

DOUBLETALK

DoubleTalk is a publication of the Tandem Club of America
"AN INTERNATIONAL CLUB FOR TANDEM ENTHUSIASTS"

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The Tandem Club of America
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Double Talk

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An International Club for Tandem Enthusiasts

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editor@tandemclub.org



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Who Does What?

Editor: Edits your articles for DoubleTalk, accepts all advertising, and wants your mid-year address corrections.

Secretary: Contact point between TCA and the outside world.

Membership: Collects dues, processes memberships.

Treasurer: Money management, tax and financial reports. Pays the bills

Merchandise: Sells T-shirts and any other TCA-approved merchandise that may be offered from time to time.

Webmaster: Maintains the TCA Website - www.tandemclub.org

When you contact one of these volunteers, seeking information about the TCA and/or tandem activities in the area, please be specific. Many of these individuals are also active in other bicycling organizations, and a SASE with no questions asked may never be returned.

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What do TCA members do?

Write articles, draw cartoons, send letters, host rides and rallies.

Deadline for the November-December issue is October 1, 2009

BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE

We have a limited number of back issues of Doubletalk available to complete your collection. For each issue desired, send a check for \$3.00, payable to Tandem Club of America, to Jack & Susan Goertz, 2220 Vanessa Drive, Birmingham, AL 35242-4430. The issues you order will be sent to you either via first class postage (1-4 issues ordered) or via UPS (more than 4 issues ordered).

Issues still available:

2009

July - August
May - June
March - April
January - February

2008

November - December
September - October
July - August
May - June

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From the Editors

In the last issue, I (Jack) mentioned that I was on crutches, as I was recovering from a FDGB (Fall Down Go Boom) accident suffered while riding one of my motorcycles. I want to thank all of you for your thoughts and good wishes. They meant a lot to me, and I hope each and every one of you is able to keep the rubber side down in the future. I know I'm going to try! And yes, the healing is about complete. The crutches are in storage, I'm back riding a motorcycle, and, MOST IMPORTANTLY, we're BACK ON OUR TANDEM! You don't realize how much you miss something (like riding your tandem with your partner) until you can't do it for awhile. 10 weeks seemed like forever, but it really wasn't that long in the entire scheme of things!

The Eastern Tandem Rally is now history. Susan and I did attend, we did see the trains at the Strasburg Station, we even saw one of the steam trains running on the tracks just east of Strasburg. We also saw lots of Amish & Mennonite buggies on the roads. Very picturesque, very quaint area, lots of fun. Even tho' I wasn't a rider at this rally, it was great to see many of our long-time friends and to make more friends.

The Northwest Tandem Rally is also history. We'd hoped to make it north of the border for this rally so that we could tandem with many of our friends from the Pacific Northwest, but it just wasn't meant to be this year. Reports we've had from the Rally said it was another stellar event. You can read one Midwesterner's account in DoubleTalk, and we hope

to have at least one more article about NWTR in a future issue. The next two rallies, at least, are moving back into the States. Look for more info in the Calendar as we receive it.

Only two more major rallies on the schedule for this year, the Midwest Tandem Rally and the Southern Tandem Rally. We hope to be at both of them, and we plan to be riding. Look for us there. We'll have a TCA Booth in the Vendor Area @ MTR – stop by and say hello to whoever is manning the booth at the time. And if you've got the time, we'd love to have you volunteer for a shift or two at the booth. Shifts aren't long, and you get to meet some of the people who contribute articles and share their experiences with other TCA members.

We thought we had our new TCA Website ready to go, but some last minute problems with our members' database information has kept it from being ready to go. Our new webmaster promises us that it won't be much longer and he'll have those last few bugs stamped out. Once it's fully debugged, you'll be able to do a lot more on the site, including keeping your own address up to date (a very handy feature for those who winter down south, summer up north), and will be able to renew your membership online via PayPal. Of course, the ads and the calendar will be on line, too, and you'll be able to submit ads, events, and articles via our website.

See you on the road!

Jack & Susan

**Please
share your
thoughts
with
Double-
Talk**



DoubleTalk

Letters to Double- Talk

Dear DoubleTalk,

I feel I have to respond to a recent article in DoubleTalk that urged bike tourists to avoid South Carolina. What area isn't without its challenges for cyclists? Many of us who have moved to coastal Carolina from elsewhere around the country were attracted by the special beauty of the low country with its beaches, saltwater estuaries, winding rivers, specimen trees, wildlife, flora and fauna in a laid back and historic setting. We believe it is a terrific area to experience and explore on a bicycle. Because of this unique environment, the word has spread and the low country has attracted an influx of new residents, retirees and visiting tourists, especially during this past decade. We simply haven't had the roadway infrastructure and cycling support "network" in place to meet these significantly increased demands. But much work is in progress to correct some of these low country problems. In Beaufort County alone, we have several hundred millions of dollars committed to infrastructure improvements. This includes 25 miles of new pathways and many miles of new bike lanes which will be added to 125 miles of pathways currently in place. We have excellent rail/trail projects in the works. Daufuskie Island, mentioned in the article, plans to "go green" and become a cycling destination accessible only by ferry. This is a place in change, headed in the right direction, although we do have places with tough riding conditions.

Elsewhere in the state, the US Pro Championships are held yearly in Green-

ville, SC, home of two of the nation's largest and most active cycling clubs. The assault on Mt. Mitchell is one of the biggest and longest running mountain centuries in the country and respected by cyclists up and down the East Coast. In Aiken County, where there is light traffic, visitors from Europe and Canada come to ride through tree lined roads over rolling hills through beautiful horse country. Routes from Myrtle Beach to Charleston are routinely ridden without incidence, as are routes from McClellanville to Mt. Pleasant.



South Carolina is becoming a bicycle friendly state. The Palmetto Cycling Coalition (PCC), our statewide advocacy group, has been working diligently for more than the last decade with partners around the state to make a more bicycle friendly South Carolina. The PCC has hosted many League of American Bicyclist (LAB) workshops throughout the state to promote important values of bicycle safety, education and advocacy.

In addition to the PCC, other advocates throughout the state are working with their local Chambers of Commerce and visitors bureaus, cycling clubs and shops, and other cycling groups to provide routing and ride information. Three SC municipalities have been awarded LAB Bicycle Friendly Community awards. More are working to qualify. South Carolina's lawmakers recently enacted legislation that has been nationally

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recognized as the most progressive set of bike laws in the country. Our objective is to provide our cycling residents and guests with a safe and enjoyable experience wherever they ride.

So, please cut us a little slack and be patient during this transition. Our local bike groups are happy to share their ride routes with visiting cyclists. We hope DoubleTalk reader suggestions will be forwarded to the PCC (www.pccsc.net), thereby helping us improve cycling in our state. So DoubleTalk readers, please get on your bike and come see us.

Frank Babel
Squeaky Wheels Cycling
Advocacy Group
Hilton Head Island, SC

Please

Your help is needed

Limericks are needed for those odd spaces that occur in DoubleTalk. Send your Limericks to the editors: editor@TandemClub.org



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Muts Tour De Thumb

16-23 JUNE 2007

Continued from the July/August issue. We left the MUTS in the middle of day tree of their tour. They were riding from Cass City to Caseville, MI

Leaving Sebawaing, we got confused and wandered off the route, but Gary and Ronda caught up with us and straightened us out. We rode past some very pretty scenery; there were catalpa trees blooming all over. For what I consider to be an ugly tree, with annoying “bean” fruits, it is beautiful when it blooms and we hit the peak time in this part of the state. Later we caught up with Len and Vonnie, Steve and Kris, and Dave and Karen. We were now riding along the lakeshore and could see a threatening group of clouds to the east and slightly north of us. Except for Gary and Ronda, we stopped in Bay Port (wasn't that where

the Hardy Boys lived?) at a small store for ice cream and/or snacks, and also hoping to avoid the storm. The sign for Bay Port proclaims: “Where the fish caught the man.” They have a fish sandwich festival every year.

The temperature, by now, was probably in the upper 90s, but those of us with thermometers in our cyclometers or on our bikes were showing readings of over 100 degrees. On the hot asphalt and in the full sun, that was probably accurate.

