chris Richards	12:59
Bill Albers	13:05
Brett Hendrix	13:10
Miki Miyashiro	13:26
Andrew Bohannon	13:31
Andreas Schultz	13:31
Mark Patten	13:36
Dana Hoch	13:36
Dan Turney	13:38
Mark Johnson	13:40
Lars Norlund	13:41
Trent Norlund	13:41
Jenny Phillips	13:43
Tom & Cindy Long (T)	13:43
Rich Boettner	13:45
Chris Pendleton	13:48
Richard Burdick	14:02

Terrible Two - Official Finishers

Richard Anderson	14:03
Liz Galler	14:03
Mark Montgomery	14:04
Bill Ripke	14:04
Doug Prescott	14:08
Sam Beal	14:08
Alex Zonoff	14:14
Mark Pryor	14:14
Mark Behning	14:14
Dwight Christensen	14:19
Bill Halleck	14:19
Larry Pon	14:20
Peter Morrisey	14:20
Lora Sasser	14:25
Cindi Staiger	14:25
Bill Ellis	14:26
Bill Oetinger	14:26
Dick Koenig	14:39
Paul Vlasveld	14:43
Mark Toevs	14:44
Ron Shepston	14:44
Wm Marek & Ch Richard (T)	14:47
Peter Kirsch	14:47
Zach Kaplan (R)	14:47
Lee Kendall	14:48
Margie Miller	14:48
Fred Stout	14:51
Rick Rockwell	14:55
Robert Cotton	14:55
Erika Floric	15:02
Andy Wunschel	15:03
Wayne Woodside	15:03
Marv Rensink & Bruce Pauly (T)	15:04
Richard Hoff	15:05
Curt Simon	15:06
Donald Norwood	15:07
Darrell Fluman	15:07
Steven Correll	15:07
Jim Kozera	15:10
Ken Rodenberg	15:07
Les Sasser	15:07
Roger McCulley	15:18

Terrible Two - Official Finishers

David Berry	15:20
Geoff Garrett	15:20
Pete Cova	15:20
John Marinko	15:20
Richard Zipf	15:23
Mike Erwin	15:28
John Beam	15:28
David Discher	15:30
Karen Koppenhaver	15:30
Brian Glueck	15:35
George Pinney	15:35
Dan Magaw	15:37
James Quinley	15:39
John Abbe	15:39
Scott Lewis	15:39
Robert Ouye	15:41
Steve Soldavini	15:41
Larry Bolander	15:41
Tom Zaharis	15:41
Rich Fuglewicz	15:46
Chris Scheetz	15:46
Pat Scheetz	15:46
Bruce Frank	15:46
Peter Ozorio	15:46
Leo Kodl	15:46
Tom Hooker	15:46
Kim Chamness	15:50
Duane Stephens	15:50
Stephen Buck	15:52
Matt Peters	15:52
Bill Faulkner	16:03
Michael Joe	16:03
Tim Rasmussen	16:05
Bill Bliss	16:14
Larry Robinson	16:16
Myron Mu	16:17
Paul Kopit	16:30
George Rhyner	16:34
Bob Labonte	17:00
Ron Bobb	17:12
143 starters; 123 finishers (+3)	