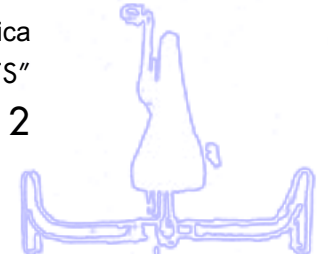
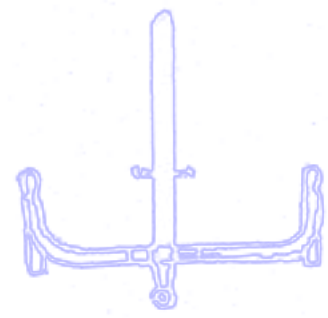




# DOUBLETALK

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

A publication of the Tandem Club of America

*An International Club for Tandem Enthusiasts*

*Established in 1976*

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# DoubleTalk

## 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](http://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 2012 issue is October 1, 2012**

## 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:

2012

July - August

May - June

March - April

**January - February**

2011

November - December

September - October

July - August

May - June

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From the Editors

It's Sunday night, and the other half of the Editorial Team is asking for this month's editorial. It's fun to write these paragraphs for each issue, especially if you're writing the words after completing a 63-mile ride in perfect weather over some great roads in central Alabama. Yes, today couldn't have been better, weather-wise. I don't think we've ever ridden in Alabama, in August, when the temps were in the 70's and low 80's for the entire ride, without a cloud in the sky, and with only a slight headwind (which was a great tailwind for much of the ride) for our return. Not an event, just a great ride with friends. You know, the type of ride where you're not really riding anywhere, but just riding for the pure enjoyment of riding with your best friend and everything is going the way it should be!

Since the last issue went to press, we did make it out to the Pacific Northwest for the NWTR and we stayed a few days extra to enjoy riding with the folks from Santana Tours on their family-friendly Columbia River Gorge tour. Both were great events, but does that wind blow through the Gorge! No wonder it's one of the best venues for kite surfing and wind surfing.

And just a few weeks ago we drove up to Amherst, Massachusetts, where we attended the 2012 Eastern Tandem Rally. Last issue I referred to this rally as the 39<sup>th</sup> edition. I was informed that they would be celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> running of this event, the grand-daddy of all tandem rallies. Amherst/UMass served as our headquarters for the rally, and the riding

was excellent! Brendan & Beth Wall and Mark & Diane Shelley were the hosts, and they outdid themselves with route selection and destinations for us to visit. The banquet on Saturday night was a step back into the past, as attendees were dressed in their finest attire from the 70's! One thing missing from most of those in attendance – hair! I seem to remember lots more hair back in the 70's than was evident at the banquet!

The rally season is coming to an end for us, with only the Midwest Tandem Rally and the Southern Rally yet to come. Over the Labor Day weekend we'll be visiting Madison, Wisconsin, the site for the 2012 edition of MTR. We're looking forward to that event, as we always do, and we hope to see you there! There will be a table for TCA to recruit new members, renew old members, and just hang out! If you'd like to help us, stop by the table (near the Vendors' area) and volunteer to work an hour or two. It's not hard, and it's a great way to meet other members and renew acquaintances from the past.

Our final tandem event of the year will be the Southern Tandem Rally, in St Augustine, Florida. We're looking forward to this event, too, as we've never cycled in that part of Florida. The host hotel is the Marriott's World Golf Village, and it should be a fine experience.

We're hoping to see you at at least one of these events. Stop by and say "Hello!"

It's time to bring another column to a close. We hope you are having a great year in 2012, and that you will share it with other TCA members through

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



# DoubleTalk

continued from page 3

the pages of DoubleTalk. Please send your articles and letters to us via e-mail ([editor@tandemclub.org](mailto:editor@tandemclub.org)). If you're including pictures, don't embed your pictures in the article. Please send any pictures to us in a separate message, with any captions you feel would be appropriate.



Let's go ride!



## Riding with the Blind

Sue Buckley, of Knoxville, Tennessee, recently informed us about a Knoxville, TN, program known as "Club VIBES (Visually Impaired/Blind Enhanced Services)". This great organization was founded in 2008 and is dedicated to assisting blind and visually impaired young people in the Knoxville area, helping them to live independent and productive lives by identifying their unique capacities and developing their individual strengths. One of their major programs is pairing a sighted captain with a visually-impaired stoker and showing these VIP's that there are ways to enjoy cycling without seeing.

Interested people living in the Knoxville, TN, area can check out Club VIBES on their website @ <http://www.club-vibes.org/index.htm>. If you'd like to read a couple of articles about Club VIBES and some of their cycling activities, go to <http://www.wbir.com/news/article/176600/8/East-TN-cyclists-share-tandem-bikes-with-the-blind> and <http://www.wbir.com/news/article/176742/8/Tandem-biking-gives-the-blind-a-sense-of-freedom>

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## THE UPS AND DOWNS OF A CROSS COUNTRY TOUR

### (or Travels with Monty)

Continued from July/August 2012

Monty – the moose is coaching Pat & Mike Weisel as they cross the country. They have crossed the Rockies and are working their way across North Dakota.

The following day's biking brought us, after many long grades and major heat, to Stanley, North Dakota where a motel was sought out. The very nice clerk there offered Mike and Pat her truck to drive into town to the library and a restaurant. They graciously accepted and, as they drove off, noticed her checkbook sitting on the console. As they parked the truck at the library, they put the checkbook in a dash cubbyhole to make it less obvious. Following a half hour or so of e-mailing, they discovered, much to their alarm, the checkbook was gone! So, they drove back to the motel to break the news to the clerk and were told her husband had stopped by the library for the checkbook to buy takeout dinner for the two of them. Talk about RELIEF!! Now, how many places can you imagine where a total stranger would offer you their car? It must have something to do with being on a bike and presenting a very non-threatening image. My friendly moose grin probably had something to do with it, too.

East of Williston the land flattened out and the fields were a beautiful dark

brown/black dirt which looked very fertile. Maybe they grow lots of nice vegetables here and they will be readily available at every dinner! No, sorry – N. Dakota's idea of a green vegetable is Iceberg lettuce. About the only things they grow here are wheat, soy beans and sugar beets. Two days later we rolled into Minot, home of the N.D. State Fair. Apparently moose aren't allowed on the fairgrounds because I was asked to stay in the motel while Pat and Mike spent the day at the fair, no doubt eating health food like cotton candy, kielbasa and fried dough.

