

**BICYCLE
ADVENTURE
CLUB**



The Tripper

come ride with us!

The Tripper Report for January - April 2008 (updated 6/12/2013)

North American Rides	Date	Page
Paso Robles Ramble	February 2008	2
Feb in Southern California	February 2008	3
The New Texas Hill Country Ride	April 2008	4
Civil War Odyssey	April 2008	5
California: Sonoma, Napa, and Marin Counties	April 2008	6
Historic East Texas	April 2008	7

Overseas Rides	Date	Page
Deep South New Zealand	January 2008	8

Rides without Reports	Date
Solvang Winter Break 2008	January 2008
San Diego Coastal and Mission Tour	April 2008
The Best of the West - New Zealand	February 2008

Paso Robles Ramble February 3rd to February 8th

Ride Director: Carole Nacon, Report by: Chip Sterling



After receiving our tour packages at the first meeting on Sunday Feb 3 we knew our tour director, new BAC board member Carole Nacon, was well prepared and, if the weather cooperated, we would enjoy riding, dining and socializing in fine BAC style for the next four days of this fixed base tour in Paso Robles, CA (PR). Carole bravely hosted all meetings in her room at the Paso Robles Inn, which is well located downtown next to City Park, near shops and restaurants, yet providing quiet attractive rooms surrounding a lovely landscaped courtyard with heated pool and hot tub. After Carole carefully reviewed in detail the next day's recommended ride, the social hour gatherings continued longer than we have experienced with lively chatter among a very compatible group. Board members Wilson and Jim spoke briefly about BAC and others promoted tours they are

leading or about to ride on. First time BAC riders Gilbert and Maria, thanked everyone for making them feel so welcome, as did non-rider, Cathleen. New food contributions frequently appeared from Carole or others, including a bottle of champagne from Margie, to celebrate birth of Carole's grandson born that day, and excellent homemade guacamole from Howard and Dan. Carole selected two fine restaurants for group dinners outside PR, one Italian, the Village cafe and other for the beef, the Loading Chute, which were paid from our deposits.

With generous route consultation from PR resident Mike, Carole provided excellent route sheets for eight ride options, four from the hotel and four from remote starts, each with cue sheet, map and elevation profile. The average distance of all rides was 42 miles and 2,660 feet of climbing, thus deserving of the 2B Rating. The country roads were mostly car free, traveling through cattle ranches, vineyards or occasionally olive groves. Kathy and I rode four rides, with these memories: (1) On the Hog Canyon Loop, where all the land we could see seemed entirely covered with grape vines in need of pruning before spring growth, where were the owners getting workers? Few were seen. (2) After climbing steadily for 17 miles on the "Parkfield Out and Back" ride to the 2602' summit then pedaling 6 more miles to lunch at the funky, very cowboy Parkfield cafe which sits virtually next to San Andreas Fault, we were real hungry. Tom ordered a Garden Burger and commented how they now taste just like beef. The waitress later came by to apologize that she had served him a beef burger by mistake! (3) We were advised to take lunch on the Chimney Rock Loop, and those prepared enjoyed roadside picnics on the great route reminding us of Italy. Were Carol and Edgar, who brought only snacks, keeping their minds off our deli sandwiches by reading real estate brochures at For Sale signs on the pricey estate properties we rode by? (4) On the Cambria to Ragged Point Out and Back on Route 1 the headwind going north was mild and the air salty until a strong odor and strange sounds announced the perennial gathering of Elephant Seals on one very crowded beach where mating, fighting, birthing, dying and loud bellowing were all heard or seen. Incredible. We returned by car the next day to visit the nearby Hearst Castle, also incredible, but different. It is certain all enjoyed this preseason tour and we know it will be offered again because Kathy and I will be the directors in 2009.
Thank you Carole!

Participants: James Abel, Tom Grant, Darrell Follett, Vicki Elmer, Ronald Guidotti, Sue Cooper, Wilson Cooper, Mike Duffy, Carole Nacon, Nancy Follett, Gaynelle Stamm, John Stamm, Gilbert Dominguez, Chris Witt, Howard Weston, Chip Sterling, Kathy Sterling, Carol Romberg, Edgar Romberg, Daniel Telep, George Chambers, Maria Dominguez, Susan Rosenblatt, Patricia Greene, Marjorie Kirk, Sally Mc Kinney

Feb in Southern California February 9th to February 16th

Ride Director: Stan Solin, Report by: Stan Solin

group photo

Participants: Howard Weston, Antoinette Cordell, Christine Hoover, Clarice Sackett, Stan Solin, John Hoover, Wes Johnson, Carol Romberg, Gerald Gardner, Henry Eckhardt, Michael Blake, Martha Wise

