

Terrible Two 2016: new route, great weather, cozy crowd

The 41st annual Terrible Two double century and fourth annual TT 200-K were presented by the Santa Rosa Cycling Club on Saturday, June 18, 2016. There were several noteworthy elements produced by this latest edition of the challenging ride.

The most significant news was probably the substantial change to the course. Due to Napa County's absurd (and illegal) permit process for bike events, the organizers elected to reconfigure the early miles of the full double to eliminate the 30 miles that used to run through Napa County. A new route was worked out that headed south and west from the traditional start in Sebastopol, making a big loop that eventually turned east and then north before rejoining the old course at mile 69 in Alexander Valley. (For a more detailed description of the changes, check out The Course Description page at the TT website.)

The new route bypasses the big, double-hump summits of Trinity-Oakville Grade and replaces them with many smaller but still challenging climbs. Perhaps more importantly, the new route contains fewer flat and mildly rolling miles than the traditional route: miles where snappy pacelines can motor along in the low to mid-20s. Instead, there are a few flat sections but more miles of lumpy little climbs—up, down, down, up—where it's hard to set a steady tempo. The bottom line is that the new section appears to be somewhat harder, in spite of having a bit less elevation gain. Above all, it seems to take more time, to the tune of anywhere from 20 to 40 minutes over those first 69 miles.

You would think that would prejudice most of the riders against this harder, more time-consuming route (in an event where the ticking of the clock is always an issue). And yet, at the finish, there was almost unanimous praise for the new route. People loved the scenery and the cycling entertainment value. To put it simply, while it was somewhat more challenging, it was also a lot of fun. Hats off to our riders for having great attitudes: for cheerfully embracing the new challenge instead of grouching about it.

Finish times for most riders—okay, probably all riders—were indeed slower. But, curiously, we did not have any notable complications with the slowest riders at the end of the evening. We had worried about that and allowed an extra 20-minute grace period for CTC credit—extending the cut-off from 11:00 to 11:20—but only one rider fell into that safety net. As for the classic 10:00 PM cut-off to earn a coveted "I Did It!" t-shirt, 62% made it in time to claim their shirts. 17 more riders finished between 10 and 11. That is a bit low as a finishing rate but not to any extraordinary degree.

Whether we stick with this new course or return to Napa County in future years remains to be seen. We're inclined at this point to stay with the new route for at least another year to allow more people to experience it and to collect more data and subjective impressions. While we like the new miles, it was never our

intention to make the ride any harder than it already is. But it's important to put this in historical perspective. The TT's route has changed many times, in large ways and small, over its four decades, fluctuating between 197 and 211 miles and offering up a wide variety of more difficult or less challenging sections. This is just the latest in a long progression of modifications.

Next up on the news front was the weather (always a hot topic for the TT). The weather this year was just about as perfect as it could be for a long, challenging bike ride. And what makes it even more special is how we threaded a needle on this one. On Thursday and Friday before the event, the region was soaked by persistent drizzle...not a downpour, but enough to get you wet if you were out in it long enough. That drizzle was still drifting down in the wee hours of Saturday morning, but by the time the double-century riders departed at 5:30 AM, it had stopped, although the roads were still slightly damp. Our classic benchmark for the ride—the official high in Cloverdale—was a comfy 78° with just the softest of breezes. Sunday it was around 90° and the forecast for Monday was up near 100°. So we lucked into a tiny window between fire and rain.

Also of note this year was the relatively small field of participants. We have to go all the way back to 1994 to see a field this small. 117 had registered for the full double and 103 clipped in and rode off to discover what those new miles had in store for them. An additional 68 rode the 200-K course. Why the low attendance? Pick your pet theory or some combination of theories. We don't really know. No one-size-fits-all answer is convincing. We'll ponder on that over the winter! However, there is nothing inherently wrong with a smaller field. It's a bit more intimate and familial, a bit less cumbersome and stressful. It puts a lot less strain on our logistics and support. With fewer riders, there are fewer opportunities for Murphy's Law to rear its ugly head, and this year—as far as we have heard—there was not a single accident worthy of the name and certainly nothing requiring medical attention.

