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# HOUSTON AREA TANDEM SOCIETY HATS

## JULY 2011 NEWLETTER

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### Summer Riverhaven Ride

July 23rd

On Saturday, July 23, be sure to be at the Mahoney's river house for the annual Riverhaven Summer Ride...or this year, Summer Ride or Not. Due to what seems to be an unusually harsh summer, so far, the Riverhaven ride has much less emphasis on cycling with more of a thought that we'd just like to get together and chill. Cool beverages on the decks. Cool breezes from the river. Boat rides and swimming. Come out and chill (slang for relax...there isn't likely to be any chill to it!) Cycling is optional. Bring the bike and come in time for a 9:00 roll out and I'm sure you can find some company or skip the cycling and try your hand at horseshoes or croquet and riding the "Big Banana". . Please Note: There Will Be No Life Guard On Duty!!! Children are always welcome at HATS events, but if you bring children, you MUST supervise them. This is a river property and has the risks associated with such. Lunch will begin with snacking at about 11:00.

Along with a swimsuit & towel (showers available), bring a meat to grill and side dish, salad or dessert to share. BYO alcoholic beverages, but we'll have sodas & water. RSVP to Team Mahoney by Wednesday, July 20th at [m-smahoney@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m-smahoney@sbcglobal.net)

Summer Riverhaven Ride July 23rd

In Town Ride and lunch – June 12<sup>th</sup>

Ride Calendar

### Top Hats

In Town Ride and Lunch

June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011 - 9 AM

Jim and Ruth Fleshman coordinated a Sunday morning in-town ride with lunch on the return leg of the route. Five couples enjoyed the morning ride and relaxed during a leisurely lunch. Some HAT's business was discussed: business cards, club flyers, membership, jerseys, etc.

Neither Janet nor I have HATS jerseys, only the wind vests we purchased some number of years ago. How many members are in need of or would like new jerseys? Let Janet or I know at [Bainsj@ATT.net](mailto:Bainsj@ATT.net) if you are interested so that we can gauge current interest.

The finances for the SW Tandem Rally have been finalized. Due to outstanding expense control and organization, the rally had funds left over after all expenses were paid. Excess funds will be sent out to the TXCATS for next year's rally, a donation will be made to the Painted churches and modest refunds will be made to each team. Great Job Rally committee!!!

The Oktoberfest Weekend in Fredericksburg this year is Friday Sept 30 and Saturday & Sunday Oct 01 & 02. Hugh and Becky are happy to lead some rides that weekend if anyone wants to drive to the Hill Country. They have offered to accommodate upto 2 tandem teams at their house...otherwise you should plan to make plans for accommodations soon because every hotel room will be sold that weekend.

If anyone has information on the September TROLS ride, let me know and I'll post in the next newsletter.

## NEXT RIDE – JULY 23RD

The next scheduled ride is July 23<sup>rd</sup> from Mike and Susan's Riverhaven home at 9:00 AM. Contact Mike and Susan at [m-smahoney@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m-smahoney@sbcglobal.net) by July 20<sup>th</sup> with your RSVP.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 23<sup>RD</sup> - RIVERHAVEN GET TOGETHER (RIDE OPTIONAL) MIKE AND SUSAN MAHONEY

AUGUST – OPEN

SEPTEMBER 16 – 18<sup>TH</sup> - TROLS GREAT ADVENTURE

SEPTEMBER 30, OCTOBER 1-2<sup>ND</sup> : FREDERICKSBURG: OKTOBERFEST: REEVES

OCTOBER 22 (TENTATIVE)- BRENHAM: OKTOBERFEST: MOORMANS

NOVEMBER- OPEN

DECEMBER- COLVIN/JOHNSON - CHRISTMAS LIGHTS RIDE

DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> – HATS CHRISTMAS PARTY

## Santana Chattanooga Mother's Day Tandem Rally

May 05-08, 2011

### Thursday May 05, 2011 – Tennessee Valley Railroad

**Museum:** In 2010, Santana announced that the venue for the 2011 Mother's Day Rally would be in Chattanooga with the Delta Queen as the rally hotel. We didn't hesitate to register for this 4-day rally to enjoy the sights and culture of this history rich city. Chattanooga is 1000 miles from Fredericksburg...about 16 hours driving time. We had planned our drive to arrive at noon on Thursday, but I didn't realize that Chattanooga was in the Eastern Time Zone so we arrived



at 1:00...about 30 minutes before the first ride was scheduled to roll out. We barely had enough time to change into bike clothes, assemble the bike and join the 40 other tandem teams for the ride along the riverside trail to the Tennessee Valley Railroad museum. The trail along the river was smoothly paved and wide enough for both pedestrians and bikes to share, but with some tight turns to ensure only moderate speeds on the trail...the park was well maintained and nicely landscaped which provided a pleasant warm up

ride for the afternoon. We left the trail at the dam and rode another few miles to the railroad museum.

Here we found a yard full of vintage rail equipment including passenger cars, private cars, steam and diesel locomotives and a station complete with gift shop. Santana had chartered the 3:00 train for the 15 minute ride along the private museum tracks. At the end of the line, we watched the engine turn 180 degrees on the turn table and then reconnect to our 3 car train. We had time to visit the shop where the rail cars and locomotives were maintained and restored. We had hoped to ride with a steam locomotive, but that was reserved for weekend excursions. Jim



(aka Santa Claus in December) our car attendant, provided a running narrative of the glory days of the



railroads and the current status of the museum whose mission is to preserve some of the history. After our train ride, we returned to the Delta Queen on a slightly different route. Back at Coolidge Park, we had time to change for the evening activities which included rides on an antique carousel and a barbecue buffet in the park pavilion. After dinner we walked to a local wine bar to share a bottle with Dennis and Louise Fugier.