Pedaling east in the big ring with a nice tailwind, an overnight was spent in a nice B&B in the restored officer's quarters at Fort Totten, ND. Pat and Mike met a nice couple there from Hunter, ND, a town a bit to the east, who owned or leased about 6000 acres of land on which they and their sons grew - you guessed it - wheat, soy beans and sugar beets. We were all invited to stop at their farm for lunch a few days later as we were to pedal within a mile of their door. The next night found us camping in Page, a formerly nice little town, which has gone the way of so many others in the area – used to be that each family farmed one square mile, 640 acres, and each town





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Bemidji, Minnesota

served as the commercial base for many families, but now, as several farms have been consolidated under one family, there are just too few people to support the businesses, so the downtowns have taken on a sorry look. But Page was in full swing the night we visited – a local woman had contracted some rare disease so the whole place was participating in a pie and ice cream social as a fundraiser for her. Dancing in the street followed to the tunes and excellent voices of a local band of women called the Dixie Cups (D Cups for short). By the time the evening ended, the friendly locals all seemed to know about the cross country bikers in their midst.

Rain, rain, and more rain the next day as our train headed for Hunter. They found the Stibbe's farm with little problem and were met at the door with

an offer of a great lunch and a hot dryer for the wet bike clothes. Excellent! During the meal, the rain abated, but as the pedaling resumed, it regrouped. In fact, it absolutely poured all the way into Fargo, the last 10 miles of which were on the shoulder of I-29, as the intended route was closed for bridge construction. Actually, the

interstate wasn't as bad as it might seem – there was plenty of spray from the big rigs, but the wide shoulder kept us far enough from the travel lanes to feel safe. The only dicey part was when we had to cross the ends of the exit or entrance ramps – since I faced backward, my job was to yell out “all clear” at every ramp.

Fargo marked the end of another state and the beginning of our explorations in Minnesota as we crossed the line into Moorehead. The terrain was flat, but an awful headwind made every mile seem uphill, so a nice campground and wonderful swim in Little Sugar Bush Lake were just the ticket at day's end. Our route took us to Itasca, the headwaters of the Mississippi River; Bemidji, home of Paul Bunyan and Babe, his blue ox; then it was on to Grand Rapids, where the rear tire, purchased in Okanogan, WA., had



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reached the end of its 2000 mile, flat-free life. (Another testimonial – kudos for Continental Top Touring 2000 tires, now called Contacts)

Minnesota may be the Land of 10,000 Lakes, but you sure can't see too many of them from the road. Seems they are just shallow depressions in the land that filled up with water and the edges are so heavily vegetated that they are almost totally obscured. Milles Lacs Lake is enormous in size but only 35' in depth! I was sure with all this water I'd see some of my kind, but it was not to be. In fact, someone told us there are no moose in Minnesota and Wisconsin – seems hard to believe!

The first stop in Wisconsin was Hayward, a nice little town with a wonderful B&B called the Lumberman's Mansion run by Jan, the hostess with the mostess. We stayed two nights, met some nice folks, toured the wildlife museum and the World Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame, and learned some interesting Wisconsin facts. Bet you didn't know WI grows more cranberries than any other state. Or that the wild rice grown in WI is grown in moving water as opposed to that from MN, which is grown in still water, which



The mighty Mississippi isn't so mighty near its headwaters in Minnesota.

explains why the WI variety tastes better and the MN variant is called swamp rice (by Wisconsinians).

Two more days of very hot riding brought us to Boulder Junction, much of it on great little county routes with letter designations rather than numbers, nice rolling hills and lots of shade from the adjacent forest. Mike noted how much fun this would be on an unloaded tandem! Here in Wisconsin, the lakes were close to the road and quite visible – much more relief to the terrain so the roads could be built close to the water. Ah, lakes as lakes should be. Another milestone on the way to Boulder Junction on August 7 – 3000 miles from the start!

Michigan was next on the agenda, entering at Iron River. Unfortunately the end of this day also brought with it,

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more thumping of the rear wheel with each brake application. Another cracked rim! Another call to Santana, another overnight shipment and Pat should be set to rebuild again in Escanaba if the wheel could go another 80 miles or so. The next day around mid morning the wheel answered that question as the flange expanded beyond hope. Mike found a nice guy in a local restaurant who agreed to drive us all the last 60 miles to Escanaba in his pickup, where the rim arrived right on schedule the next morning and Pat once again worked her magic. This was all good, as they had made reservations to stay on Mackinac Island (pronounced Mackinaw) for two days and really didn't want to mess with the schedule.

After a couple days pedaling through the Upper Peninsula along the north shore of Lake Michigan in much cooler weather and enjoying nice views of the

nearly turquoise water off to the right we arrived at the little town of St. Ignace and the ferry to Mackinac Island. A 15 minute ride on the boat brought us to the center of town and a within a short walk to our hotel for the next two days, the Island House, the island's oldest accommodation. Mackinac Island is like a page from history, often called Nantucket of the Midwest – no cars, lots of horses, buggies, drays and pedestrians, lovely Victorian architecture and about the most beautiful, clear lake water you ever saw. And, of course, at least for two days, one moose!

Upon returning to the mainland, they pedaled toward the eastern-most tip of the Upper Peninsula, Drummond Island, where they had pre-arranged to meet a fishing boat which was to take us to the western end of Manitoulin Island, a Canadian island in Lake Huron that is the largest fresh water island in the world. Mike and Pat had no clue as to the required procedure to clear Canadian customs and apparently neither did our captain. We simply landed and proceeded to the fishing lodge for the night, but as it turned out, they were supposed to have checked in with customs by phone as soon as they set foot on Canadian soil. A very hurried and apologetic call from our hosts to customs kept us in the clear, but the Canadian authorities were VERY upset!