As far as individual performances go, this too had something of a family feel: we had an entirely Santa Rosa Cycling Club podium. 2013 first-place finisher Marc Moons was back on top with an 11:54...the only rider to break 12 hours. The irrepressible Jady Palko was second, with Carl Sanders third. Santa Rosa homies Eric Smart, Gregory Plumb, and Doug McKenzie were 6th, 7th, and 9th, giving the leader board a decidedly local slant. Another local, Naomi Williams, of Windsor, was the first woman to finish, in a time of 15:01. The only tandem in the event this year was powered by the always lethal duo of Paul McKenzie and Sarah Schroer—also SRCC members—who finished 16th overall in a time of 14:29.

There was one other bit of family business to tend to on this day. At the starts of both rides, TT Director Bill Oetinger paid tribute to SRCC member and TT veteran Mike Haberski, who had been entered in the 200-K but who had drowned the week before the event in a sailing accident at Clear Lake. Bill asked the riders to take Mike along with them on the ride and to remember that tomorrow is

not promised; to rejoice in today. Friends of Mike signed his number bib and presented it to his wife Jane.

The 200-K had a slightly different look this year as well. The course was the same, but we introduced a mass start and timing (as a response to feedback from participants after last year's 200-K). Those riders headed out at 7:30 and, unlike the doubles riders, they had a remarkably high finishing rate, with 66 out of 68 completing this extremely challenging 121-mile ride. This ride had a local slant as well, with Sonoma County homeboys in six out of the top seven spots: Shawn Daly, Mike Gallaher, Jay Bretz, Joe Feng, Matt Muldoon, and Scott Duncan, in that order. The only "foreigner" in the bunch—and the first woman—was our old friend Jennie Phillips (from Danville) in 6th. Shawn's time of 7:11 now becomes the first official record for the 200-K. And Jennie's time too: 7:42.

Many in the 200-K field are veterans of past full Terrible Twos. Comments were heard at the finish about how much more sensible and civilized it is to be riding the shorter distance. Several marveled at how strange and pleasant it felt to be hitting the brutal walls of Skaggs with just 34 easy miles in their legs, instead of 110, and before ten in the morning, instead of in the heat of the afternoon. Given the made-to-order weather on the day, and the high finishing rate, it was pretty much wall-to-wall smiles among the riders on "The Tolerable Two." (Scroll down past the TT results to find the TTK results.)

So there you go: a cozy little ride for a cohort of hardcore bikers on a perfect day, supported by just about the best crew around: the experienced and energetic members of the SRCC. One rider mentioned at the finish that the club is, without doubt, the best organized and most efficient bike club in the Bay Area. (We respectfully disagree: cross out "Bay Area" and insert "State of California.") Another rider sent in this note on Sunday morning: "I was extraordinarily impressed with how well the event is run. All volunteers were very cheerful and supportive. The course is marked better than any I have ever ridden. The rest stops were all very well stocked with great provisions. This is an A+ ride."

One final walk-through of the campus of Analy High School on Sunday morning revealed a site entirely free of litter...in fact entirely free of any sign that it had been a bustling bee hive of bike activity just a few hours before. Perhaps it was all just a dream? No...riders and workers alike have their fatigue to remind them of the effort expended the previous day, plus that pleasant glow of satisfaction with a job well done. Thanks to everyone who took part, in whatever capacity. See you next year.

Terrible Two 2016 Final Results

19 June 2016 12:59

	Bib	Finish Time	
1	72	11:54	Marc Moons, 50, Petaluma
2	77	12:11	Jady Palko, 43, Windsor
3	93	12:17	Carl Sanders, 47, Lagunitas
4	16	12:38	Alex Brede, 56, Bellingham, WA
5	52	12:43	Eric House, 54, Emeryville
6	100	13:02	Erik Smart, 31, Santa Rosa
7	81	13:21	Gregory Plumb, 41, Santa Rosa
8	9	13:25	Joe Angelo, 31, Mill Valley
9	68	13:30	Douglas McKenzie, 56, Santa Rosa
10	41	13:33	Steve Fielding, 51, Walnut Creek
11	18	13:45	Bill Brier, 54, Fremont
12	70	13:59	Hooshang Mehranpour, 58, Sacramento
13	63	14:05	Tony Lee, 57, Petaluma
14	61	14:19	Eric Larsen, 42, Albany
15	59	14:25	Dmitry Kosorukov, 40, Kentfield
16	69	14:29	McKenzie/Schroer, 61/44, Berkeley/Petaluma
17	73	14:40	RobertTrey Morris, 63, San Francisco
18	74	14:42	Michael Munrow, 58, Belmont
	56	14:42	John Johnson, 59, Santa Rosa
	19	14:42	Michael Brochier, 55, Novato
21	108	14:55	Sakae Wada, 39, El Cerrito
22	40	15:00	Bob Fetherston, 63, Los Gatos
23	62	15:01	Dave Latourette, 49, Santa Rosa
	28	15:01	Randall Coleman, 52, Sacramento
	112	15:01	Naomi Williams, 36, Windsor
26	86	15:09	Sean Ranney, 38, Carmichael
27	27	15:10	Michael Chalfant, 49, San Francisco
	43	15:10	Matthew Frederick, 47, San Francisco
29	90	15:16	Eric Ross, 58, Bakersfield
30	8	15:19	Richard Anderson, 64, Healdsburg
	101	15:19	David Smith, 59, Santa Rosa
32	32	15:22	victor dei rossi, 65, san carlos
	4	15:22	Sam Addison, 27, Santa Rosa
34	49	15:24	Gustavo Hernandez, 54, Davis
	47	15:24	Leland Gee, 61, Santa Rosa

