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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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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

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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.

Deadline for the July August 2011 issue is June 1, 2011

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:

2011

March - April
January - February

2010

November - December
September - October
July - August
May - June
March - April
January - February

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From the Editors –

Spring is here! At least it has in the South. We've been bicycling in shorts and jerseys since February, and it's been great! Of course we've already started with the sunscreen, and we've had a few very warm days, too. Even though Spring is definitely here in the South (sometimes it's already feeling like Summer), old man Winter has made an occasional return visit, too. We think that his visits are just to remind us that weather can be anything in the South, and you just have to be ready for it.

One of the ways we know Spring is here is the Alabama Tandem Weekend. This year the ATW moved from its traditional weekend (first weekend after "tax day") to a beautiful weekend in late March. Steve and Wendy Baxter were our hosts for this, the 25th annual running of the weekend, and they put together a delightful weekend of tandem riding in southeast Alabama. The weather was nearly perfect (okay, it rained on us for about 20 minutes on Saturday, but that was it!), and the roads were almost devoid of all automobile and truck traffic. This low-cost (no registration fee – attendees pay only for their meals and rooms) weekend is a perfect way to get our tandem rally season kicked off.

As the year progresses, we'll be attending more rallies throughout the country. Tandem rallies are our favorite way to spend a few vacation days with our friends we've met over the years. We also always make a few new friends at these rallies, which makes riding a tandem even more fun. If you haven't

planned your vacation yet, why not consider attending a tandem rally? Check out the TCA Calendar in this magazine for ideas of a great cycling vacation.

In closing, we hope you'll take some time and send us an article or two to share with other TCA members. We love receiving these articles, and we'll use them in future articles in Doubletalk. If you can include a few digital pictures with the article, that would be even more appreciated. Just send your articles and pictures to "editor@tandemclub.org". We can accept files from almost any word processing program, and pictures in most digital formats. (Please don't embed your pictures in the article file. Send them as separate attachments).

That's about all for this issue. Time to get ready for our next rally.

See you on the road!
Jack & Susan Goertz

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



DoubleTalk

Finally!!

The Canadian Tandem Rally website is up and accepting registrations.

Come and join us for a great weekend of tandem touring around St Jacobs, in Mennonite country.

Join us at the Best Western St Jacobs Country Inn on May 27-30 2011. www.stjacobsinn.com

www.mbstandems.com for information and on-line registration.

Looking forward to riding with you in St Jacobs

David & Brenda Vandavelde
Canadian Tandem Rally
(905)-824-9364



The G.O.A.T.S. Rise To Ride Again

My name is Gary Solomon and my wife Marilyn and I are part of the rebirth of the Greater Ohio Area Tandem Society. The group had been active in the '90s and early 2000's, putting on statewide rallies and even sponsoring Midwest Tandem Rallies in Dublin, Ohio in 1997 and Dayton, Ohio in 2003. After the Dayton rally, the group became inactive and no more rides were scheduled. Over the next few years, one of the former GOATS, Art Fabian, continued to occasionally put feelers out to see if there would be any interest in reactivating the group, but he met with little success. Then last December Art emailed 58 Ohio tandem teams who had attended the MTR in Shipshe-



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wana, Indiana over Labor Day weekend, asking again if there was any interest in meeting to reform the GOATS. This time Art hit pay dirt.

On January 22, 2011 about 20 tandem riders from all over the state met in Worthington, Ohio and became the new GOATS. We discussed a number of issues, made new friends, and formed a committee to create the first new group ride of our newly constituted organization. This ride will be the GOATS No Frills Spring Rally which will take place on May 21st, 2011 in Plain City, Ohio. The planning committee met to decide routes, hotels, street markings, and promotion of our first rally. We are all very excited about putting this ride together and hopefully getting many new tandem teams to join the GOATS.

One of the previous members of GOATS (we do not refer to them as "old goats") Jack Bernstein has rejoined and has put together a wonderful Facebook page for us. If you would like to see what we're up to just shoot an email to: GoatsOhio@groups.facebook.com and ask to join. Jack will get you signed up before you can say eccentric. Which we're not. No more than the rest of you at least...

The organization is being kept very informal, and will get "organized" just enough to have fun. There are no required dues for membership, but to help keep the activities and information flowing, we're asking for \$10 donations per team from "Ohio Tandem Enthusiasts." Contact Jack through the GOATS facebook page, [search under 'groups'



GOATS first ride planning group. We're ready to ride - come join us.

for Greater Ohio Area Tandem Society to find the page], to learn where to send your small donation.

Gary Solomon
Pickerington, OH



PANTHERS pre & post rally rides

Florida's longest paved trail was the centerpiece for a trial overnigher before the Panthers' inaugural Florida Tandem Rally last fall, 2010.

Panthers' officers Bob Thompson and Ray Murtaugh scouted out the area for a place where members from Central Florida could rendezvous with cyclists from Tampa Bay. Then on a beautiful October morning, four bikes headed out from The Villages in Central Florida toward the Withlacoochee Trail. At the



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50-mile point, we were to meet a tandem pedaling east from Florida's west coast.

The ride took us through countryside and along a wide, boulevarded highway to Inverness. There we joined the Withlacoochee Trail, a paved path along a former railroad route that runs for 46 miles through forests, small towns and ranches as it makes its way south from Citrus Springs to Trilby near U.S. 301. Much of our route skirted the Withlacoochee State Forest. We occasionally passed cyclists and hikers but for the most part had the trail to ourselves. Motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Before we knew it, we had reached a trailhead near I-75 and Brooksville where we returned to real roads for the final few miles. Too early to check in to our motel, we pedaled to a Beef O'Brady's for a late lunch. That evening, after gathering around the pool, we walked a few blocks to a Cracker Barrel. A couple from The Villages met us for dinner, surprising us with chocolate chip cookies they had baked that morning.

We voted to start back early Sunday to avoid a huge Century ride being held on the trail the same day. We biked 10 miles on the path, glad the Century riders had not yet reached us. From there, country roads led us to Bushnell, Sumter County's tiny county seat complete with a courthouse square. The wind fought us on the open road, but once we reached The Villages, we revved up to race to R.J. Gators for lunch overlooking Lake Sumter.

With that weekender under our belts, we felt ready to lead the post-tandem rally overnighiter to Palatka Nov. 13-14.

Saturday started off cold and blustery, but nevertheless, four tandem couples and one single rider, whose wife drove the sag, made the 69-mile trek. We wended our way through the Ocala National Forest, mostly on secondary roads. Particularly picturesque were the Oklawaha River and an arching bridge over the St. John's, giving us a broad view of Florida's longest river. In historic Palatka, a riverfront motel awaited us. It sat at the foot of an even higher bridge over the St. John's River. Fortunately, this was a bridge we did not have to cross.

We opted for an early dinner at the adjoining restaurant, providing us with a beautiful view of the wide river and broad sky. After a good night's sleep, we were back in the saddle for the return home.

Some of us had never made such a long ride on two consecutive days. We discovered that as long as we made a stop every 20 miles or so, we could all do it.

Now we're ready for more cycling adventures in 2011. For dates and information about upcoming Florida Panther events including the Florida Tandem Rally, please see this issue's Calendar.

Kathryn Foster
Miami, FL



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Le P'tit Train du Nord – Redux !

I could not believe it when I opened the January/February copy of “Double Talk” and saw the article “Le P'tit Train du Nord – Traveling Canada's Linear Park”, beautifully written by Greg and Maureen Soucy. My disbelief changed to amazement as I read further and saw the photo of their tandem – a soffride beam for the stoker like ours, and they even chose two of the same auberges that we had stayed in ! We were far luckier with the weather, however, as we had one morning of an hour's light mist in our four day trip, and beautiful sun and clear skies the rest of the time.

- The trees on our right started to thin, giving us tantalizing glimpses of water to our right as we rolled along on our tandem. Then a gap opened up and we stopped, looking out across the clear Laurentian lake to the heavily forested hills across the water. It was our second day on “le P'tit Train du Nord”, an old rail trail which is part of “La Route Verte”, the 4,000 kilometre plus network of bicycle routes in Quebec Province, Canada.