The next day we were stopped by Maggie Smith in a minivan who wondered if we had seen her husband, also riding his bike. We hadn't, but she was very friendly (a recurring Canadian

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theme) and suggested that we camp at Providence Bay Campground where she and her husband, Don, were spending a few days. Two days later we did just that, had dinner with them and, the next morning before heading off to the ferry landing, received a kind invitation to spend the night at their house in Hamilton, Ontario, when we rolled through. As I said, friendly! On the way to the CG, we had a scare – or at least it scared me – Pat noted some big birds flying off to our right and when Mike looked over, he rode off the pavement onto the loose gravel shoulder going downhill at about 20! The bike fishtailed back and forth twice and he managed to get it back on the hard surface, but from my perspective watching that BOB trailer whip around back there, it was a close call. On the ride to the ferry, they stopped for a bite of breakfast and were introduced to peameal bacon. It's a Canadian thing and it's pickled pork loin rolled in cornmeal, then sliced and pan fried like Canadian bacon, but it tastes much better, or so I'm told. Whew, this conversation is getting a little too close to home - at least they didn't return talking about peameal moose!

A long ferry trip from South Baymouth to Tobermory in a huge ferry (365'; 140 cars; 600 people) brought us to the Bruce Peninsula and the Cyprus Lake Campground for the night. While Mike was checking in, Pat struck up a conversation with Bill and Marilyn Mundle who were also campground residents. Did I mention friendly Canadians? They asked us to their site for dinner, to which Mike replied that we had just bought food for that meal, but breakfast would

be nice. So, the next morning, off we went to their trailer site and were fed a HUGE breakfast of bacon, sausage and eggs, all cooked on the barbie!

Next stop Wiarton, but not without a ride on a very busy shoulderless highway that got absolutely crazy when the ferry traffic all came by en mass. And then, to add insult to injury, down came the rain. The pair squished into the lobby of Wiarton Willy's Motel where yet another



Pat's new best friend in Niagara Falls.



# DoubleTalk

friendly Canadian insisted they use his car to drive downtown for dinner and the laundry! Do you remember Punxsutawney Phil, the Pennsylvania groundhog who determines the fate of winter here in the States? Well, the Canadians have one, too. His name is Wiarion Willy, he's an albino groundhog and he lives at the motel in a little groundhog condo out back. He does the winter predictions for our friends in The Great White North. For real – I saw him!

So, a few more days' riding brought us to the Smith's house, a warm bed, real home cooked food and a wonderful evening with the Smiths and some of their biking friends, where they all sat around and told biking lies. From there they rode along the south side of Lake Ontario to Niagara Falls for a day of dumb tourist activities. The route passed through a small town called Niagara on the Lake – quite lovely!

Before the border, they stopped at the Duty Free to get a refund on their GST. The poor woman there kept asking for the car registration and couldn't figure out what to do about a bicycle with no registration. It took way longer than customs. Mike and Pat had been anticipating the long tale they'd have to tell in order to be readmitted to the States. All they got was: "Where did you enter Canada? How long have you been here? Do you have anything to declare? Have a nice day". What a letdown! Didn't even ask to see my proof of shots!

After a day of bike cleaning and adjustments, as well as some needed rest at Lockport, New York, it was on to Palmy-

ra via 90 miles of the Erie Canal towpath. Good gravel surface and no cars. Ahhh... Then as we approached the Adirondacks, I was awoken from my afternoon nap by a loud hoot from Mike. Seems they had just pedaled their 4000th mile! A few days in the NY mountains and it was back to the green hills of Vermont on the Ticonderoga ferry, an old rickety cable operated rig that comes across Lake Champlain to get you when you raise the red signal shape to indicate your presence. Pretty high tech, eh? Oh, sorry, we're not in Canada anymore.

Over the next several days they crossed the Green Mountain State, sometimes in the company of some of their friends who came to join in and ride along for a piece. How wonderful to see them again after 3 months and to enjoy the beautiful Vermont scenery together! Mike said he thought the riding here was as good, if not better, than anything he had experienced on the trip. The route went to Middlebury, but because there were no rooms to be had over the Labor Day weekend, the pair decided to diverge to the south, crossing Mendon Pass on Route 4 a bit west of Rutland, which resulted in a wonderful downhill cruise along Route 100 into Pittsfield. I was ever vigilant to spot another moose, as we were back in moose country, but it was not to be.

New Hampshire was the next destination and the team was a bit worried about the fully loaded climb up the Kangamangus Highway, a well known, fairly long and steep highway over the spine of the White Mountains, but apparently after

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over 4000 miles on the bike, they must have been in pretty good shape because as we crested the top, Mike said “Hey, is this the top already?”

People are funny. All this way with no mishaps and now Mike’s all nerved up about riding in Maine. He says the roads are terrible, they have no shoulder and he’s afraid we’ll get clipped just a stone’s throw from our final destination! Well, he’s right about the roads, but we had no problems. Except for the two different cars that yelled at us to “Get the f\_\_k off the road.” To say this pissed Mike off would be an understatement! His verbal rebuttal to the second offender nearly caused Pat to mutiny, but a stop at one of the many creamy stands soothed their nerves and put out their emotional fires. Rockland was the final stop on September 8, where, after 4530 miles and 94 days, they turned into the town boat launch area to do the ceremonial front wheel dip and Pat quipped, “Hey, where’s the band and the champagne?” They indulged in the luxury of an awesome B&B, took a sailing charter trip on the bay and reveled in the fact that they had ridden their last mile for a while.

Mike and Pat will never admit it, but I’m quite sure they would not have made it all the way without my coaching, cajoling and excellent direction finding. All tandem teams should be so lucky as to have a companion like me! I’m also quite certain that they would tell you this was the best

summer they ever spent together and if any of you readers have a latent desire to do such a tour, don’t put it off – just DO IT! You sure won’t regret it and you’ll be quite proud of yourselves when you’ve accomplished it.

Monty with some keying help  
from Mike & Pat Weisel  
Underhill Center, VT

Footnote: Mike and Pat are in the process of completing a second cross country tour this summer using the original Trans-America Adventure Cycling route. This time, their friends Ron and Shari are going, too, so I’ll be even busier keeping track of four humans! No rest for the weary.





# DoubleTalk

## The Tandem

by Scott McCanna  
Salem, Oregon

What is this contraption with two wheels I see?  
 Where can it be going  
 Oh, what can it be?  
 Two riders in line, sitting one in front of another  
 In all combinations  
 Husband-wife, Child and Mother

They seem to fly by with the greatest of ease  
 With the whirring of pedals,  
 And the bobbing of knees

But why stuck together in this most peculiar way?  
 With one eating all the bugs  
 And the other with the same view all day!