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	Bib	Finish Time	
	107	15:24	Ben Vernon, 27, Santa Clara
37	67	15:28	Kirsten McDaniel, 47, Campbell
38	48	15:36	Joe Gorin, 65, Oakmont
39	87	15:42	Doug Richardson, 52, Martinez
40	37	15:47	Sam Fechheimer, 32, San Francisco
	38	15:47	Zach Fechheimer, 34, San Francisco
	11	15:47	Randy Becker, 42, Santa Rosa
43	116	15:48	Tyrone Arnold, 46, Santa Rosa
44	94	15:51	James Scanlan, 46, San Francisco
	111	15:51	Adam Wilks, 32, Berkeley
46	39	15:52	Anthony Feliciano, 48, Pasadena
	114	15:52	Jay Wood, 61, Fairfax
48	30	15:57	Peter Curley, 47, SAN FRANCISCO
	7	15:57	Mike Anderson, 47, Rohnert Park
	50	15:57	Byron Ho, 61, San Francisco
	79	15:57	Vernon Piccinotti, 39, Daly City
	80	15:57	Andrew Platts, 54, San Ramon
	110	15:57	Richard Weed, 23, San Francisco
	76	15:57	Aaron Orosco, 35, Rio Rancho, NM
55	88	16:00	julian Rogers, 39, Concord
56	66	16:08	Kevin MacDonald, 58, Oakland
	21	16:08	Mark Buettner, 46, Auburn
	75	16:08	Robert Okano, 50, San Jose
59	34	16:16	Morris Delgado, 39, San Jose
60	85	16:17	John Quinn, 59, Santa Rosa
61	33	16:18	Orlando, Jr. Dela Cruz, 34, San Jose
62	51	16:27	John Hoenigman, 51, Santa Barbara
	89	16:27	Krist Roginski, 53, Menlo Park
64	42	16:30	Mark Fine, 40, San Francisco
65	22	16:39	Robert Buntrock, 51, Discovery Bay
	113	16:39	Gregory Wong, 57, Millbrae
67	105	16:45	Robert Thompson, 66, Santa Rosa
	92	16:45	Miguel Sanchez, 39, Santa Rosa
69	54	16:48	Naoki Iwakami, 48, Redwood City
70	35	16:55	Grace Endo, 54, Monterey Park

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	Bib	Finish Time	
	64	16:55	Joseph Leon, 54, Monterey Park
72	78	16:56	Ricardo Paralejas, 39, San Jose
73	26	17:03	Richard Chadwick, 59, Rohnert Park
	1	17:03	Michael Aberg, 50, santa clara
75	2	17:09	Mark Abrahams, NA, Berkeley
	82	17:09	Arnim Polster, 56, Mill Valley
77	115	17:10	Robin Zinsmaster, 56, SANTA ROSA
	5	17:10	Tom Alexander, 63, Haiku, HI
	31	17:10	John DeGregory, 47, Calistoga
	98	17:10	Greg Seader, 61, Alameda
81	45	17:23	Robert Gade, 57, Rocklin
82	12	17:49	Roy Benton, 66, Angwin

