

Terrible Two, 1996: smooth sailing on a perfect day

For over 20 years, Summer Solstice in Sonoma County has been celebrated with a strange rite of passage: passage over some of the steepest, most remote back-country roads anywhere. Each year at mid-Summer, the long-haul truckers of the bicycle world roll into town for the Terrible Two double century. This year's edition was classic Two, with nearly perfect riding conditions leading to impressive performances at the front of the field and a better-than-average finishing percentage back through the pack, all set against a backdrop of gorgeous natural scenery.

It was a year of "mosts" for the event: most riders entered (211); most actually starting (184); most first-time entrants (about 120); and most finishing (145...138 before the 10:00 pm official cut-off). While some folks said it was quite hot in the afternoon sun on Skaggs Springs, the actual high for the day at Cloverdale was only 90° (which translates to maybe 95° up on the hill). It was hotter than last year, but by TT standards, fairly mild...just about ideal, in fact.

Rob Ifflander of Milpitas was the first rider in with a time of 11:28, just eight minutes behind Ken Eichstadt's record time from last year. (Rob was second then.) Dan Hopley of Rohnert Park—a regular on our SRCC rides—was second, 15 minutes back. Dan's more of a racer than an ultra-distance type, with this year's Davis his only other double. He swears he's never doing another double after this. We'll see... Speaking of racers, Rob was accompanied to the finish by Cat 3 racer Chris Courtney. He'd just competed in the Masters National Championships a day before, and when he decided on short notice to try the TT, registration was already closed. Undeterred, he did the ride anyway (with our blessing), with only the support of grocery stores along the way...few and far between. He was actually six minutes ahead of Rob and Dan at the Fort Ross rest stop, but flatted on the next descent, allowing Rob to catch up. Rob had blown through the rest stop, while Dan chose to stop. From then on Rob and Chris rode together to the end. We can't list Chris in the official results, but we can certainly applaud his fine ride.

Andrew Bohannon was third, in spite of picking up some lurid road rash in a spill. He was not the only one to have a close encounter with terra firma. There were numerous crashes, none resulting in any serious injuries. Although warned about it in the pre-ride briefing, the lead pack still attacked the first big descent off Trinity as if the finish line were at the bottom of the hill and not 170 miles away...with predictable results: locked wheels, skids, riders taking each other out. Flats were a recurring theme all day as well, as our notoriously bad roads—mostly the Geysers and Fort Ross—took their toll on skinny racing tires.

Back through the field, it was the usual mixed bag of good news and bad. Several perennial TT stalwarts were uncharacteristically far down the finishing list—some even in the DNF group—while others had the rides of their lives and lopped hours off their personal bests. Some riders finished with ear-to-ear grins, looking fresh and frisky, while others dragged in looking like refugees from the Bataan Death March. In 4th place overall, the team of Paul McKenzie and Ray Plumhoff from the East Bay blew the tandem record out the door with an 11:52, while Mark Patton and former RAAM champ Cindi Staiger set a new standard for co-ed tandems with a very snappy 13:18. Five tandems entered and all finished, which is a record of sorts as well...very impressive on this hilly course.

Rita Bozzo was the first female finisher (not counting tandem stokers). Rita also topped the women's field the only other time she entered, 1993. She took 30 minutes off her previous time this year, which is just about what you'd expect, with the course shortened from 211 miles to 200. In general, times have come tumbling down since the course change last year. In 20 years, only 15 riders have broken 12 hours, and all of them have been in the last two years. This year, the top times on the Terrible Two were quicker than those on the other two Triple Crown Stage Race events, Central Coast and Heartbreak. Does that mean the TT is easier? Maybe, maybe not. It depends on how you crunch the numbers.

At 214 and 215 miles, CC and Heartbreak are longer than the TT* and so should be expected to take longer. Checking the average speeds of the first-place finishers in each of the three events this year reveals that Heartbreak rode the quickest at 17.6 mph, while Central Coast and TT were identical at 17.44. However, none of the first five finishers on this year's TT shows up in either of the other events. You have to drop all the way to 6th to find Daryn Dodge (co-leader at CC) on the TT rolls, where his 16.7 mph average is substantially lower than his 17.4 at CC. Apples to apples? Good day versus bad day? Hey, they're all tough rides. They all should be treated with the utmost respect, as should anyone who completes any of them. Anyone completing all of them deserves an extra special salute.