The New Texas Hill Country Ride April 6th to April 20th
Ride Director: John McManus, Report by: Victor Villhard



It is obvious that John and Brenda have refined this tour over many years to take in all the best of the Texas Hill Country in the springtime, while including plenty of flexible riding and rest day options during multi-day stays to comfortably accommodate participants who are just starting their cycling season as well as those who are ready for more. Typical daily distances of 40 to 60 miles with options through moderately hilly terrain support the 2B rating, though one day it is 66 miles between hotels and there are a few extended, though not particularly difficult, climbs. The routes on the tour are almost all on very lightly traveled country roads, with only a few miles on state highways (typically with shoulders where there is some traffic). Two other things worth noting about the bicycling in this area: some of the chip seal pavement can be exceptionally rough, making

wider tires a worthwhile consideration as John suggested before the tour, and there are occasional stream crossings that can be wet and at times slippery, so its wise to be extra cautious in those areas to avoid having any mishaps, another point John emphasized repeatedly during the tour.

The tour starts and ends in Austin, a worthwhile tourist destination in its own right. It boasts one of the liveliest local live music scenes in the country, the worlds largest urban bat habitat (where it is a nightly spectacle for locals and tourists alike to gather on and near the Congress Avenue bridge just outside the first nights hotel to watch tens of thousands of bats flying out at dusk!), amphibious Duck tours of the historic city and local lakes, a Texas-size museum about the states remarkable history, and the marvelous state Capitol building, made from pink granite quarried in the nearby Hill Country. The scenery in the Hill Country includes expansive vistas spanning miles of rolling terrain covered by low trees, cactus, yucca, and bushes; rocky outcroppings and cliffs; a number of beautiful crystal clear rivers, many lined with cypress trees; several pecan groves; and opportunities to see exotic African game animals and Longhorn cattle on the extensive ranches in the area. The tour route takes in more than a dozen unique small towns, including Luckenbach, Bandera (the cowboy capital of the world), and Fredericksburg with its distinctively German heritage. The route even passes by a field-size replica of Stonehenge along with replicas of maori heads like those on Easter Island. Depending on the rainfall totals in the area from fall when the Texas state flower, the bluebonnets, germinate through early spring, there can also be breathtaking displays of multi-hued wildflowers blanketing the ground.

The maps and cue sheets were flawless. John even previewed routes when he heard there was road construction in the area, and then provided van shuttles to get riders safely past the un-rideable spots. Accommodations were great, and included motels in rural settings, charming Western style cabins set up like a village, two nights at a guest ranch with horseback riding, cowboy songs and smores around the campfire, and a variety of guest houses. Almost every day included breakfast, and the combination of mostly group dinners and occasional on-your-own dining gave everyone a chance to sample a variety of local fare. While lunch options were sometimes limited to American food in very rural areas, one night included an exclusive gourmet meal prepared by a local chef who trained and worked in Paris. That, coupled with Brendas amazing gourmet happy hour hors doeuvres and expertly chosen wine pairings, added an exceptional gastronomical flair to this already outstanding tour.

Participants: Jim Erickson, Brenda Cole, John McManus, Jan Erickson, Scott McKay, Arnie Schwartz, Carol Hunt, Tom Leever, Julie Leever, Mary Oldring, Derald Oldring, Laura Daley, Tom Daley, Cathy Cloutier, Susie Stogsdill, Stogs Stogsdill, Victor Villhard, Clyde Taylor, Ann W Berry, Carol Romberg, Patricia Evans, Diane Villhard, Beany Wezelman, Edgar Romberg

Civil War Odyssey April 14th to April 26th

Ride Director: Richard Gallo, Report by: Joanne Dexter



The word images below were written by the BAC members who participated in this wonderful trip.

The trip lasted 12 days; 10 days of cycling with 3 rest days, one in Antietam and 2 in Gettysburg. The timing of the trip was exquisite. The new museum in Gettysburg had just opened the week before we arrived. There were interesting interactive exhibits inside the museum. The auto route through the battlefield was perfect for biking as we reflected upon the 3 day battle on July 1863. This trip was rated 2B, but many of us thought that it should have been rated a little higher. The countryside was very hilly, many grades of 8r higher. We averaged about 2500 feet of climbing per day. A few days had longer options and even more climbing. There was always van support for those of us who needed a little help up the hills. People felt

free to do what they could.

The timing of the trip couldn't have been better for those of us who lived in the northern part of the United States. The winter there had been very long so for many of us, this was our first sustained riding outside of spinning class. The ride was a great way to welcome spring!

History

Historical markers, the battlefields of Antietam and Gettysburg along our route take us back to a heartbreaking era, a glimpse of the past, of the heroic actions by brave Americans and their sacrifice, their deeds acknowledged; their words come alive in museum videos, their voices touch us even now.