We had talked about riding a multi-day section of “La Route Verte” for the past couple of years, and finally in the winter of 2009 we decided that doing “Le P'tit Train du Nord” would be a perfect birthday getaway, and Raymonde's birthday was in July. We studied maps of “Le P'tit Train du Nord”, measured distances and were greatly assisted by Angele Marcado of the Laurentian Tourist



Raymonde and Terry on a dirt path by a river.

Board, who was a fount of information on the Laurentians, especially on lodging along the trail. By February 2010 we had everything planned and booked.

We had originally planned to ride the trail on our bicycles, but Raymonde had broken her wrist in a bicycle accident in late May and with a titanium plate in her forearm she was not able use her wrist fully, and her doctor told her that cycling was out. However, with a bit of discussion, the doctor approved Raymonde riding stoker on Burley Rock 'n Roll tandem which would not involve her twisting her arm as she would be doing in steering a bicycle – the trip was still on !

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Raymonde checking that the tandem is secure on the trailer.

“Le P’tit Train du Nord” is a linear park, running some 200 kilometres from Mont Laurier in the north-east corner of the Laurentians to St. Jerome in the south-east. Roughly half the trail is paved, and the rest is crushed stone on hard packed earth. Our Burley was ideal for this, with 26 inch wheels and I put on new Maxxis Detonator 26x1.5 tires for the trip.

We drove to St. Jerome from our home in Burlington, Vermont, picking up our son Robin and his girlfriend Xan in Montreal along with their two bicycles. We all had lunch in St. Jerome, then Robin and Xan rode south on the bike path to Montreal, a journey of about 60 kms.

Raymonde and I walked around St. Jerome, eating dinner by the river on an open restaurant terrace. That night we stayed at the Comfort Inn, and when I asked where I could safely leave our tan-

dem, the receptionist said that it was fine to keep it in our room, which fortunately was on the ground floor.

The next morning we left our Honda CRV in the car park and rode to the old train station in St. Jerome to connect with our shuttle bus to Mont Laurier. In retrospect we would ride up and back the next time, as it was a long bus journey, with one pit stop half way. However the bus was comfortable, and the bikes were all neatly lashed down on a large custom built trailer towed behind. We arrived at Mont Laurier around midday, and not seeing anywhere for a cup of coffee, we set off down the trail on our trip south-east. Initially the trail was paved, then turned to crushed gravel which our wide tires smoothed out. We passed a number of beautiful lakes, and stopped at some of the well placed benches to sit and admire the view. It was 55 kms to Nominique, and by late afternoon we arrived at “Chez Ignace”, run by a Belgian couple. It was a beautiful evening, and we walked down to the lake with a glass of wine in hand. Whilst I relaxed with the wine on the dock, Raymonde plunged into the lake to shame me. Dinner was a superb grilled salmon, and we slept very well.

The next day we met other cyclists at breakfast, then wrote some postcards and relaxed in the hot tub Jacuzzi before setting off for the 53 kms to Mont Tremblant. We stopped for a leisurely lunch at the old railway station at Labelle, and met a British couple on a very old tandem heading up towards Mont Laurier.

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Our hotel was “Le Lupin”, a log cabin style Inn about a mile from the Resort. We swam in the lake, then walked to the Resort, which reminded us a bit of Disneyland, and we had a meal in one of the myriad of restaurants. We walked back to the auberge, and had coffee with the owners, switching from French to English and back, We had lived for six years in the Jura in France and the trip gave our rusty French much appreciated practice.

Our third day took us 46 kms down to Val David. We turned off the trail at Sainte- Agathe-des-Monts to visit the town by the lake, where we had a leisurely lunch on the deck of a Thai restaurant. We rode around the little resort town and then rejoined the trail to head on down to the “Auberge du Vieux Foyer”, just outside of Val David. This was more a hotel than a small family auberge, with a swimming pool and Jacuzzi, both of which we used before dinner. We had no complaints at all about the auberge, but preferred the intimate family atmosphere of “Le Lupin” and “Chez Ignace”.

Our fourth and final day took us back to St. Jerome. We stopped at several cafes, and had lunch near Prevost at the old railway station restaurant, which also had a busy bicycle shop. Then in the early afternoon we rode under the archway into St. Jerome, and loaded up our tandem for the three hour drive back to Vermont. It had been a wonderful four days, the emphasis being more on the wining and dining than heavy duty cycling ! We had thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and will definitely return to explore more off the trail.



At a station cafe for lunch.

Terry Burke
Katonah, NY



For riding, we're all in fine fettle
On tandems, we all prove our mettle
We grunt up the hills
And ride down for the thrills
Sitting or standing on pedals.

Thom Remington
Wilmington, Delaware



DoubleTalk

Travels With Willie - a book review

Travels With Willie

First, we would like to thank Jerry Boyer for writing a book review in the January/February issue of Doubletalk. We purchased a copy of "Take a Seat" by Dominic Gill, and we finished reading it in no time at all. As with all good books, we were saddened to have the read come to an end. It is a book we will re-read again in the future.

So, we would like to bring another book to your attention. We, too, have a favorite bicycle touring book that we would like to share with Doubletalk readers. "Travels With Willie," by Willie Weir, is a book about bicycle touring and is such a special book that all bicycle enthusiasts will have their cycling lives touched in a profound way when they read it. Willie Weir's writing style will keep you reading long past your bedtime. A few people we have to whom we have loaned our copy to finished all 233 pages of of the book in one sitting! It is not strictly a trip journal but a collection of awesome stories from his past trips alone and with his wife Kat. One of the best stories in the book is how he decided to get married. His philosophy on bicycle travel -- and travel in general -- is extremely contagious. Although we have taken many extended tandem bike tours, this book caused us to look at each new adventure in a whole new light. Enjoy!

Roy and Laurie Dando
Endwell, NY



Views From The Back of Bike...from a Timid Stoker part 3

In September 2010, we rode the Midwest Tandem Rally in Shipshewana, Indiana. Now this is a big rally with a lot of teams -465 I believe was the count. I thought we saw a lot of tandems at the Eastern Tandem Rally but this was amazing. Loved the Vender Fair -what's better than biking but shopping for cool stuff for the bike and new jerseys that match!

Now I was looking forward to the MTR because it was advertised as flat. No hills, no problems was the cry of the rally coordinators. Remember what I have said about bikers, hills and liars? We once again dutifully mounted up for the warm up ice cream ride that was only a short 22 mile round trip. We were at an outlying hotel and not the host hotel and decided to take a shortcut around the perilous 4-way stop intersection in the middle of town. We managed to avoid the traffic and buzzed happily on our way in a wind that felt like it could turn into a tornado! And yes...there were a couple of really dandy hills. So much for Indiana being flat. By now you have guessed that hills are a weakness. But I must say after our Colorado ride, we were much stronger riders and the hills presented no real problems at all (or maybe they were not that big.....) But the wind was tough. A friend of ours calls the wind invisible hills and I would rather climb a big steep hill than fight the wind. We made it over to the town of Middlebury

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for ice cream and back and tucked in for some sleep before the big day ahead.

