

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?

What do TCA members do?

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

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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Deadline for the September October issue is

August 1, 2010

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:

2010

May - June

March - April

January - February

2009

November - December

September - October

July - August

May - June

March - April

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From the Editors –

You listened, and you responded. For the last two issues we've been asking – no begging – for your articles for publication. Fortunately, several of you members responded with articles, pictures, and more. We can't say how much we appreciate these articles, and we believe you'll enjoy them, too. However, we're not covered up with articles, yet, so don't put off sending us your next article. We still need your help. We're still looking for all those articles we know you have in mind that you just haven't had the time yet to put words on paper (or, more likely, in the computer) and mail them to us, either electronically or on paper via snail/mail. We hope to see your articles soon, complete with pictures (sent separately from the article, of course). And you already know it can be sent to us in almost any format – either electronically or on paper. For electronic submissions, please send them to us @ editor@tandemclub.org. For hardcopy, mail them to DoubleTalk, 2220 Vanessa Dr, Birmingham, AL 35242.

Since our last issue, Susan and I had the great pleasure of attending two more state rallies in our area, the Georgia Tandem Rally, now in its 11th year, and the Tennessee Tandem Rally, this year in a new location (Franklin, TN), hosted by a club (Harpeth River Bicycle Club) instead of Tim & Sharon Patterson of Louisville, TN, the originators and the hosts for the past several years. We hope someone who attended these rallies will

do a rally report for a future issue. (Hint, hint!)

Did you attend a state/local tandem rally this spring/summer? We know that the Iowa PIGS and the Wisconsin COWS host state rallies, but we never seem to get reports for DoubleTalk. We wonder – what secret rituals take place at these events? Anyone care to spill the secrets?

By the time you read this, the Eastern Tandem Rally and the Northwest Tandem Rally will be history. They are both held this year over the Fourth of July weekend, which means tandem riders had to make a choice which way to go – to the Northwest or to the Northeast? Still have vacation time left? You still have time to sign up for one or both of the remaining major rallies – the Midwest Tandem Rally in Indiana and the Southern Tandem Rally in Alabama. MTR is always held over the Labor Day weekend, and this year STR will be held in mid-October. You can find information – including web addresses – in the TCA Calendar pages later in DoubleTalk.

We encourage you to try out the TCA website. We now use the database associated with the website to print labels for DoubleTalk. If you move, you can update your address on your own membership record so that we'll have the correct information when we download the addresses for D-T. If you have trouble logging in, let us know. Send an e-mail to the webmaster, membership team, or to

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

continued on page 4

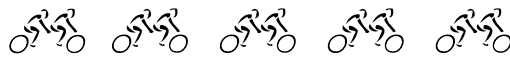


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'From the Editor' continued from page 3
the editor and we'll help you through your problems.

It's time to close for another issue. We hope to see you on the road!

Jack & Susan



Dear DoubleTalk,

Your plea for articles in a past issue made me think of one I'd written some time ago but never submitted anywhere, so I'm sending it along to you if you'd like to use it. The inspiration for it came from some of the things people have said to us out on the road. I had intended to title it "Stoker" with a superscript 2 (as in 'stoker squared') but I don't know how to do that on my computer! You, no doubt, are more adept than I with word processing so perhaps you can make the title reflect that. In the addendum I did contact Bilenky Cycle Works yesterday and received their response that they can still produce the triple should anyone want to pursue it.

Chris Owings
Bellingham, WA



Stoker²

"Hey, what is this. . .Dr. Seuss?!"

"There it is!. . .the Push-Me-Pull-Me!"

We didn't start out to become a wheeling sideshow. Quite the opposite, really, but that's often how it seems when we're pumping through our community. Our family of four has been on tandems for well more than twenty years. As they grew, each child graduated from a seat in the trailer to a seat on the machine. Long before the kiddy stoker attachments were available our captain was hacking apart old children's bikes to clamp a bottom bracket to the tandem frame. He blocked pedals to accommodate little stoker legs and inverted handlebars to shorten the reach. Day outings and adventuresome family vacations covered miles and miles of scenic Northwest roads.

But all too soon, an able stoker took his half bike, headed for college and our biking family was reduced to three. It was then that we hit on a playful way to take tandeming to the next level. . .a family triple!

In addition to the traditional tandem arrangement, our stable of bikes included a Counterpoint Opus, a semi-recumbent tandem with the stoker positioned out front. It was such a fun bike for us to ride that captain Mark contacted designer Jim Weaver in Seattle to ask about multiple seat possibilities. Coincidentally Jim had been playing with triple designs and with a little bit of badgering, he agreed to put the Counterpoint Opus Trio into production. Wow!. . .a double recum-

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bent triple tandem! Let the learning begin!

We stokers trusted the skill of our captain who has logged countless miles of tandem touring in the U.S. as well as France, Belgium, Italy and New Zealand. Still, turning a loaded tandem with a wheel base of 78 inches and an overall length of 11 feet 10 inches was a challenge.

Annie as the rear stoker had the greatest adjustment to make. After all, where else can you pedal like fury to push yourself *backwards*! Dismounting after a long stretch can leave one with a pretty strong sense of vertigo. Since everyone on this triple enjoys panoramic viewing, everyone is in on the riding conversation. However, when the first two bikers are pointing out sights of interest on the right, the rear stoker must remember to look left!

