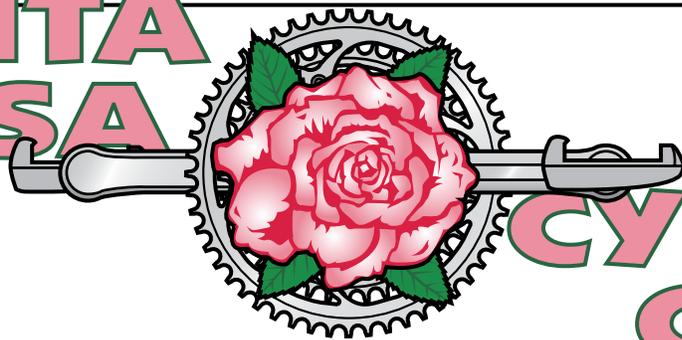


SANTA ROSA



CYCLING CLUB

FEBRUARY 2011 NEWSLETTER

WINE COUNTRY CENTURY KICKS INTO GEAR

Registration for the 2011 Wine Country Century (scheduled for Saturday, May 7) opens at midnight on February 1st. We anticipate that once again registration for our popular and premier cycling event will be brisk and close within a few days.

What makes the WCC so popular? It's a combination of things. The routes are all scenic, and they hit that nice sweet spot between too easy (which might be boring) and too hard. Beginners can tackle their first century here, while veteran hammers can still have fun with the challenge. The traditional date of the WCC—on the first Saturday in May—is another sort of sweet spot: that point when spring fitness and ambition are fully ramped up, and yet the season isn't so advanced that riders are hitting burn-out. The Sonoma County landscape isn't burnt out yet either: the fields are still green and flecked with wildflowers. The early leaders of the club who staked out this date on the calendar made a very wise choice, and even though it does rain on us every so often, it's still just about the best date of the entire year for cycling in this region. Then there is the superb support the host club provides, a logistical tour de force that we have been fine-tuning for over 30 years...more than a quarter-century of centuries.

Last year we made some improvements to the WCC by adding paramedics and law enforcement support. These changes helped ensure a safe and enjoyable ride for all to enjoy. Our support may be highlighted by a well-thought-out how-to manual, by an amazing warehouse full of supplies and equipment, and by a solid team of committee chairs with years of experience in leadership roles. But the heart and soul of our support system is our corps of worker bees: all those big-hearted, energetic, cheerful club members who show up on Friday and Saturday and Sunday of the marquee weekend; who turn out at the warehouse for work days in the weeks leading up to showtime, and afterward as well. We couldn't pull off this ride without the support of nearly 400 members.

February is the month in which registration kicks off and it is also the month in which we first publish an updated list of committee chairs for 2011 (on page 8). If you are a veteran WCC volunteer, flip to that list and get in touch with your favorite team leader. If you're new to the process, pick a crew that looks good to you or talk to the Volunteer Coordinator, Kimberly Hoffman. She can help connect you with an assignment that will be fun for you and helpful for the club and the WCC participants.

Continued on page 2

January meeting: election of new officers for 2011

The January General Membership meeting launches the new year with the election of a new slate of Executive Board officers to steer the club through the coming year. Four of the officers from the 2010 Board had decided to step down, while the balance of members hoped to stay on. That left at least four vacancies to fill on the Board. (All candidates for office must stand for election, be they new nominees or incumbents. It's theoretically possible that an incumbent officer could be voted out of office, but we can't recall the last time it happened.)

The officers who have decided to step down from the Board this year are Craig Gaevert, Janice Oakley, Rose Mello, and Richard Anderson. We wish to express our deep appreciation to all of them for their service on the Board this past year. In particular we want to salute Craig, who has served ably on the Board, in one position or another, for many, many years.

The balance of the 2010 Board was returned to office: Donn King (President), Rick Sawyer (Secretary), Greg Durbin (Treasurer) and Don Graham and Gordon Stewart (Officers at Large). New Board officers include Mike McGuire, Karen Thompson, and David Abramo (all Officers at Large) and Doug Simon, who will take over Craig Gaevert's position as Vice-President. Look to the back page of this newsletter (every month) for a contact list of all officers.

While the election took center stage at the meeting, it was not the only item on the agenda. Alan Bloom conducted a raffle of prizes for all of the members who had participated in the 2010 annual Commute Miles log. (For more info on the Commute Miles program, please see page 5.) Craig Gaevert also conducted our annual mileage count-up, to find out who rode the most miles in the previous year. Greg Durbin and Karen Thompson took top honors, curiously, without either of them riding a single mile in December. (We do know of another member not at the meeting, who topped them all: Craig Robertson, with around 15,000 miles.)

Finally, to reward the 80 or so members who showed up to vote, Ride Director Bill Oetinger compiled a list of everyone present, and all of them are now entitled to a lunch on the club's tab at El Sombrero Taqueria in Healdsburg after the Free Lunch Rides on Saturday, March 12. (Look for more info on this annual happening in the March newsletter.) This is our way of thanking the members who take the time to vote in the new officers.



MINUTE MIX



Highlights from the General Membership and Executive Board meetings for January

Letter from the President

— Donn King —

1. Call to Order: President Donn King called the general meeting to order at the Round Table on Occidental Road on Wednesday, January 12. 80+ members and friends were present.

2. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Greg Durbin announced the club's bank account balances, as of December 31.

3. Membership: Registrar Gordon Stewart reported membership of 1168 (combining individual and family memberships). Steve Sbragia acted as host at the New Member Table, with several new members on hand.

4. Tours: Bill Oetinger reported that registration for the Southern Utah Tour had been intense and that it had sold out. Doug Simon announced that he is going to stage a second club-sponsored tour later in the summer: a reprise of the Wild Rivers Tour from a few years back. (See item on page 7.)

5. Free Lunch: Bill Oetinger noted that all present at the General Membership meeting would be entitled to a free lunch after the Free Lunch Ride on March 12 as a thank you from the club for voting in the annual election. (See item on page 1.)

6. Elections: Outgoing Vice-President Craig Gaevart conducted the election for officers to the Board for 2011. Candidates were introduced, ballots were circulated, filled in, collected, and tabulated. (See article on page 1 and Board roster on page 8.)

7. Warehouse: Warehouse Committee members Rose Mello and Doug Simon reported to the Board that they have completed an inventory of the contents of the warehouse. Craig Gaevart continues to investigate insurance options for the warehouse/contents.

8. Honors: President Donn King presented gift certificates to Gordon Stewart, Greg Durbin, Bill Oetinger, and Craig Gaevart as tokens of the club's appreciation for their substantial volunteer contributions to the club in recent years.

9. Donations: The Board finalized the procedure for identifying a list of grant recipients for this fiscal cycle. (See article on page 7.)

10. Holiday Party: The Board agreed that the Flamingo Resort Hotel worked well for the annual holiday dinner and will pursue plans for securing a date for the event for next December.

11. Special Needs: Bill Oetinger presented a proposal to the Board about the club sponsoring or supporting efforts to help special needs kids and adults get involved with bikes. The proposal originated outside the club. Bill has been instructed to follow up with the folks who made the proposal for more information.

12. Advisory Committees: Vin Hoagland announced that there are openings for representatives on both the Sonoma County and Rohnert Park Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees.

13. Features: Sharron Bates and René Goncalves have agreed to act as coordinators of the speakers and other featured entertainments at club meetings.

14. WCC: Wine Country Century Chair Bruce Hopfengardner reported to the Board on assorted preparations for the event.

15. Featured presentation: Alan Bloom conducted a raffle of bike swag for all present who had participated in the 2010 Commute Miles on-line log. (See item on page 5 about the log.)

Greetings and welcome to a new year of Santa Rosa Cycling Club activities. The club has said goodbye to some Board members, and we have a new Board and officers for 2011. Let's first of all look back and assess 2010. It was a year of membership growth for the club and a year of continuing financial health.

In this case, financial health does not mean making more money or turning a profit. For our bike club, financial health means being able to put on our public events like the Wine Country Century and Terrible Two, finance our internal club events like the picnics, parties, newsletter, web site, holiday party, warehouse, etc., and also be able to afford to give back to the community in the form of charitable contributions, support for the Bicycle Coalition, and support for events that are important to the bicycle community, like the Gran Fondo and Tour of California.

Once again, in 2010, the popular WCC sold out very quickly. Last year we increased our CHP support and for the first time ever provided emergency medical support on the course. We decided that this measure was necessary to protect our riders, protect the club, and take pressure off of municipal medical resources, thereby acting in good faith in the community by "paying our own way." If we want cycling to be taken seriously, and we do, then we must be able to provide for our needs and not place undue demands on the resources of the community that we live in.

I am grateful to the "old" 2010 Board and all of the bike club members who held key leadership and committee positions. Year in and year out, you are the ones who do the work of the club, and make the good things happen. This applies to the ride leaders especially. This is a bicycle club first and foremost and the cycling events that members lead are the meat and potatoes of the club diet. If we didn't do anything else as a club, we would ride our bikes. Hurray for our ride leaders!

It's exciting to welcome a new Board. We can look forward to new energy, new ideas and new points of view. This year we have four new Board members, including a new Vice President. That will surely shake things up. However, don't wait for the Board to do what you think should be done in 2011. All SRCC members need to think proactively and act on the club's behalf. Come to Board meetings, think politically about cycling, and start grooming yourself for participation in club life. Consider running for the Board in 2012, or putting yourself forward to participate in club projects. Lead rides. Greet new members at meetings or on rides. Use 2011 as an opportunity to enlarge yourself as a SRCC member.

WCC —Continued from page 1

If you've never volunteered for a job on the WCC crew, you might not believe it can be fun to "work" on the event, but it really is. Besides, you also get a quality WCC t-shirt for free, and you get to do the WCC Workers' Ride the following Saturday (May 14): all the same routes as the real WCC, all ridden with your club mates, with excellent rest stops and an after-ride party that most workers will agree is actually better than the party after the real WCC. The only way you can attend the WCC Workers' Ride is to serve as a volunteer in support of the WCC.

Thanks for working to keep this a great event.

BACKROADS & BREAKAWAYS

B&B is a column for and about local club rides, news, gossip, anecdotes, odds and ends. If you have a story to share about a ride you led, your race results, a cycling vacation, whatever...call Bill Oettinger @ 823-9807 or send e-mail to: srccride@sonic.net.