The morning was cold and more wind! The staging area was a covered with shivering teams in yellow wind-breakers. I have never done a true mass start before and I must say I was a bit terrified. As a stoker, I can only see my Captain's back when I look ahead and to have all of those riders all around us was claustrophobic. I am truly a timid stoker and when Captain rides in the pack and we are on someone's wheel, I get nervous. I have faith in my Captain but not so much in the other riders. My Captain assumes that all of the riders are aware of the bikes around them and know that he is on their wheel. I must say that tandem teams are more careful and polite than single bikers when it comes to moving over, riding single file and paying attention to the world around them.. But there is always someone clueless in every crowd who jams on the brakes or moves in front of you without looking. I see my life passing before me and wonder to myself if this is the way I want to go. I know I need more faith in my Captain's ability to keep us out of trouble but since I have absolutely no control over what might happen—I sometimes get a sick helpless feeling. My greatest dislike is riding in traffic through towns. I don't mind noisy traffic on a highway or road as long as they are not trying to "buzz" you but to ride through towns with traffic lights and stop signs and crossing busy highways really scare me. Captain does not understand this—he says I make eye contact with them...I make sure they see me and know where I am going. I just



The Saturday ride start at Midwest Tandem Rally 2010.

close my eyes and try to pray but instead sometimes screech in Captain's ear, which annoys him. And my pet peeve with my beloved Captain is that sometimes he does not always obey the traffic signals (which is also how he sometimes drives)...I don't mind that we slow down or slow spin to have the light change or even go through the light if the road is empty but I don't like to run red lights when making left turns in front of traffic I mean I don't do it when I am driving so why would I want to do it on the bike??? I am getting better about riding in large groups and traffic but I am not cured of all of my hysteria. The more rides we do, the better I get and I feel so much better about it than I did even a few months ago. It is all about experience I guess.

We had a good ride—60 plus miles but the wind made it a miserable ride at times. The cross and headwinds actu-



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The littlest stoker (look carefully for the four legged one), at MTR.

ally moved the bike around at times. In addition, it was overcast and gloomy out when we had hoped for a sunny day. The MTR is beautifully orchestrated though. Very well done and well marked and a fun ride. Next year it is virtually in our back yard so we are looking forward to MTR 2011.

I can't close without mentioning our last ride to date that was the Apple Cider Century in Three Oaks Michigan. This ride attracts single bikers from three states but mostly it seems to get the majority of riders from the Chicago area. This year they had 5000 riders and thankfully they do not do a mass start. You are free to start anytime between 8 and 10 am. The area around Three Oaks is rolling hills and really nice terrain for the most part.

There are only a few tandem teams at this ride. Maybe a dozen or so at best that we counted. Of course with 5000 riders, we certainly could have missed a lot of them. But the SAG areas are a pretty good indication of the makeup of the ride and we just did not see that many tandems.. This was our 2nd year for the ACC and this year was a better ride for me. I was more relaxed (call that less afraid) of being in a group of riders than in the past. Maybe the MTR experience and other rides were finally paying off. I have two big gripes about the ACC. One is that they do not provide cue sheets. They only give you a map and well-marked Dan Henry's on the road. But this stoker is not a good map-reader -I like more of a play-by-play cue sheet with mileages spelled out. I like to be able to tell Cappy that in 1 mile we have a turn coming. Now of course he is using the Garmin most of the time but we have a system so that between the cue sheet and the Garmin, we can stay on course. Our Garmin sometimes has a mind of its own and will tell us to make a U-turn and go back when the route is straight ahead. We have had this problem more than once. We brought a laptop to the ACC and were able to put the route points into the computer and then download to the Garmin and then have the helpful hotel clerk print the Cue sheet it generated. But it was a pain to have to go through all of that for a cue sheet that could easily be provided.

But by far my biggest gripe with the ACC is the riders. It is unfortunate that a few bad riders spoil the ride for everyone. The ACC says that they watch for

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abuses and will decline those riders from returning but we saw some inexcusable behavior. Riders would ride 2 and 3 abreast with a car coming and the call would go out “car back” and they would not move to single file. The cars were forced to slow down behind them and wait to go around. This type of behavior gives cyclists a bad name and it so no wonder why drivers don’t like cyclists on the roads. Riders would also spread out across the road on hills and when you would call “on your right” to try and pass them –once again they do not move over and you are forced to go out in the oncoming traffic lane on a hill to get past them. We saw this over and over again. Obnoxious riders would pass and then cut in so close that you had to brake or when they went past would nearly brush you because they were so close. But the worst offenders were those riders who would not move to single file for cars or other riders. Because of this, it is unlikely that we will return to ACC next year. I would hope that the ACC would begin to enforce their own rules and use their SAG cars to give warnings to those who abuse the rules. Banning riders for bad behavior should be enforced.

Mary Bills
Farmington Hills, MI



Amish wagons with a rainbow at MTR 2010



There once was a stoker named Anne
She thought a tandem was grand
But when the tire blew out
She said, “who picked this route?”
Captain Kent said stop grumbling, lend a hand.

Team Ellis
Bowling Green, KY



DoubleTalk



Team Hutchinson ready to depart Assateague Island and tackle the 18 miles to the next rest stop (pie and ice cream), and the final miles (all of it now into a headwind)

A Ride Made for Tandems

Ah yes...the Sea Gull Century. Salisbury State University (SSU), in the sleepy town of Salisbury, MD along Business Hwy-13 just before the Delaware state line, is home to the SSU Seagulls and the sponsors of one of the best bicycle rides east of the Mississippi -- especially for tandems! It's 101 miles (full century) or 64 miles (metric century) of tabletop flatness, interrupted only by the bridge cross-over to the scenic Assateague Island National Seashore as a major food/rest stop. October 9th marked the 22nd anniversary of the event, and every year the university seems to outdo itself for ride preparation, course safety, signage and markings, on-campus activities before and after the event, vendors (including Mel

Kornbluh from Tandems East), you name it. In the early '90's Bicycling Magazine called it one of the ten best bike rides in the U.S. It's become a popular event with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team In Training, with representative cyclists from Washington, D.C., Hershey, PA, and as far away as Kansas --including their small stuffed flying monkeys atop their helmets! Of course, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the guy on the century course, motoring along on what seemed like a 10 foot tall unicycle!

This year was possibly one of the better of the 16 years Natalie and I have participated in the Assateague Century. With no rain this year, the weather was perfect, a cool low-60ish degree temperature for the start. It's a "show-and-go" ride, which makes getting your 8100+ other cycling pals all on the road safely. Most of the tandems were out at the crack of dawn with us, knowing the rest stop food is fresher, the lines for every-



Seagull's vendor area is filled with vendors selling anything cycling-related.

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thing is shorter, and the porta-johns still have hand sanitizer. At every intersection, at every significant road intersection, there were State Troopers, the Sheriff's Dept, or city or county police controlling traffic. Even the Park Service is in on the safety aspect of getting riders to and from the Assateague Island Park. Tandems of all types, shapes, and sizes, fit and finish showed up: some aero-bar-equipped, mixte frames with small children as stokers, dads with a trail-a-bike in tow, serious tandem teams capable of exceeding the speed limit leading scores of singles for the draft, new Hokitika frames, independent pedaling and Gates Carbon Belt-connected, and teams who've just plain been riding centuries for decades. Every year, the number of tandems seems to grow as much as the numbers of single riders swell.

Rest stops are well appointed and positioned about every 22 miles. Usually that's the time people get to talk about their bikes and where they're from while stuffing their face with GREAT food, or waiting in line for the next porta-john to pop open. Co-Motion's, Burley's, Calfee's, and Cannondale's all mix and mingle. The best stops are the 64 mile major refueling stop on Assateague Island, and the one at the 82 mile mark, with slices of apple (or cherry) pie and blocks of vanilla ice cream, serenaded by a two or three piece music combo. Everywhere at the stops there are greeters, people cheering and clapping, plenty of SSU and community volunteers manning the stations, and generally making you feel better than you really deserved as the day wore on. What's amazed me most over the years is



The end is in sight

the minimal amount of automobile traffic along the route. Granted you're well off the major trafficked roads except for nearing Assateague Island and around the small town of Berlin, but for the majority of the ride, you'll see the sag vehicles up and down the course as much as the day-to-day local traffic.

Next years Sea Gull Century is already scheduled for Saturday, 15 October 2011. Make your hotel reservations now, since little Salisbury, MD has a premium on the few hotels in the area, and they know the cyclists are coming. On-line reservations will open on 15 May next year, for a ride in mid-October, if that gives you any idea of the popularity. Throw a leg over your tandem and give it a spin with the rest of us. More information can be found at www.seagullcentury.org. The roads are very smooth and flat, the scenery is quaint and peaceful, and if the weather cooperates, it's a great way to wind down the tandem cycling season with a GREAT ride.