Much of our route along the lake, today and later, took us on the state highway, M-25, which is not heavily travelled and is quite suitable for biking. However, north of Bay Port, our route had a detour around a bridge being rebuilt. A few of our other riders found that the way was passable for foot/bike traffic; our little group took the planned route inland but cut it short by heading directly north to Caseville instead of returning to the lakeshore. Our stop for the night, Caseville County Park, was easy to find; it lies just east of the town itself. On arrival we learned that the electricity was down for the whole town as a result of the storm we had seen; the really bad news for us was that this meant no showers. Fortunately we were on the beach. Many of us waded into the very shallow water, which at the edge felt almost bathwater-warm, until we could dunk ourselves and at least feel a little fresher and much cooler.

We set up the tents, had dinner...still no electricity. Because it was so hot, Rick had bought a small fan at a store in town – of course, at the moment this was only a gesture. Nancy had been into town,



Lunch breaks were always a fun adventure.

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and said that the grocery store was letting people in to shop by flashlight, as long as they didn't open any of the freezers or coolers.

These days I usually tolerate heat pretty well – I am no longer headachy, nauseous, and really cranky – but today was an exception. I was really miserable and would have opted for an air-conditioned motel – had there been any electricity anywhere. But I was saved by the wonderful repairmen at the power company. Sometime after dark, as we lay sweating in our tent, I felt a welcome cool breeze and assumed it was coming in through one of the windows. Rick knew immediately that it was the fan, which he had plugged in and placed in the “on” position. Hurray for electricity! Thereafter, the night was *much* more comfortable than I had anticipated.

Day Four: Rest Day

This was our planned day off, with time for laundry, swimming, shopping, or taking an optional ride to the west out Sand Point.

During the night we had rain, lots and lots of rain. Our tent had a couple of small leaks (need to reseal those seams) and a little rain came in the screens before Rick shut the flaps. I turned off the fan about four or five o'clock; today is blessedly much, much cooler than yesterday.

We did some shopping in town. I found a neat shop called Two Blondes and a Business, where I bought some buttons for my Crocs and Rick bought a pair of Crocs for himself. Later, on my own, I found a neat book store located in

a lady's garage; not much room but she sure had a lot of books in there. I noticed she had quite a lot of science fiction, of which Rick is a devotee, so I brought him around later and he found a couple of books he needed.

We all ate lunch at a place on the beach next to the campground; Rick and I had a couple of really great gyros, and I think everybody else liked their lunch, too. It's the kind of place where you order at the counter and they bring your lunch out; the lady working, who had a great sense of humor (fortunately) had the crowd well in hand. To make it easier, they made all of one kind of order at a time; she would come out and say, “Everybody who had a gyro, raise your hand.” This worked out great.

After eating, most, or maybe all, of us rode out onto Sand Point. It was a nice ride, past some great lake cottages, some wooded areas, and views of Lake Huron

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in between. Out at the point were some McMansions, some impressive and some that I thought looked overdone. Rick and I came straight back, instead of heading somewhat south as the route showed, and met an “older” (older than us) couple on an older (lots older than ours) tandem.

Day 5: Caseville To Huron City,
Wednesday, 20 June 07; 29.4 miles

This was a short day and ended up at a beautiful campground (Lighthouse County Park) overlooking the lake. We took a break in the town of Port Austin, where one of my aunts taught school about 60 years ago. Lunch today was at Captain Morgan’s in Grindstone City, where we were seated outside and had a nice lunch and a good time.

For many years, grindstones were quarried here; the type of stone found here is ideal for that use. Marge, who comes from the Thumb area, remembers

her grandmother having a small cone-shaped grindstone for sharpening knives.

After lunch we rode out on a small peninsula adjacent to the restaurant, which I found especially beautiful and peaceful.

After reaching our campground, it was a little hard for me to adjust to the idea that the lake is now to our east, because we have rounded the tip of the Thumb. To put it simply, instead of watching the sunset over the water, we now could watch the sun rise over the lake. We did have a nice sunset, though, even viewed from this direction.

Before dinner, many of us visited the Huron City Museums (website: www.huroncitymuseums.com). This is a small “village” with a collection of buildings that may be toured, including a church, a log cabin, the Seven Gables Victorian home (not Hawthorne’s Seven Gables, of course), a general store, and the Point aux Barques Lifesaving station. We had a very knowledgeable guide who gave us a thorough tour of this interesting complex. We actually took two tours; the buildings are divided into separate tours. I would recommend, if time permitted, seeing the house in the morning and the remainder in the afternoon or next day, because it is a lot of information to absorb.

After dinner we had our first campfire of the trip.

Day 6: Huron City To Harbor Beach,
Thursday, 21 June 07; 55.8 miles

Because Rick is cooking tonight, he and I took the shorter route, bypassing the leg inland to Bad Axe, and rode about



A marker in Grindstone City.

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25 miles, to allow him plenty of time for dinner preparations.

A few miles down the road we met a detour; watching MUTS roll their bikes through a cornfield was very interesting!

We stopped in the town of Harbor Beach for a morning break; among other shops, there was an interesting shop on the corner, called The Corner Shop; a great bakery, toy store, and a couple of antique shops.

On the shorter route, Rick and I arrived in the campground, Wagner County Park, about noon. We set up our tent and then, with Pat and Penny, rode a couple of miles to Williams Inn for lunch. There we met the Stickleys and the Passons.

Day Seven: Harbor Beach To Port Sanilac, Friday, 22 June 07; 59.9 miles

Today was quite cool, with the temperature only in the 60s, which is fine with me. The route took an “elbow” inland to take in the petroglyphs at Sanilac Petroglyphs Historical Park. Cathy says that when she used to bring classes here, there were no restrictions and she would pick up the key to the gate from a neighboring farm. Nowadays, in order to protect the ancient carvings from modern graffiti “artists” the area is fenced off and only open at certain hours. A roof covers the rock to protect it from the weather. We walked down a short path through the woods to the site. The guides gave us a “map” of the site, with line drawings of the various figures. At first it just looked like a very large rock with some vague markings on it, but the longer I



MUTS take to the corn to avoid a detour.

looked the more the figures popped out at me. There were spirals, parallel lines, some bird-like figures, and particularly plainly, an archer. These carvings may be as much as 1000 years old. They were probably covered by brush until the forest fires of 1871 and 1881 helped expose them to view.

After spending time studying the petroglyphs, we retraced our steps to the



The petroglyphs are amazing reminders of those who came before us.



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bike parking area. Our drivers of the day brought us lunch; make-your-own subs from Subway in Bad Axe, which was the nearest restaurant. They were absolutely delicious.

From the petroglyphs we headed back toward the lakeshore, climbing one large hill and some smaller ones. As we got closer to the lake it got cooler and we made a jacket-putting-on stop. The scenery today was very green; corn and wheat, grass and trees.

Tonight's campground, Sanilac County Park, seemed unusual to me, with private homes adjoining the campsites. Our campsites were a little less than desirable as they were under the trees on dirt, with a bit of a slope – we would have liked to have been farther down the hill on the grass. Oh, well, you take what they give you. We still slept well, as we had every night this trip. Could this have something to do with the exercise?

During the night I saw something I hadn't seen in years when I arose for the nightly trip to the restroom: the Milky Way. Wow, was that a sight! We don't see it at home because of the lights in town.

Dinner tonight was at a steak house a short distance down the road from the campground; some of us walked and some rode. Rick and I walked; I had absolutely no desire to get back on the bike right away!

Day Eight: Port Sanilac To Cass City, Saturday, 23 June 07; 39 miles

This last day was full of more pretty scenery; farms and trees and fields. We returned to the school in Cass City where our cars were parked; loaded up, said farewells, and departed. Rick and I headed toward my brother and sister-in-law's house near Flint to pick up our dog, Austin, and we had a nice dinner together before heading home.

Shelley Pulliam
Bellevue, MI



I once asked a girl from Turin
To go riding with me on my twin.
I cannot dislike her,
Though she thinks I'm a biker.
I don't ride a hog, but a Schwinn.

Pat Hill
Cedar Rapids, IA



Lake Huron

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Of Young Children, Centuries, and Double Centuries

I am one of those persons who bicycles almost everywhere simply out of practicality. I have singles, a tandem, and a triplet. I drive maybe once a month, if that. Shoshanna, my firstborn, has ridden the usual array of child carriers since infancy - trailer, child seat, and trail-a-bike. When she was four, I got a kiddie stoker setup for my Cannondale Tandem - and then the whole world changed.

Shoshanna is on the small side - at present (nine years old), she is barely 50 pounds and just over four feet tall. But you would be foolish to underestimate her ability, endurance, or determination. I know, because I have.