Heavy? Well, yes, but with two stokers our Trio is not an impossible climber. And we're dynamite on the flats. . .two faired power sources make for an efficient team and we can spin out at 35 mph. Best part for the stokers? . . . the freedom to coast and/or to choose a cadence that is independent of the captain or each other.

Wheel suckers are a constant source of entertainment for the rear stoker. They have to watch out for spinning feet but are treated to vis-à-vis chats. Lots of questions come up from behind. "**Do you trade off stoker spots?**" Nope, not when Mom's on board. Age and rank come with position privilege. "**Wow, look at all that chain!**" 34 feet 10



From L to R - Chris, Mark and Annie are ready to ride the Trio

inches to be exact. "**Can you ride in both directions?**" No, we're a *bike* not a double-ended ferry boat!

And some queries just don't deserve a response. . ."Do you each have a **brake?**" Think about it!

Chris Owings
Bellingham, WA

2010 Author's Note: We've enjoyed many, many tandem miles and have traveled with our bikes (not this one!) all over the world since I first wrote this article. We take friends and family for rides on our triple and still cause quite a stir as we pedal through our town. At present, we're waiting patiently for the legs of our four little grandchildren to be long enough to share some biking fun with our family's next generation of tandem stokers! The double-recumbent triple design is still available as a custom View Point order, now from Bilenky Cycle Works.





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New Zealand

If you're a bike tourist, you've probably had a trip where you had to do less, sometimes even much less, than you planned on. You made the best of it, but deep down you were disappointed. This is about a tandem trip where we did less biking, much less, but had a better trip as a result and appreciated the miles we did ride all the more.



Jeff Davis meets Phil Liggett

It began with an idea to spend the winter of 2008-09 where it was summer – in New Zealand. We hate flying. We take Amtrak routinely around the U.S., but it doesn't go west from LA. While browsing the internet for a tramp steamer headed in

the right direction, we stumbled on several cruise lines that send ships on "repositioning cruises" from Alaska routes to ones that focus on Australia and New Zealand. Before long we were boarding Holland

America Lines' *Volendam* for a 29-day trip across the Pacific, stopping *en route* at 9 tropical spots like Fiji and Vanuatu. Our tandem rested comfortably in our stateroom, thanks to the couplings that allowed it to fit into two 26" x 26" x 10" hard cases.

We landed on October 25 and left the following March 15, minus 3 weeks from Christmas to mid-January for a trip to Australia. We did get to see some professional bike racing there and to meet Phil Liggett, who treated us like friends, and Robbie McEwen, who kindly stood still long enough for Louise to get me in a shot with him just before a race, but we didn't push our luck with airplanes beyond getting us there and back without the bike.

The original plan had been to bike the North Island of New Zealand for the two months leading up to the trip to Oz (as New Zealanders and Australians often call Australia), then the South Island for the two months after. It didn't work out that way.

We hadn't yet reassembled the bike when we went to a concert in Auckland, where the *Volendam* dropped us off. Louise befriended a local whose hair style she admired to find out where she could get a much-needed cut, and pretty soon we were on a first-name basis with Gae and being invited for a drive in the country. It was an eye-opener, and not just as my first introduction to driving on the "wrong" side of the road. These Kiwis (go ahead and say it, it's not seen as pejorative at all) drive like the speed limits are minimums, not maximums, and



Robbie McEwen poses with Jeff Davis

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the roads are exceedingly hilly, curvy and, with few exceptions, shoulderless. Side roads? There are very few, and with just as few exceptions, they're unpaved.

A day or two later we read in the paper about a cyclist hit by a pickup and airlifted off a road on the Coromandel Peninsula, our intended first destination on the tandem. It was time to rethink things.

We ended up not biking the North Island. At first it was a bit disappointing, but the feeling soon passed because we discovered something the tandem would have hidden from us – New Zealand has one of the best hiking networks in the world. We're not backpackers, though they do have some world-famous trails, or "tracks" as they call them there, where you can go deep into the wilderness for several days and see no hint of man other than the record of many prior boots along your route. But what they also have are tracks almost anyplace you're likely to stop, with routes that might take you 30 minutes up and down a hill that was once a Maori fortification, or several hours through a deep forest or along a wild seacoast. It was hiking heaven. And a heaven we would have only nibbled the edges of because of concerns for the safety of our bike and panniers if we went off for any amount of time into the woods. New Zealand is a safer place than many with regard to crimes of violence, but unfortunately not with regard to theft. We also found it easier to get to some unusual places that we would have skipped due to



Our bike tours the North Island with us.

unpaved roads or rugged terrain, and ended up abseiling (rappelling) for the first time in our lives, and white-water canoeing for two days through a national park. Yes, sometimes a bike trip puts blinders on you, or at the least puts limits

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what you're willing to do beyond getting from Point A to Point B.

The South Island was different. We put the tandem together in Wellington, the national capital that sits at the south tip of the North Island. We had left the tandem, still in its cases, with friends there while driving and hiking our way around the North Island. Our return flight from Austra-

on months, we headed for the ferry terminal. Three hours at sea later and we were in Picton on the South Island for what proved to be a 700-mile ride.