Michael and
Natalie
Hutchinson
Yorktown, VA



DoubleTalk

Giro di Vini – Italy,

September 2010

Trip summary:

Our third unsupported tandem tour of Italy focused on the Piedmont region, and was as much about sampling the wine and food as it was about the cycling (500 miles total). [Trips one and two

The Italians seemed delighted to see us, often calling out “bicycletta grande!” “bicycletta longue!” or simply “tandem!” They also appeared pleased to find out we were Americans, though they always guessed we were German or English.

Our casual approach to pre-planning only a few accommodations on the trip allowed us to maintain a flexible schedule. This created some extra adventures on this trip, as weekends were busier than we’d expected for this time of year. We’ve learned the local visitor centers often have restrictive hours and a very limited list of accommodations they are authorized to recommend, so it’s good to do some on-line research before, or as, you go.

Airline baggage limitations (cost and weight) are becoming more of a challenge with every trip. To avoid any excess baggage fees, we checked only the 4 coupled bike suitcases (each loaded to exactly 50lbs) and carried everything else on.

Garmin was our primary daily navigation tool, but you still need a good old-fashioned map. Duncan pre-ordered the Michelin Italy Tourist and Motoring Atlas (1:400 000 scale) for planning and to supplement daily routing while on the trip.



Duncan and Laura McCabe and Bill and Sara Lundin loaded up and ready to roll.

were Tuscany and Sicily, respectively]. The Piedmont is a great introduction to Italy for anyone planning their first tour.

The intrepid travelers were Bill Leland and Sara Lundin on their “new” (new to them, at least) coupled Co-Motion, and Laura and Duncan McCabe on their coupled Bushnell.

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We love the kickstand we added last year, as it helps with building the bike, roadside maintenance, and parking throughout the trip. It does, however, take 2 people to park a loaded tandem, as the stoker has to lift the heavy rear wheel high enough for the kickstand to swing down and into place.

If you plan to travel by train in Italy with a fully loaded tandem, be prepared to haul your bike up and down stairs (while running for a train), and forcing it around tight corners to get it on board. We never knew whether the railroad car for bicycles would be at the front or rear of the train. So our strategy was to stand in the middle of the loading platform, and then run like h*ll with the bikes and panniers as the train pulled into the station. The bike car has a bike symbol on it and was usually in the rear, but not always. We could only hope the conductor would see us and hold the train until we'd dragged ourselves and everything on board.

Fun facts:

The Italian word for double bed is "matrimoniale".

Panniers are called "cestino" or "porta pani".

If you want to avoid ordering too much food, a good phrase to know is "da dividere" (to share).

The Italians only have cappuccinos at breakfast time. After lunch and dinner they order espressos, which are tiny. They finish the meal with grappa (limoncello is for tourists). Grappa is definitely

an aquired taste, though it was smoother than the firewater available in the US.

Trip diary:

Travel day - Day 1 Sept 2-3 (Thurs-Fri) was relatively uneventful, except for a mad run through the Frankfurt airport to catch our Lufthansa flight to Milan. Though seasoned travelers, we learn something new every time. US Airways was unable to provide boarding passes for the Lufthansa flight, and our printed itinerary allowed us through security only because all 4 of our names were on it. Otherwise, we would have had to go to Lufthansa check-in, missing our connection to Milan. Bill had pre-booked a hotel in Vergiate, near the Milano/Marpensa airport for the first and last nights of our trip, including free shuttle service (a big cost savings over a taxi). We arrived early in the morning and spent the afternoon putting the bikes together. The hotel was in a remote location with nothing within walking distance for lunch or dinner. Fortunately, we enjoyed the hotel bar and restaurant just fine! Tonight's favorite dish was linguine with baby shrimp in a very light cream sauce, garnished with shredded arugula.

Vergiate to Bogogno via Lago D'Orta (58 miles) - Day 2 Sept 4 (Saturday) we cycled west from our hotel into lovely rural terrain, through the vineyards. The grapes will be picked in less than a month, and hang in big ripe bunches (we sampled a few sweet juicy grapes). We saw many skinny local cyclists in full kit, out for their Saturday training ride. After only a few miles, between Bagogno and Cressa, Laura spot-

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ted a winery sign. We managed to kill a couple of hours touring Ca' Nova winery, learning about the Ghemme DOCG, and making arrangements to spend the night in a loft apartment that was available on the site. We dropped our luggage and the winery sent us into Borgomanero for lunch. They had held the restaurant open for us, and we were the only customers. Since it was the weekend of the annual Ghemme wine festival, the restaurant was serving only a traditional lunch, which turned out to be way too much heavy food, starting with huge plates of risotto, followed by ground donkey meat over polenta (I am not making this up!). This was the one meal when the request “da dividere” did not work. Lunch turned out to be one of the most memorable meals of the trip, though not necessarily in a good way! But we washed it all down with good local wine, then saddled up and cycled northwest to circumnavigate Lago d’Orta. It was a

beautiful sunny day in the mid-70s, but past dark when we finally got back to our loft. Since we were all tired and still full from lunch, for dinner we had wine and snacks in the room.

Bogogno to Casale Monferrato

(54 miles) - Day 3 Sept 5 (Sunday) we rode into Cressa for a typical light Italian breakfast of cappuccino, pastries and panninis (tiny plain ham sandwiches) at a bar, then headed south. Today was overcast, mid-60s, generally comfortable riding in short sleeves. Even though it was Sunday, we were pleasantly surprised to find several “big box” stores open. OBI is a Home Depot – type chain from Germany, and we stopped to see about replacing a lost set screw for our rear brake. Duncan disappeared into the store and returned with two very interested employees. When he couldn’t find a replacement screw in the store, one of the employees simply removed one from one of the kids bicycles they had on display (no charge!). We then rode through Ghemme, picnicked by the river, and crossed the river into Gattinara (another DOCG), which we discovered was having THEIR annual wine festival along the main street through town, which had been closed to cars. Long tables were set up in the middle of the street every few blocks, selling local wine by the bottle or glass. Of course we had to stop and sample a bottle! We were quite a hit with the locals, who all wanted to give us glasses of wine and take our pictures, but we decided we better move on unless we wanted to ride in the dark again. We rode straight through the flat rice fields of Arborio (as in risotto), into the town

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of Casale Monferrato. The visitor center directed us to Hotel Principe, a standard 3-star. We walked through the town and found a typical outdoor café for dinner.

Casale Monferrato to Alba via Asti (59 miles) - Day 4 Sept 6 (Monday) was overcast, with many short steep ups as we headed south/southwest. We had a fun lunch at a bottega in Asti (of course drinking some Asti), though we didn't think much of the town itself. A favorite antipasto that we ate several times, and that I'll never be able to do at home, is boiled chunks of tender octopus and potatoes dressed with olive oil, chopped parsley and lemon. Don't knock it till you've tried it!

We rode into Alba but found the main large hotels full. The visitor center directed us to a tiny 2-bedroom walkup apartment where we stored our bikes in the stairwell. Next door turned out to be a fabulous "slow food" restaurant for dinner.

Alba Loop (27 miles) - Day 5 Sept 7 (Tuesday) we got a late start. It was cool and spitting rain, after having rained all night, and we were very glad we had dragged our bikes last night into the stairwell. We first visited a local bike shop to see if Bill & Sara's damaged shift lever could be repaired (no, but they showed him a work-around) and buy cool Italian jerseys. We got info at the visitor center for a charming inn, just out of town. We rode there, checked in and dropped our luggage. Unloaded, we cycled back into Alba for an incredibly yummy lunch that I just have to describe in detail: First there was a summer salad of steamed

and chilled green beans and boiled and chilled potato cubes served over mixed greens and dressed with chopped hazel nuts, goat cheese and pesto. We also had a side dish of very thinly sliced zucchini, eggplant, red and yellow peppers that had been grilled, then chilled and lightly dressed with vinaigrette. Then there was angel hair pasta tossed with butter and minced fresh sage. And finally, fresh porcini mushrooms and shaved black truffle sautéed in olive oil and served with slivers of aged parmesan. Hungry yet?

