

Cool running on the Terrible Two • Colwell gets it right this time

With midweek temperatures near 100° in Cloverdale prior to this year's Terrible Two double century, participants were dreading one of the event's infamous Skaggs Springs blast furnaces, and organizers were wondering if they had enough sags lined up to haul away the bodies. In the end, all the worries were washed away in a cool blanket of fog that shrouded the course until nearly noon, keeping conditions to a level that might be described as almost ideal for a long, tough ride. The sun didn't put in an appearance until near the summit of the Geysers (around mile 80). It then stayed sunny until late afternoon around Fort Ross (mile 160). After that, the setting sun played hide-and-seek behind wispy clouds and forested ridgelines until, in the evening, it became downright chilly. Only on the more exposed stretches of Skaggs did the midday heat build up to anything remotely toasty...probably in the mid-80's but feeling—to the struggling riders—more like mid-90's.

There were 227 registered riders and 195 actual starters. Of these, 169 finished, 157 by the 10:00 PM cut-off, thereby earning themselves the coveted, free "I Did It!" t-shirts. That's a higher-than-average finishing rate for this brutal ride, and is probably due in equal parts to the relatively mellow weather and the great support (by a crew that numbered over 75...or one volunteer for every three riders).

This year's top finisher was Tracy Colwell, a noted hill-meister and Cat 2 racer from the South Bay. This was sweet redemption for Colwell. Last year, while riding near the front in his first TT, he was led astray by a vandalized course marking. When he should have turned left on Fort Ross Road, he went straight on Meyers Grade...all the way down the long, steep hill. Only when he got to the junction with Hwy 1 did he realize his mistake, at which point he turned around and climbed back up the hill...a round trip of ten miles, with the return climb varying between 10% and 18% (after 168 miles and 15,000' of climb). This knocked him out of any contention for the overall or even the top ten, but he was cheerfully upbeat about it afterward. This year, somewhat wiser to the ways of the TT, he rode a more calculated, more aggressive ride. He was first up Trinity, first up the Geysers, first over Skaggs, and first everywhere else, finishing in 11:30, just ten minutes off the course record, and six minutes clear of Ray Plumhoff (second last year as well).

Berkeley's Tanya Wolff was the top women's finisher, with a time of 13:32. That's the second fastest women's time ever. Only two out of the four entered tandems finished, with Tom and Cindy Long matching their previous best time (from 1995) of 13:43...still the third best time ever for a co-ed tandem. There were two recumbents entered and Zach Kaplan and Bruce deBell finished together in 14:38...second best 'bent time ever.

One final record: John Abbe of Sacramento finished in 16:12. Not too great a time, you say? Perhaps you'd be more impressed if you knew John turned 71 the week of the Terrible Two, becoming the only over-70 rider to complete the event. John figures this might be his last TT, so he took a camera along and snapped pictures all day...a ride for the memories.

Perhaps the saddest hard-luck story of this year's TT belongs to the tandem team of Rich Boettner and Chuck Doyle. They had been having a great season, tearing up doubles courses all over the state, and they were ranked third overall in the prestigious California Triple Crown Stage Race (after two events, with just the TT to go to lock up that podium finish). Unfortunately, on the most remote part of the course—miles from any help—they stripped out their rear hub. Sag wagons offered to haul them in, but they refused to quit. Instead, they sent the sags off in search of a wheel that would fit their bike...a long, complicated search that had folks driving all over Sonoma County. Meanwhile, the two riders continued as best they could: walking for miles on the flats and uphill and coasting on the descents. It's unclear how many miles they covered in this way—somewhere between 25 and 50—but finally, after dark, they simply ran out of time and had to abandon, just a few miles from the finish.

Our annual True Grit-No Brains Award goes to SRCC member John Eberly. Last year John got honorable mention in this category for riding 175 miles with a shoulder that had been dislocated a few days before the TT. He had to pack it in at that point because of the pain. This year, John missed a nasty turn on the descent off the backside of the Geysers at about mile 85. Witnesses said he and his bike bounced and tumbled all the way down a 60-foot rock cliff that they described as “nearly vertical.” John said, “I just kept wondering when I would stop falling.” Rescuers climbed down and were able to bring John and his bike up via a longer, less steep traverse. Amazingly, although the bike was dinged in many ways, it was still rideable (barely), and while John was covered in scrapes and bruises from one end to the other, he sustained no major injuries. So, after a few mechanical and medical tweaks, he got back on the bike and continued...and finished with a fairly respectable time!

That never-say-die determination—of Rich and Chuck and John—is the same fierce fire that burns in the heart of every rider who attempts such a challenging feat. We’re proud to be associated with such a group of people. We offer a tip of our battered old helmets to the class of 1998, Terrible Two U...graduates of the school of hard knocks.