Here we are, well launched into the new year, but to pick up the thread of old club rides (where we left it last month), we have to go back into the old year, clear back before the holidays, to the weekend of December 18-19. This *La Niña* winter, if that's what it is, has not been kind to cyclists. We've had way more than the average amount of rain, and this particular weekend was no exception.

Jack Hartnett's B ride on Sunday was a total rain-out. Jack, as a responsible ride leader, showed up in Cotati at the start, but no one else did. Saturday's rides actually did a little better. Many of us looked out the window on Friday night or Saturday morning and decided the prospects were too grim. We stayed home and did indoor stuff, like decorating our Christmas trees. But a few folks were more optimistic and showed up for the listed rides. There were two of them.

Ken Cabeen had a D-tempo ride called the Coast Ride, as it was supposed to go out over Coleman Valley to the ocean. Here's what Ken had to say about it: "The only 'coast' in our ride today was that none of us had a fixie, and thus we did coast on various parts of the ride. We formed an on-the-spot consensus in the Piner High parking lot that it would be better to stay on roads that would be safer and a route that would be more doable if it started to storm hard. We made our way to Westside and West Dry Creek, then took Dutcher Creek to Gerserville to 128 and back in on Chalk Hill. It never did rain hard or get windy, so we had a very enjoyable ride. The mist-shrouded scenery was beautiful, and what colors we happened to come upon were very vivid. Besides the wonderful day out and great company on this ride, a highlight was along Faught Road. To the west of us we could see a cloud of those dark-colored little birds (starlings) flying in the most beautiful and amazing formations, twisting, the cloud of them lightening and darkening with its expansion and contraction, like it was some sort of elastic ribbon made of smoke, dancing above the distant vineyards. It really was quite phenomenal. I've seen those bird clouds before, but never quite that dynamic. We rolled back into the Piner lot with 71 miles and not one flat tire among the lot of us!"

John Russell had the other ride on the day, a BC ride of 64 miles, heading south out of Santa Rosa, almost down to Petaluma, then west to Tomales and Valley Ford, and then back home by way of Occidental. John didn't send in a ride report because he didn't need to. I ran into him at a party at Donn King's house that evening, and he told me the ride had indeed happened and that they didn't get rained on at all. I was disgusted. I was sure the ride wasn't going to happen, and I was kicking myself for having missed a chance at a few more 2010 miles. I forget how many people John said showed up, but it was quite a few. Hats off to all of the bold and plucky riders who stared down the grim weather forecast on this dark winter day and got in some quality miles.

The next weekend was Christmas weekend, and in deference to the holiday, we had a light schedule. Just as well, considering the rain gods dumped on our little corner of the world again. Sue Bennett had her semi-traditional Cookie Ride on Christmas, but it was a non-starter. However, several revelers did show up at her house

to munch cookies and slurp up hot apple cider while looking out the window at the rain.

On Sunday, David Abramo and Sunny Mawson had an A ride out of Healdsburg. The weather looked just barely, almost possible, so they made an attempt to get 'er done. David reports: "I haven't had much luck with hitting the good riding weather the past few months, so I decided to make this ride a short one. Nine club members showed up at Healdsburg City Hall for a post-Christmas ride to Lake Sonoma and back. We all thought we could squeeze in the ride before the rain hit. We were wrong! A few sprinkles soon turned into heavy rain at times. What started out as fun soon turned into a lesson in wet weather riding. A few of us stopped at the Dry Creek General Store to warm up and we discussed hitting the after-Christmas sales to look for rain gear. So much for the accuracy of accuweather.com, huh? This was one very wet and extremely cold ride, but seeing my SRCC friends made it all worth it. Thank you to all who showed up."

The next weekend was New Years and the weather was again rather dismal. You can read about how we coped with the weather on the New Year's Day rides elsewhere in this issue. So let's leapfrog over those dates and go on to the next weekend: January 8-9. Sarah Schroer kicked things off with a C-tempo ride on Saturday, heading out of Cotati into the west county hills. There were several notes on the chat list about the ride. Everyone agreed it was wicked cold. From what I can piece together (from the reports), there were essentially three groups on the road. A gang of D ringers hared off into the distance and were never seen again. Then there was the nominal C group, and finally a slower group off the back, with the ride leader acting as shepherd for this last bunch. The C group in the middle waited a couple of times for the back bunch to catch up, but they never did. Finally, at the finish, they found out Sarah had taken the slow folks on a shortcut. They were already in a local cafe, getting warm, when the C's arrived.

On Sunday, Carole Kolnes had her Holiday Chocolate Ride, re-scheduled from a December rain-out. She sent in an interesting, rather poetic report on the day: "Three Flat Tires...Thirty-Two Degrees...Forty Riders...Forty One Miles. Four Layers...Frosty Breath...Steamy Glasses...Frozen Fingers...Numb Toes. Bags of Chocolate...Free Tickets...Eagle's Nest...Hot Chocolate. Blue Skies...Crisp Winter Air...Road Detour. Friendly Cyclists...Smiling Faces... Many Thanks...Awesome Day!" Please note, amidst her evocative images, the figure of 40 riders. This would be the A-tempo crowd: the supposedly fair-weather, sometime crowd. Looks like a little freezing weather isn't enough to deter this bunch. Of course, there was the lure of free chocolate. That will overcome all sorts of obstacles.