But watch as they go by, an interesting thing  
 The one in front breathing deeply  
 The one in back starts to sing!

A strange harmony for sure, but the joy seems to exude  
 From the "Captain" - Responsible for control,  
 To the "Stoker" - Tending to the route, speed, potty  
 stops,  
 Kodak moments, "stretch breaks" and food!

I recognize the need for communication, courage and  
 trust  
 No time for ego  
 But, patience and understanding - a must!

This "tandem," as they call it, looks like great fun!  
 The rush of the wind  
 The warmth of the sun



Two rules have I gathered from this  
 activity of fun  
 First: The Stoker is always right.  
 But, if the Stoker is Wrong, see Rule #1!

But most important of all, that I've seen  
 of this sight  
 Is the time they're together  
 Sharing work and delight!

*Thank you very much for coming to Salem  
 for the 2012 NW Tandem Rally!  
 Please come visit us  
 again anytime - and bring your bike!  
 - NWTR Event Committee*



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## Sebring Tandem Rally 2012

Bike spokes were spinning and race cars were smoking at the recent Sebring Tandem Rally at the International Raceway in Sebring, FL. The weekend after the Raceway hosted the 12 Hours of Sebring for high-speed sports cars, the Florida PANTHERS arrived to host a pride of PANTHERS to prowl routes beyond the track on tandem bicycles.

In addition to the 35 tandem pairs or triplets, the host hotel, the Chateau Élan, was packed with race-car enthusiasts who pay to take their Corvettes, Miatas and Porsches on high-powered spins around the track. After we completed our bike rides, we could watch the 4-wheeled competitions on the 3.7 mile track from the hotel's pool deck.



Last year, the Florida PANTHERS Tandem Club, based out of The Villages but including members from across the state, decided to re-invent the tradition of a tandem rally in Sebring, which had been absent since 2009. With little time to pull it together, we nevertheless presented the reborn Sebring Tandem Rally at a motel on the north side of town in April 2011 with 24 tandem couples registered.

For the 2012 Rally, with a year to plan, club president Bob Thompson and his wife, Jan, made several trips to Sebring and were able to move the locale to the race track for the weekend of March 23-25, with a great price break for lodging in the luxurious Chateau Élan. One tandem couple, whose reservation went awry, ended up with the only room left, a fourth-floor suite with a balcony overlooking the track.

As we pulled into the parking lot Friday afternoon, the mix of vans and trucks arriving with tandems perched atop or





# DoubleTalk



Compared to other Sebring rides my husband and I have ridden, this route was pleasantly rural, as the race track is six miles from the old Sebring downtown and even further from the newer commercial areas. As we neared the 12-mile mark, we were traveling through an area of open pastures when we saw two pheasants run across the road. At the onset, we were surrounded by orange groves, with the orange blossoms providing a pleasing scent. But even better for us were the roads leading us along Lake June and Lake Placid and then back to Lake June, much of the way passing picturesque cottages dotting the shore.

behind in various configurations added to our excitement of exploring new terrain.

At the social hour Friday evening, we met one couple, Marvin and Orlene Hart of Longboat Key, FL, who were recent converts to tandeming and excited for the chance to ride with a group of tandems on Saturday. Other couples, such as Larry and Elaine Dunning of New Port Richey, FL., attend numerous rallies every year and regularly ride several hundred miles a week.

On Saturday morning, the weather was nearly perfect, if not a tad cool for south-central Florida in late March. We opted for the 48-mile, Catfish Creek-Skipper Route. Fortunately for stokers, i.e. navigators, we had the same turns as the 60-mile Catfish Creek-Twitty route until after the first rest stop. That meant most of us could just enjoy the ride and leave the turns to the riders up front.

At the banquet that evening, we again saw Marvin and Orlene, the tandem newcomers. They had taken the 33-mile route that went to Lake June and back. We asked how they liked it. "It's the best ride I ever went on," Orlene said, adding, "No traffic."

Since the same youngest couple and oldest couple had won the same prizes at other PANTHER rallies, this year emcee Bob Thompson averaged their tandem team ages and got 122 years. The couple closest to that number, Pam and Guy Wyche of Andalusia, AL, won the \$100 prize. Bryan and Carol Miller won the raffle for free registration to the Florida Tandem Rally Oct. 25-28 in The Villages.

Sunday morning we again headed through orange grove country on a 30-mile route that stopped at a gas station in tiny Avon Park before circling Lake Jackson in the heart of Old Sebring. Hammering hard after leaving the rest stop



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with Paul and Jeanne Knudsen of Royal Palm Beach and Kim and Brian Howson of Bewdley, Ont., we thought we could be proud of ourselves when we returned to the hotel with plenty of time before checkout. We were still stowing our bike gear when another large group, including a triple ridden by Mike and Patty Willman and Karla McVey of Franklin, TN, pulled up. They had just completed the 42-mile ride. Their average -- 19.7 miles per hour. Whew!

At checkout, we were asked if we wanted to reserve rooms for next year. We do, but we have to wait until the Sebring International Raceway schedules its 12 Hours of Sebring so that we PANTHERS can grab the following weekend. Watch for details at [www.floridatandemclub.org](http://www.floridatandemclub.org) and in upcoming editions of DoubleTalk.

Bill & Kathy Foster  
Fruitland, FL





# DoubleTalk

## Communication: The key to successful tandem riding

Few activities combine individual effort into a mutual goal like riding a tandem. On a tandem, two riders of unequal ability can channel their strengths into a single force. The feeling of shared exhilaration and accomplishment at the end of a ride is something tandem teams revel in.

To maximize success on a tandem, good communication is essential. I am a retired Speech Pathologist/Audiologist and have been familiar with issues surrounding communication for many years. Communication only happens when a message is sent that the receiver can perceive, understand and then respond appropriately to. Good tandem communication starts *before* pedaling begins. Often it begins with the question posed by the captain: "What kind of a ride do you want to do today?" A ride should never begin without it. The best rides are ones that have been mutually agreed upon. The dialog should involve things like: "How are you feeling?", "How far do you want to go?", "Hilly or flat?" Distance is negotiable. Too often captains decide the ride's distance unilaterally. Many times over the years we've spoken with stokers who have been obliged to do a "forced ride". Several years ago my wife spoke with a stoker who had just completed a 50-mile ride. My wife was shocked to learn THAT IT HAD BEEN HER FIRST RIDE!!! There have been variations on this theme. Recently, we ment

a couple who had been riding about two weeks. They embarked on a 7-day tour with daily rides in the 40-50 mile range. I wonder if it was the stoker's idea? I don't think so.....