Two final anecdotes... One rider arrived at the finish with his handlebars held on with a massive lashing of duct tape. His stem had broken out around Cazadero and a helpful local had assisted with several yards of the miracle mender. His bars still wobbled from side to side a couple of inches, so the final 25 miles must have been interesting indeed. He asked if he got a special award for overcoming the most adversity, and we would have given him one here, except in the hurly burly of check-in, we forgot to note his name.

In another incident near Cazadero, Roger Rehwald nailed a big pothole and sliced a tire much too badly to repair. He pulled off into a dirt driveway in the proverbial middle of nowhere and resigned himself to the end of his ride. Then the homeowner up the driveway walked down out of the woods, saw the problem, went back to the house, and returned with a brand new Continental Grand Sport! Turns out Roger had the good fortune to wash up in the driveway of one of our club members, himself a double-century rider. We work hard at having support personnel all around the course, wherever they're needed. Just try to have a problem out there in the woods, and one of our club members will leap out from behind a tree to lend assistance. At least we hope it feels that way for the riders.

**When accurate mapping apps were employed in later years, we discovered that the course--as configured during these years--was actually less than 200 miles, perhaps as little as 197.*

Terrible Two 1996 Results

| Place | Name | Age | Home Town | Elapsed Time |
|-------|----------------------|-----------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Rob Ifflander | 25 | Milpitas | 11:28 |
| 2 | Dan Hopley | 29 | Rohnert Park | 11:43 |
| 3 | Andrew Bohannon | 23 | Sunnyvale | 11:45 |
| 4 | (T) Paul McKenzie | 41 | Richmond | 11:52 |
| | Ray Plumhof | 41 | Oakland | |
| | Bill Ripke | 31 | San Diego | |
| 6 | Daryn Dodge | 36 | Davis | 11:59 |
| 7 | Rich. Herms | 36 | Newark | 12:03 |
| | Chris Richards | 43 | Pleasant Hill | |
| 9 | Jim Frink | 33 | Sacramento | 12:08 |
| 10 | Benjamin Miller | 37 | La Jolla | 12:09 |
| 11 | Michael Ogul | 40 | Kensington | 12:21 |
| 12 | John Williams | 48 | San Clemente | 12:28 |
| 13 | Chris Pendray | 27 | Sunnyvale | 12:34 |
| 14 | Rich Boettner | 29 | Oakland | 12:50 |
| | Peter Pop | 46 | Malibu | |
| | Mike Chester | 41 | Oceanside | |
| 17 | Eric House | 33 | Palo Alto | 13:00 |
| 18 | Richard Kondzielaski | 41 | Fishkill, NY | 13:04 |
| 19 | Phil Scheidler | 35 | Lexington, KY | 13:08 |
| 20 | Emilio Castelli | 40 | Sebastopol | 13:09 |
| | A. Schultz | 28 | Kentfield | |
| 22 | (T) Mark Patten | 35 | San Jose | 13:18 |
| | Cindi Staiger | 42 | Los Angeles | |
| | Keith White | 46 | El Cerrito | |
| 24 | Rodger Rehwald | 30 | Sacramento | 13:21 |
| 25 | Lars Norlund | 16 | Rohnert Park | 13:22 |
| 26 | Mike Stollmeyer | 22 | Santa Rosa | 13:24 |
| 27 | Doug Prescott | 38 | San Diego | 13:25 |
| 28 | Tom Long | 49 | Piedmont | 13:32 |
| | Dan Shadoan | 49 | Davis | |
| 30 | Robert Freed | 45 | Irvine | 13:35 |
| | Jim Wilkinson | 40 | Fremont | |
| 32 | Dana Hoch | 42 | San Jose | 13:36 |
| 33 | Michael Wilson | 51 | Saratoga | 13:37 |
| | Rick Adolf | 36 | Sunnyvale | |
| 35 | Larry Kluck | 47 | Eureka | 13:43 |
| 36 | Mike Hollenbaugh | 34 | San Jose | 13:45 |
| 37 | Andy Wunschel | 51 | Carmichael | 13:46 |
| 38 | Curt Ferguson | 31 | San Francisco | 14:00 |
| 39 | Reed Finfrock | 49 | Springville | 14:03 |
| 40 | (T) Shawn Addison | 34 | | 14:03 |
| | Antoinette Addison | 40 | Menlo Park | |
| | Eric Ostendorf | 35 | Torrance | |
| 42 | Wayne Tikkanen | 41 | South Pasadena | 14:04 |
| 43 | Jeff Bell | 37 | San Francisco | 14:05 |
| 44 | Dennis Allard | 42 | Santa Monica | 14:07 |
| 45 | Paul Weeks | 30 | Santa Rosa | 14:10 |
| | Rita Bozzo | 32 | Santa Rosa | |