Terrible Two 1998 Results

227	registered riders			
195	official starters			
169	official finishers			
157	by 10:00 pm " <i>I Did It!</i> " cut-off (80%)			
Place	Name	Age	Home Town	Elapsed Time
1	Tracy Colwell	30	Redwood City	11:30
2	Ray Plumhoff	43	Oakland	11:36
3	Mark Battany	32	Davis	11:51
4	Jim Frink	35	Sacramento	12:18
	Michael Williamson	26	Trabuco Canyon	
6	Rob Ifflander	27	Milpitas	12:22
	Paul McKenzie	43	Richmond	
	Bill Ripke	34	San Diego	
9	Istvan Makk	40	Antioch	12:40
10	Larry Kluck	49	Eureka	12:42
11	Dean Peckham	40	Sacramento	12:43
	Jay Schumann	46	San Francisco	
13	Emilio Castelli	42	Sebastopol	12:48
14	Mike Chester	43	Oceanside	12:55
	Jeremy Witt	42	Napa	
16	Tom Chandler	27	Windsor	12:59
17	Robert Freed	47	Irvine	13:06
	Fenn Pervier	44	Fairfax	
	Phil Scheidler	37	Santa Rosa	
20	Jonathan Woo	27	Irvine	13:07
21	Craig Robertson	40	Los Altos	13:09
	Dan Wesolowski	46	Santa Barbara	
23	Chris House	34		13:13
	Eric House	35	Foster City	
25	Jim Newhall	47	Mercer Island, WA	13:20
	Ian Storer	33	Palo Alto	
	Wayne Tikkanen	43	South Pasadena	
28	William Menchine	43	Santa Cruz	13:22
	Tanya Wolff	33	Berkeley	
30	Robert Pelzar	40	Woodside	13:23
31	Dave Smith	47	St Helena	13:25
32	Dan Shadoan	51	Davis	13:24
33	Paul Thober	51	Davis	13:27
34	Charles Massieon	39	California City	13:28
35	Justin Bowman	21	Lemoore	13:31
	Bradford Rex	38	Santa Rosa	
37	Jim Poppy	43	Palo Alto	13:39
38	Peter Pop	48	Malibu	13:41
39	Bill Pratt	31	Berkeley	13:42
40	John Hossack	34	Palo Alto	13:43
	Lubomir Hristov	39	Tustin	
	Tom Long/Cindy Long	51/44	Piedmont	
43	Eric Ostendorff	37	Torrance	13:44

Terrible Two 1998 Results

Place	Name	Age	Home Town	Elapsed Time
44	David Nakai	42	Fallbrook	13:54
45	Frank Pedrick	48	Nevada City	13:56
46	Richard Hoff	45	Sanger	14:00
47	Leland Gee	43	Calistoga	14:01
48	Kevin Keenan	42	Belmont	14:04
49	Michael Schiff	43	Menlo Park	14:05
50	Dana Bradshaw	35	Tahoe City	14:10
51	Sam Beal	46	Mountain View	14:11
	Linda Fluhrer	38		
	Sidney Fluhrer	39	Pleasant Hill	
	Greg Lutz	49	Berkeley	
55	Per Berglund	33	Santa Barbara	14:12
	Kenneth Holloway	45	San Jose	
	Jeff Wolfe	33	Santa Rosa	
58	Rich Fuglewicz	46	Santa Rosa	14:16
	Michael Pearson	26	Stockton	
60	Jim Kozera	52	Clovis	14:18
61	Wayne Woodside	51	Sacramento	14:20
62	Paul DeNies	42	Milpitas	14:23
	Eric Norris	38	Davis	
64	Artie Alvidrez	47	Palo Alto	14:24
65	Mark Boles	40	Roseville	14:25
	Chuck Bramwell	46	Irvine	
	Richard Moon	40	Folsom	
68	Roman Urbina	35	San Juan, Costa Rica	14:31
69	Brian Anderson	28		14:32
	Brett Hendrix	34		
	Adam Neubauer	28		
	David Neubauer	34	Santa Rosa	
73	Bruce deBell	51	Napa	14:38
	Dan Crain	53	Irvine	
	Zach Kaplan	28	Muir Beach	
	Roy Wilcox	49	Yuba City	
77	Gilbert Martinez/Lynn Nordstrom	42/37	Fair Oaks	14:39
	Dobin Westergard	34	Sacramento	
79	Bob Coble	46	Concord	14:45
	Michael Sullivan	29	Santa Rosa	
81	Britt Harvey	44	Berkeley	14:46
82	Scott Chenue	26	San Francisco	14:48
	Carl Gasch	46	Oakland	
	Wayne Greenway	39	Moraga	
	George Rehmet	31	Daly City	
	Robert Vermilion	43	Saratoga	
87	Tom Gandesbery	36	Oakland	14:51
88	Bill Oetinger	51	Sebastopol	14:52
89	Bob McIntyre	45	Belmont	14:54