Cycling

Virginia, W. Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania bike paths and smooth, quiet roads, expansive horse farms, Shenandoah country, miles of stone walls and white fences, brilliant green grass adorning the hilly countryside, flowering trees, steep climbs and thrilling descents, wonderful new BAC friends, cycling at its best.

Participants: David Forester, Clark Dexter, Ralph Singer, Linda Greenwood, Louise Bahar, Richard Gallo, Richard P Draves, Jere S Pilver, Rod Harmon, Ken Neville, Martha Neville, Marlene Rawles, Joanne Dexter, Michael Meyers, Howard Hackett, John Johnston, Nancy Mann, Thomas Mann, Frank Dega, Michelle Dega, Jim Paradise, Hewes Agnew, Vickie Smith, Don Gieringer, Ralph Draves

California: Sonoma, Napa, and Marin Counties April 22nd to April 29th

Ride Director: Wilson Cooper, Report by: Gerald Lum



The tour began in Petaluma under dark clouds, very cool. The first days route led us through the historic portion of town with picturesque old Victorian homes and manicured lawns. Shortly we were in the countryside with pastures and trees and vast open spaces, enduring a short rain shower. The back roads were perfect with rolling hills, lonely and quiet, and virtually no traffic. Along the way we saw grazing cattle on green hillsides, horses, chickens, turkeys, beautiful coastal oaks, and deer. We climbed a steep grade just before lunch to reach Occidental, then followed challenging Coleman Valley Road to the top of a ridge with incredible views of the coast on one side and distant hills and valleys on the other side. The ridge ride, which lasted for two miles, was cloudy, windy and cold, even with four layers of clothing. The descent was steep and thrilling,

ending at Highway 1 on the coast.

We left Bodega Bay early the next morning on a deserted Highway 1 and headed for the mouth of the Russian River. Highway 1 was wonderful, with a clean horizon and an endless series of waves pounding the rocky shore. The ride was mostly flat with modest grade changes as it followed the Russian River for most of the days ride. After Duncans Mills we rode thru tall coastal redwoods, which blocked out the sun and made for a dark, shady ride. There was an unusual mix of houses and architecture along the river, with some dilapidated and unkempt, while others were upscale and well maintained. After lunch we visited the Armstrong Redwoods, then climbed a very steep Rio Nido Road. We then continued through the Russian River valley vineyards to Healdsburg.

We left Healdsburg early on another crisp, clear and cool morning and rode north on Dry Creek and Dutcher Creek roads. These back roads were wonderfully quiet and lonely and meandered for miles thru picturesque vineyards, sprinkled with stately coastal oaks. We rode through the Alexander Valley, continued through Jimtown, and ultimately climbed out of Sonoma County on Franz Valley Road, possibly the best back road of back roads. We then descended into Napa County on a fast serpentine to Calistoga. The happy hour consisted of a wine tasting at the Calistoga Cellars tasting room, courtesy of two participants who were also partners in the winery.

The rest day offered an optional ride to the Pope Valley. We left early to ride through St. Helena, a small quiet town, then climbed Howell Mountain Road, a long uphill thru wooded country with hawks aplenty, screeching as they soared. At the summit we turned onto Ink Grade, a very steep and bumpy downhill into Pope Valley. We rode through this wide valley among large expanses of open acreages and vineyards, then descended to Lake Hennessy on an exhilarating, twisting downhill. We completed the loop in the growing heat on Silverado Trail, a smooth highway with a slight uphill grade.

The ride to Sonoma descended Silverado Trail, then climbed the Oakville Grade. The grade started innocently enough, then climbed for a mile in the sun at 12 to 15%. The ride then descended around a corner of Napa, followed a deserted road beside the marshes of northern San Francisco Bay, and ended near the huge city square in historic Sonoma.

Participants: Teresa Shaffer, Susan Perin, Douglas McLane, Susan McLane, Gary Dodson, Rita Jensen, Dion Shea, Sue Cooper, Mike Duffy, Gat Lum, Clarice Sackett, Chuck Jackson, Paul Woerner, Pat Woerner, Dotty Mitchell, James Mitchell, Wilson Cooper, Liz Siaba, Cori Mitchell, Gerald Lum

Historic East Texas April 23rd to May 2nd

Ride Director: Pat Highet, Report by: Dennis Moberg



We started out on a beautiful spring morning, 15 bicyclists from all over the US, some of us strangers, some of us friends, to explore the small historic towns of east Texas. The ride was rated as 2B with distances from 40 to 58 miles with rolling hills for the most part. We rode on little traveled farm roads and were all pleasantly surprised by the courtesy of the local drivers.