On the same nippy morning, Mike and Janice Eunice convened another edition of their entry-level Welcome Wagon rides. Janice reports: "It was so cold when Mike and I started from our house to ride to the Joe Rodota trail head, we really believed no one would show up for the ride. At 10:00 AM, we had 14 people show up. We had a group which I would call the 'Young and the Restless' because they were composed of an SRCC member, John, and his two young sons, who brought two friends. The next group, I can call the 'mature and courageous' because they were composed of a couple of ladies in their 80's, one with a new bike to try out. Beth and Lillian rode with the Friendly Friday A group for six-plus years and stopped riding on Fridays because they felt they were

— Continued on page 6

RIDE SCHEDULE

PDF route slips available at www.srcc.com...go to Calendar of Rides

The following system is used in our ride schedule so that riders can estimate the relative difficulty of each ride.

TERRAIN

- 1: Mostly flat (River Road, Dry Creek)
 - 2: Rolling, easy grades (Westside Road)
 - 3: Moderate grades (Graton Road)
 - 4: Hilly; a few steep climbs (Coleman Valley Road, Franz Valley Road)
 - 5: Very hilly; lots of long climbs (Trinity Grade, The Geysers, Skaggs Springs Road)
- (If available, elevation gain may be listed.)

TEMPO

Actual ride speed may vary, depending on terrain, distance, weather, and group dynamics. Tempo listing is only a ballpark estimate.

A: relaxed pace; frequent regroupings; waits for all riders. Over 26 minutes*

B: touring pace; regroupings every 30-60 minutes; waits for all riders. 23-26 minutes*

C: brisk pace; pacelines likely; regroupings every 45-90 minutes. 19-22 minutes*

D: aggressive pace; pacelines; slower riders may miss regroupings. Under 19 minutes*

*Times are for official SRCC speed trap: 4.4 mostly uphill miles on Graton Road from Ross Road in Graton to summit at Tanuda/Facendini junction. If you want to know where you fit in on club rides, time yourself on this section (at your normal riding tempo) and compare your time to the list above.

DISTANCE

The last figure in the formula, stated in approximate miles. (If in doubt, leader should overestimate mileage slightly.)

• RSVP WITH RIDE LEADER •

Ride leaders should provide maps and/or route instructions. Riders should carry I.D., cash, tube(s), flat repair kit, water bottle(s), and have their own map in case they get lost.

HELMETS ARE MANDATORY ON ALL CLUB RIDES!

Non-members are welcome on club rides! (Non-members must sign a liability waiver provided by the ride leader.) If the course seems too long or difficult, the ride leader can generally suggest an alternate starting place or bail-out route.

RAIN CANCELS ALL RIDES,
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

RIDES LEAVE PROMPTLY AT TEN
MINUTES AFTER THE LISTED TIME.

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 5

Nick's More Level Century

1-2/C/100

9:00 AM • Howarth Park

Steve Drucker's old route from the archives: from Santa Rosa to north of Cloverdale and back along a more-or-less rolling and not-too-hilly route.

Nikola Farats—535-0399

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 6

Super Bowl Century

3-5/C/100

7:50 AM • Geyserville HS

A more ambitious (hillier) century than Saturday's ride. Down the valley from Geyserville first, then around to Knights Valley by way of Franz Valley, then north into Alexander Valley and up and over the Geysers. Meet up at Diavolo Cafe after the ride?

Karen Thompson—479-1864

One of Sue's Favorites

2/AB/39

9:00 AM • SW Community Park

An easy roll from SW Santa Rosa up to Windsor along the usual roads around the airport. A coffee break at Café Noto on the Windsor Town Green and a return along a slightly different route.

Sue Bennett—523-1322

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 12

Valentine Sweetheart Ride

2-4/CD/54

9:00 AM • Analy HS

One of the longest-running ride listings on our calendar, this is a classic, annual Rite of Spring. A speedy jaunt up into the west county hills—Bloomfield, Burnside, Barnett Valley—out to Occidental, then a rollicking run down to Monte Rio and back home up the river valley.

Steve & Jessie Kroeck—829-0224

Green Pastures (again)

3/B/64

9:00 AM • Finley Center

A reprise of a December ride that most of us missed because of a dire weather forecast: a big loop from west Santa Rosa all the way south to the outskirts of Petaluma, then west to Tomales. After a break at the bakery, a hilly

leg out toward Dillon Beach to another break at another bakery, this time in Freestone. Finally, a run up to Occidental and then back through the foothills north of Sebastopol.

Donna Norrell—292-0565

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 13

SRCC Welcome Wagon Ride

1/A/10-15

10:00 AM • Windsor Town Green

An introductory ride for novice cyclists (but veteran riders are welcome too). Easy, social pace. Plenty of opportunities for learning bike skills with supportive, experienced mentors. Instruction in working on bikes on request. Rescheduled from December.

Mike & Janice Eunice—575-9439

Spring Up the Hills

3/AB/40

9:00 AM • Howarth Park

A loop to the south and then west, with some hills that might be on the challenging side for the AB crowd. Sonoma Mtn-Pressley, through Cotati, around to Sebastopol for a stop at Coffee Catz, then back into SR on the trail.