Now we were on bike-friendly terrain! The roads were still almost all shoulderless, but the gradients were more gradual, the curves much broader, and the traffic only a fraction of what we saw on the North Island. Our biggest challenge for the first few days was our poor, atrophied bike muscles. They made a metric century on day three harder than any "true" century ride we'd ever done. But the scenery made up for it, then the miles shortened for a few days, and we were



Jeff and Louise are happy to be back on the bike.

lia brought us straight to Wellington, and after a "let's get reacquainted" ride around town on a bike we hadn't ridden in almost 4

once again riding high in the saddle.

New Zealand is one of the greenest places we've ever seen. Oh, they're probably as ecologically correct as the most progressive areas in the U.S., but that's not what we mean. We're talking about green as in that color between yellow and blue. All shades of green, and lots of it! Of course it takes plenty of rain to maintain that, and our route took us to the notoriously wet west coast of the South Island. In the 14 days we were on or

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close to the coast, we lucked out and only stayed put twice due to all-day rain. On the other dozen days we explored a trail near our motel that looked down steep cliffs to a remote beach and a colony of fur seals; hiked to the Franz Josef Glacier from another lodging; visited a museum to coal mining that was just down the street from a third place; and bicycled in glory down broad river valleys, along miles and miles of seacoast, and through forests of trees filled with species known only in this corner of the world.

At last we were climbing up Haast Pass over the snow-capped Southern Alps range, not far from New Zealand's tallest mountain, Aoraki Mt. Cook, 12,316' high. The pass itself was remarkably low, only 1,850 above sea level, but it was 35 miles from our starting point in the town of Haast plus another 15 beyond to the tiny hamlet of Makarora, with no houses, businesses or sources of drinking water the entire way. Several days more brought us past enormous lakes with no signs of civilization except sheep pastures here and there on the rugged slopes, then through an area in the rain shadow of the Southern Alps that looked remarkably like some of the drier parts of the American West.

At mile 700 we reached Queenstown, the only place big enough to be called a city (and a small one at that) in the interior of the South Island. It's the jumping-off spot for all sorts of adventuring, but for us it was time to switch back to driving a car. Thanks to the couplings, we were able to fit the tandem into the back of a rental car for the drive back to Picton

via Fjordlands National Park, the interesting cities of Dunedin and Christchurch on the east coast, and Abel Tasman National Park on Cook Strait, the channel between North and South Islands. Abel Tasman is a magical place where we took a "water taxi" 20 miles down the coast to a remote beach, then spent two days hiking back with an overnight in a floating hostel.

We did consider biking south from Queenstown and perhaps with more time would have done so. But other sights like Abel Tasman would have had to be dropped, and we would have had some long days in the saddle with scenery that, while dramatic, would have been less varied. An even bigger concern for us



Fantastic vistas awaited around every bend.

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was the relative dearth of places to stay or even to get food and water during the day, as there are long stretches with no towns for 30 to 50 miles in that remote bottom part of New Zealand.

What we did ride was a one-way trip down some of the most-cycled parts of New Zealand. If your tandem doesn't have couplings or if you're on a rented tandem that has to return "home" to the rental place, there are several options for



doing a loop around the South Island, particularly if you go no further south than Queenstown. You'll have a few more long stretches between towns than we did, a bit more climbing in the Southern Alps – Haast Pass is by far the easiest pass over the mountains – and more traffic when you're in the more populated areas on the east side of the South Island. We met up 4 times using creative logistics with Bernard and Lin, a retired couple from Manchester, England who did a figure-8 tour on a tandem rented in Christchurch, and they had no regrets about their thousand-mile ride criss-crossing the upper 2/3 of the South Island.

Is New Zealand a bicycling heaven? No, not really. Too many shoulderless roads. That said, it *does* have much going for it. We can't recall a single road with bad paving, the scenery is fabulous, the food healthy, the weather temperate although a little rainier than most parts of the U.S. The people we met were universally friendly *and* understandable – Kiwi English was in fact easier for us to understand than some regional accents in the U.S. They view Australia with a love-hate ambivalence as if it were a bothersome sibling, whereas America is seen as more of a true friend whose distance helps gloss over any troublesome differences. They had an election for Parliament while we were there, but more Kiwis watched the debate between Obama and McCain than the debate between the leading candidates for Prime Minister of New Zealand, which was foolishly scheduled to be on the same night. In short, you'll be welcomed.

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It was also not expensive. Because of the global economic meltdown, we were there during a blip in the exchange rate that sliced 20% off our expenses. But even with the exchange rate back in the range it's been in for most of the last several years, our expenses in Kiwi dollars would translate today to about US \$110 a day for the two of us for the cycling portion of the trip, and just over \$140/day when we were renting cars and paying for gas. These figures were for all expenses, including a few extravagances like the abseiling, some train trips, concerts and a dinner and show by a Maori group in Rotorua. Food prices are comparable, maybe slightly higher in New Zealand, but most New Zealand motels have cooking facilities and cooking in is always cheaper than eating out. We could usually find comfortable and attractive motels at less than US \$80 at today's exchange rates, and we never found a supermarket that wasn't clean, modern, and fairly well-stocked. Since all prices in New Zealand must show the after-tax cost, what you see is what you pay. Thanks to that policy and the rarity of tipping in New Zealand, restaurant meals were no more expensive there than here.