She started her cycling complaints at age five. "Daddy, when am I going to get clipless pedals? You have them, it's not fair!" Well, no one makes cycling shoes in a toddler size 6. So, being a soccer coach, I took a pair of soccer shoes, cut off the rubber cleats of the front, installed aluminum plates on the inside and SPD cleats on the outside, and - voila! Toddler-sized cycling shoes. With a box cutter, hacksaw, and dremel tool, each shoe took about 30 minutes to create. She could barely clip-in on the lowest tension setting, and when we arrived at our destination I had to turn her heels to disengage the pedal for her. I have made a new set every six months since then, and the collection awaits her 3-year-old brother if and when he decides he is ready for them.

At age six, more complaints: "Daddy, I want to ride 100 miles in one day. You've done it, it's not fair!" It became an obsession with her. I told her she was not ready and listed all of the problems she would have if she tried. My verbal arguments failed to dissuade her, so - being a parent - I decided to let natural consequences do the job for me. I would let her try, fail, and then maybe she would have more respect for my cycling expertise.

We planned a rather hilly route and left on a self-contained century around 8:00 am. Long story short - eleven hours and 102.3 miles later, we pulled in the driveway and she asked to do another one the next day. She didn't even stress for one minute. I politely declined the invitation, explaining that adults actually



Shoshanna rides her first century at age 6



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need to do something called “recover.” So much for natural consequences...

Her complaints advanced with her age and ability. At age seven, it was “Daddy, I want to do a double century!” At least this time she could not say, “It’s not fair!” - I am really just a commuter and have never done such an event. Poor learner that I am, I started to explain to her why she could not possibly do such a distance. I know that an 11-hour century rider does not make a double-century finisher. Her reply was silent - just a look, the same look she gave me when I told her she could not do one hundred. The look that said, “You were wrong before, don’t make me prove you wrong again...”

The expression was somewhat disrespectful - I really should have disciplined her for the non-verbal response. But after she rode her first hundred, I silently promised myself never to tell my kids “you can’t do that” based on my perception of their abilities. If it’s not inherently dangerous, I let them decide and discover for themselves.

We signed up for the Davis Double



Century (2007) in Davis, CA. It’s held in May, only a ninety-minute drive from here, “only” 7000 feet of climbing, good

support, good roads. We started at 4:00 am (I knew we would need all the time we could get). All through the event, riders passed us and were incredulous. “How old are you? How far have you ridden before?” She was the star of the show, while I was just a guy in front pedaling. No doubt that’s part of the attraction for her.

I did not train enough, and at the base of one of the big climbs at mile number 134, I bailed. She was actually mad at me. It seems I was the only one in over my head. Oh well - it was still a fantastic day. How many of us get to spend an entire day just pedaling, talking, and sharing with our kids? I don’t think there’s anything I enjoy more in this life. One dad, one daughter, one bicycle, no distractions, and one common goal.

Last year, at age eight, we tried it again. I actually did train this time. But the weather had other plans - the temperatures that weekend were 40-year record highs, and just before noon and 75 miles into the event it was 106 degrees and climbing. Shoshanna could not cope with the heat and agreed to call it a day. That’s been the only time she has voluntarily quit mid-ride, and I’m glad she did.

And then there was this year. I had Mel at Tandems East build us a set of lightweight wheels just for the ride (although I could not get him to promise the wheels would guarantee finishing the event). I forced myself to train (and being a tax preparer, training in March and April is a considerable sacrifice of scarce time). Unbelievably, the forecast was for more record highs that particular

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day, which kept my expectations low. I silently cursed the weather gods, whoever they were. We hit the road at 3:35 am, and at the first rest stop Shoshanna said she wasn't feeling well. She sat down for 45 minutes before deciding to resume. It looked like this would be a short event for us again.

We were slow and barely making the recommended cutoff times, despite our early start. I was shamelessly grabbing every wheel I could - we pacelined behind another tandem for 15+ miles and never pulled. Normally, that's bad form, but when you've got a nine-year-old on the back you can gracefully get away with almost every breach of cycling etiquette. Take that, Style Man!

As usual, Shoshanna was the star of the show - the riders remembered her from earlier years and those ahead of us were asking about the progress of "the kid on the tandem." The temperature reached 100 degrees before noon AGAIN - this wasn't fair! I took pictures of my VDO computer with the time/temp readouts to document the ridiculous heat so (back home) I could explain why we did so poorly. We made it somewhat OK to lunch, and headed on towards the last 1000'+ climb - named Resurrection Hill. And if you're reading this magazine, you know how well tandems climb - especially touring tandems with full racks and a kiddie stoker setup.

It was 104 degrees at the base. Shelter was scarce, and anytime we spotted shade (even on the wrong side of the road) we made a beeline (across traffic) and would stop for two minutes. We

emptied a water bottle every ten minutes, and after an hour and a half all nine were empty. Fortunately, the support staff anticipated well and had a supply vehicle on the climb. We refilled and kept pushing, playing leapfrog with exhausted riders who would walk a spell and then re-mount. Incredibly, the temp readout had actually gone up one degree. I felt spent and I silently considered quitting - and remembering two years ago, I dare not speak of it out loud. Unknown to me, my determined daughter silently considered the same. I watched my altimeter, and with 60 vertical feet to go we could see the top.

And then - for no good reason whatsoever - me and my exhausted kid simultaneously decided to sprint the remaining tenth-mile and pulled into the rest stop at 25-mph-plus going uphill, passing by a dozen cyclist on the way. I'm not sure where that energy came from. We re-supplied and enjoyed a great descent and twenty minutes later felt like we were just starting the event.

We pulled into the next rest stop at 120 miles. It was finally getting cooler. I talked to Shoshanna, who said she was now feeling good. So was I. We got back on the flat course and were almost holding 20 mph. I was a little nervous because I did not see anyone in front of us and wondered if we were lost. When I checked my mirror, I saw quite a surprise - riders actually on our wheel! I





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told Shoshanna to look back, and she was just as surprised. I don't think we've ever pulled a line before - we're just not capable.

The later it got, the faster we got. I can't explain it. The sun went down, I switched on my lights, and we easily cruised into the rest stop at 140 miles. Our time splits were now actually faster than what the cue sheet required - totally unfamiliar territory to us. We ate, drank, and talked about how good we felt. She was excited and definitely wanted to keep going. I had been careful to avoid talking about the subject of finishing earlier in the day, but now I proudly told her we might actually make it all the way to the end, maybe after midnight. I could barely believe it.

We left in the dark with a group of ten (to stay more visible). Riders were few and far between this late in the event and it made sense to stick together. Earlier in the day, I remember pushing as hard as I could just to stay on someone else's wheel. Now I was thinking, "Can't these guys go any faster?" I restrained myself from a solo (duo?) breakaway and stayed with the group.

And then it happened. Four miles later, the bike almost crashed. I don't remember hitting a pothole, but our tandem jerked left and we almost went down. It didn't feel like I had run over anything. I glanced down and back I could not find anything obvious mechanically (not that I could see

in the dark anyway) - and kept pedaling. Ninety seconds later, the whole rig shifted again.

"Shoshanna, what's going on? Is something wrong?" I shouted. No response. I looked over my shoulder to make eye contact - but only saw the top of her helmet. Her head was slumped down on the handlebars and she was falling asleep on the bike. It's a good thing she's only 50 pounds, or we probably would have gone down. Her legs wanted to keep going, but insufficient sleep the night before and a 2:55 am wake-up call were more than the rest of her body could handle. I talked to her for the next 75 minutes about anything I could think of, desperately trying to keep her awake.

We managed to keep the bike upright to the next rest stop, until 10:55 pm and 160.29 miles, and that's where her latest double century attempt ended. I personally never thought we would ever make it that far. I had never seen my kid reach her limits before and it had simply never occurred to me that she couldn't stay up 24/7 like any other insane adult. Her goal was to go at least 150 miles and pedal "from dark to dark" (which I



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thought was too extreme anyway), and she succeeded on both counts. What can one say?



Support staff loaded up our tandem and placed my unconscious stoker into a vehicle. BTW, those folks did A+ work all day long, especially providing extra water stations to help cope with the heat - you could not ask for better. I carried her from the car straight to her bed in the hotel room, and she slept the night in her jersey. The next day, we talked all the way home about how successful our day was, how proud we were, and all the stories she would tell her friends about the ride.