Susan Hester—573-1532

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 19

SRCC-RUSA 200-K Brevet

3-4/BCD/200 K

7:00 AM • Healdsburg City Hall

Our second 200-K of the year. A new route heading out into Alexander Valley, up through Cloverdale and then up and down along Hwy 128 to Boonville. Over the mountain to Ukiah, then down the valley to Hopland, up Mountain House and down 128 back to Cloverdale and on south to Healdsburg. Ride requires registration and an entry fee. For more information, visit our [brevet page](#) at the club website.

Sebastopol-Petaluma Century

3/BC/100

8:30 AM • Willowside School

If the hilly brevet is a bit much for you, try this relatively easy century. West around the north side of Sebastopol, out to Occidental, then down to Freestone and onward to the Hwy 1 corridor to a rest stop in Tomales. On down the coast to Olema, then east toward Petaluma, with rest stops at the Cheese Factory and, after I Street, in downtown Petaluma. Then it's off to the Lynch-Hardin

loop, down through Penngrove, and back toward Sebastopol along Roblar, Canfield, Bloomfield, Pleasant Hill, etc. Some fairly obvious shortcuts are available.

Bill Oetinger—823-9807

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 20

Let's Work on Some Hills

2-3/AB/50

9:00 AM • Willowside School

Another AB ride with a lot of challenging climbing. West from Willowside to Occidental by way of a wildly meandering route in the hills west of Sebastopol. After a bakery break in Occidental, more ups and downs along Harrison Grade and Green Valley, through Graton and back to Willowside.

Rose Mello—543-5889



Chileno Valley Ramblin'

2.5/B/30-35

9:00 AM • Cotati Dog Park

Out into the Two Rock area, then past the Coast Guard base and south on Chileno Valley into Petaluma for a break at the creamery. Then back to Cotati through the hen house belt north of Petaluma and west of Penngrove.

Dave Batt—546-5301

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 26

More West County Wiggles

3-4/BC/67

9:00 AM • Piner HS

Working westward from Santa Rosa to Graton. After a regroup, a chance to time yourself on the SRCC speed trap (to the summit of Graton Rd). Regroup at the summit. Down to Occidental, then Bittner and Joy to a regroup in Bodega. North on Hwy 1 and Bay Hill to Coleman Valley, back to Occidental. Then north on Boho to Monte Rio, up the river all the way to Oakwild and Olivet, and finally back to the high school along Piner.

Christine Logan—577-1422

Farewell to February

2/A/26

9:00 AM • Healdsburg City Hall

Begin with the Kinley-Magnolia loop, then

north on the other part of Kinley to Grove and Chiquita and further north to a coffee stop in Geyserville. Back to Healdsburg via Hwy 128 and Alexander Valley Road.

David Abramo—650-533-2330
Sunny Mawson—838-3138

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 27

Lunch in Sonoma

2-3/AB/45

9:00 AM • Howarth Park

Through the parks and Oakmont and the usual route along Lawndale and Warm Springs, then down Arnold and into Sonoma. John works at Wine Country Cyclery, just off the Plaza in Sonoma, and he has arranged to have the shop cranking up a BBQ for the riders: nothing too fancy, but dogs and trimmings, coffee, etc. Then return through Kenwood, Oakmont, etc.

John Mills—477-7271

REGULAR RIDES

Wednesday Wanna-B's

B • 30-50 miles • 9:00 AM

First Wednesday: Howarth Park, Santa Rosa

Beth Anderson—874-3685

Vin Hoagland—584-8607

Second Wednesday: Healdsburg City Hall

Chris Jones—938-2669

Third Wednesday: Finley Park, Santa Rosa

Lowell Antze—237-7014

Fourth Wednesday: Finley Park, Santa Rosa

Alfred Mascy—484-5885

Fifth Wednesday: Esposti Park, Windsor

Alfred Mascy—484-5885

C • 30-50 miles • 9:00 AM

First Wednesday: Howarth Park, Santa Rosa

Second Wednesday: Healdsburg City Hall

Eric Peterson—433-7737

Third Wednesday: Ragle Park, Sebastopol

Fourth Wednesday: Ragle Park, Sebastopol

Johann Heinzl—539-7991

Fifth Wednesday: Howarth Park, SR

(All other, leaderless C rides are decide-&-ride)

Friendly Fridays

A • 25-30 • 9:00 AM

Same schedule as other Friday rides

Janice Eunice—575-9439

Fifth Friday: Ken Russeff—953-1804

B & C • 30-50 • 9:00 AM

First Friday: Cotati Dog Park

B: Greg Stone—527-6116

Second Friday: Howarth Park, Santa Rosa

B: Martin Clinton—569-0126

Third Friday: Ragle Park, Sebastopol

B: Kim Nelson—573-6882

Fourth Friday: City Hall lot, H'burg

B: Buck Hall—537-1946

C: Nabeel Al-Shamma—479-6246

Fifth Friday (B group only): Esposti Park

B: Gary Grayson—538-9262

Get into the club's interactive logs!

Thanks to the efforts of a few tech-savvy club members, we have at our fingertips an array of on-line, interactive programs at the club website. If you don't know about them, read on, and then pull up the sites and take them out for a spin.

All four sites are log books where you can enter your own data. Two are for one-month-long challenges and two run all year.