Let's get on the bike. Going back to my Speech Path. definition of communication: Any message sent must be perceived and understood. The "messages" on a tandem are verbal. What kind of verbal messages do you use when riding? First off, a good captain should announce bumps. The impact of a bump on the stoker is significantly larger than it is on the captain. Having the saddle rise up without warning and make contact with the stoker's "sensitive tissues" is disconcerting to say the least.....making the stoker aware of turns, slow downs, and stops only makes good sense. In turn, a stoker is well advised to tell the captain about vehicles approaching from the rear or -- when riding in a group -- the proximity of other bikes. But, a message has no value if it's not heard. It's ill-advised and dangerous to ride listening to an Ipod or other similar device. We've all had the experience of approaching a walker, runner or another cyclist, ringing a bell or calling out "on your left" only to find out as we pass they are isolated from the environment by "ear buds". It's a potentially dangerous situation.

Another very helpful message a captain can audible is to announce shift changes. A slight let up on the pedals can prevent that gear changing "clunk".... I hear that a lot from other bikes. It not only makes shifting easier, it prevents excess wear on gear cogs. And while I'm

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on the subject of shifting, it's wise to shift *before* you need to. When you're climbing and can no longer turn the pedals, down shifting is not an option. It's at that point when getting out of pedals and remaining upright can be a challenge. It's an unofficial rule that a captain should *never* pass a bathroom without inquiring of his stoker about a stop. Stokers should feel free to request a mid-ride stop if necessary. Usually there is no need to grind out miles. There's no prize for finishing early. Furthermore, there's no exercise benefit for recreational riders in riding continuously, without any stops. Long stops, however, can be problematic, especially in hot weather.

There's a hearing condition called presbycusis. It means a loss of hearing due to aging. I see a lot of gray hair on tandem teams. I know hearing isn't tip-top.... Good communication may be enhanced by using some kind of tandem talker/intercom amplification. We've used a wired one for several years. It is particularly valuable going into the wind when there's a lot of wind noise. Often times the stoker is vested with the responsibility of navigation. Being able to hear directions is essential, the intercom makes it much easier, no shouting is necessary.

Perhaps you knew these things, but some reminders may be beneficial.

So, captains, talk you your stokers and stokers do likewise.

From "The Prophet" by Kahil Gibran:

**“As the strings  
of a lute are apart  
though they quiver  
the same music.”**

Doesn't that sum up tandem riding?

Rich Dilorenzo  
Carmel, IN





# DoubleTalk

## Cyclists are Sandbaggers

Cyclists are the biggest sandbaggers and secret trainers around. They'll say anything to soften you up for the kill. Don't let this happen to you. Study this handy rider's phrasebook to find out what they really mean when they say:

•“I'm out of shape” - Translation: I ride 400 miles a week and haven't missed a day since the Ford administration. I replace my 11-tooth cog more often than you wash your shorts. My body fat percentage is lower than your mortgage rate.

•“I'm not into competition. I'm just riding to stay in shape” --- Translation: I will attack until you collapse in the gutter, babbling and whimpering. I will win the line sprint if I have to force you into oncoming traffic. I will crest this hill first if I have to grab your seat post, pull you backwards, and spray energy drink in your eyes.

•“I'm on my beater bike” - Translation: I had this baby custom-made in Tuscany using titanium blessed by the Pope. I took it to

a wind tunnel and it disappeared. It weighs less than a fart and costs more than a divorce.

•“It's not that hilly” - Translation: This climb lasts longer than a presidential campaign. Be careful on the steep sections or you'll fall over - backward. You have a 39x23 low gear? Here's the name of my knee surgeon.

•“You're doing great, honey” - Translation: Yo, lard ass, I'd like to get home before midnight. This is what you get for spending the winter decorating and eating chocolate. I should'a married that cute Cat-1 racer when I had the chance.

•“This is a no-drop ride” - Translation: I'll need an article of your clothing for the search-and-rescue dogs.

•“It's not that far” - Translation: Bring your passport

Rob Templin  
Eugene, OR



## A \$250 Drum Brake Actuator???

Are you kidding? Why would anyone use a high tech STI brake/shifter lever to control an old technology drum brake?

This past spring I moved the front derailleur control from the STI lever to a traditional down tube shifter. This works well on our 2002 Co-Motion Speedster, as the mounting boss is high on the tube and very easy to reach (see photo). This shifter allows “trimming” the front derailleur position and enables the use of all the rear cogs without chain rub on the derailleur. This works fine in the flat lands of central Indiana where front shifts are rare. I should point out that newer STI levers may give you more indents and better “trimming.”

The spare STI shifter was now available for controlling the drum brake. The cable was installed to the brake for testing on a trip to Asheville, NC. After five days of riding in the mountains, I have the following results to report:

### Pros:

- Excellent holding power; the lever never had to be tightened during a descent.

- Safe and dependable control with both hands on the handlebars.

- Clean installation.

### Cons:

- Only two settings of the drum brake corresponding to the STI middle and large chain rings setting (STI granny position is brake off). If you like to modu-



late the brake to maintain a precise speed, this method isn't for you.

- You lose your ability to use the STI lever to control the front derailleur!

Although, using an STI lever to control a drum brake isn't for everyone, it does work quite well for us. As crazy as it may sound, it may make sense to use a bar end shifter for the front derailleur and the STI shifter for the drum brake. This method works very well if you don't have the braze-on for a downtube shifter.