After our heavenly lunch, we headed out into the mist on a loop recommended by the bike shop, through Diona d'Alba. They're probably still laughing about sending the dumb foreigners up that horrendous climb! But all was rewarded when Laura spotted a small local winery, asked a guy in overalls carrying a bucket full of red wine "degustacione?" He said "si" and we had a marvelous afternoon tasting his wines. Alessandria Silvio spoke no English, but we still learned he only farms 3 hectares, he is third generation running the small winery, but his tween son isn't interested (spends all his time on Facebook), and that he waters his oleanders with red wine and it turns the blooms red. He termed our trip "Tour de Gastronomique" (wait, isn't that French?!). As it was getting late, we turned back. Our inn did not have a restaurant, and we didn't want to walk back to town, so we attempted to prepare dinner in the small kitchenette, which was unfortunately not very successful and will not be described further...



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Alba to Grinzane Cavour via Barolo (28 miles) - Day 6 Sept 8 (Wednesday) we awoke to a beautiful sunny morning and loaded up for the short ride south to Grinzane Cavour, a small village and castle on a ridge surrounded by vineyards. After wine tasting at Cantina del Conte, we decided to splurge on two suites at the 4-star Hotel Casa Pavisi, overlooking the vineyards and across the road from the castle. We then took an unloaded clockwise loop through beautiful vineyards, stopping for a picnic lunch and then to drink Barolo in Barolo (DOCG #3 for the trip). We saw lots of cyclists, obviously on organized tours judging from their matching bikes, coasting downhill after having been dropped off by a shuttle at the top. Dinner tonight was a stuffy, gourmet affair at the castle. My favorite dish was zucchini blossoms stuffed with mild cheese, then lightly breaded and fried. We saw these blossoms for sale at several produce stands and markets, sometimes with baby zucchinis attached.

Grinzane Cavour to Allessandria (53 miles), then via train to Monterossa - Day 7 Sept 9 (Thursday) we backtracked thru Alba, past our inn from 2 nights ago, heading northeast and stopping for Barbaresco in Barbaresco (DOCG #4). We bought picnic supplies at a market set up in a small town square and picnicked by the side of the road. We met a local cyclist in full kit while waiting for a train to pass (Italian train crossings and traffic lights all seem to be really long)!

Garmin provided a very pleasant approach into Alessandria. We had no problem finding the train station, and

bought tickets south to Monterossa via Genoa. We expected the usual mad dash to change trains in Genoa, but had our first really scary moment arriving in Monterossa, as the conductor could not see us trying to pull the bikes off the train and the doors started to close and it began to roll forward. Fortunately no harm done - just another travel story!

We were not prepared for how busy Monterossa was, though perhaps we should have expected it, since it was a weekend. It was past dark, everything was booked, and even many of the outdoor cafes were closing for the evening. But our luck held out! We mentioned our plight to a waitress at a pizzeria. Next thing we know, a woman showed up with key. Laura followed her up the street (Gabriela spoke no English) and up a narrow steep flight of stairs to a charming one room apartment with two double beds and a bathroom. There was obviously no bike storage, so we chained the bikes together on the street below, directly in front of the bank's security camera. For the next two days our Piedmont tandem tour became a Cinque Terre walking tour. Every time we walked by there seemed to be a crowd of tourists looking at our parked bikes.

Cinque Terre hike - Day 8 Sept 10 (Friday) we slept late and then became typical tourists for the day. We bought the required Cinque Terre entrance tickets at the train station, then headed down the trail. It was a gorgeous warm sunny day. We had lunch overlooking the ocean in Vernazza, town #2. Though we hadn't planned to, we ended up hiking the entire

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length, through Corniglia, Manarola, and on to Riomaggiore. After watching the sunset from a bar, we took the train back to Monterossa and had touristy pizza for dinner.

Travel - Day 9 Sept 11 (Saturday) we started with an early train to Riomaggiore so we could take the scenic ferry back to Monterossa and enjoy the view of Cinque Terre from the water. This turned out to definitely be the right strategy, as we were able to get seats on the upper deck of our ferry, whereas the ferries going in the opposite direction from Monterossa to Riomaggiore were packed. Having completed our tour of Cinque Terre, we loaded the bikes and headed to the train station, where we ran into tandem friends from Charlotte, Dwight and Donna McKnight, just arriving. Small world or what?

After a few relaxing hours on the train, we arrived in Lecco at the southern tip of Lake Como and were shocked to learn that due to a Formula 1 racing event, the total town was booked through the weekend. The manager at Hotel Alberi made some calls for us and we raced back to the train station to take another hour train ride north up along the eastern shore of Lake Como, then east up the Valtinella valley, into the foothills of the Italian Alps. As we got off the rear of the train in the dark (it was 10PM), Laura was prepared with the street address programmed into Garmin to get us to Hotel Bellevue. But when we got off, a man was standing there in a bright orange vest, next to a single bike. He informed us: "I AM Hotel Bellevue" and then Julio es-

corted us through the streets to his family hotel, built by his father. He checked us in, then his wife cooked us a multi-course feast, including lots of Valtinella wines (DOCG #5).

Valtellina Valley out and back (48 miles) - Day 10 Sept 12 (Sunday) was a gorgeous sunny day, mid-80s, perfect for a day ride east up the valley and back. We were surprised to find this area very cycle friendly, with a windy bike path along the river and lightly traveled roads, generally flat though we were surrounded by mountains. We had a charming little encounter with a farmer and his wife when we stopped to look at the map. Since it was Sunday, we were a little worried about finding lunch so we headed into Sondrio and wandered around quite a while before finding a tucked away pizza place where many local families were finishing their post-church lunch, and the local priest was sleeping at a table! The pizza was fabulous. We had planned to go farther up the valley, but decided to





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turn back to enjoy another gourmet dinner at the hotel.

Some favorite dishes at the hotel included antipasti of grilled squares of local casera cheese, bruschetta with speck, sautéed sliced mushrooms & casera cheese, and a heavy dish of pasta made with buckwheat flour, potatoes, cabbage, butter and sage.

Morbegno to Lecco (42 miles) - Day 12 Sept 13 (Monday). Before leaving town, Julio directed us to an amazing local cheese shop, which turned out to be a large old building with a multi-level underground cellar full of wheels of aging cheeses, and wine. After a little shopping, our idyllic cycling backtracked Saturday's train ride, west down the valley on a bike path to Lake Como, where we stopped to fix a rear flat, then picked up the flat road south along the lake, towards Varenna. At lunch we split up, Bill and Sara taking the ferry from Varenna to Bellagio, and Laura and Duncan continuing south to Lecco, ending up at Hotel Alberi.

Lecco to Riva San Vitale, Switzerland (33 miles) - Day 13 Sept 14 (Tuesday) our plans were to stay another night and attempt an unloaded ride up the ridge to check out the bicycle museum and then down into Bellagio. The weather was sunny and nice. However, since Hotel Alberi was not available for a second night, we loaded up and headed west around the lake, after fixing the rear flat again. After a few miles, Laura's left cleat gave out and her foot couldn't stay on the pedal. We'd brought a spare cleat, but couldn't get the old screws out to take the broken one off. We rode on to

Como despite the cleat, and had a nice lunch, surrounded by tour bus tourists. We couldn't find an open bike shop (lunchtime), and decided to press on into Switzerland. We enjoyed some tough climbs as we headed over the mountains, before crossing the Swiss border and dropping into Riva San Vitale at the end of Lake Lugano. We stopped for a beer at the main village traffic circle and watched all the cyclists (the most we've seen on the trip) ride by. This area is obviously a popular area for both road and off-road cycling. The orderly Swiss publish numbered route maps and we saw the corresponding numbered directional arrows on signs at the traffic circles. We ended up at an expensive dump for the night, and in retrospect should probably have checked out the 5-star we saw on the hill as we were flying down towards the lake. We shared a lasagna dinner with a couple of German tourists in the quiet village square. We had to make several trips to an ATM, since we needed Swiss francs, not Euros.