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| Place | Name | Age | Home Town | Elapsed Time |
|-------|-------------------------|-----|----------------|--------------|
| 47 | Joe Gorin | 45 | Santa Rosa | 14:12 |
| 48 | Michael Mis | 32 | Irvine | 14:16 |
| 49 | Henry Kingman | 31 | San Francisco | 14:17 |
| 50 | John Morris | 53 | Portland, OR | 14:18 |
| 51 | D. Norwood | 39 | Los Gatos | 14:19 |
| | Dan Wesolowski | 43 | Goleta | |
| 53 | Bill Wambold | 43 | Petaluma | 14:21 |
| 54 | Richard Kaufman | 47 | Santa Monica | 14:22 |
| 55 | Richard Moon | 38 | Folsom | 14:23 |
| 56 | Steve Fox | 36 | San Diego | 14:24 |
| | Bob Doyle | 46 | Visalia | |
| 58 | Thomas Dillon | 42 | Sacramento | 14:30 |
| | Bob Doyle | 46 | Visalia | |
| 60 | John Beam | 45 | Glendora | 14:38 |
| 61 | Pierre Neu | 52 | Davis | 14:39 |
| | Richard Burdick | 35 | Davis | |
| 63 | Tim Skipper | 38 | Castaic | 14:40 |
| 64 | Brett Hendrix | 32 | Santa Rosa | 14:44 |
| | Fred Genung | 32 | Santa Rosa | |
| | Adam Neubauer | 26 | Santa Rosa | |
| 67 | Zach Kaplan (recumbent) | 26 | Muir Beach | 14:46 |
| 68 | David Williams | 42 | Galt | 14:47 |
| 69 | Steven Correll | 42 | Scotts Valley | 14:51 |
| 70 | Kelly Cash Ward | 55 | Sacramento | 14:57 |
| 71 | Greg Sage | 43 | Berkeley | 15:00 |
| | Bob Rugo | 42 | Berkeley | |
| 73 | Sam Beal | 44 | Mountain View | 15:05 |
| 74 | Craig Robertson | 38 | Los Altos | 15:06 |
| | John Placencia | 34 | Goleta | |
| 76 | Eric Birum | 40 | Citrus Heights | 15:10 |
| 77 | Bill Mansperger | 46 | Alameda | 15:12 |
| 78 | Bill Ellis | 37 | Guerneville | 15:14 |
| 79 | (T) Will Marek | 38 | Walnut Creek | 15:19 |
| | Charlotte Jacobson | 41 | Foster City | |
| | Monica Pappas | 42 | Sacramento | |
| | Mike Erwin | 55 | Madera | |
| | Rick Pappas | 48 | Sacramento | |
| 83 | Larry Robinson | 48 | Sacramento | 15:21 |
| 84 | Wendy Page | 35 | Sonoma | 15:23 |
| 85 | Donna Dutra | 34 | Orangevale | 15:24 |
| | Ken Bell | 47 | Roseville | |
| 87 | John Abbe | 69 | Sacto | 15:27 |
| | Hooshang Mehranpour | 37 | Granite Bay | |
| | Masoud Esnaashari | 38 | Folsom | |
| | Tom Lawrence | 29 | Mtn View | |
| 91 | Brian Stark | 48 | Paso Robles | 15:29 |