Getting back to lodging, a big issue for us since we don't haul around camping equipment, an even better deal was the network of hostels, or "backpackers" as they call them down under. The BBH network of 330+ places has a helpful website at <http://www.bbh.co.nz/>. They'll even mail their brochure overseas. Each backpacker is rated by users, and we almost always agreed with the ratings. 45% of all our overnights were in



backpackers, and we always had a private room and adequate cooking and food-storage facilities. Bathrooms were usually down the hall, and the common rooms did not engender quite so many chats with other visitors as we thought we'd have, but any negatives were more than balanced by the convenient locations of almost all the places, and the price, usually between US \$40 and \$50 at today's exchange rates for the two of us.

Another plus for bike tourists are the "I-Sites." These are info centers in almost every town of any size, and they provided a wealth of information on things to see, places to eat, hiking maps, and more. More than once they called around town to find us places to stay either in that town or even kilometers down the road.

Should you visit New Zealand? Absolutely! It's a stunningly beautiful and friendly place. Should you bring along your tandem or rent one there? Yes, so long as you don't expect it to fulfill all



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Georgia to Pennsylvania

2010 is a special year for us. It marks thirty years of bicycle touring for us. We began touring in 1980, when we planned our first summer vacation around a bicycle tour. We loved it so much that each summer thereafter, we continue to tour the country.

Ten years ago, our youngest son moved from Pennsylvania to Georgia. We travel Interstate 81 on our many trips down to visit him. Jay and I thought it would be nice to ride a bicycle down, and then fly back home to Pennsylvania. However, flying with our tandem has always been a hassle for us. With that in mind, Jay called Amtrak and purchased tickets for a sleeping car, and these tickets also included meals. The good news, for just five dollars we could take the tandem with us. Oh, we decided to do the ride the opposite direction, from Georgia back to Pennsylvania. We both really enjoyed the train ride to Atlanta, Georgia. We would really like to do that again.

After spending a week with our son and his family, we started the ride back to Pennsylvania with a loaded tandem. We didn't have any planned routes. However, we wanted to be able to find food and lodging without taking long detours. Our goal was to average about forty to sixty miles every day.

Our first challenge was getting around Knoxville, Tennessee. We were concerned with heavy traffic and busy city streets. We received help from the two bike shops in Marysville when they gave us maps and helpful information.

your cycling fantasies. Now hiking fantasies are another matter, and do try to find time to explore New Zealand on foot. You might even satisfy a fantasy or two in that realm.

Jeff and Louise Davis
Seattle, WA

About the authors: Jeff and Louise Davis have written recently for *Doubletalk* on biking up the East Coast of the US and on riding the rail trails of Minnesota and Wisconsin. They started a travel blog at <http://redtandem.net> when they retired in 2007, and you can read much more about their trip to New Zealand in the entries from September 2008 through March 2009.



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We arrived in Marysville at rush hour, so we encountered some heavy traffic there. Thankfully, a fellow bicyclist offered to lead us to the Holiday Inn at Alcoa by way of the Greenbelt. We rode seven to eight miles on bike paths and lightly used side streets.

The next day we waited for the traffic to thin out, and then rode north on Alcoa Highway and east on Gov. John Sevier Highway in order to bypass Knoxville. The rumble strips on John Sevier Highway made it less than perfect for riding, but the traffic wasn't too bad. We had our only flat tire about a mile from the end of John Sevier Highway. We were going down hill and around a curve when the rear tire blew. For the stoker this was very scary, but we held steady, coming to a stop without incident, and we were able to fix it quickly. In Tennessee we took Route 11E (the Ashville Highway) then Route 11W from Rogersville to Virginia. The road had wide shoulders and little traffic, making for a nice ride. In Abingdon, Virginia we took a rest day before continuing north on Route 11. This road was mostly three lanes with little traffic, and this turned out to be one of our favorite riding days.

Just outside of town we met a solo cyclist named Ken. He had left San Diego five weeks earlier and was heading home to New Hampshire. He said we were the first touring cyclists he had met, and he chose to ride all day with us. Ken was roughing it. He rode each day until dusk and then looked for a place to pitch his tent. He was doing it the old fashioned way.....no campgrounds or hotels.



Jay and Joan Thome are ready to head out.

When we arrived at Marion, Virginia, we were stopped by the Mayor and his wife. They gave us a warm welcome and a souvenir pin of the city. They also included an invitation to their Blue Grass Concerts, which are held on the weekends throughout the summer. We might stop there for a break on our next drive down to Georgia.

Friday afternoon, about 20 miles from Harrisonburg, Virginia, we called ahead to some hotels for room rates. Much to our surprise, we were told that three schools in the area were having graduation ceremonies. Therefore all the rooms were booked. Since it was early afternoon we decided to ride into town

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before making the decision of were to spend the night. After all we could always buy a tent and rough it like Ken.