Riva San Vitale to Levano via Luino (46 miles) - Day 14 Sept 15 (Wednesday) was a beautiful day for riding, with excellent weather and gorgeous views. We cycled northwest along the shore of Lake Lugano, then climbed over the spine, left Switzerland, and dropped into Luino on Lake Maggiore. We found an open bike shop that managed to get my broken cleat off my shoe and replaced it with the spare we'd bought. Luino was mobbed with a huge day market, so (after a little shopping!) we pressed on, taking an inland route up and over the mountains to Laveno. We were directed by the

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visitor center to a modest 3-star albergo, and I have to admit to getting a bit tired of these dreary, noisy hotel rooms. But we enjoyed the quiet waterfront and delicious seafood dinner.

Levano to Vergiate via Verbania (52 miles) - Day 15 Sept 16 (Thursday) – our hotel was very convenient for taking the early morning ferry across Lake Maggiore to end our tour with a scenic ride around the lake. We stopped in Stresa to check out the expensive shops and have cappuccini, then continued all the way around the south end of Lake Maggiore and partly back up the east shore, looking across at where we'd just been! After a lovely lunch (bruschetta toast brushed with oil, a schmear of mild white cheese, salmon carpaccio and shredded arugula and a salad of arugula, raw zucchini cut in matchsticks and baby shrimp) at a quiet lakefront pannineria, Garmin directed us via rural back roads, ending the trip with exactly 500 miles. We re-connected with Bill and Sara, who had already arrived, spent the afternoon packing bikes and luggage and had dinner at the hotel.

Travel day - Day 16 Sept 17 (Friday) included the usual travel fiascoes, but at least we were able to check more luggage so we had less to carry as we raced through the Frankfurt airport, only to have US Airways close the gate in our faces and turn us away 15 minutes before scheduled departure. [Ideally your itinerary should include at least 2 hours in foreign airports to change planes, ESPECIALLY if you will be changing airlines. Unfortunately they never seem to work that way...] After lots of standing around

with several other passengers we decided to get assertive to avoid a 24hour delay getting home [we've learned on previous trips that most of the flights to the US leave during a narrow window each morning]. It took a couple of hours, but we were finally booked on the Lufthansa flight to Charlotte, a much nicer option than US Airways anyway. We arrived home just a couple hours later than planned, though our checked luggage arrived two days later.

In summary – the people, the terrain, and the food and wine make the Piedmont region a fantastic location for an Italian tandem tour!

Happy tandem travels!

Duncan & Laura (author) McCabe
Bill Leland and Sara Lundin
Wilmington, NC



A perfect day brings out the smiles.



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CALENDAR

May 1, 2011. **Evergreen Tandem Club (Seattle, WA area) Snoqualmie Valley Ride.** Redmond, WA A social affair with a stop for a breakfast snack along the way. www.evergreentandemclub.org/ click on rides and events.

May 6-8, 2011. **Florida PANTHERS Pinellas Trail Tour.** Dunedin and Tarpon Springs, FL. A casual weekend of riding. Contact us through www.floridatandemclub.org

May 13-15, 2011. **AORTA (Appalachian Off-Road Tandem Adventure) 2011.** Asheville, NC. Off-road tandem riding and socializing are the goals. www.mtbtandems.com/aorta.html

May 13-15, 2011. **DOGS (Doubles of the Garden State) "No Bull" Island Camp and Road Ride.** Stockton, NJ. We've reserved the group campground and are looking forward to a great time. tmbreeze@optonline.net www.d-o-g-s.org/

May 15, 2011. **Evergreen Tandem Club (Seattle, WA area) Renton – Redmond Loop Ride.** Renton, WA A social affair with a stop for lunch along the way. www.evergreentandemclub.org/ click on rides and events.

May 19-22, 2011. **Georgia Tandem Rally 2011.** Macon, GA. Check out www.georgiatandemrally.com

May 20-22, 2011. **COWS (Couples On Wheels) Spring Rally.** Eau Claire, WI. Join us at the Gateway to God's Country for the Spring Couples on Wheels Rally, May 20, 21, 22. Chippewa Falls is putting out the welcome mat for COWs, PIGs, GOATs, LOONs, CATs and other

various tandem bicycle riders. The Chippewa Valley area boasts natural beauty with miles and miles of paved roads traveling through, wooded bluffs, marshes, prairie and farmland. Come early and enjoy a visit to the Jacob Leinenkugel Brewery, Autumn Harvest or River Bend wineries, or the many parks and rivers in the area. Or stay late. Your hosts are planning an extra Monday adventure tour for those who want to explore more of the Chippewa Valley and the host hotel will honor the special COWs hotel rate for your extended stay. Make your room reservation at the Americinn of Chippewa Falls – fill out the registration form, mail it in and look forward to great times and good riding. Lane & Linda Soltis-Schroeder <http://couplesonwheels.com>

May 21, 2011. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Blind Stoker Ride.** Elmhurst, IL We ride, we have loaner tandems or you can bring your own. There are always plenty of stokers. Come join the fun www.chicagotandems.com mchsi.com click on Events

May 21, 2011. **GOATS (Greater Ohio Area Tandem Society) Are Back in the Pedal Ride.** Dublin, OH. We're excited to be bringing the GOATS back out – new and revised. Fun and social. Come join in jbernst@wright.edu or GoatsOhio!groups.facebook.com

May 27-30, 2011. **Canadian Tandem Rally 2011.** St Jacobs, Ontario. Please join us for two or three days of riding in the heart of Mennonite Country. Stay with us at the Best Western St Jacobs Country Inn as we explore the geography, history and unique culture of this Men-

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nonite area. Join us Friday afternoon for a ride in the country followed by an evening wine & cheese. Follow us Saturday as we ride out for a picnic lunch and back to the hotel for banquet including local cuisine. Sunday includes more country riding and lunch. Optional Monday ride for those that wish to round out their Memorial Day Weekend. David & Brenda Vandeveld www.mbstandems.com

June 3, 2011. **DATES (Dallas Area Tandem EnthusiastS) Rick to Rick Ride.** McKinney, TX This ride goes from Rick & Ann's house in McKinney to Rick & Kay's house in Ardmore, Oklahoma <http://www.doubledates.com> click on Ride & Event Schedule for more details

June 3-5, 2011. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Wine Ride.** Sawyer, MI We ride, we socialize we eat, and most importantly we sample some wine.. Come join the fun www.chicagotandems.hom.mchsi.com click on Events

June 3-5, 2011. **Tennessee Tandem Rally 2011.** Tennessee Tandem Rally returns to the hills (mountains for some) of eastern Tennessee. Pre-registration is required. Details are available at www.thetandemlink.com/TTR.html

June 4, 2011. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Blind Stoker Ride.** Lombard, IL We ride, we have loaner tandems or you can bring your own. There are always plenty of stokers. Come join the fun www.chicagotandems.hom.mchsi.com click on Events

June 11-12, 2011. **DOGS (Doubles of the Garden State) Stony Brook and D&R Canal Ride.** Princeton, NJ. On

Saturday we ride along the Stony Brook, on Sunday we ride along the Delaware & Raritan Canal. Trek home Saturday night or join the crowd at a near-by hotel ronlessard2@verizon.net www.d-o-g-s.org/

June 17-19, 2011. **2nd Annual Saranac Lake (NY) Tandem Rally.** Get on your tandem and ride with us on one of the three scenic routes Saturday and Sunday. With the terrain ranging from rolling to hilly, the rides will be fun for both families and speedsters. Both days have rides ranging from 14 miles to metric centuries. Detailed cue sheets and maps are provided for all rides. Registration and lodging information can be found at: <http://www.gtgtandems.com/sltr.html>.