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| Place | Name | Age | Home Town | Elapsed Time |
|-------|----------------------|-----|-------------------|--------------|
| 92 | Lisa Von Weld | 43 | Lincoln | 15:31 |
| | Steve Duenas | 42 | Bay Point | |
| | Bill DeWolf | 40 | Vallejo | |
| | Larry Bolander | 51 | Pacifica | |
| 96 | K. Koppenhaver | 35 | Oceanside | 15:33 |
| | D. Discher | 38 | Woodside | |
| 98 | Rudy Schuh | 52 | Kerman | 15:34 |
| 99 | Richard Zipf | 57 | Carmichael | 15:35 |
| | Michael Rose | 51 | Orangevale | |
| | Stuart Chase | 40 | Petaluma | |
| 102 | Robin Zinnsmaster | 35 | Sebastopol | 15:37 |
| | Edward Martinez | 39 | South Lake Tahoe | |
| 104 | Tom Singletary | 54 | Burbank | 15:38 |
| 105 | (T) Jim Kozera | 50 | | 15:44 |
| | Joan Kozera | 50 | Clovis | |
| | Cliff Siegel | 39 | San Juan Bautista | |
| 107 | Duane Stephens | 47 | Berkeley | 15:45 |
| | Jeff Dewey | 38 | Moorpark | |
| 109 | Mick Weninger | 59 | Vallejo | 15:46 |
| | Paul Vlasveld | 36 | San Jose | |
| 111 | Bill Pratt | 29 | Berkeley | 15:48 |
| 112 | J. Keysor | 41 | Pleasanton | 15:51 |
| | G. Cosentino | 31 | El Cerrito | |
| 114 | Matt Peters | 38 | Sacramento | 15:54 |
| 115 | Bruce Roberts | 42 | Los Gatos | 15:54 |
| | Robert Vermilian | 41 | Saratoga | |
| | Sonny Augustine | 26 | Santa Ana | |
| | Brian Glueck | 24 | Los Angeles | |
| | Tom Zaharis | 33 | Burlingame | |
| | Dwight Christensen | 36 | Sunnyvale | |
| 121 | Bud Bates | 52 | Glendale | 16:03 |
| 122 | Michael Joe | 29 | San Francisco | 16:04 |
| 123 | Chris Scheetz | 34 | Los Altos | 16:05 |
| | John Hoenigman | 31 | Goleta | |
| 125 | Alex Shaffer | 40 | Novato | 16:08 |
| 126 | Walter Lehle | 49 | San Francisco | 16:11 |
| 127 | John Marinko | 39 | Rocklin | 16:13 |
| 128 | Mike Aberg | 30 | Palo Alto | 16:16 |
| 129 | John Eberly | 39 | Santa Rosa | 16:23 |
| 130 | Bill Bliss | 60 | San Jose | 16:25 |
| 131 | Ron Bobb (recumbent) | 50 | Watsonville | 16:25 |
| | Randy Thorson | 38 | Livermore | |
| 133 | Richard Gary | 59 | Carmichael | 16:29 |
| 134 | David Berry | 37 | Santa Rosa | 16:41 |
| 135 | Leo Kodl | 54 | Monterey | 16:42 |
| 136 | Gary Oishi | | | 17:00 |
| | Tom Hooker | | | |

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| Place | Name | Age | Home Town | Elapsed Time |
|-------|----------------|-----|----------------|--------------|
| 138 | Jim Shaffer | 54 | Redlands | 17:03 |
| | Cliff Hilkin | 35 | Davis | |
| | Jonathan Weast | 37 | Rancho Cordova | |
| 141 | James Quinley | 37 | Turlock | 17:10 |
| | Paul Kopit | 53 | La Crescenta | |

Notes:

Shaded entries denote female riders.

Tandems count as one place each in standings

DNF:

James Svanda, Kevin Sullivan, Edward Schatzman, Stacey VanHorn, Bradford, Rex, John VanWinkle, Dick Robinson, Gunther Hemmersbach, Tim Hodges, John Gebhardt, Rusty Dillon, Geoff Garrett, Gary Koch, LJ Lake, Craig Johnson, Barry Johnson, Richard Bon, Brad Bonnett, Heather Bond, Kirk Beedle, Jim Bell, Joseph Coleman, Daniel DeBra, Michael Chan, Gary Bridges, Joseph Cabral, Trent Norlund, Peter Ozorio, Thomas Maslen, Rob Morris, Geno Madruga, Karen Langeman, Myron Mu, George Pinney, Vance Phillips, Jeffrey Leenhouts

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