And now there's next year. For the first time, I am really nervous. The problem is, now the bar has been set way too high. Before it was just a totally fun ride with no hope of finishing and no expectations to live up to. But now - If the weather is just slightly reasonable, if we sleep the night before, if I train enough, if somebody would just give me a Beyond or a Tetra Tetra (ha ha!) - if, if, if...we're probably going to be thinking about finishing right from the start. Children are usually process-oriented and not goal-oriented. I wonder how that will affect our day.

I don't know. It doesn't matter. It will still be one dad, one daughter, one bike, no distractions, and one common goal. It will be another wonderful adventure, whatever the outcome. And for me, life simply does not get any better than that. Go, Shoshanna!

Stacy Spinks
Castro Valley, CA

Alabama Tandem Weekend 2009

IT WAS A SPRINT TO THE FINISH. A race to dodge raindrops. Thus ended the Alabama Tandem Rally April 16-19 and happily, participants arrived at the finish line more dry than wet as the predicted thunderstorms had not yet developed by late morning when our 45 mile trek from Cedartown GA to Anniston AL ended.

Friday morning saw only two teams in residence at the Victoria Inn in beautiful downtown Anniston, and they decided to tour, by car, the Cheaha area that is known to cyclists for its infamous bike race. By afternoon, two more teams had arrived so a 30 mile country ride was embarked upon. Two more teams, both from Tennessee, arrived mid-ride and while promising to catch up to the 4 team group, a bit of confusion ensued and 24 miles later, they returned to the start line, admitting they had spent the entire ride "lost."

Somehow our loosely organized group found itself once again at Classic on Noble for dinner Friday night. We were seated in a cozy 3 table dining room complete with fireplace and comfy seating, and were treated to a delicious dinner. We enjoyed ourselves so much that we were the last diners to leave. We noticed at dinner that not one team in attendance was from Alabama, and only



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Dinner isn't complete without dessert.

two teams were returnees from last year's ride. This was a great opportunity to meet new people and make new friends.

One couple, Jay and Joan Thome,

hail from Lancaster County, PA. They

had driven to their son's home in Georgia, and ridden in on the Silver Comet/Chief Ladiga trail on Thursday, putting in about 70 miles to reach their Anniston destination. These folk have ridden their tandem literally all over the continental US and a lot of Europe. Don't let Joan's two knee replacements fool you. That lady lead the pack in hill-climbing on Friday's ride.

Another couple arrived Friday evening from Indiana. They, too, have done extensive touring, and we suspect their

dinner experience Friday night consisted largely of swapped cycling tales with the PA couple.

Following a full country breakfast Saturday morning, we traveled

out to the trailhead of the Chief Ladiga rails-to-trails where we happily met up with two couples from Alabama (both returnees from last year's event) and the Osgood's (from Atlanta) whose parents provided SAG for us. After a brief "rider's meeting," our trip was underway. Destination: Solid Rock Cafe in Piedmont, AL. Cyclists are always willing to ride for food, and what a gastronomic feast we had. The Key Lime Slushy was a big hit and everyone enjoyed the Solid Rock experience. Then it was on to Cedartown, GA.



Pictures were taken at the state line, watches were set ahead an hour, and up the trail a bit, the country folk in the group took to shooing a cow off the path. At first it seemed to want to race us, but eventually it decided to bail and took an exit stage right back into its field.

Once at the Holiday Inn Express in Cedartown, several cyclists decided a soak in the hot tub was in order. Ask Tom and Jim from Tennessee how many bottles of wine you can stick into a jersey (2), or how many bottles of beer can you get into the rear pockets (6). Stuff a bag of



Jim and Sherry's trailer makes its debut.

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Lunch in Piedmont was worth riding for.

Cheetos up under the front of your shirt and you're good to go!

There was a banquet of sorts that night at a local Mexican Restaurant and everyone in the group participated. Margaritas were flowing and we enjoyed getting to know each other a bit better. Linda's folks, our SAG drivers, joined us and seemed to fit right in with the group.

We kept a wary eye out for predicted storms, and decided to reconvene Sunday morning to make a decision as to whether we would cycle back to Anniston or SAG. It looked like the storms would hold off until afternoon, so the collective decision was made to cycle back to Anniston. About 5 miles into the return trip, a few sprinkles were felt which lead to a fairly steady drizzle for several miles (just enough to make everything muddy!). By the time we returned to our cars, the rain had stopped and it seemed as though sunny skies were just about to pop through. We were all happy we braved the weather and cycled and even Joyce from Nashville agreed it wasn't so bad.

We are happy to report that although there was a bit of wildlife on the trail, none was taken out by cyclists. One cyclist was tagged by a bird, there was only one flat tire on the entire trip, no accidents reported, and no complaints were registered. Jim and Sherry of Birmingham were testing out their new Burley trailer (they are riding for three weeks in Virginia in May) and they were happy they



Steve and Wendy Baxter of Louisville, AL join in the Mexican feast.

could squeeze it through the rails posted at the street edges all along the way. Great driving, Jim! And although George and Angela arrived Friday evening without their cycling gear, somehow it showed up just in time for Saturday morning's ride and life was good again.

Special thanks to Linda's parents for SAG support, and to Jack and Susan Goertz for organizing the event.

There was enthusiastic talk about next year's event, and since it seems this is a good weekend for everyone, it is probably safe to go ahead and mark your calendar's for April 17-20, 2010. As always, Double Talk will keep you informed.



Mr Wood, one of our sag drivers; Linda and Eric

Chuck and Lois Stumpf
Kenner, LA





DoubleTalk

HOT Kaua`i Tandem Rally

by Barton Cox

Over the past three years that we've been tandem cycling, I've been toying with the notion that tandem riders truly are "special." I know, I know. Every group on planet earth thinks they're special. And, of course we are all special, but having been a few places and experienced some stuff, I'll venture working theory: Tandem riders ARE special people. Take our recent trip to Kaua`i, for example, with HOT (Hawai'i On Tandems).

On Thursday, March 26th, four tandem teams from Oahu (me & my Beth; Dave & Beth; Bill & Rebecca; and Jim & Anne) arrived at Lihue Airport and were met by local HOT members Steve & Karen (on their tandem) and Sher-

man & Heatherbell (in their car). We had met the four Kauaians only through e-mail, and only because of TCA membership. This day was the first of a long weekend of rides on Kaua`i that they had volunteered to host. It was also the very first HOT rally. I have no doubt if it will become an annual event.

Right outside of the baggage claim area at the airport, three of the tandem teams put their bikes together and rode off with Steve & Karen, while Beth's and my bike, in pieces in a couple of suitcases, and all the other luggage and bike boxes, as well as Beth and I, went in Sherman & Heatherbell's car. Our first stop was at the Lihue Costco for grocery shopping. To keep costs down, we had agreed to take turns making the evening meal.

Then it was off to Sherman and Heatherbell's home, twelve miles away in Kalaheo, for lunch and an opportunity to get to know each other. After lunch, some couples took the opportunity to visit the nearby Kauai Coffee Company Plantation and Museum, which included sampling some of America's finest coffee. Dinner that night was made by Sherman and Heatherbell, and we feasted on baked salmon, huli-huli chicken, and a vegetable dish known as dal. Dal, I'm told, is Indian comfort food. It looks a bit like lentil soup



Six HOT tandem teams on the first morning of the Kaua`i Tour

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and tastes wonderful. Dessert was lilikoi (passion fruit) pie.

Next morning, Friday, March 27th, the six teams gathered at the Kalaheo Coffee Company and Café for breakfast, followed by the Southern Tour, Kalaheo to Po`ipu. We wound around through rural back roads that were mostly well paved, and (except for chickens) almost free of traffic. In some cases we rode for miles without seeing a single automobile. The route took us around the lower slope, and finally up to the summit of a hill that overlooks the whole south western coastline of Kaua`i, with Ni`ihau on the horizon. The land used to belong to a plantation owner, who bequeathed it to the people of the island when he died.

Then it was down the other side of the hill and back onto the main road to Koloa and Po`ipu. Here we took a route that roughly paralleled the shoreline—sometimes only a few feet from the beach, sometimes a little further back.

We stopped for lunch at Po`ipu Beach Park, where we were entertained by whales dancing offshore (I swear I`m not making this up), and then back home to Sherman and Heatherbell`s house where I barbequed steaks shipped in from Texas for the occasion. The day`s distance was only thirty miles, but the hills (oh! the hills!) made it seem much longer to us flatlanders.