June 17 - 19, 2011. **DOGS (Doubles of the Garden State) Dirty DOGS Off Road Tandem Trails Weekend Ride.** Entriiken, PA. We've based at Lake Raystown Resort and or you can camp in the Allegrippis. We are looking forward to a great time. tmbreeze@optonline.net www.d-o-g-s.org/

June 18, 2011. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Long Grove Ride.** Long Grove, IL. We ride, we socialize we eat. Come join the fun www.chicagotandems.hom.mchsi.com click on Events

June 18, 2011. **DOGS (Doubles of the Garden State) Summer Solstice Ride and Party.** Pittsgrove, NJ. An easy paced ride – we're visiting with old friends and looking for new members. www.d-o-g-s.org/

June 18, 2011. **Evergreen Tandem Club (Seattle, WA area) Tandem 101 Ride.**

CALENDAR



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Magnuson Park, WA Curious about what it's like to ride a tandem? Or, do you already have a tandem and would like some tips on riding? Then plan to attend our tandem workshop. Class will begin with a half hour introduction followed by a demonstration of techniques. Using a test riding area, trainers from Evergreen Tandem Club will be on hand to show beginners how to start, ride and stop a tandem. . www.evergreentandemclub.org/ click on rides and events.

CALENDAR

June 18-19, 2011. **Florida PANTHERS Weekend Summer's Ride.** Vero Beach, FL. Summer is here and it's time to enjoy the coast. Come join us for a weekend of casual riding. www.floridatandemclub.org

June 19, 2011. **Evergreen Tandem Club (Seattle, WA area) Renton to Black Diamond Bakery Ride.** Renton, WA Join us for our annual ride from Renton to Black Diamond Bakery for lunch and return. The ride will have some challenging hills and some long descents for fun, and depending on the weather conditions we may ride 45 or 60 miles. Bring a lunch or order at the bakery. www.evergreentandemclub.org/ click on rides and events.

June 25, 2011. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Round Lake Ride.** Round Lake, IL. We ride, we socialize we eat. Come join the fun www.chicagotandems.hom.mchsi.com click on Events

June 25-27, 2011. **1st Concentration of tandems in Salviac, France.** Salviac, France. Tandem excursions organized by Salviac Cyclotourisme (Salviac Bicycle Touring Club) Pre-registration is required. Saturday, June 25. Group depar-

ture for a discovery ride of around 30km. Late afternoon, Salviac Syclostourisme will offer an aperitif at the campside. A joint meal at the campsite restaurant will follow. Sunday a ride of approximately 85 km. A vehicle will be available for the transport of the picnics.. Monday, June 27 a group departure for a discovery ride of around 50 km. Contact Mary or Bob for information, reservations (camping and other) Mary Duffy or Bob Stokinger stokinger@yahoo.com Telephone outside France (33) 5 65 27 10 02 Updated Information and registration form: Tandem Club de France (l'Amicale Cyclo Tandemiste) <http://acttcf.free.fr>

July 1-4, 2011. **Northwest Tandem Rally 2011. Spokane, WA** "Pedalin' the Palouse" The Spokane bike club is the host. Room reservations can be made now. Details at www.NWTR.org

July 1-4, 2011. **DOGS (Doubles of Garden State) Dirty DOGS Vermont Kingdom Trails Weekend Blast.** East Burke, Vermont. Join TeamBreeze and have a BLAST exploring the trails. Camping, RV or find your own. tmbreeze@optonline.net or 973.584.3460 www.d-o-g-s.org

July 8-14, 2011. **Tandems East Tandem Weekend. 13th Annual Ride.** Pennsville, NJ Pre-registration is required. http://tandemseast.com/events/tandem_weekend_2011.html

July 10, 2011. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Road to Ribs Ride.** Darien, IL. We ride, we socialize we eat. Come join the fun www.chicagotandems.hom.mchsi.com click on Events

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July 16, 2011. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Blind Stoker Ride.** Wheaton, IL We ride, we have loaner tandems or you can bring your own. There are always plenty of stokers. Come join the fun www.chicagotandems.hom.mchsi.com click on Events

July 16-23, 2011. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Week Long Ride.** Bayfield, WI. We ride, we eat. Come join the fun www.chicagotandems.hom.mchsi.com click on Events

July 22-24, 2011. **Indiana Tandem Rally 2010.** Fort Wayne, IN. This event, sponsored by Three Rivers Velo Sport and HOOTs, is a three day ride: a 25 mile ice cream route on Friday, 35-55 miles on Saturday and 25-50 miles on Sunday. Sag stops will be identified for each ride and we'll provide lunch on Saturday. The fee will include a banquet on Saturday evening. Routes will be flat to gently rolling. Join us for a weekend of great riding and fun. Ride will be limited to 60 teams. Make your hotel or camping reservation Hilton Gardens Inn 260.435.1777 Camp Timber Lake 260.672.3251 Kent or Anne Ellis 260.387.7978 tandemIndiana@gmail.com 260.387.7978 before 9pm Eastern Time.

July 30, 2011. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Onion Pub Ride.** Lake Barrington, IL We ride, we drink? And of course we eat. Come join the fun www.chicagotandems.hom.mchsi.com click on Events

August 5-7, 2011. **Eastern Tandem**

Rally 2011. Storrs, CT. Join us for great rides in the rolling hills and farmlands of N.E. CT. Ride, eat, dance and laugh with fellow tandem teams (plus) at UCONN in Storrs, CT. We are encouraging participants to arrive on Thursday and come with us on a remote start for Friday morning in Woodstock, CT. We also are planning the swap meet and vendor sales for Friday and Saturday from 3:00-5:00. Hope to see you all there. It should be a fun time. Sue and Glenn Orcutt Additional details will be at www.easterntandemrally.org as they become available.

August 7, 2011. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Pool Party Ride.** Buffalo Grove, IL We ride, we swim, we eat. Come join the fun www.chicagotandems.hom.mchsi.com click on Events

August 12-14, 2011. **PIGS (Paired Iowans Going Somewhere) Rally 2011.** Storm Lake, IA Once again the PIGS have found a wonderful surprising location for their annual get together. Come join in the fun. Details will be found at <http://pigstandem.home.mchsi.com>

August 14, 2011. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Sweet Corn Ride.** Harvard, IL We ride, we eat, and eat sweet corn. Come join the fun www.chicagotandems.hom.mchsi.com click on Events

August 20, 2011. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Blind Stoker Ride.** Elmhurst, IL We ride, we have loaner tandems or you can bring your own. There are always plenty of stokers. Come join the fun www.chicagotandems.hom.mchsi.com

CALENDAR



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mchsi.com click on Events

August 27-28, 2011. **Florida PANTHERS Ride through the orange groves.** Lake Wales, FL. It's hot out there so we're looking for some shade. Come join us for a weekend of casual riding. www.floridatandemclub.org

CALENDAR

September 2-5, 2011. **Midwest Tandem Rally 2011.** Ann Arbor, MI. Make your hotel reservations now. The basic rides are in place, the organizers are working on the weather. www.MTR2011.org

September 17, 2011. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Blind Stoker Ride.** Wheaton, IL We ride, we have loaner tandems or you can bring your own. There are always plenty of stokers. Come join the fun www.chicagotandems.hom.mchsi.com click on Events

September 17-18, 2011. **DOGS (Doubles of the Garden State) Meet the Swiss DOGS Ride.** Northern NJ. Our Swiss friends will be visiting and hope to meet the rest of the pack. www.d-o-g-s.org/

September 18, 2011. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Plowing Match Ride.** Big Rock, IL We ride, we eat, and this time we watch a plowing match. Come join the fun www.chicagotandems.hom.mchsi.com click on Events

September 23-25, 2011. **Fall Allegany Rally for Tandems (FART XVIII).** Salamanca, NY. Off road MTB weekend at Allegany State Park. 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! Karen & Brian Managan Check out the F.A.R.T. web page at <http://homepage.mac.com/bmanagan/fart/>

September 23-25, 2011. **Southern Tandem Rally 2011.** Mebane, NC The theme - "goin' local". The riding will be piedmont, rolly, dairy country. We love riding there. Our experienced hosts Smith & Claude will put together a great event. Details at www.southerntandemrally.com as they become available.