Terrible Two's 200K 2016 Final Results

20 June 2016 19:17

	Bib	Finish Time	
1	524	7:11	Shawn Daly, 49, Santa Rosa
2	533	7:12	Mike Gallaher, 36, Windsor
3	512	7:13	Jay Bretz, 47, Healdsburg
4	529	7:30	Joe Feng, 43, Santa Rosa
5	554	7:40	Matthew Muldoon, 57, Petaluma
6	561	7:42	Jennie Phillips, 54, Danville
7	527	7:53	Scott Duncan, 62, Healdsburg
8	563	7:57	Gabe Sanctuary, 45, Novato
9	530	8:05	Bob Fisher, 60, Spokane, Wa
10	535	8:11	Don Graham, 64, Santa Rosa
	547	8:11	Darrin Jenkins, 43, Rohnert Park
12	574	8:22	Christian Wagner, 52, Santa Rosa
	541	8:22	Austin Hermosillo, 25, Santa Rosa
14	506	8:27	David Bekowich, 56, Corte Madera
15	502	8:37	Henning Andersen, 53, Mill Valley
	516	8:37	Aaron Canale, 46, Petaluma
17	520	8:42	Mike Cochran, 55, Sacramento
18	526	8:45	Laurence Dudson, 48, San Rafael
	525	8:45	James Drake, 46, San Anselmo
	548	8:45	Steve Kroeck, 57, Sebastopol
	552	8:45	Dave Montgomery, 57, Olympic Valley
22	501	8:47	Craig Adams, 46, Sebastopol
23	509	9:00	Del Bogart, 59, Petaluma
24	528	9:12	Jeffrey Durra, 60, Santa Rosa
	565	9:12	Doug Schrock, 63, Kenwood
26	553	9:18	Hunt Moore, 65, Petaluma
27	546	9:21	David Huppe, 52, Santa Rosa
28	531	9:22	Eric Fraser, 53, Windsor
	575	9:22	Jeffrey Wheeler, 43, Winter
30	557	9:42	Karl Nusch, 56, San Anselmo
	559	9:42	Diego Periasco, 42, Napa
	555	9:42	Casey Myers, 33, Napa
	507	9:42	Tom Benvenuto, 52, Napa
34	523	9:45	Tracy Curtis, 52, Pacific Palisades
	562	9:45	Allan Reeves, 49, Tiburon

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20 June 2016 19:17

	Bib	Finish Time	
36	534	9:47	Greg Goto, 57, Petaluma
	513	9:47	Richard Burger, 59, Petaluma
38	505	9:48	Chris Beauchamp, 50, Los Gatos
	577	9:48	Cory Creath, 55, Mill Valley
40	538	9:52	Brian Gully, 59, Santa Rosa
41	518	9:59	Kate Christensen, 56, Greenbrae
42	522	10:01	Rob Crow, 49, San Francisco
43	567	10:12	Bob Shives, 63, Santa Rosa
44	572	10:15	Karen Thompson, Older, Santa Rosa
	508	10:15	Lynn Best, 61, Santa Rosa
46	551	10:17	Christian Mcdonald, 2-14-52, Sonoma
47	540	10:20	Mike Halvorsen, 55, Santa Rosa
	545	10:20	Michael Houston, 51, Santa Rosa
	514	10:20	Karl Burkhauser, 71 Years Old, Cotati
50	511	10:24	Rob Bower, 60, Sausalito
	573	10:24	Rick Valerga, 44, Santa Rosa
52	570	10:46	Jason Sloan, 41, San Francisco
53	510	10:51	Andrew Bowdle, 64, Mercer Island, Wa
	503	10:51	Jeff Anhalt, 55, San Francisco
	576	10:51	Buzz Yancich, 54, Danville
56	564	10:58	Richard Sawyer, 64, Sonoma
57	504	11:28	Tracy Basso Dpm, 52, Davis
58	519	11:36	David Clark, 56, Santa Rosa
	544	11:36	Gary Hochman, 60, Santa Rosa
	560	11:36	Pete Philley, 64, Gig Harbor, Wa
	532	11:36	Lorenzo Freschet, 60, Santa Rosa
	543	11:36	Verna Loland Herron, 59, Gig Harbor, Wa
	542	11:36	Thomas Herron, 60, Gig Harbor, Wa
64	515	11:40	Ken Cabeen, 53, Samta Rosa
	568	11:40	Roger Simmons, Forty Nine, Sebastopol
66	556	11:56	Craig Needham, 69, San Jose