Saturday, March 28th, the six teams met in Eggbert`s at the Coconut Marketplace in Wailua for breakfast. Wailua is about 10 miles on the other side of Lihue from Kalaheo. Some teams rode from Steve and Karen`s house, some were



Heatherbell, Sherman, Jim, Anne, Barton, Beth, Karen, Rebecca, Dave, Beth, Steve, and Bill at Spouting Horn

transported in cars with their bikes on top, and somehow (at this point, I`m afraid I lost track of logistical transport, and began believing in magic) the six teams got themselves and their bikes the twenty or so miles from the southern part of the island to the midpoint of the eastern shore. Northward we went through Kapa`a, along the gorgeous shoreline, the



HOT tandems riding the Kaua`i Path



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Dave and Beth at Kilauea Lighthouse.

first few miles on a dedicated bike trail called the Kaua`i Path.

At Anahola, we made a loop down into this small seaside town. A mile or so farther north we took another back road loop on Kalalea View Drive,

between beautifully appointed acreages bounded by white fences. The “View” in the name of the road is a close-up of Kalalea Mountain, which dominates the mauka landscape in the north east. Another mile on the highway, and another loop—Koolau Road, which was another incredible, beautifully paved road with almost no cars at all, winding down into a secluded valley and up to Kilauea on the north shore of the island. At this town we turned straight north to the Kilauea Lighthouse and National Wildlife Refuge where we stopped to see the amazing variety of protected sea birds: Red footed boobies (hundreds of nests), lesser and greater frigate birds, an albatross or two, and shearwaters. Then it was back into Kilauea for lunch, and then straight through on the highway to the cars parked at Coconut Marketplace in Wailua.

For Beth, me, Sherman, and Heatherbell, the distance was fifty miles (more hills!), but the others made an additional ten-mile tour of the Wailua Homesteads

area. They started off in the Kapa`a residential area, but back roads took them through more rustic and agricultural districts before heading back toward the coast. The route brought them eventually to a view of the Opaeka`a Falls on one side of the road and the glorious valley of the Wailua River on the other.

It was inevitable. Given the disparities of age and athleticism, HOT was bound to form sub-groups. Steve and Karen (who like to race) led the hot HOT group up to the falls, while Sherman and Heatherbell (who like to tour) shepherded the not-so-hot HOT group who fell behind. As I used to say when I was marathoning: “Hey, it’s us guys in the back who make you guys in the front look so good.” Anyway, somehow (at this point I was beyond caring—I slept through dinner) everybody got back to Sherman and Heatherbell’s for, what I’m told, was a fabulous meal involving a great vegetarian spaghetti—and some serious leftovers from the previous two nights.

Sunday, March 29th, we all met at Steve and Karen’s house in Lihue for a delicious and leisurely breakfast. Beth and I had decided to get up early and ride the distance, but we reckoned without the rain, which started to pour and didn’t stop for most of the 10 miles. So we ate in borrowed clothes while our biking gear dried off. We all watched the racing clouds and occasional showers as we ate, but after breakfast the weather cleared and we took a short (about twenty miles) ride around Lihue. We started off through the grounds of the Marriott and

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its two eighteen-hole golf courses, with spectacular birds-eye views of Nawiliwili Harbor and Kalapaki Bay. A service road took us through the airport (it's a small airport and even there the traffic is light and the drivers polite) and down to Ahukini Landing, where the waves were crashing mightily on the breakwater. Backtracking, we took yet another back road from the port of Nawiliwili up to a view overlooking Huleia Stream and the Alakoko Menehune Fishpond. Continuing on this road, we were again in a rural area for a short distance, but then we had to head back to Steve and Karen's to pack up the three Oahu teams (all but Beth and me, who had to dismantle our bike and put it in suitcases). The others made it in time for their two o'clock flights back to Honolulu.



Winding and hilly back roads are everywhere if you know where to find them

Sunday evening, the three remaining teams (our hosts, along with Beth and I) watched the sun set over beautiful Kalapaki Bay in Lihue. As we were dining, overlooking the beach at Duke's Canoe Club, and reminiscing about what a wonderful experience the first Kauai Tandem



Barton and Beth Cox, founders of HOT, riding Sir Oscar across the Kaua'i landscape

Rally had been, I happened to look down, and there, on the beach, was a sight I hadn't seen in decades. All lined up at the water's edge were four Tornado Catamarans. In another life I'd raced Tornados in Texas, but had never seen one in Hawaii. I took our hosts down and showed them how the two-person crews attach their harnesses to the trapezes, in order to hang out flat over the water as they skim along approaching speeds up to thirty miles an hour. Ah, but I digress...

It was wonderful! Magic!

But, you know, however enjoyable riding through the paradise that is Kaua'i happened to be, it pales in comparison to the pure joy of getting to know the very special people who have formed Hawaii On Tandems.

Ah hui hou.

Heatherbell Fong
Kalaheo, HI

PS: The pictures look SO MUCH better in color (Hawaii is in Technicolor, as I'm sure you know). Color pictures are available on our website, <http://site.hawaiiandtandems.com/> Click on "Pictures" at the upper right of the Home Page.





DoubleTalk

The Chain Gang or The Search for the Perfect Saddle

I know every bicyclist has difficulty finding a saddle that is comfortable on long rides. My husband however, has taken the problem to the next level and made it a true art form. Our cycling friends have urged me to send pictures of my husband's "chain gang" to the TCA. I'm sure most cyclists will find his quest humorous or at least interesting.



Attached is a picture of all the saddles he has tried since he began riding again after almost 35 years of being off the bike. He raced for a local bike shop, on a dirt track, back in the late 50s and early 60s. When he turned 16 and started to drive, the bike was put away and other pursuits filled his time.

When our daughter-in-law was diagnosed with

MS in 1992, he decided he would train up and ride MS 150 bike tours to raise money for research. He did the ride for 3 years on his single and then we both

started doing the Pennsylvania Dutch and the City-to-Shore rides on our tandem. We do the local walks as well.

Since his return to cycling, he has had many bicycles, but he still has his first bike that he bought with money from his paper route. In fact he has kept all his bikes. We purchased an inexpensive tandem boardwalk bike at first, just to see if we would like it. We did. We upgraded several times till the present. We had to get a triple and pull a Burley tag-along when the grandchildren came along and we have some other types just for fun, like the high wheeler (pictured on pg 23) and adult-sized big wheels.

I have tried to make an accurate count of the saddles. There are 32 of them hanging from all sides of the chain. There are another 16 of them on various bicycles and 2 or 3 of them are out on loan at any given time. Whenever someone mentions that they are considering a certain type of saddle, Dave says, "Well, before you buy one, maybe you would like to try the one I have, just to make sure".

Although I have only had 3 or 4 different types of saddles since I started riding in 1996, I'm afraid I have recently caught the "maybe there is something better" bug. At the present time, we are using his and hers versions of a saddle by Selle. We're pretty happy with them right now but who knows. They may wind up on the "chain gang".

Renee Strauss
Coplay, PA



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Northwest Tandem Rally Victoria, B.C.

Don and I recently attended the 23rd annual Northwest Tandem Rally (NWTR). Traditionally, this rally alternates between Memorial Day and the 4th of July holiday. This year it was over the 4th of July weekend, hosted in Victoria, BC. For us, it was a 4600-mile drive from our home in IN, plus a ferry ride. We also worked in some visits with family and friends, plus enjoyed several day bike loops along the way). We are guessing there were about 300 tandem teams in Victoria, with total attendance

announced at 685. Sadly they did not distribute any list of attendees or provide name badges for us to wear, so we are not sure of the exact state representation.

Friday's ride to Butchart Gardens was optional. Riders arriving early were led in groups of 10-20 teams to the Gardens, then provided a cue sheet for the return ride. We didn't arrive to the University of Victoria campus, where we had elected to stay in dorm rooms, until after 4 pm, so we were on our own to ride to and from the Gardens. Despite a slight map-reading challenge, we were able to make it to the Gardens, arriving shortly after 6 pm. It was a perfect time to view the Gardens,

Northwest Tandem Rally



The highwheeler is 'just for fun' - Renee Strauss

as the sun was down enough to avoid the heat of the day – and the shadows added to the beauty of all of the greenery. In the 1910s and 1920s the Butchart family planted beautiful annual and perennial flowers in the traditions of an Italian Garden and a Japanese Garden. In addition, they converted a depleted quarry to a stunning Sunken Garden. Our return trip to campus at dusk was uneventful as we took advantage of frequent bike lanes as well as courteous drivers.