In our first town, Henderson, we saw our first three-seater outhouse in the Depot Museum. In Nacogdoches, the oldest town in Texas, we

stayed at the historic Fredonia Hotel for two nights. Our rooms here all opened to the courtyard where they had live music each night and several BAC riders were seen line dancing in the courtyard. The next days ride was to Carthage and then to Tejas Village on the shore of Lake of the Pines for a two night stay. Here we stayed in rustic cabins right on the lake. The layover day was spent exploring the charming town of Jefferson. We took a carriage ride here, learned about the local history and saw some of the 60 plus B&Bs.

From Tejas Village we road to Winnsboro where we stayed at a beautiful B&B, the Hubbel House for two nights. On our last day to ride the weather was a big concern with storms predicted. We delayed our start, having coffee and enjoying the inn till the threat was past and then had a perfect ride into Tyler for our last day.

A special thanks to Roy and Judy Glickman for assisting Pat in van support, which went very smoothly (except for the day Pat rode off with the van keys). The social hour each night was catered by Judy Glickman and the food was outstanding. At the social hour each evening we got good recommendations of places to eat lunch or dinner (such as the Git Around Tuit Cafe).

Ride Participants : Pat Highet, Dennis Moberg, Marita Moberg, Ken Anderson, Mary Burns, Tim Presar, Roy, Glickman, Judy Glickman, John S Freitag, Wes Johnson, Kathy Emmons, Kelly Clark, Robert Fitzgerald, Janet Fitzgerald, James Abel.

Participants: Marita Moberg, Dennis Moberg, John S Freitag, Roy Glickman, Pat Highet, Mary Burns, Ken Anderson, Tim Presar, James Abel, Wes Johnson, Judy Glickman, Kelley Clark, Kathy Emmons, Janet Fitzgerald, Robert Fitzgerald

Deep South New Zealand January 22nd to February 5th
Ride Coordinator: Sara Blakeslee, Report by: Sara Blakeslee



Why do cyclists keep coming back again and again to a small South Pacific island that is half way around the world from anywhere? Is it the natural beauty of the place? Or perhaps the interesting birdlife and abundant marine mammals? Another possible draw just might be the gracious and humorous local folks who easily become friends. Or the great cycling terrain and summer weather in the middle of the winter when there is snow on the ground at home? So many good reasons repeatedly draw cyclists back to New Zealand. This Deep South New Zealand ride was my second trip to that island, while several of our group were enjoying their fourth visit to NZ. The Deep South New Zealand ride was unique to my BAC experience because, in addition to great cycle routes, it offered not to be missed off-the-bike experiences. The ride was fully supported with 2 guides and 2 sag buses,

which provided the flexibility for everyone to do everything they wanted. We were able to maximize every moment of every day. The guides went so far as to provide the group with a menu from each evening's restaurant so we could pre-order our meals, thus cutting out the long wait times at dinner. In a place so rich in sights and possibilities, the riders felt privileged to have the opportunity to do it all!

One of our favorite off-the-bike highlights was an overnight boat trip on a beautiful fjord bursting with wildlife. That evening our guides serenaded us on piano and guitar in the ship's salon as we cruised along. Other highlights included a visit to an albatross colony, viewing penguins returning to the beach to feed their chicks, a night outing to view the nocturnal kiwi bird in its natural habitat, and seeing dolphins surfing the waves on the Catlin Coast.

The cycling was fabulous with variety in terrain and landscape. Our route followed the coastline from west to east. Then we turned inland and rode across the high dry landscape to Mt Cook. We rode quiet country roads often so close to the beach the surf might have splashed us. The routes provided the chance to cycle a century every day or however far your legs were inclined. (I have to admit to a power nap in the back seat of the bus on several occasions!)

New Zealand is a small island with a plethora of natural blessings and delightful experiences. These assets, combined with the incredible level of support we received on this tour, created a magical experience for the Deep South NZ group. Now it is easy to see why cyclists return to New Zealand again and again. See ya back there!

Photo: Standing left to right: John Blakeslee, George Root, Phil Wells, Tom Robertson, Topper Hermanson, Doug Gant, Dick Packard, Bas (guide), Jim Nystrom.
Seated left to right: Sara Blakeslee, Doralene Root, Beany Wezelman, Joyce Halstead, Lois Dubois, Colleen Gant, Judy Packard, Ida Nystrom.

Participants: Joyce Halstead, Philip Wells, Sara Blakeslee, Topper Hermanson, Lois DuBois, George Root, Doralene Root, Ida Nystrom, Jim Nystrom, John Blakeslee, Colleen Gant, Doug Gant, Keith Packard, Richard Packard, Tom Robertson, Beany Wezelman