John Calhoun  
Carmel, IN





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## CALENDAR

August 31 – September 3, 2012. **Midwest Tandem Rally 2012.** Madison, WI. Actually Middleton, WI to avoid some of the traffic. The COWS are hosting the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Tandem Rally. We're expecting a great event. Make your hotel reservations at the Marriot Madison West: group code mtrmtra 888-745-2032 <http://www.couplesonwheels.com/mtr.php>

September 4 – 7, 2012. **Midwest Tandem Rally Post Tour.** Wisconsin Dells, WI Deb & Dennis Veerkamp and Tom & Annette Esser will be hosting a post tour for those who would like to explore some more of the beautiful sites in Wisconsin. Pre-registration is required. [http://couplesonwheels.com/mtr\\_postride.php](http://couplesonwheels.com/mtr_postride.php)

September 8, 2012. **Evergreen Tandem Club Yakima Valley Wine Ride.** Yakima Valley, WA. We find some rural roads. Taste some wine and generally have a great time. There is a fee. [www.evergreentandemclub.org](http://www.evergreentandemclub.org)

September 15-23, 2012. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Michigan Tour.** Ludington, MI. Riding, socializing and food. We enjoy meeting new tandem teams so please contact us and come join in the fun. <http://chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com>

September 15, 2012. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Blind Stoker Ride.** Wheaton, IL We ride to visit McDowell Forest Preserve. <http://chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com>

September 15- 23, 2012. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Weeklong Ride.** Traverse City MI. Hotels at night come join the fun. <http://chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com>

September 22, 2012. **CRABS (Couples Riding A Bike Simultaneously) Ride.** The Harrises lead us on a ride in the Davidsonville area. [www.baltobikeclub.org](http://www.baltobikeclub.org)

September 29, 2012. **Portland Tandem Club Ride.** Ted and Nancy host. [www.portlandtandemclub.org](http://www.portlandtandemclub.org)

September 29, 2012. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Leaf Me Alone Ride.** Barrington, IL 26 miles visits the Crabtree Nature Preserve We're riding early?! So we'll do breakfast for our rest stop. <http://chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com>

September 29, 2012. **CRABS (Couples Riding A Bike Simultaneously) Ride.** Harford County. We are led by the Dymonds as fall arrives. [www.baltobikeclub.org](http://www.baltobikeclub.org)

October 7, 2012. **Loons Chili Ride.** It's getting cool up here. We wrap up the season with a great Chili ride. [www.twincitytandembike.com](http://www.twincitytandembike.com)

October 12-14, 2012. **FART XIX – Fall Allegany Rally for Tandems.** Allegany State Park, Salamanca NY. An Off road MTB weekend for tandems. Private rooms. All meals on your own. Riding XC ski trails, horse trails and dirt roads. Technically not difficult, but be prepared to climb. Register early-limited to 20 teams. For more info, contact Karen or Brian Managan, 49 Martinot Ave, Rochester NY 14609 (585) 654-9624 or [frosty\\_dog@mac.com](mailto:frosty_dog@mac.com). The cost for the camp for the entire 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://fartmtb.org>

October 13, 2012. **CRABS (Couples Riding A Bike Simultaneously) Ride.** It's getting cool and fritters sound warm and wonderful. We'll ride to eat this time. [www.baltobikeclub.org](http://www.baltobikeclub.org)

October 14, 2012. **CRABS (Couples Riding A Bike Simultaneously) Ride.** Taneytown to Gettysburg. [www.baltobikeclub.org](http://www.baltobikeclub.org)

October 19-21, 2012. **Southern Tandem Rally 2012.** St Augustine, FL. A historic town to

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explore. Rally headquarters in a fantastic hotel.  
<http://www.southerntandemrally.com>

October 20, 2012. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Blind Stoker Ride.** Wheaton, IL Sonny Acres Fall fest. <http://chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com>

October 27-28, 2012. **Florida Tandem Rally 2012.** The Villages, FL. The Florida PANTHERS (Partners Aboard Neat Tandems Happily Enjoying Riding Simultaneously) will host this years event. Stay in Florida and ride for the days between Southern Tandem Rally. <http://floridatandemclub.org/calendar.htm>

October 28, 2012. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Chili Pumpkin Ride.** Barrington, IL We've been known to ride in just about anything, like cold, light mist, and flakes of snow so dress accordingly. We hold the chili supper regardless of the weather. RSVP <http://chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com>

November 9-11, 2012. **Eastern Tandem Off-Road Rally.** New Paltz, NY. This is a late addition to the calendar but should be a great time. A bit of frost in the air will only add to the fun.

[www.easterntandemrally.org](http://www.easterntandemrally.org) for details.

December 16, 2012. **CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Mueller's Holiday Party Ride.** Round Lake, IL . Ride. Who's going to ride? It's cold out there. Bring a gift for the White Elephant exchange RSVP and join the fun. <http://chicagotandems.home.mchsi.com>

December 16, 2012. **CRABS (Couples Riding A Bike Simultaneously) Christmas lights Ride.** Join the CRABS and join in the fun. [www.baltobikeclub.org](http://www.baltobikeclub.org)

April 5-7, 2013. **Alabama Tandem Weekend 2013.** Sylacauga, AL. Home of Jim Nabors aka Gomer Pyle this small town has some wonderful surprises. A low key, spend what you want event. Like us on Facebook or check out the blogspot [alabamatandem.blogspot.com](http://alabamatandem.blogspot.com)

April 26-28, 2013 **Southwest Tandem Rally 2013.** Palestine, TX We're working hard making arrangements for a great rally. <http://swtr.org>

May 16-19, 2013 **Georgia Tandem Rally 2013.** Somewhere, GA. Stay tuned for details and location [www.georgiatandemrally.com](http://www.georgiatandemrally.com)

## CALENDAR

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## TCA Tandem Hospitality Homes

Are you willing to become a TCA Hospitality Home? If so please head to the TCA website, [www.tandemclub.org](http://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](http://www.tandemclub.org). You will need some basic information such as your e-mail address, your address, and contact information.