Fall 2011. **COWS (Couples On Wheels) Fall Rally.** Sturgeon Bay, WI. Details are being worked out. <http://wouplesonwheels.com>

October 1, 2011. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Leaf Me Alone Ride.** Barrington, IL We ride, we eat. Come join the fun www.chicagotandems.hom.mchsi.com click on Events

October 15, 2011. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Blind Stoker Ride.** Wheaton, IL We ride, we have loaner tandems or you can bring your own. There are always plenty of stokers. Come join the fun www.chicagotandems.hom.mchsi.com click on Events

October 23, 2011. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Chili Pumpkin Ride.** Barrington, IL We ride, we eat and enjoy the fall. Come join the fun www.chicagotandems.hom.mchsi.com click on Events

October 28-30. **Florida PANTHERS**

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Back to the Villages. The Villages, FL. This will be our second repeat of a fantastic weekend. I'm sure we'll find something new, or rearrange our routes to keep it fresh. Come join the crowd at The Villages. www.floridatandemclub.org

November(?), 2011. **Florida Tandem Rally.** The Villages, FL. The Florida Tandem Rally will return in 2011. Watch <http://floridatandemclub.org>

December 11, 2011. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Holiday Party.** Round Lake, IL Who said anything about riding? It's cold in the Chicago area. Just come join the fun www.chicagotandems.hom.mchsi.com click on Events

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

Tandem Touring: NY, Ontario, Quebec

Lakes, Wineries, Farmland, Rolling Countryside
Maps / cue sheets / bag transfer / lodging / dinners

Montreal's Eastern Townships

Thousand Islands

NY's Finger Lakes

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Saranac Lake, New York

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CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: Santana "TI" (Polish Titanium) Tandem 2000 Ti-26 for sale. Bike has all new components including: Hadley Hubs, Continental 700x28 Duraskin Tires with liners, 27" wheels. Campagnolo Cranks, Derailleur's, Chain Rings and Cassette. Bike has new Ariai Drag Brake, Shimano dual sided pedals, Wireless computers, stoker seat post shock, new hand grip tape and bar end mirror. I am 6'1" and my wife is 5'5". Frame size is 62cm/56cm. We both have health issues now that don't allow us to ride anymore. The bike has not been used in over three years and we would like it to go to a good home. This bike "IS" the "Corvette" of tandems. Very light and fast. Weight is 37lbs. Sorry, no wiggle room on the \$5,999 price, as we have spent over \$10,000 on the bike and on up grades. New polish titanium bikes set up like ours are costing \$11,000 (plus sales tax). Call Ron or Debbie at (208-263-9141) for more information (ID) 07/11

FOR SALE: Tandem Two'sday (Bike Friday Travel Tandem). Less than 250 miles, Like New, except for a few small blems. Size: Medium/Small (Sizing corresponds roughly to a Santana "Medium"). Candy apple red, with a rear disc brake, Shimano STR600 shifters and more! We paid \$4,935, will sell for \$3,500. Email to testad@tandemiacs.com or call (904)514-5635 (FL). This is a SERI-

OUS machine and can handle the challenge of hill climbs and descents, because of the gearing provided and disc brakes. New Tandem Two's Day bikes usually take 8-10 weeks to order. This bike is like new and can be delivered right away! 07/11

FOR SALE: 2000 Santana Team Ti-700 Road Tandem, Medium Frame. Never dropped. No dents.. Upgraded to current spec's with all the extras: Santana Perfect 10-speed with new shifters, Carbon Fork, WinZip 10" mechanical disc, Tamer Pivot-Plus stoker shockpost. New Continental tires, cables, disc pads, 11-34 10sp cassette, chain. Excellent mechanical and cosmetic shape. Price: **\$7490**. Santana airline safe case (the large one) available for additional \$500 (no provision for wheels with current padding). For more information about this great bike/great deal, contact Ken Wallace by e-mail @ tandem1rider@yahoo.com or give him a call @ 334-793-1419 (evenings in AL, not too late, please). 07/11

FOR SALE: Santana Sovereign (1991), Lumina Red, 56cm x 53cm. Serial No. LS433. Campagnolo Ergo Power w/Shimano Deore (21 spd), Cable Actuated Arai Drum Brake Mounted on Stokers Bar, 40 Spoke Mavic Rims laced to Phil

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 informations such as your e-mail address, your address, and contact information.

editor@tandemclub.org

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Wood Hubs, Pedersen SE self-energizing brakes, stoker Shock Post, Look clipless pedals, cycle computers for both Capt. & Stoker, Blackburn rear rack, 4 Specialized No-mark bottle cages.

Asking \$1500. For more information, contact Fred Mount, via e-mail, bike1428@rcn.com or call him @ (609) 397-1521 in New Jersey 07/11

FOR SALE: 1993 Santana Sovereign. Serial # 061. Large frame (58x53 or 23x21). 24-speed drivetrain, with low-gear option (Front chainring are 46, 36, 26, with rear 8-speed 12-34 cluster. 4 water bottle Cages, nearly new handlebar bag, rear rack w/one used bag. Computer, thumb shifters, Phil Wood bottom brackets, Phil Wood Hubs laced to 48-hole Aluminum rims. Asking \$2,500. For more info, call Bill Routh cell (336) 707-1375, home (336) 299-1161, before 9:00pm, please. (NC) 07/11

FOR SALE: 2008 Santana Beyond, Medium size frame. Very smooth and very fast. IsoGrid double-buttressed carbon tubing with co-molded titanium ends, Perfect-10 shifting, Carbon crankset, Shimano Sweet-16 wheelset, upgraded Reynolds fork, Dura-Ace brakes, Shimano STI 6700 shifters, rear rack, and new front derailleur. Full factory reconditioned frame and wheels. I need a coupled tandem. Price \$9,000. Also have BikePro USA Oversize Tandem Case (\$450). Contact Jim Flesch via e-mail at jaflesch@lawggf.com or give him a call @ 312-346-1080 (IL). Pictures are available. 05/11

FOR SALE: GREENSPEED TANDEM TRIKE GTT (with 5 S & S couplers). A great & fun trike! It's built w/5 S&S couplers, which allow it to be broken down into "bite sizes" for easy traveling, a 14-speed Rohloff hub, which eliminates the need for a rear derailleur, and a Schlumph geared bottom bracket, which eliminates the need for a front derailleur. It also has front fenders, head rests, and a rear rack. Asking \$6500. Will pay for

½ the shipping costs. Contact Alan Terry Levy, Woodlands, CA, either by e-mail (alan@atlevy.com) or telephone: (818)-726-2700. 05/11

FOR SALE: Tandem spare parts, including 1 pr 48-hole Phil Wood hubs, new, 1 pr 48-spoke Wolber (M 59) rims, laced to Phil Wood hubs, 1 pr 40-spoke Mavic (MA 40) rims, laced to Phil Wood hubs, 2 good spare Arai drum brakes, 1 spare set Pedersen SE self-energizing brakes (used), and 1 Thule tandem adapter (roof mount). For more information, contact Fred Mount via e-mail, bike1428@rcn.com, or call him @ (609) 397-1521 in New Jersey 07/11

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.

Non-commercial Classifieds are free to TCA

CLASSIFIEDS



DoubleTalk

**BECOME
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Tandem Dealers

GEAR-TO-GO TANDEMS. NY & northern PA's largest Tandem Dealership located in Elmira NY. Santana, Co-Motion, Calfee, Burley, Rans in stock. Test rides by appointment. Elmira (607)-732-4859; Rich@gtgtandems.com Check our website: <http://www.gtgtandems.com> 05/11 (53741)

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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 , DoubleTalk, 2220 Vanessa Dr, Birmingham, AL 35242-4430.

TCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Dues

United States \$15.00/yr

Canada 20.00/yr

Other International \$25.00/yr

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

Membership

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