Commute Miles

This log encourages members to ride to work or to use bikes in place of cars for errands and especially for riding to the starts of club rides (instead of driving there).

Century Challenge

This log encourages members to do big rides, and it gives them an opportunity to toot their horns when they do so. All rides of approximately 100 miles count, be they solo rides, big events, brevets, or doubles (which of course count as two centuries).

March Magic

This log challenges riders to set a lofty goal for total miles ridden in the month, then to enter all their ride miles to see if they meet their target. It's a good way to ramp up in the spring for the big rides ahead.

April Alpina

Similar to March Magic, only instead of counting miles, it counts feet of elevation gain accumulated on our hilly roads. If you don't have an altimeter on your bike, we can assist you in calculating your climbing.

In all cases, the point of the interactive logs is to have fun with them; to get into the challenge and the mildly competitive spirit of matching your results with those of your fellow members. But don't be shy about showing us your numbers, even if they aren't as impressive as someone else's. All commutes are good. All centuries are good. Even modest goals in March miles and April altitude are good.

By participating, not only do you get a chance to challenge yourself and share your results with your club mates, you also serve as an inspiration and a challenge to other members to get into it themselves; to rise to their own challenges. The more people get involved, the more fun it is for everyone. Click on the links above—or go to the club website—and get in on the fun.

holding the group back. The rest were SRCC members who just wanted a leisurely ride on the trails.

“We all started out towards Sebastopol, and it got colder as we headed west. Of course the ‘young and the restless’ left us really quickly. After only four miles we needed to warm up, so we stopped at Coffee Catz for coffee and conversation. After an hour, the two 80-something ladies decided to head back to their car because it was too cold to finish the ride. But the sun came out and we continued on the route, although it was still cold, freezing. The young and the restless group decided to continue on and do their own ride. As always, Mike and I had a great time and enjoyed just riding and offering encouragement to new riders. Thanks for letting us do this.”

The last weekend we can cover this month was January 15-16, and it was a busy one for the club, with four rides on the calendar offering options for a wide range of riding interests and ambitions. Mother Nature contributed to the success of the weekend by providing great weather. After weeks of cold and wet and dreary days, we finally, fortuitously, caught a perfect weekend with two mostly sunny days, with little wind and temps flirting with 70°. While much of the rest of the country was shoveling out from under mountains of snow, we were out there, on one ride or another, often stripped down to little more than summer levels of apparel.

The biggest ride on Saturday was the first brevet of this PBP year: the first of two 200-K's we're offering. (Paris-Brest-Paris is the crown jewel of the world of randonneuring, the ancient French subset of cycling noted for long, long rides. It happens every four years, and 2011 is its year again. The lead-up to the main event later in the summer is a series of increasingly longer rides—known as brevets—all over the world, which serve as qualifiers and training opportunities. Our club is one of several in the Bay Area sponsoring a series of brevets for PBP wannabes, and our series began with this 200-K.) Thanks to hard work and good planning from Bob Redmond and all his volunteers, this 200-K kicked off our brevet series in the best possible way. There were well over 100 riders entered, including many SRCC members but also loads of riders from all over the region. Blue skies greeted the riders from the 8:00 AM start onward. Typical of the world of randonneuring, there was a wide range of pacemaking available...a tempo to suit every level of fitness and friskiness (within the context of riding over 120 miles anyway). The fastest of the fast carried a 20-mph average from the start in Healdsburg to the turnaround in Napa, and they almost maintained that on the return leg, finishing up with an average speed of 19.8. Behind those rocket sleds, the rest of the riders were spread out over many miles and hours, some nearly as quick as the *avant garde* and others content to amble along at sustainable, congenial speeds, keeping themselves amused with the passing scenery and with conversations with their fellow travelers. Our migrants all homed in on the Bear Republic at the finish for a lunch-dinner and beer fest almost as long as the ride itself. If all of this sounds like your idea of a good time, check out the club's second 200-K this month (Feb 19). Special thanks to Bob and to all his crew for their superb support and organization: to Ginger Kuhn, Donna Norrell, Gordon Stewart, Bobbie Foliart, Laura Dennis, Kimberly Hoffman, and probably some others I'm forgetting. You made a lot of people happy on this day.

Although many of the club's fleetest riders were kicking out the jams on the 200-K, Doug McKenzie offered another option for high-speed high jinx with his Fast Fixie Forty ride out of Piner High, a ride ostensibly for fixed-gear bikes but open to all, at least to all who are comfortable with the listed D-tempo. Doug sent in this note about the ride: “What a great January day for a ride! About a dozen showed for the start. However I was the only one with an actual fixed-gear bike. Two young guys were there with fixies but were scared off by the caliber of equipment and riders. They had the now-traditional fixed gears: converted older road bikes, probably 35 lbs each. When I told them the expected pace, they decided to do an easier ride. We did have three or four single speeds. With the nice weather, I wanted to extend the loop, but I quickly learned that most had chosen this ride because it was shorter and they had things to do in the PM. So 40 miles it was. We eased into a 20-mph pace on the flats, keeping it together fairly well. It split a bit on the rollers of Vine Hill. We picked up one more fixie right before Wohler. After a regroup at Wohler Bridge and a quick mechanical fix, we set off up Westside. It splintered a bit along Westside but at our regroup in Healdsburg the stragglers were only a couple minutes back. Nice paceline back to Piner High. Averaged about 19.2. Thanks to all who showed up to enjoy a good morning on the bike.”

