

## Declaration of Intent

An attempt is being made to form a Tandem Club of America (T.C.A.) as a non-profit national organization dedicated to increasing the use and enjoyment of tandem bicycles. We feel that coordination of tandemists on a national level would be beneficial to the sport due to the increase in communications. It is hoped that the organization will result in better bicycling experiences for tandemists. The central feature of the club will be a bimonthly bulletin that will contain the following features:

1. A forum for ideas and innovations. Close to the heart of most tandemists is the debate and trial of mechanical innovations. At present, the bicycling press is noticeably one sided in their coverage of tandem innovations. We will actively promote the sharing of ideas from all parts of the U. S., and attempt to periodically list the various sources of tandem parts. Also, we encourage coverage of stoker-driver communication and the physical techniques involved in getting tandems up hill and down dale.
2. Sponsorship and announcement of tandem rides and rallies. The club intends to assist tandemists in organizing and routing rides at the local level, and advertising those rides nationally. These activities will result in improved communication among tandemists on a person to person basis.
3. Coverage of newsworthy events concerning tandems. This would include interviews with outstanding tandem tourists and racers, frame builders and tandem shops, as well as reports on interesting events (e.g. the multiple rider class of the international human powered speed championships).
4. A swap - sell column. To be listed as a service to the reader, a free column for advertising noncommercial sources of tandem frames, cycles and odds & ends.

## Cross Country Record Attempt Fails

In 1884, Thomas Stevens rode a high wheeled ordinary bicycle from Oakland, Ca. to Boston in 103.5 days. Ninety-two years later, a pair of Marin County cyclists attempted to follow him - at almost 10 times the speed!

In perhaps the first attempt at a cross USA tandem record, Otis Guy and Joe Breeze covered 1600 miles on their one of a kind Eisentraut tandem before stoker Breeze's knees failed him. Aiming at a pace of 252 miles a day (3025 miles in twelve days), they left San Francisco at 4 a.m. on June 22, 1976, accompanied by a support van and motorcycle. They quit in Grand Island Nebraska, having covered over half their journey at the prescribed pace. Roughly following the route of Interstate 80 and riding on it where legal (and in some places not) the duo jammed up the Sierras and Rockies in a low gear of 62" (46 x 20) while descending at speeds approaching 60 mph in a high gear of 129"!

Guy and Breeze are both USCF Category II racers from the Siphon Art sponsored Velo Club Tamalpais. They are the winners of the past two Heart of California Double Century runs, winning in 1975 in the record time of 8:59 (22.3 mph). That's not bad for a D. C. which contains over 7500 feet of climbing! But one can rest after a double century. Joe Breeze found that the grind of a week's worth of pushing high gears tore his knees apart.

At last report Otis Guy is planning a second attempt in the summer of '77. Any volunteers, stokers?

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Tandem Southwest '77

Tandem Southwest '77 is a tandem rally sponsored by the TCA and scheduled for the weekend of March 19, 1977 in Oceanside, California. It will feature two days of rides from 40 to 100 miles, and a picnic on Sunday in beautiful Live Oak County Park. Facilities for camping and motel accommodations will be available. The rally will be followed by a six day tour of San Diego County and Baja California, visiting Julian, Tecate, Ensenada, and the coast. Address inquiries concerning the rally, tour or both to: Malcolm Boyd, Editor, TCA Bulletin, 179 S. Sierra Madre Blvd., Pasadena, Ca. 91107. Please include a self addressed stamped envelope.

## Wheelbase

Single bikes typically have a wheelbase of 40", while tandems measure about 65". Single bike clubs rarely are geographically larger than a state, but the TCA, like the special bikes it represents, has an immense wheelbase. The bulletin, edited on the west coast and printed on the east (thanks to Beth and Glenn Zeichner of Princeton, New Jersey) likewise spans the nation. Since club meetings, except for regional ones, will be impossible, we feel that the bulletin will be the lifeblood of the organization. This initial copy of the TCA bulletin has reached you because we know that you are interested in tandems. This issue was financed jointly by two pairs of interested tandemists who would like to promote this organization. Funds are limited, however, and we need your membership in the TCA to continue sending you a bulletin. This is a non-profit organization. Every effort has been made to minimize expenditures. The membership fee has been calculated to meet the necessary costs of producing the bulletin.

Furthermore, we feel that it would be self-defeating if a few people were to write all the material in the bulletin. Tandeming contains such a diversity of experience and ideas; let's see what you have to share with us! To help generate feedback, we are particularly interested in two things:

1. a better title for the bulletin. Earn instant immortality as the namer of this esteemed periodical! All entries will be considered.
2. OK, frustrated artists! We are planning to have a club patch and we'd like your creative design. Winner of the design contest wins a free patch! Now there's a deal!

Send suggestions and graphics to the editor.

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TCA Membership Application

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY & STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

The annual TCA membership fee is \$3.50 per tandem team. Checks may be made payable to TCA and should be sent to:

Malcolm Boyd  
 Editor, TCA Bulletin  
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 Pasadena, Ca. 91107