Once we got into town we stopped at the first motel, The Village Inn. The kind women that worked there brought us tall glasses of water and then helped us find a room. Even though they didn't have any rooms available, she called several other hotels and was able to find us a room. A normal eighty-five dollar room ended up costing us two hundred sixty-five dollars. It will be one night we will remember for years. We joke though that the memory of sleeping in a tent along the road would last longer then the two hundred sixty-

five dollar room with a hot shower and comfortable bed.

We ran into one other problem along the way. Between Winchester, Virginia and Shepherdstown, Virginia, we took a short cut, but ran into a road being closed due to a bridge out. This caused us to have to backtrack to Route 11. It was after supper and getting dark. We had another sixteen to twenty miles more to go to reach our hotel before total darkness. We were very rushed but made it.

The last two days of our trip contained the steepest climbs of our tour. Then to add to the climbs, as we crossed

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the Susquehanna River between Wrightsville and Columbia, it started to rain. We were only ten miles from home, and we both wanted to ride the whole way home without anyone picking us up. Our goal was so close.

It felt wonderful to ride into our driveway. We did it!

We had ridden seven hundred eighty three miles in sixteen days. The first three days were cool, with a head wind. The next ten days were hot, with a wonderful tail wind. Our last three days were cool, with a strong head wind.

Our tandem is twenty one years old. The sixty-nine year old Captain had triple by-pass surgery and a titanium knee. The Stoker is sixty-eight with two replacement knees and two titanium hips. Together we were able to take the ride we have always wanted to do. For thirty years we have had the goal to ride in all fifty states. We have three states left to reach that, Louisiana, Nevada, and Hawaii. So here we go!

Jay & Joan Thome
Elizabethtown, PA

home again!



DoubleTalk

Dear Jack and Susan;

I don't know if Sandy Houck's editorial tribute and photo to Rich Hairston, on pg 4 of the May/June Doubletalk struck anyone else as hard as it did me but it was TRULY touching and extremely heartfelt. Thank you so much for printing it!! It got me to thinking, though, how much we take the 'gift' of riding a tandem well, with our significant partner, for granted! Do it for a few years and only then does it become second nature. Who'da thunk it coulda been this much fun?! How many tandem teams have one, two, or more tandems in our garage. a significant investment tied up in the occasion of riding a single bicycle together?

I crafted the following after reading Sandy's comment, reveling in the joy of my stoker Natalie, but more importantly, for all the tandem teams who have done this as a lifelong journey. Natalie and I have only been riding since 1993, but anyone who reads Sandy's tribute in the May/June TCA, and the following poem, will understand the precious gift all tandem teams, young or old, have come to share !

I think we should start a monthly dedication section, in a 'tailwinds' portion of the TCA just before the classifieds section, for tandem team members who wish to let the rest of the tandem community celebrate the fact their tandem partner is still riding "out west with the wind at their back".

Many thanks again;

Michael and Natalie Hutchinson
Yorktown, VA

Tandem Sonnet

My "captain", my "stoker";
Terms to many have but one meaning.
Be it recumbent or an upright tandem
To serious team riders, a lifelong plaything.

We bike and we ride, we cycle and exercise,
Oh how many miles and years have rolled by?
Some days were easy; some days hard;
Why we both endured, Lord only knows why.

But the longer we ride double
The greater our riding bond grows.
I wouldn't ride a bike without another,
Why, only my road partner knows.

Ten thousand, fifty thousand,
A million road miles later.
A good tandem team already knows
Who's the greater "pace instigator".

Some miles are unstopably chatty,
Facades down, many more ridden silently.
O'r the years my captain, my stoker
Becomes the better part of me.

Yet somewhere down our life's road,
As our cycling joy makes us free,
I know that my captain, my stoker
What once was the two, will someday be, just me.

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To those who have ridden together
Every mile we've loved it,
Those tandems now quietly hanging in the garage
Give me reminders, but no solace or respite.

For I know deep down inside
My departed captain, my stoker
Is still dressed and ready to pedal.
Upon me, coaches fondly, yet silently watches over.

Michael and Natalie Hutchinson
Yorktown, VA



R.I.P --

Cliff Davis of Salem, S.C.

We were shocked and saddened to learn from friends that long-time tandem cycling friend Cliff Davis of Salem, South Carolina passed away on Saturday, May 1st, while riding the Tour de Cashiers with his wife, Lisa. Based on the accounts we received, Cliff's passing was sudden and efforts to resuscitate him were to no avail.

From the notice carried in Greenville News: Cliff was 55 and is survived by his wife, Lisa, and their two daughters, Molly and Anna.

We first met Cliff, Lisa and the girls back in 1997 and have shared many, many wonderful times with them at various tandem cycling events around

the Southeast. Some may recall that they hosted the 2001 Southern Tandem Rally at Clemson, South Carolina. Cliff was a very strong cyclist, as was Lisa and they were definitely one of the elite tandem teams at all of the events we attended. Reference the photo, an account of their family's unsupported, 2004 Transcontinental bicycle tour can still be found on the Web http://www.crazyguyonabike.com/doc/?o=RrzKj&doc_id=493&v=0



We were fortunate enough to have had two recent opportunities to spend time with the Davis', to include the Alabama Tandem Weekend this past April,... moments that we will cherish even more than we would have in light of this sad news. To say Cliff will be missed is an understatement. Our hearts are heavy and our thoughts and wishes go out to Lisa, Molly and Anna.