[editor@tandemclub.org](mailto:editor@tandemclub.org)



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## CALENDAR

June 7-9, 2013. **MATES 2013.** New Hope, PA. The Mid-Atlantic rally is a great early season event. Lots of riding and socializing. Come join in the fun. [www.easterntandemrally.org](http://www.easterntandemrally.org)

July 3-7, 2013. **Northwest Tandem Rally 2013 Two If By Land...Two If By Sea** Bellingham / Whatcom County Washington. Pedal-Paddle. Explore the beauty of Whatcom county by land... and by sea, with optional water adventures for all. Pedal: Mt Baker, Chuckanut Drive, Lummi Island. Paddle: Bellingham Bay, Nooksack River, Lake Whatcom. <http://www.nwtr.org/2013/> or [Info@norka.us](mailto:Info@norka.us)

August 1-4, 2013. **Eastern Tandem Rally 2013.** Morristown, NJ. Known for great food particularly lunch spreads on Saturday and Sunday. This Eastern Tandem Rally is one to put on your calendar. [www.easterntandemrally.org](http://www.easterntandemrally.org)

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](mailto:editor@tandemclub.org)

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



## CLASSIFIEDS

**FOR SALE:** 1983 Jack Taylor touring tandem. Hand-crafted by Jack Taylor and his two brothers in Stockton on Tees, England. Double-butted lugless construction throughout. All tubes are Reynolds 531. 24x21. Black with traditional Taylor subdued multicolor striping. Mostly Campagnolo Super Record or Nuovo Record components are used. The oversize (tandem) headset assembly is Jack Taylor proprietary. SuperRecord tandem crankset, 175/165 crankarms, (52/42/34) w/42t X-over rings. 6-speed 14-34 freewheel. Four Campagnolo Record brake levers on front bars, one pair operates the Shimano cantilever brakes, the second pair the disk brakes. Campagnolo Record



FD, Huret Duopar Titanium RD. Campagnolo SR shift levers, rear indexed. Dropbars F&R. Campagnolo Record seatposts w/Brooks leather saddles front and rear. Front and rear Jack Taylor luggage racks and four panniers. Also included are an extra set of wheels. All 4 wheels are 27" x 1" Wolber 58 Super Champion rims with 48 double butted SS spokes. One pair has Phil Wood hubs and disk brakes front and rear, the other has French Mavic hubs, including the famous rear drum brake. A Vitansel Tandem car roof rack is included. The tandem has never been crashed or dropped, and there are no scratches or rust. It has always been carefully maintained and is in excel-



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lent condition. Apart from occasional short runs, it has not been used seriously since 1998. Asking \$1000, but will consider any serious offer from someone who is willing to enjoy this classic as the collectors' item that it is. I might even be persuaded to donate it to a serious collector who will keep it up.. New owner is to collect or arrange packing and shipping. For more information or details, please contact Jim Scott, ph: 772-287-3250 or e-mail: jimscottff@comcast.net (FL) 09/12

**FOR SALE:** 2008 Santana Beyond, Medium size frame. Very smooth and very fast. IsoGrid double-buttet 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. Selling because we need (and have purchased) a coupled tandem. \$9,000. Also have BikePro USA Oversize Tandem Case (\$450). Contact Jim Flesch by e-mail @ jaffesch@lawggf.com or call @ 312-346-1080 (IL). Pictures are available. (IL) 09/12

**FOR SALE:** 2002 Santana AL Triple Sovereign. 95cm x 92 cm. Blue. Purchased from Tandems Limited, this bike has an estimated 3000 miles of usage. We rode BRAG five times, and used the bike for other family outings. Ultegra Group, 9 speed XTR rear derailleur. Hadlley Hubs on 48 spoke wheels. Rear drag brake. Avid caliper brakes. AHeadset headset. Flight deck and second cyclometer at rear stoker station. Old Man Mountain rear rack. Serfas saddle for captain, Terry saddles for stokers. Stoker 1 position has pneumatic shock absorber in seat post. 5 water bottle cages (capacity of seven). The paint has like-new luster and does have nicks, chips, etc around the rear drive train. Includes ATOC triple bike mount for roof rack. Can provide with our without SPD pedals for each rider. Shipped with new Gatorskin Kevlar tires. Captain's top tube

bears autograph of Tour de France cyclist, Bob Roll. Asking \$4500 + shipping. I hate to see it go, but it needs to be ridden. Edgar Dalrymple. E-mail edgardal@hiwaay.net. Bike is located in Huntsville, AL 09/12

**FOR SALE:** Tandem-size Bike Pro bike bag with optional hard sides. It's been to Europe a few times but still in very good condition. \$125, delivery negotiable. Call 248-608-4037 or send an email to: d.plzak@att.net. Doug Plzak. NC 11/12

**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 Vedano 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.

## CLASSIFIEDS



# DoubleTalk

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## Tandem Dealers

**VILLAGE CYCLESPORT.** Selling Santana, Co-Motion, daVinci, Rans & Sun tandems. Testriders welcome. Trade-ins accepted. See us at [www.villagesyclesport.com](http://www.villagesyclesport.com) or 45 Arlington Heights Rd, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007. (847)-439-3340 11/12

**TANDEM, LIMITED.** Selling America's finest tandems, Bushnell, Cannondale, Co-Motion, KHS, Rans, Santana, more. 2220 Vanessa Drive, Birmingham, AL 35242-4430. (205)-991-5519 e-mail: [tandems@mindspring.com](mailto:tandems@mindspring.com) or [www.tandemsltd.com](http://www.tandemsltd.com) 01/13

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

**HOSTEL SHOPPE** - Choose from huge selection of two or three wheel tandems from Volae, Rans, Greenspeed, Hase and Terratrike plus parts, accessories and adaptive cycling equipment. Free catalog. [www.hostelshoppe.com](http://www.hostelshoppe.com) - [info@hostelshoppe.com](mailto:info@hostelshoppe.com) 01/13

**HOUSE OF TANDEM** - a tandem boutique, offering Santana, Co Motion, and daVinci tandems. See the largest selection of tandems on the Texas Gulf Coast. We want to meet the unique needs of tandem cyclists. Website: [houseoftandems.com](http://houseoftandems.com). E-mail: [marcia@houseoftandems.com](mailto:marcia@houseoftandems.com). Tel: 713-962-1417. Open by appt. 01/13.