The mass start at 8 a.m. on Saturday was electric, with colorful jerseys from all over the country represented (4 teams from Florida, a new



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club from Hawaii, lots of tandem groups from Oregon and Washington, and many from western Canada – we didn't see anyone else from Indiana, though we proudly wore our HOOTs jerseys).

The routes on Saturday took us north on Vancouver Island via the eastern shore. The Lochside Trail, some parts paved, other parts hard-packed surface, occasionally as a marked bike lane, served as most of the route north, past Sidney Harbor (ferry to Anacortes WA), to Land's End (ferries to Vancouver and the Gulf Islands). Much of the return route on the west side of the island followed the same roads we had ridden from Butchart Gardens.

Saturday evening's banquet was held at the UVic Commons with a yummy buffet of salmon and roast beef. The award to the team that had come the farthest distance went to a couple from Singapore.

Most of the routes on Sunday were on the Galloping Goose Trail, which goes nearly 20 miles from the center of Victoria to the western part of the Island. The return route wandered through downtown Victoria – many teams ended up in the middle of the Pride Parade. The final 8 miles were along the rugged southeast seacoast with breathtaking views of the Olympic Mountains across the Juan de Fuca Sound.

As part of the final evening's Beach Party we took a test paddle on a two-person kayak in the Bay.

Monday there was an optional 50-mile ride among the Gulf Island

(Canada's part of the San Juan Islands), involving three ferry rides between route segments. We opted instead to head back to the U.S. It seemed a good decision as overcast skies began to produce raindrops while we were on the ferry.

It was enjoyable to ride in Canada and experience a different tandem rally. We made notes that will be helpful as we plan for MTR 2010 in Shipshewana, IN.

And hopefully some of the teams we met in Victoria will come east to experience a Midwest Tandem Rally.

In 2010 the Northwest Tandem Rally will be in Medford, OR (Rogue River Valley), and in Spokane, WA in 2011. These should be great rally locations, too, in two completely different regions of the Pacific NW. Check DoubleTalk for the dates and contact information when it's ready.

Don & Dolly Craft
Carmel, IN



There once was ride in Bowling
Green,

The roads were a sight to be seen,

No chip and seal in sight

A rider's delight

But the hills 'll make you lean and
mean

Anne & Kent Ellis
Bowling Green, KY

The Tandem Guru

Late last year, we had an on-going problem with our drive line that no one seemed able to fix. We replaced the chain and cassette as recommended, but still no solution to the skipping problem of the chain. We took it to numerous bike shops, but eventually the problem would return. We tried to read every repair manual out there, but to no avail. We were fortunate enough to attend a large tandem rally in the east this past summer. The problem resurfaced on a series of hills toward the end of the ride. As we pulled in to the hotel, we instinctively rolled over to some more experienced and wiser tandemists. Explaining our problem, we hoped that the peculiarities of a tandem and the perplexities of this machine might enable their skillful counsel. The wiser tandemist told us to spin the cranks backward so he could have a look at the chain. We thought it was a rather odd request since we checked about everything on the bike before we left. We did as he instructed and he immediately pointed to the problem. "You have a bent link and the one side of the other link has fallen away. If you replace that, your problem should be solved." How could we and the bike shop miss such an obvious solution? We thanked the man and headed back to the room to replace the damaged links. Within a short amount of time our tandem was rolling again, less the problem that we had encountered in previous trips. I could not believe it was that simple, just replace a couple of links and the annoying skipping sound would

be gone. We rode silently and almost with a new sense of joy for our team.

It's funny how life sometimes emulates tandemming. When you're faced with insurmountable odds, and there seems to be no solution to the problem, there is. On that warm summer day, we sought out wiser counsel for our problem. When no one else could solve our problem, a fellow tandemist did. There are tons of resources out there for the tandemist, regardless of what machine you own. This organization as well as its supporting tandem clubs and shops can be a valuable aid to any tandemist. There is also the internet and its own tandem list which can be a goldmine of information for those who are willing to ask the questions.



There was a couple riding a tandem
together

Their bike was as light as a feather

The single bikes hung on

But the tandem put the hurt on

And they stretched out the paceline
breaking the tether

Steve & Cindi Souers



DoubleTalk

TANDEM CALENDAR

September 4-7, 2009. **Midwest Tandem Rally 2009.** Rochester, MN Jennifer McDonald twobytwo@scc.net 612.408.6607 or visit the website @ http://rahrahrochester.com/events/2009_MTR_Rally/index.aspx

September 7 – 11, 2009. **Midwest Tandem Rally Post Tour.** We'll be riding in the south east corner of Minnesota. The report is the roads are beautiful and the traffic is low. Contact Joanie Osell josell@earthlink.net

September 7, 2009. **DATES (Dallas Area Tandem EnthusiastS) Labor Day Ride and Picnic.** Plano, TX. What better way to celebrate a day off work. <http://www.doubledates.com>

September 12, 2009. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Blind Stoker Ride.** Wheaton, IL. Captains are always needed for this great event. www.Chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com or e-mail Chicagotandems@mchsi.com

September 12, 2009. **DOGS (Doubles Of Garden State) 4 Gardens Tour.** Basking

Ridge, NJ. Bike from Basking Ridge and stop at some or all four of the private gardens open to the public today only! We plan to eat lunch together at the Deli in Gladstone. Karen Witt <http://www.d-o-g-s.org/>

September 12, 2009. **Evergreen Tandem Club Annual Picnic.** Everett, WA. Three group rides with slow, medium and fast pace options plus great food and socializing. www.evergreentandemclub.org

September 12 and 13, 2009. **Covered Bridges Tandem Weekend.** Northeastern Ohio (Austinburg/Ashtabula County). We will visit about a dozen covered bridges, several wineries, an apple orchard, and the old resort town of Geneva on the Lake. Terrain is primarily flat to rolling in mostly rural areas. Contact Doug Crush at dwerush@aol.com

September 13, 2009. **GRITS (Greater Raleigh Intrepid Tandem Society) Smith & Claud's Chicken Ride.** Raleigh, NC area. Following the ride we grill veggie burgers and chicken at Smith & Claud's house. www.ncbikeclub.org/Grits/GRITS.htm

TANDEM CALENDAR

TCA Tandem Hospitality Homes

Are you willing to become a TCA Hospitality Home? If so please fill out the form to the right. If you would like to discuss what's involved, give me a call and we'll talk about it.

A Hospitality Home provides touring cyclists a place to stay for a night. It need not be fancy, a spare bedroom or even a tent site will do. The cyclist will need shower facilities and an opportunity to launder their clothes and a meal. The touring cyclist will call you well in advance and make arrangements; no surprises.

Phil Mortello, 181 N Retreat Dr, Show Low, AZ 85901

TCA Member No. _____ (from your label)
STATE _____ TOWN _____
First Names _____
Last Name(s) _____
Street Address _____
Zip Code _____ Evening telephone _____
e-mail _____
Daytime Telephone (optional) _____
Bedroom or tent site _____

homes@tandemclub.org

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September 13, 2009. **Harpeth, TN Bike Club Monthly Tandem Ride.** Nashville, TN area. We begin at a friendly pace then separate into groups by speed. Contact Tom Spear for details www.harpethbikeclub.com click on the tandem group ride

September 13, 2009. **HOOTS (Hoosiers Out On Tandems) Farm Fest Ride.** Shelbyville, IN. A fun ride through rural Hancock county and Indiana farming history . Ian Secof and Cheryl Sunman <http://tandemhoots.ning.com>

September 18-20, 2009. **TROLS (Tandem Riders Of Longview) Big Tandem Adventure.** Come experience the charm of historic Jefferson, nestled in the Piney Woods and Bayous of East Texas. The 12th annual TROLS Big Adventure will feature some new routes that are simply trolicious, along with the favorite spots returning riders have come to love. [www. DoubleDates.com](http://www.DoubleDates.com)

September 19-20, 2009. **Evergreen Tandem Club Mason Yakima Valley Winery Cycling Tour.** Yakima Valley. A great reason to travel to Central Washington. Enjoy riding in this scenic, agricultural setting and learn about the wines of the state by actually trying them.. Pre-registration is required. Mike and Renda Murphy twototandem@hotmail.com [www. evergreentandemclub.org](http://www.evergreentandemclub.org)

September 19-20, 2009. **GRITS (Greater Raleigh Intrepid Tandem Society) Wilmington Tandem Weekend.** Wilmington, NC area. Fall is here and it is time to plan a getaway. www.ncbikeclub.org/Grits/GRITS.htm