Mark & Debbie Livengood
Marietta, GA
Originally posted on Mark's Blog





DoubleTalk

Neville Frost – R.I.P

I hope that by now by means of the amazing Tandem Club grapevine or other means this news has already reached you and that this is not too much of a shock: I'm sending this to almost everyone in my e-mail address book in the hope that no-one has been missed: this will also go to those already registered for the Ringmer National Rally so that they will know the situation in advance of their arrival there and to those for whom we are Regional Officers for South East London.

My husband, Neville died on Easter Friday; it was instantaneous and he knew nothing about it: he had to have a post mortem and the coroner has confirmed to me that it was ischaemic heart disease and failure (the blood could not get to the heart through the furred up and narrowed arteries) and that he would have known nothing about it: it could have happened anywhere at any time: we already knew that it was likely he'd need a triple heart bypass but had been told to carry on as usual. We'd just cycled very very careful-

ly, twiddling slowly, up a steep hill whilst looking at some lovely little lambs playing in the fields. He had no warning pains or breathlessness, got off and parked up the tandem, got out his camera to take photos of other tandemists toiling up the hill and literally dropped dead.

Many people tried to resuscitate him. We were at the Tandem Club Easter rally near Derby. There won't be any funeral or ceremony of any sort as neither Neville nor I believed in anything and had both talked often about it. For Neville there could be no better way for him to go, albeit perhaps a little too soon! There are a few tributes on the UK Tandem Club Discussion Board under the heading: Neville Frost, I'll miss him a lot.

<http://www.tandem-club.org.uk/dboard.htm>

I was looked after and cared for superbly by our tandeming friends and know that I'll always have their support as well as lots of other friends.

Tricia Frost
United Kingdom



TCA Tandem Hospitality Homes

Are you willing to become a TCA Hospitality Home? If so please head to the TCA website, www.tandemclub.org. There you can sign up and find a complete description of the program. If you would like to discuss what's involved, drop an e-mail to us or call the membership chairs or the editors.

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.

Please go on line and register to sign up at www.tandemclub.org. You will need some basic information such as your e-mail address, your address, and contact information.

editor@tandemclub.org

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CALENDAR

July 2-5, 2010. **Northwest Tandem Rally 2010.** Medford, OR. Geographically, the Rogue Valley is the drainage of the Rogue River and its tributary, Bear Creek. The valley is bordered to the west by the ancient Siskiyou Mountains and to the east by the relatively young volcanic Cascade Range. The Rogue Valley is also Tandem Country. NWTR 2010 will ride the flat to gently rolling country roads through pear orchards and vineyards, family farms and horse ranches that connect the historic small towns that dot the valley. Details as they become available at <http://www.nwtr.org/2010/>

July 2-5, 2010. **Eastern Tandem Rally 2010.** Saratoga Springs, NY. Saratoga Springs is a resort community located 30 miles north of Albany in I-87. It is a wonderful area to bicycle with rural roads, generally flat to rolling through small towns and farmland areas. Our rides will take us along the edge of the Adirondack State Park, past Saratoga Lake and to the Saratoga Revolutionary War Battlefield. Al & Sue Berzinis teamberzinis@nycap.rr.com 518.439.4094 <http://www.easterntandemrally.org/>

July 4, 2010. **DATES (Dallas Area Tandem EnthusiastS) Independence Day Ride & Pool Party.** Dallas, TX area. Roane & Juanita Logan host our annual event. The temperatures should be sizzling so the pool will feel great. <http://www.doubledates.com>

July 6, 2010. **PANTHERS (Partners Aboard Neat Tandems Happily Enjoying Riding Simultaneously) Weekly Ride.** The Villages, FL. We ride at 8:30 am every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Come stretch your legs and spin with us. <http://floridatandemclub.org>

July 10, 2010. **HOOTS (Hoosiers Out On Tandems) Ft Wayne Ride.** Ft Wayne, IN. This is a scenic tour of Huntington County from Roanoke to Huntington. Choose from routes of 32 or 56 miles. The routes have ever changing scenery

including an iron trestle bridge. Kent and Anne Ellis tandem.ellis@insightbb.com <http://tandemhoots.ning.com/events>

July 10, 2010. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Blind Stoker Ride.** Wheaton, IL. It's always nice to have a great turn out of bikes to enjoy sharing the tandem experience with some new friends. <http://chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com>

July 11, 2010. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) The Road to Ribs.** Darien, IL We ride to eat. <http://chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com>

July 11, 2010. **Harpeth Bike Club Tandem Ride.** Nashville, TN area. This ride is intended for tandem riders of all levels. We will all ride together to the first rest stop. Feel free to pick up the pace following the rest stop, or continue to ride at a moderate pace with the rest of the group. <http://www.harpethbikeclub.com>

July 17, 2010. **DOGS (Doubles of Garden State) Garden Tour.** A Friendly event Dave Snope dsnape@comcast.net <http://www.d-o-g-s.org/>

July 18, 2010. **COWS (Couples on Wheels) Wrangler Ride** – Waupaca. Waupaca, WI. A smaller regional ride for COWS. Joan & John Laabs <http://couplesonwheels.com/rides.php>