**CRANK2 PERFORMANCE TANDEM BICYCLES.** Test Ride Center for Santana, Co-Motion, daVinci Designs, & KHS. Over 45 tandems available for immediate delivery. 925-

462-4272. [www.crank-2.com](http://www.crank-2.com). 5480-9 Sunol Blvd. Pleasanton, CA 94566 01/13 **TANDEM EAST.** Free catalog Stocking Co-Motion, Seven, daVinci, Calfee, Cannondale, Hokitiki, Green Gear, KHS, Burley, Rans, Kidz, Bushnell, Bilenky, Wheels, child conversions, parts, advice. [www.tandemseast.com](http://www.tandemseast.com) [tandemwiz@aol.com](mailto:tandemwiz@aol.com) (856)-451-5104 (NJ) 02/13

**PRECISION TANDEM** - 30 Tandems, Triplets, Quads in stock from Burley, Co-Motion, Longbikes, Meridian, Santana. Child Adaptor Kits. On-line Parts & Accessory Catalogs & Tandem Display. Check out [www.PrecisionTandems.com](http://www.PrecisionTandems.com). 913.962.8866 10am-9pm days. 03/13

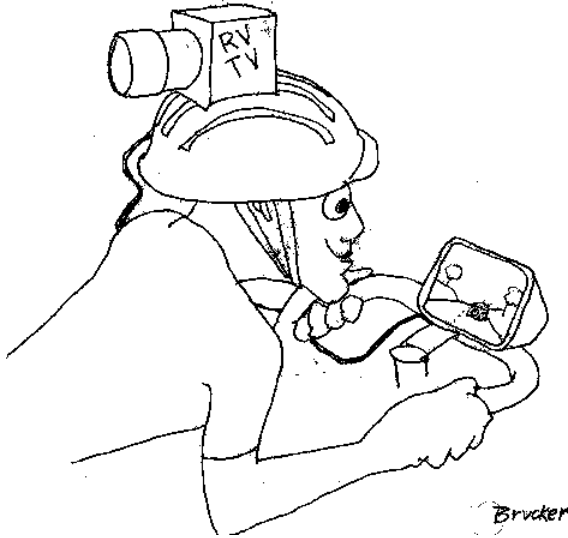
**GEAR-TO-GO TANDEM.** NY & northern PA's largest Tandem Dealership located in Elmira NY. Santana, Co-Motion, Calfee, Burley, Rans in stock. Test rides by appointment. Elmira (607)-732-4859; [Rich@gtgtandems.com](mailto:Rich@gtgtandems.com) Check our website: <http://www.gtgtandems.com> 05/13 (53741)

## Other Dealer Members

**ACORN INN** Bed and Breakfast: Discover Central Virginia's rural beauty with tandem-riding hosts. Ten bedroom renovated stable; cottage. Near Blue Ridge Parkway, historic Charlottesville. Ideal for groups. Delicious breakfasts. (434)-361-9357. <http://www.acorninn.com> 05/13

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# 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.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Including Area Code): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

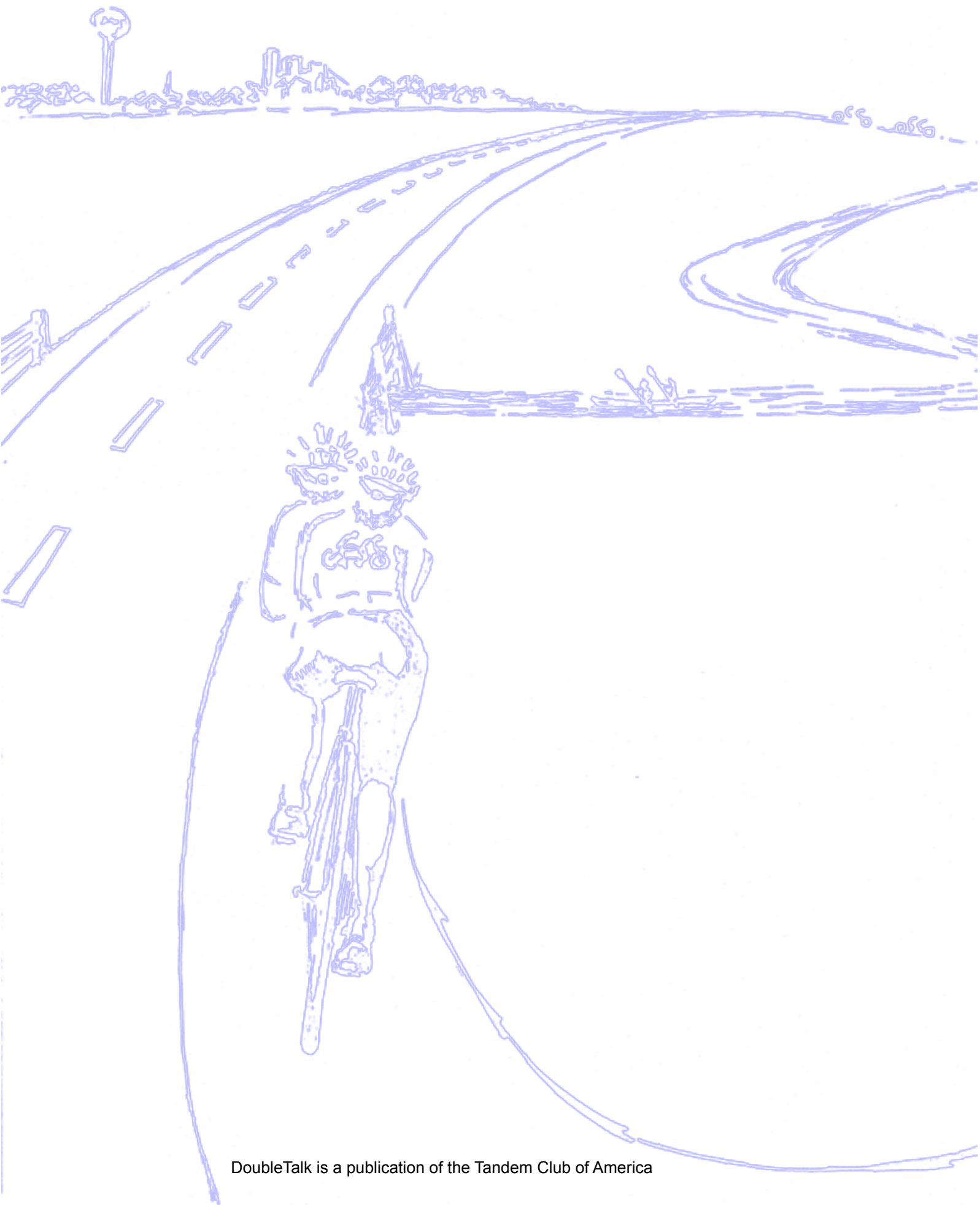
Tandem Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Style: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for (1) Years

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

Is this a renewal? \_\_\_\_\_ Have you made any necessary corrections? \_\_\_\_\_



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