September 20, 2009. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Plowing Match Ride.** Big Rock, IL. It is festival time www.Chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com or e-mail Chicagotandems@mchsi.com

September 26, 2009. **Evergreen Tandem Club Mason County Rural Meander.** Shelton, WA. Cycle the quiet, remote roads of Mason County with forested hills, farm pastures and the Hood Canal. Questions? Randall or Barb at ETC@EvergreenTandemClub.org [www. EvergreenTandemClub.org](http://www.EvergreenTandemClub.org)

September 27, 2009. . **GRITS (Greater Raleigh Intrepid Tandem Society) Ride.** Carrboro, NC. We include the Carboro Music Festival in our ride. Ed & Jeanne lead. [www. ncbikeclub.org/Grits/GRITS.htm](http://www.ncbikeclub.org/Grits/GRITS.htm)

September 27, 2009. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Leaf me Alone Ride.** Barrington, IL. Fall is upon us. We'll be looking for fall color along the road. [www. Chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com](http://www.Chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com) or e-mail Chicagotandems@mchsi.com

October 2-4, 2009. **COWS (Couples on Wheels (WI)) Fall Weekend.** East Troy, WI We are gathering the herd for a fall event. The riding is great around East Troy and there will be tandems there – what could be better. Questions – Lee & Mary Fiegel Lfiegel@centurytel.net or couplesonwheels.com

October 3-4, 2009. **DATES (Dallas Area Tandem EnthusiastS) Stoker Appreciation Ride.** Cleburne, TX. The 16th Annual Stoker Appreciation Ride. Highlight of the weekend is “Champagne and Stoker Appreciation Poetry” after dinner Saturday night. The bubbly flows and captains read a poem they’ve written for their stokers. You can’t imagine how special and fun this is until you’ve participated in it. For captains that are not familiar with the SAR, our tradition is to show our stokers a good time on a weekend ride. The captains make the motel/B&B reservations and take care of details for the weekend. [http://www. doubledates.com](http://www.doubledates.com)

TANDEM CALENDAR



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October 9-11, 2009, **Southern Tandem Rally 2009**, The Villages, FL (near Ocala). Additional rides of 50 and 70 miles are planned for those who wish to arrive on Thursday 8 October. A Post Ride is planned for 12-15 October in Lake Wales, FL, with daily rides of 50 to 65 miles. Please visit our website at southerntandemrally.com for additional information.

October 9-12, 2009. **Fall Allegany Rally for Tandems (FART XVI)** Salamanca NY An extra day! Off road MTB weekend at Allegany State Park. Private rooms. All meals on your own. Riding XC ski trails, horse trails and dirt roads. Technically not difficult, but be prepared to climb. Register early-limited to 20 teams. For more info, contact Karen or Brian Managan 49 Martinot Ave Rochester NY 14609 (585) 654-9624 or frosty_dog@mac.com Because of the extra night, the cost for the entire camp for the weekend is \$750 divided by the number of teams, so the more teams, the less it costs! Check out the F.A.R.T. web page at <http://homepage.mac.com/bmanagan/fart/>

October 10, 2009. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Blind Stoker Ride**. Wheaton, IL. Captains are always needed for this great event. www.Chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com or e-mail Chicagotandems@mchsi.com

October 11 – 15. **Southern Tandem Rally Post Tour**. Lake Wales, FL. A fixed base post tour for those attending Southern Tandem Rally. The terrain will be flat to rolling with just enough down hills so you can recover for the next climb. Bob and Jan Thompson visit southerntandemrally.com for additional information

October 11, 2009. **GRITS (Greater Raleigh Intrepid Tandem Society) Chili Ride**. Cary, NC. This is the official Captain's Birthday ride. All October birthday's will be celebrated. www.ncbikeclub.org/Grits/GRITS.htm

ncbikeclub.org/Grits/GRITS.htm

October 18, 2009. **Harpeth, TN Bike Club Monthly Tandem Ride**. Nashville, TN area. We begin at a friendly pace then separate into groups by speed. Contact Tom Spear for details www.harpethbikeclub.com click on the tandem group ride

October 25, 2009. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Chili Pumpkin Ride**. Barrington, IL. The ride may be shorter as the temperature drops. We'll warm up afterwards with a chili feast. www.Chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com or e-mail Chicagotandems@mchsi.com

November 6-8, 2009. **DOGS (Doubles Of Garden State) Tandems Off-Road at Minnewaska-Hohonk**. New Paltz, NY. Three days of riding unpaved dual track at Minnewaska State Park and Mohonk Mountain Preserve just west of New Paltz, NY. Suitable for off-road tandems or cyclocross tires. This is one of the prettiest areas we've ever ridden. Cliffs and views. Malcolm Boyd and Judy Allison. [Http://www.d-o-g-s.org/](http://www.d-o-g-s.org/)

November 8, 2009. **GRITS (Greater Raleigh Intrepid Tandem Society) Ride**. Eno State Park. Roy & Zelena lead us to apple pie. www.ncbikeclub.org/Grits/GRITS.htm

November 15, 2009. **Harpeth, TN Bike Club Monthly Tandem Ride**. Nashville, TN area. We begin at a friendly pace then separate into groups by speed. Contact Tom Spear for details www.harpethbikeclub.com click on the tandem group ride

December 13, 2009. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Christmas Party**. Round Lake, IL. Tandem teams, but there may not be a ride. No matter, we know how to party. www.Chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com or e-mail Chicagotandems@mchsi.com

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www.TandemClub.org

April 23-25, 2010. **Southwest Tandem Rally 2010.** Paris, TX. What absolute fun, that continental feeling without leaving the United States. Kevin and Linda Vinson seem to be in charge with able assistance from the rest of the DATES. Details will be posted at <http://www.doubledates.com> as they become available.

May 13-16, 2010. **Georgia Tandem Rally 2010.** Stay tuned for details including the location <http://www.georgiatandemrally.com/>

July 2-5, 2010. **Northwest Tandem Rally 2010.** Medford, OR. 2009 was a great success so we are all looking forward to 2010. Details as they become available at <http://www.nwtr.org/>

July 10-12, 2010. **Eastern Tandem Rally 2010.** Saratoga Springs, NY area <http://www.easterntandemrally.org/>

Labor Day, 2010. **MTR 2010** Shippshewana, IN. Nice flat terrain, quaint Amish locale. Hosted by HOOTs (Hoosiers Out On Tandems), part of CIBA (Central Indiana Bicycling Association). More details at MTR 2009 in Rochester, MN and DoubleTalk. www.mtr2010.org

October, 2010. **Southern Tandem Rally 2010.** Southern Tandem Rally returns to Alabama. The southern charm will be high and the riding is looking fantastic. To add your name to the e-mailing list contact Jack and Susan Goertz, STR2010@TandemsLtd.com www.SouthernTandemRally.com

The TANDEM CLUB OF AMERICA wants to list your rides in the TANDEM CALENDAR. Rally and Ride Organizers, please send the information about your tandem events to:

DoubleTalk Calendar
2220 Vanessa Drive
Birmingham, AL 35242



CLASSIFIEDS –

FOR SALE: 2002 Santana Team AL, purchased new in 2006. 3,500 miles excellent condition. Size: Med / Med. Ouzo Pro carbon fork, Dura-Ace front brake. near new Winzip mechanical rear disc, ultegra STI shifters , XTR rear Derailleur, FSA Carbon cranks, shimano flightdeck, 27 speed. \$3,750 - Phone: 603-868-1588 - email: Charles@blitzer.org (NH) 09/09

FOR SALE: RANS Screamer recumbent tandem, red, no frame damage. Many extras including two new front and two new rear tires, Arai brake, tools, clipless pedals, also a set of regular pedals, shoes, helmets, tools. Asking price \$2,000. rdlarson@tampabay.rr.com or Bob Larson, 813-633-0007. (FL) 09/09

FOR SALE: 1997(?) Cannondale MT2000. Excellent condition. I also have a Yakima pivoting tandem roof rack attachment (no crossbars included), which makes it easy for one person to load. Parkinsons prevents me from enjoying tandem riding. Must sell. Over \$3000 invested. First reasonable offer takes it. Gerald Pelletier. Contact via e-mail, please, to geraldpelletier@att.net. (CT) 11/09

FOR SALE: 2003 Co-Motion Speedster Co-Pilot, medium, Champagne to Light Blue Metallic fade paint. Co-Motion Wound-up carbon fork, Chris King headset, Carbon Fiber crankset, Shimano Wireless Flightdeck computer, Bontrager RaceLite wheelset, OMM Rear Rack, Esge Fenders (P45's in black), Deda bars f & r, Trek Computer for stoker, Tamer Pivot Shockpost, Carbon fiber Seatpost, 2 Zefal bottle cages, 2 S&S hardcases. A well-cared for travel bike. Original price →\$7768, it can be yours for only \$3800 + shipping. Contact Jim Gregg 52jdg@hughes.net or call 405-209-0401 or 405-771-3379. (OK) 11/09.



