

## **Terrible Two 2021**

*Bridgette DeShields, SRCC Ride Director*

Lots of challenges this year—from difficulties with securing permits in Napa County, inability to reserve a spot at Warm Springs Dam, road conditions on Geysers and well, all the uncertainties associated with putting on an event during a pandemic. But we made it happen!

We had 62 participants signed up for the "live" double century and 16 signed up for the "virtual event" (which ends on Sunday 6/27). Only 54 actually rolled out of the Sebastopol Community Church where we for the first time had staggered start times. The vast majority chose to roll out at 5:00 AM given the forecast of heat with the rest departing at 5:15 or 5:30 AM.

Our "leapfrog" SAGs provided the sole support over the first 80+ miles of the course, which was changed this year to be fully within Sonoma County. Riders headed down to the outskirts of Petaluma, through Bennett and Rincon valleys, and then north to the Geysers where we had a traditional rest stop at the "turnaround" of a Geysers out-and-back (due to road conditions, was unsafe to do the full Geysers loop). The lunch stop came earlier, in Asti, accompanied by an earlier cutoff time at 1 PM. Support was simplified this year to providing Subway sandwiches at lunch. An ice stop was setup at WSD and water stops in the "traditional" spots on Skaggs. Support at rest stops was scaled back to match the number of riders on the road. All-in-all it worked out well and the riders all reported being well supported. Hammer Nutrition provided individually packaged products, which were very appreciated.

Many riders (at least 20) were either SAG'd back or turned around either at or before lunch, not wanting to face the heat on Skaggs. Although the day turned out "cooler" than expected with temperatures just nearing 100 degrees in Cloverdale, riders reported temperatures on Skaggs of over 110 degrees.

At the end of the day, we have 24 finishers (times and rankings below), a 44% finish rate. Ranked 1st was club member Sakae Wada of El Cerrito, followed by Andy Shkabko, Shawn Daly, Greg Plumb and Tim Page (all locals) rounding out the "top 5." The majority of the finishers made it in under 17 hours to "Beat the Clock," and three riders succeeded in the "Terrible Me" challenge (where they estimated their finishing time when they registered and beat that goal): Greg Plumb, Alonso Cruz and Nicole Steinmetz.

Speaking of Nicole, this remarkable 18 year old is the youngest female to finish the TT in under 18 hours (for California Triple Crown credit). We expect to see continued great things from this young lady. Great job!

Although no other records were broken, the event went off pretty smoothly, all things considered. Our "rudimentary" finish in the church parking lot actually worked out great, with riders arriving back to hot burritos (from Lila's in Santa Rosa) and tamales (from Tamales Mana, also Santa Rosa), cold and hot drinks, and some sweets. Plus a set of enthusiastic volunteers welcoming them with cowbells before dark and pom poms after dark (to not wake the neighbors)

Thanks to the INCREDIBLE support by Scot Castle and his wife Cathy (could not have done it without them), as well as all the rest stop chairs, our "leapfrog" SAGs, the warehouse crew(s) and every other volunteer that helped out. Especially my partner, Jose Martinez, who put up with all my late night work and days of takeout meals, and then hauled stuff back and forth from the warehouse and church in addition to running the SAG crews, and working with me from 3AM to midnight on the day of the event. (check back here later for a full list of ALL the amazing volunteers).

Finally, this event is a "legacy" of this club, supported by countless volunteers in the past. A real "marquee" event for SRCC. We will need a dedicated crew for 2022 - interested? Let me know, please! Hey if we could pull this off in the just six weeks after we made the decision to go forward, imagine what could be done with more time! (Note, we plan to bring back the 200K in 2022).

More information on the event can be found at these links:

TT website: <https://srcctt.webflow.io/>

2021 Course: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/36326211>

History: <https://srcc.wildapricot.org/History-of-TT-&-FAQ>

About the California Triple Crown: <http://www.caltriplecrown.com/>