Terrible Two 1998 Results

Place	Name	Age	Home Town	Elapsed Time
90	Catherine Carbonaro	32	Rocklin	14:55
	Scott Davis	48	San Carlos	
	Kevin Griffin	42	San Carlos	
	Terry Langeman	38	Belmont	
	Bill Lithgow	47	Redwood City	
95	Everitt Chock	34	Fremont	15:00
96	Mike Aberg	32	Palo Alto	15:01
	Ken Duncan	30	Palo Alto	
	Jim Sharp	49	Winters	
	Doug Simon	39	Santa Rosa	
100	Ryan Kish	23	Oakley	15:04
	Dan Magaw	40	Lincoln	
	Joe Steinmetz	33	Rocklin	
103	Nigel White	36	Sacramento	15:05
104	Scott King	37	East Northport, NY	15:06
105	Wayne Wendle	47	Santa Rosa	15:09
106	Todd Delay	36		15:14
	Russ Morgan	54	Columbus, OH	
	Fred Stout	47	Greenbrae	
109	Robin Zinsmaster	38	Sebastopol	15:16
110	Craig Jeong	39	San Jose	15:17
111	Jeff Stevenson	52	Solvang	15:20
112	Bill Ellis	39	Santa Rosa	15:21
113	Joe Gorin	47	Santa Rosa	15:22
	Richard Shields	54	San Ramon	
115	Robert Brouhard	51	Davis	15:25
	Matt Peters	40	Sacramento	
117	Mike Erwin	57	Madera	15:26
	Rory MacLeod	45	Vacaville	
119	Mike Rose	53	Orangevale	15:30
120	Ford Greene	45	San Anselmo	15:31
	Tom Lawrence	31	Mountain View	
122	Ron Rogers	50	Concord	15:37
123	Richard Dickinson	45	Santa Monica	15:38
	John Hoenigman	33	Goleta	
	Peter Ozorio	33	Campbell	
126	Peter Ashcroft	35	Santa Rosa	15:39
127	Walter Lehle	51	San Francisco	15:41
128	Paul Deming	35	Visalia	15:42
	Ch. Holmberg	53	Tulare	
	Larry Huebert	40	Reedley	
	David Kemp	34	Visalia	
	Ch. Rowell	33	Rohnert Park	
133	Wayne Cook	37	San Luis Obispo	15:44
134	Tom Zaharis	35	Burlingame	15:49
135	Jeanie Barnett	41	Martinez	15:50
136	John Eberly	41	Santa Rosa	15:54
	T. K. Gardner	45	Anaheim	

Terrible Two 1998 Results

Place	Name	Age	Home Town	Elapsed Time
138	Jeff Warren	42	Sebastopol	15:59
139	Simon Ibsen	28	Santa Barbara	16:02
	Michael Joe	31	SF	
	Jack Rodgers	42	Sacramento	
142	James Balmut	41	Sparks, NV	16:03
	Jim Tolley	54	Walnut Creek	
144	Mac Imacseng	41	Sunnyvale	16:05
	Anne Schneider	50	Davis	
	Colin Wright	40	Sunnyvale	
147	Duane Stephens	49	Berkeley	16:09
148	John Abbe	71	Sacramento	16:12
149	Gary Weston	40	San Francisco	16:13
150	Kevin Main	46	Cayucos	16:14
	Gregory Pike	33	Salinas	
	Cliff Siegel	41	San Juan Bautista	
153	Teryel Murphy	50	Fresno	16:16
154	Bill Bliss	62	San Jose	16:17
155	Stephen Walker	53	Pleasant Hill	16:20
156	Kenneth Straub	40	Cupertino	16:24
157	Rick Wylie	41	Fair Oaks	16:25
158	Steven Smith	51	Santa Rosa	16:33
159	James Ambuehl	33	Healdsburg	16:42
	John Robbins	57	Redondo Beach	
161	Steve Glasser	41	Altadena	16:53
162	Lisa Antonino	37	Belmont	17:03
	Jolene Hood	34	Santa Maria	
164	Ken Bartholic	58	Irvine	17:16
165	Jean Cordalis	39		17:24
	Jamie Meisel	44	Alameda	
	Richard Warren		Mill Valley	
168	Ken Campbell	41	Costa Mesa	17:28
169	Paul Kopit	55	Sunland	17:46

Notes:

Shaded entries denote female riders

Tandems count as one place each in standings

DNF:

Dennis Allard, Jeff Bell, Anny Beck, Darrel Bernard/Ann Bloom, David Berry, Ron Bobb, Rich Boettner/Chuck Doyle, Karen Bonnett, Michael Chan, Tim Coleman, Bill Crowell, Kurt Gingher, Wes Hoffschmidt, Craig Laukkanen, Kevin Lock, James Mark, Timothy Martin, Brendan Montgomerie, Joe Morgan, Bill Noftz, Matthew Pearson, Phil Penna, Tony Pietsch, Terry Sherbondy, Susan Urquhart, Ron Way