July 31, 2010. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Pool Party.** Buffalo Grove, IL. Sometimes if it's hot we don't ride at all. <http://chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com>

August 6-8, 2010. **MATES 2010.** Warrenton, VA. Warrenton, the county seat of Fauquier County, is nestled in the heart of Virginia horse and wine country between the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and bustling Northern Virginia. We think you will enjoy the rides that have been planned for you, pedaling along quiet country roads past beautiful horse farms, tran-



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quail fields and through many of the picturesque villages sprinkled throughout the county. Host Hotel Holiday Inn Suites, Warrenton, VA Ross & Donna Glasgow Bike4r2@comcast.net

August 6-8, 2010. **PIGS (Paired Iowans Going Somewhere) Rally 2010.** Ankeny, IA. What a great time is planned. Three days of rides, eating and eating and eating. Many of us are camping at Cherry Glen. Some will be at the Best Western Metro North in Ankeny. 515.964.1717 ask for the PIGS rally rate. Ernie and Pat Fisher. <http://home.mchsi.com/~pigstandem>

August 6-8, 2010. **TNT (Team Northwest Tandemonium) Olympia Washington Weekend.** Olympia, WA. This is a re-do of the washed out 2004 NW Tandem Rally. New routes and hopefully no rain. We will stay in downtown Olympia. Pat Berkley and Amy Cook <http://www.portland-tandemclub.org>

August 7, 2010. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Onion Pub Ride.** Lake Barrington, IL. We're riding to drink this time. <http://chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com>

August 7-14, 2010. **International Tandem Rally 2010.** Echternach, Luxembourg. The rally will take place on a family run campsite about 1 k from the center of town. Echternach is in an area known as "Little Switzerland" because of its rock formations, forests and streams. Across the border in Germany is the Rhineland-Palatinate in the Eifel region. The cycling is easy along the river valleys but a little lumpy in between although in a week's cycling Janet and Tony Prichard only had to walk one hill. Pre-registration is required. www.tandem-club.org.uk/_2010-08.htm

August 8, 2010. **Harpeth Bike Club Tandem Ride.** Nashville, TN area. This ride is intended for tandem riders of all levels. We will all ride together to the first rest stop. Feel free to pick up

the pace following the rest stop, or continue to ride at a moderate pace with the rest of the group. <http://www.harpethbikeclub.com>

August 14, 2010. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Blind Stoker Ride** Elmhurst, IL. <http://chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com>

August 14, 2010. **TNT (Team Northwest Tandemonium) Picnic.** A bit of riding, a bit of talking and a lot of fun. Come join us for our annual picnic. <http://www.portlandtandemclub.org>

August 14, 2010. **COWS (Couples On Wheels) Cumberland Ride.** Cumberland, WI. We have short loops and longer loops. It sounds like a loopy good time, with some ice cream thrown in for good measure. Mike & Terry <http://couplesonwheels.com/rides.php>

August 15, 2010. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Sweet Corn Ride.** Harvard, IL <http://chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com>

August 21, 2010. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Long Grove Ride.** Long Grove, IL. We'll take the long road to Long Grove. <http://chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com>

August 29, 2010. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Tour de DQ.** Naperville, IL. This one sounds like my kind of ride. <http://chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com>

Labor Day, 2010. **MTR 2010** Shipshewana, IN. Nice flat terrain, quaint Amish locale. Hosted by HOOTs (Hoosiers Out On Tandems), part of CIBA (Central Indiana Bicycling Association). <http://www.mtr2010.org>

September 6 – 10, 2010. **Midwest Tandem Rally Post Tour** LaPorte, IN. A tour of Indiana's "Casual Coast". The tour will feature four days of pleasant riding in the lake country of northwestern Indiana. Jim & Susan Marcotte posttour@mtr2010.org

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September 10-12, 2010. **Fall Allegany Rally for Tandems (FART XVII)** Off road MTB weekend at Allegany State Park, Salamanca NY. Private rooms. All meals on your own in the mess hall. Riding XC ski trails, horse trails and dirt roads. Technically not difficult, but be prepared to climb. For more info, contact Karen or Brian Managan 49 Martinot Ave Rochester NY 14609 (585) 654-9624 or frosty_dog@mac.com. The cost for the entire camp for the weekend is 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/>

September 12, 2010. **Harpeth Bike Club Tandem Ride.** Nashville, TN area. This ride is intended for tandem riders of all levels. We will all ride together to the first rest stop. Feel free to pick up the pace following the rest stop, or continue to ride at a moderate pace with the rest of the group. <http://www.harpethbikeclub.com>

September 18, 2010. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Blind Stoker Ride.** Wheaton, IL <http://chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com>

September 19, 2010. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Plowing Match Ride.** Big Rock, IL. It's hard to believe but fall is here. <http://chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com>

September 24-26, 2010. **COWS (Couples On Wheels) Fall Rally.** West Bend, WI. We'll brave the descending temperatures and check out the turning leaves. <http://couplesonwheels.com>

September 25, 2010. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Leaf Me Alone Ride.** Barrington, IL. It's a tradition. And that's part of the fun. <http://chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com>