Also on this day, Steve and Barbara Drucker organized a ride out of Santa Rosa down to Penngrove and back. I asked them if they had anything to report on the ride and Barbara sent in this reply: “More than 45 (!) multi-tempo riders joined us on a nearly-warm day for a route which began at Howarth Park. We wound our way through the new neighborhood south of the fairgrounds to Petaluma Hill Road and on to Railroad and Poplar hill. After a rest stop at Jav' Amore in Penngrove, we returned by way of rolling Davis Lane before retracing on Petaluma Hill Road, etc. back to the park, 36 miles later.”

On Sunday, Donna Norrell offered up another version of what is becoming her signature sort of ride: listed as “only” B-tempo and not overly long, but with some significant challenge in the hills department. In this case, the challenge went by the name of Cavedale, with two passes over Lawndale sandwiched around the bigger summit. The ride began at the familiar Howarth Park venue, but took a slightly unconventional route to work its way through the parks and through Oakmont. What with some riders joining in along the way and others peeling off before the official finish, we think we had almost 20 riders involved at some point during the day, but probably never 20 all in the same place at the same time. The lovely weather that blessed the Saturday rides was not quite as nice on Sunday. A drippy fog blanketed the world in the early miles. We finally climbed above it on the higher ridges of Cavedale...out into glorious, warm sunshine. Unfortunately, we then had to descend back into the chily soup, midway down the Trinity Grade free-fall. However, eventually, late in the ride, the sun finally shooed the pesky fog away and we finished with our shadows chasing us home.

So let's see: on a mostly sunny weekend in mid-January, we listed four club rides, ranging in challenge from entry-level to fairly extreme, from school kids to grandfolks, from the slowest tempo to the fastest, and we had something like 180 riders out there, somewhere between Penngrove and Napa, chugging along, under their own heads of steam, most of them having a ball. This is a pretty cool deal we've got going here!

• SRCC grants and donations •

Each year, the Santa Rosa Cycling Club makes donations to various cycling-related projects and other charitable organizations. These donations are from “excess” monies generated primarily by the Wine Country Century through entry fees and merchandise sales and represents what is left over after all annual club expenses have been covered and seed money has been reserved for future events and other contingencies.

As you may recall from the presentation of the 2011 budget at the December General Meeting, we had \$15,000 to donate from the 2010 excess funds. This does not count funds paid last year to Sonoma County, Bay Area, and State Bicycle Coalitions, to the League of American Bicyclists, and to the Santa Rosa Tour of California Organizing Committee, all of whom we support from set-asides directly incorporated into WCC entry fees.

The balance of funds is shared out amongst organizations chosen by vote of the club’s membership (or at any rate those members who choose to vote). The organizations that the club membership voted to receive grants last year were: Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Community Bikes, Team Swift, Safe Kids Project, Land-Paths, Ross Dillon Hope Fund, Boys & Girls Club, Sonoma County Trails Council, Earl Baum Center of the Blind, Early Bird Women’s Developmental Cycling Team, and Sidekicks Cycle Camp.

This year, as we did last year, we are going to make use of our website to allow members easy access to the voting process. If you wish to suggest another organization for consideration, please send an e-mail with the specifics of your proposal to anyone currently on the Board. We need all additional proposals by February 7. The Board will consider the suggestions and, if deemed appropriate, will add them to a new list which will be posted at the website in an interactive format that allows votes to be tallied. A blast e-mail will notify the entire club when the webpage is posted.

The webpage for logging votes will only be active from Feb 15 to 28, at which point we will close the site and tabulate the results. Based on these member preferences, a final draft of the donation recipients and dollar amounts per recipient will be presented to the members at the March General Membership meeting for discussion and final vote for approval.

New Year’s Day: same as last year

Last year, faced with rain on January 1, we used our club’s e-mail network to reschedule the annual New Year’s Day rides and party to January 2. The last-minute switch worked. This year, we found ourselves in exactly the same fix, with rain predicted for the first. So we did the same switcheroo to the 2nd. It worked this time too, or almost. The problem was that the forecast for Sunday, January 2 was almost as wet as it was for January 1. However, we studied the forecast carefully and finally decided to go ahead, but to shorten the rides a bit to get off the road and into the party before the rain arrived—according to the forecast—around midday.

All of that worked well enough, and all of the riders who showed up got in good rides, if somewhat shorter than some of them might have wanted. With 20-20 hindsight, we can now say we really needn’t have modified the listed routes. The rain held off all day, except for a few little drops, and it even cleared to blue skies while we were at the party. Rather than doing the shorter, 30-mile ride we ended up with, we could have rolled off our whole 100-K route and remained dry the entire way. Oh well! At least we got to do some riding in order to sharpen up our appetites for the party at the warehouse/clubhouse afterward.

The party was always going to be the highlight of the day, rain or shine, long rides or short. We can ride any day, but we don’t get that many opportunities to sit down and party with all of our pals, hoovering up free food and a more-or-less endless supply of beverages. Somewhere around 140 people had filled out their on-line RSVP forms to attend the party (and rides). In the end, what with the dodgy weather, we were happy to see somewhere in excess of 100 people at the party.