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FOR SALE: Ride2 crank arm shortener: \$60. Kid Back child stoker conversion 1 1/8th seat tube: \$80 Burley Piccolo with two Moose Racks: \$160. These items will be in Rochester, MN during MTR 2009. If interested, or for more info, e-mail or call Robert Manulik at rmanulik@charter.net - 507.282.1856. (MN) 11/09

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: Seat posts 29.8 mm from Santana tandems, shock posts, both offset & straight, \$40 to \$65.00. Also many tubular alloy fixed posts, \$7 to \$15.00. Photographs available on request. Contact Matthias or Carol Kurzrock, MDKurzrock@Astound.net, or call 925-465-4611. (CA) 11/09

FOR SALE: Stem, gooseneck, 1.25", ±15 degrees, 9-cm. steel, one x 2 bolts; from Santana tandem. \$22.00; Stem, gooseneck, 1.25", ±30 degrees 8-cm. alloy, 2 x 2 bolts; from Santana tandem. \$26.00 Photographs available on request. Contact Matthias or Carol Kurzrock, MDKurzrock@Astound.net, or call 925-465-4611. (CA) 11/09

FOR SALE: Seatpost: Get back for comfort; Outrigger seat post, fixed, 26.6 mm x 180 mm H x 100 mm L c-c extension; up to 4" posterior set-back extension, usually for stoker. Uses conventional clamp. Used on a ~1980s Santana tandem. Steel. A bargain @ \$20.00. Photographs available on request. Contact Matthias or Carol Kurzrock, MDKurzrock@Astound.net, or call 925-465-4611. (CA) 11/09

FOR SALE: Seatpost shims, sizers: Using this device attains increased performance, easier availability, and reduced cost. Change from the poor performance of 29.8 mm posts. These slit aluminum sleeves reduce a 29.8 mm frame to accept a standard 27.2 mm seat post. Get away from the poor performance of Santana shock posts, use the 27.2 mm for better performance,

ready availability and reduced cost. Three of these aluminum sizers. \$7/each. Photographs available on request. Contact Matthias or Carol Kurzrock, MDKurzrock@Astound.net, or call 925-465-4611. (CA) 11/09

HELP OFFERED: Are you planning a cycling trip to England or Europe? As Overseas Liaison Officers for the Tandem Club (of the UK) we can help with advice on routes, accommodations, bikes by rail, local bike clubs, etc. England is a great place to cycle, and you are sure of a friendly welcome. Chris & Jenny Davison, Pennyfarthings, 4 Badbury View, Wimborne Minster, Dorset, BH21 1DH, England, Phone 011 44 1202 884288 or e-mail to chris@pennyfarthings.com

HELP OFFERED: Touring Italy? - Need news or tips about cycling in Italy? Contact Paolo Sanvito, V. Europa 4, 20057 Veduggio Al Lambro, Italy or by e-mail: sanvito.paolo@libero.it

WANTED: Objective roadtests, with photos, of tandems built by quality frame-builders. Send articles, photos (prints only), etc. to Jack & Susan Goertz, Editors of DoubleTalk. (or e-mail them to editor@tandemclub.org)

WANTED: Volunteer artist(s) to prepare sketches, cartoons, and illustrations to Jack & Susan Goertz, 2220 Vanessa Drive Birmingham, AL 35242-4430.

Classified advertising rates available upon request. Send a SASE to the Editors. Non-commercial Classifieds are free to TCA Members. Please include your member # with your ad.

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www.TandemClub.org

TCA Dealer Members

Tandem Dealers

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TANDEM CYCLE WORKS, Denver, CO. Largest tandems-only shop in the U.S. Test rides ANY TME, no appointment necessary. NUMBER ONE Co-Motion and Calfee dealer. Burley, and Ellsworth, too. 1080 S. Gaylord St., Denver, CO 80209. Phone: 303-715-9690. E-mail: TandemDOC@TandemCycleWorks.com. Web: www.TandemCycleWorks.com. 11/09 (55256)

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CRANK2 PERFORMANCE TANDEM BICYCLES. Test Ride Center for Santana, Co-Motion, daVinci Designs, & KHS. Over 45 tandems available for immediate delivery. 925-462-4272. www.crank-2.com. 5480-9 Sunol Blvd. Pleasonton, CA 94566 01/10 (63698)

PRECISION TANDEMS – 30 Tandems, Triplet, Quads in stock from Burley, Co-Motion, Longbikes, Meridian, Santana. Child Adaptor Kits. On-line Parts & Accessory Catalogs & Tandem Display. Check out www.PrecisionTandems.com. 913.962.8866 10am-9pm days. 03/10 (53745)

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TANDEMS EAST. Free catalog Stocking Co-Motion, Seven, daVinci, Calfee, Cannondale, Hokitiki, Green Gear, KHS, Burley, Rans, Kidz, Bushnell, Bilenky, Wheels, child conversions, parts, advice. www.tandemseast.com tandemwiz@aol.com (856)-451-5104 (NJ) 11/10 (59214)

TANDEM MATCHMAKERS - Nearly 200 in stock. Touring, Family, Track, Race, Recumbent, Triplet, Portable, Quad. Rentals. Long rural tests. Repairs, Modifications, refinishing. Wheels, Obscure Parts. worldwide shipping. Buy and trade MT. AIRY BICYCLE. - www.bike123.com - Orders: 888 MY TANDEM (MD) 01/13 (50987)

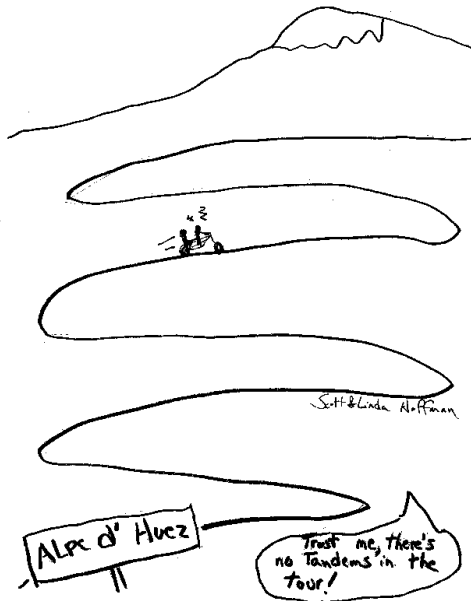
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BECOME A TCA DEALER MEMBER! A \$45.00 membership gives you a one-year membership in the Tandem Club of America, six issues of DoubleTalk, and a 30-word classified ad in each issue of DoubleTalk while you are a member. Ads are pulled after the date shown in the ad. New ads with \$45/membership must be received by the editors by the first of the next month (i.e., ads with an 03/03 date will not run in May-June issue if your renewal is not received by April 1, 2003) to keep your advertisement current. Send your ad and check (payable to TCA) to Jack and Susan Goertz, Editors, DoubleTalk, 2220 Vanessa Drive, Birmingham, AL 35242-4430.

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DEALER
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TCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL



Dues

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All dues are quoted (and must be paid) in US Dollars
2 and 3 year memberships are encouraged

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Please fill out the membership form below and mail
with a check made payable (in US funds) to:

Tandem Club of America
Smith Doss & Claude Monnier
10708 Cambium Ct
Raleigh, NC 27613-6304

Membership No. (from your mailing label) : _____

Please Print your name or Paste Your Label below. Make any necessary corrections.

Name(s): _____

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Tandem Make: _____ Year: _____

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Amount enclosed: \$ _____ for (1) (2) or (3) Years

MAIL TO:

Tandem Club of America, 10708 Cambium Ct, Raleigh, NC 27613-6304

(Multiple-year memberships, 3 year maximum, are accepted at Dues Rate X Number of Years)

Is this a renewal? _____ Have you made any necessary corrections? _____

Another rally - more clever tags -



Please send us your pictures for use on the backpage - preferably with captions
Send your photos to:
DoubleTalk, 2220 Vanessa Dr, Birmingham, AL 35242
editor@tandemclub.org