October 8-10, 2010. **DATES (Dallas Area Tandem EnthusiastS) Get-a-way Tandem Tour.** Not Dallas, TX. We're going to get away. Rob Rawley <http://www.doubledates.com>

October 9, 2010. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Blind Stoker Ride.** Wheaton, IL <http://chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com>

October 10, 2010. **Harpeth Bike Club Tandem Ride.** Nashville, TN area. This ride is intended for tandem riders of all levels. We will all ride together to the first rest stop. Feel free to pick up the pace following the rest stop, or continue to ride at a moderate pace with the rest of the group. <http://www.harpethbikeclub.com>

October 15-17, 2010. **Southern Tandem Rally 2010.** Florence, AL. Come roll with us in the "Shoals". Find your secret places, live high on the hog, and make good memories. Snap your fingers to a little jive. Listen to the sounds of W.C. Handy, Nat King Cole and more. The "Shoals" is the hit recording capital of the world. Great riding in the Tennessee River Valley and on the Natchez Trace. Host hotel is the Mariott Shoals 256.246.3600 Registration will open in early 2010. Make your hotel reservations now. Contact Jack or Susan Goertz STR2010@TandemsLtd.com www.southerntandemrally.com

October 17, 2010. **DATES (Dallas Area Tandem EnthusiastS) Uptown TOTS (Tour of the Stars).** Dallas, TX. Not a big distance ride, but a lot of fun. Beckie & Lee Wilson. <http://www.doubledates.com>

October 18-21, 2010. **Southern Tandem Rally Post Tour.** You must attend the Southern Tandem Rally to attend. We'll be exploring North Alabama; Athens, Mooresville, Scottsboro and more. Jack or Susan Goertz STR2010@TandemsLtd.com www.southerntandemrally.com

October 24, 2010. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Chili Pumpkin Ride.** Barrington, IL
September 18, 2010. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Blind Stoker Ride.** Wheaton, IL <http://chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com>



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November 5-7, 2010. **Florida Tandem Rally.** The Villages, FL. The First Annual Florida Tandem Rally hosted by the Panthers Tandem Club. All are welcome. <http://floridatandemclub.org/calendar>

November 7, 2010. **DATES (Dallas Area Tandem Enthusiasts) Century Ride.** Van Alstyne, TX. This is a century for the tandem teams. Come join in the fun. Brenda & Tom Shaddox <http://www.doubledates.com>

November 14, 2010. **Harpeth Bike Club Tandem Ride.** Nashville, TN area. This ride is intended for tandem riders of all levels. We will all ride together to the first rest stop. Feel free to pick up the pace following the rest stop, or continue to ride at a moderate pace with the rest of the group. <http://www.harpethbikeclub.com>

April 29-30 – May 1, 2011. **Southwest Tandem Rally 2011.** LaGrange, TX. Plans are being made for a spectacular event. Save the date.

May 5-8, 2011. **Georgia Tandem Rally 2011.** The location will be announced at Southern Tandem Rally in Florence. Check out www.georgiatandemrally.com

May 20-22, 2011. **COWS (Couples On Wheels) Spring Rally.** Eau Claire, WI. Save the date, the plans are being put together. Lane & Linda Soltis-Schroeder <http://couplesonwheels.com>

June 3-5, 2011. **Tennessee Tandem Rally 2011.** Tennessee Tandem Rally returns to the hills (mountains for some) of eastern Tennessee. Save the date and stay tuned for the details.

Fall 2011. **COWS (Couples On Wheels) Fall Rally.** Sturgeon Bay, WI. Details are being worked out. <http://wouplesonwheels.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
Jack & Susan Goertz
2220 Vanessa Drive
Birmingham, AL 35242
e-mail: editor@tandemclub.org

Please limit your TCA Calendar listings to TANDEM-specific events, or tours/races with TANDEM classes.

CALENDAR

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FOR SALE: BURLEY Rumba Road Tandem, front stand-over: 31.7 in (80.6 cm), rear stand-over: 29.3 in (74.3 cm), 170 / 170 cross-over drive, 700 Sun rim, 480 Shimano RSX hubs (rear threaded for drum brake), Shimano RSX derailleurs (triple and 7-sp rear), bar-end shifters, Shimano LX canti brakes, Richey headset, Stella saddles (2), drop and bullhorn bars and S&S coupled frame. \$1800 ph. 541-683-1409 or email: richard@eugenegears.org The Greater Eugene Area Riders Cycling Club (GEARs) is selling this tandem to fund bicycle education for both children and adults in the Eugene, Oregon area.

GEARs is a not for profit organization whose mission is to promote and encourage bicycle riding for transportation and recreation. The above bicycle was donated to the Club by Burley, is not warranted and is sold as is. (OR) 09/10

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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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 05/10 date will not run in July-August issue if your renewal is not received by June 1, 2010) to keep your advertisement current. Send your ad and check (payable to TCA) to Jack and Susan Goertz, Editors, DoubleTalk, 2220 Vanessa Dr, Birmingham, AL 35242-4430.

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Dues

United States \$15.00/yr

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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
Duncan & Laura McCabe
2302 New Orleans PL
Wilmington, NC 28403-0315

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

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MAIL TO:
Tandem Club of America, 2302 New Orleans PL, Wilmington, NC 28403-0315

(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? _____