The organizing committee for the party—Sharron Bates, René Goncalves, Doug Simon, Rose Mello, et al—had done a wonderful job of transforming the outside, covered area next to the warehouse into a banquet hall. Large tarps sealed off both ends of the space and made it quite cozy inside, where tables were set up to handle at least a hundred diners at a time...and which stayed mostly full most of the afternoon. It turned out to be an excellent day, in spite of the weather. Thanks to all the volunteers who pitched in to make the day so much fun for the rest of us.

SRCC summer multi-day tours

Last month in this newsletter, we announced the one-week Southern Utah Tour for club members, with space for 40 participants, including staff. We noted that on-line registration for the tour would open at 9:00 AM on January 3. At ten minutes after 9 on that morning, the entire roster was already full, with more names piling up on a wait list.

Our tours are usually quite popular, but we’ve never seen anything like this before. In light of the overwhelming response, tour organizer Bill Oetinger did a quick round of additional reservations, securing more camping spaces and motel rooms and then announced that the roster could be expanded to 50. This picked up most, but not all, of the applicants on the wait list. We’ve never had a tour before where a few entrants didn’t have to withdraw ahead of time for some reason or other, so perhaps, by that sort of attrition, we may eventually be able to pull in the remaining people who are still wait-listed. We hope so.

Wild Rivers Tour Two

Sunday, July 31 to Saturday, August 6

For those who might miss out on the Utah trip, there is another opportunity to tour with the club this summer, and this second tour is a very good one too. (Ask anyone who did it the first time we offered it.)

The club’s second tour for 2011 is a rerun of the popular 2006 Wild Rivers Tour, with a few minor tweaks. We are currently finalizing the details. The full tour description will be available at the website, and a link to that site will be provided in the March newsletter. On-line registration will open on March 7th. The tour is limited to 40 participants, including staff, and is only open to club members. Tour cost will be \$350 per person, with a deposit of \$50 due at sign-up.

Mark your calendar, and whet your appetite by reading the great [write-up](#) about the last WRT in the September, 2006 newsletter.

SANTA ROSA CYCLING CLUB

PO Box 6008

Santa Rosa, CA 95406

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Member: LAB • CBC • CABO • REBAC • SCTC • SCBC
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- Secretary: Rick Sawyer933-0760
- Treasurer: Greg Durbin528-4450
- Officers at Large
- Karen Thompson479-1864
- Mike McGuire542-6687
- David Abramo 650-533-2330
- Gordon Stewart823-0941
- Don Graham538-3664
- Newsletter editor, ride director: Bill Oetinger.....823-9807
- Webmaster: Gordon Stewart.....823-0941
- Club apparel sales: Sharron Bates.....526-3512
- Membership registration: Gordon Stewart.....823-0941
- Meeting program coordinators: Sharron Bates....526-3512
- René Goncalves.....570-6653

To join the club or renew membership, please go to
<http://www.srcc.com>
srccride@sonic.net (Bill Oetinger, club e-wrangler)



The Santa Rosa Cycling Club is a social/recreational organization comprised of cycling enthusiasts with a wide range of abilities and interests. Our purpose is to promote the safe and efficient use of bicycles through club rides and events, and by maintaining an active presence in the local community. We encourage a large and vital membership and try to provide rides for all abilities. We publish a membership roster and a monthly newsletter and ride calendar. We hold a general membership meeting and an Executive Board meeting once each month.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Wednesday, February 9 • 6:30 PM

Round Table Pizza

(Occidental Road, west of Stony Point)

Featured Presentation: Orthopedist & cyclist Dr. Briant Smith, speaking on clavicles and joint health

Wednesday, March 9

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

(Open to all interested members)

Note special time: Tuesday, February 8 • 6:00 PM

Home of President Donn King: 3114 Lucero Court, Santa Rosa

Thursday, March 3

• Directory of WCC Committee Chairs •

- Chair Bruce Hopfengardner, 494-1155, winecountrycentury@gmail.com
- Vol. coordinator ..Kimberly Hoffman, 579-3754, kdhoffman10@yahoo.com
- Registration..... Gordon Stewart, 823-0941, gordon@gsathome.com
- Sags & Communication Craig Gaevert, 545-4133, cgarch@sonic.net
- Food & Materials Rene´ Goncalves, 570-6653, leslierene@hotmail.com
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- Customer service..... Jack Hartnett, 694-0922, cyclingjack@yahoo.com
- Day-of sales Sharron Bates, 526-3512, technical@randallnutrition.com
- Graton Janice Eunice, 575-9439, nicenice@sonic.net
- Ocean Song..... Wayne Kellam, 523-1878, wkellam@sonic.net
- Monte Rio Bunni Zimberoff, 544-3999, bunnizim@gmail.com
- Wohler Bridge. Bill & Evelyn Ellis, 415-898-2998, red_tandem@yahoo.com
- Warm Springs Dam..... Janice Oakley, jmo_bike@yahoo.com
- WSD co-chair..... Richard Anderson, r.c.ander@comcast.net
- Alexander Valley..... Steve Drucker, 538-5256, sdrucker@santarosa.edu
- Finish..... Michelle Kane, 292-5707, kearykane@yahoo.com
- Volunteer Ride Rene´ Goncalves, 570-6653, leslierene@hotmail.com