
HOUSTON AREA TANDEM SOCIETY HATS

OCTOBER 2011 NEWLETTER

OKTOBERFEST RIDE

MOORMAN'S HOME IN BRENHAM, TX

9:00AM OCTOBER 22, 2011

30 AND 50 MILE OPTIONS

\$10 PER PERSON FOR BBQ AFTER THE RIDE

Take Hwy 290 to Brenham. Take a right on FM 577. Go about ½ mile until you see a sign for E. Cheri Lane and brick entrances to Gun and Rod Subdivision. Take a right where the subdivision entrances are and the road dead ends immediately. Take another right and follow the road around until you see a house on the right with circular drive, pine trees and a flagpole. Mail box says 2605.

Please RSVP so catering can be arranged.

hmoorman@moormantate.com

Top Hats

Stephen and Janet Bain

MEMBERSHIP DUES \$10.00 per couple

If you haven't paid your membership dues please contact Jim and Ruth Fleshman

fleshmanrj@sbcglobal.net

CHRISTMAS PARTY

There has been interest in moving the Christmas party to January due to vacations and other holiday events/conflicts before Christmas. Purposed date January 8th.

Please contact us with your comments.

Bainsj@ATT.net.

JERSEY'S

Several couples have expressed interest in new Jerseys. Please continue to let us know if you are in need of or would like new jerseys? Bainsj@ATT.net

The Oktoberfest Weekend in Fredericksburg was hosted by Hugh and Becky Reeves. Several couples attended and enjoyed excellent weather and rides on quite country roads.

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NEXT RIDE – OCTOBER 22

The next scheduled ride is the Oktoberfest ride hosted by Hal and Lucy Moorman. Contact Hal and Lucy at hmoorman@moormantate.com with your RSVP. BBQ lunch will be catered. Desserts are taken care of, so there's nothing to bring except your bike and appetite.

HATS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 22 - BRENHAM: OKTOBERFEST: MOORMANS

NOVEMBER- OPEN

NOVEMBER 5- 6TH ANNUAL BRAILLE RIDE

DECEMBER 11- COLVIN/JOHNSON - CHRISTMAS LIGHTS RID

JANUARY 8, 2012 – HATS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Santana's 2011 Burgundy & Provence Tandem Cruise

We spent 3 glorious days in Geneva, visited the Swiss National Museum that had a great collection of primitive bicycles, rode along Lake Geneva, and listened to Swiss yodeling and Alpine Horn.



This tour the route maps were only on a GPS, and there were a few challenges. One of which it was my first time using the Garmin 800 for navigation. We would have a route talk with a few things mentioned and then out on our bikes with no idea where we were going, other than follow the purple line on your GPS. By about the 3rd day most of the challenges of getting the routes loaded were not a problem. Our first long ride was on Sunday when we rode a bus into France, and were dropped off to then ride 70 miles to Tournus (20 miles upriver from Macon) with a 3 mile 6% grade climb along the way. We were so glad and excited to see the ship, the Amadeus Symphony. BTW – everyone in the region was on holiday, so getting water and food en route was challenging.



During the night the ship arrived at Chalon-sur-Saone, from there, we rode to Beaune along some very peaceful canals, and through some beautiful vineyards in the Burgundy region. Had a great tour of the winery and the medieval Hospice du Beaune, and then took a shorter route back to Macon to board the ship.

The next day, we awoke in Macon and from there rode into the hills in the Beaujolais region along the Pouilly Fuisse vineyards to Julienas, it was a beautiful route and some steep 10% grades. We went to a chocolate factory and the Cave de Tain winery before heading back to the ship. During the afternoon we had a nice 30 mile ride passing the ship, and ending at Auberge du Pont de Collonges.



On Wed, we rode up to a stone village (stonework houses on a steep mountain side) near the river, and then we had a very leisurely flat 30 mile ride along the Rhone.



Well, Thursday the ship was 12 miles upriver from Avignon, and this was our big day to attack the summit of Mont Ventoux. It was a beautiful sunny day and wonderful weather for the climb. We started out in a steady pace knowing what was to come. We were feeling good until we got into the forest, we thought it would never end, and there were some short sections of 12-14%, but the average through the forest was 10% grade, whew we only stopped once for a 'natural' break and to briefly recover, then it was back on the bike and onward. We thought we would never get to Chalet Renard, but when we finally climbed out of the forest and saw the Chalet, what a welcome sight it was. What a grueling climb, and we still had about 5 miles left to the top. There were bikes everywhere; it was like everyone came out to climb Mont Ventoux that day. We spent 20 minutes or so shopping for jerseys and taking in the atmosphere. Then it was back on the bike for the summit. The grade leaving Chalet Renard looked steep, but was actually only 5-7% to the top. We stopped and paid our respects to the Tommy Nelson memorial, and finally reached the top. It was so wonderful to see the other tandem teams there. It took us over 3 hours to reach the summit, how's that for a ride in the park. After mingling with the street vendors and the celebratory group photo, we decided it was time to head down the other side. Love those down hills.... We are soooo glad we have a drum brake. We rode no brakes until the sharp curves, and then it was full brakes. I should mention, this is one of the times the Garmin really comes in handy; you can see when the sharp curves are coming and prepare for it. We also had 1 or 2 teams in tow going down, and we had great signals (our front brake squealed like a pig, and they could see Kelly engaging the drag brake from her bar end brake lever. When we finally reached back to the Rhone, the ship was at Avignon, and we could see Mont Ventoux, the Beast of Provence, in the distance, and it was hard to imagine we had ridden so far that day (about 65 miles).



Next day we took a bus into the hills and rode to the Luberon villages and the Lavender museum and distillery. Our favorite villages were La Coste and Menerbes. Roussillon had a 12% climb into the village

and it was crowded with tourists. After the Lavender museum, we had a bus ride back to the ship was now in Arles. Upon arrival in Arles, in our bike clothes, we went straight to an ancient Roman coliseum to see the Bull Games, originated in the 1400's, and the current format of the games date back to the 1800's. (Camargue Bull Game <http://www.tourisme.ville-arles.fr/us/a7/a7b.htm>). We witnessed what looked more like French gymnasts as they leap over a wall and grab onto a fence when running from the bulls.



On Saturday, we rode to St Remy and enjoyed the lovely outdoor market, then went to the Institution where Van Gough was treated and painted 80 of his famous works. Adjacent to the museum were the ancient ruins of Glanum, an ancient Roman regional capital dating to 100 B.C. From there we rode back via Les Baux, a massive castle village cut from white stone, and this is where bauxite was originally mined (this is the ore from which aluminum is made). We also toured an olive oil co-op and mill where tasted different local olive oils.



Sunday was a flat route to the Camargue where there are marshes and wild horses.

The entire tour was great and it was wonderful to have one room for the entire 8 days. Here's an interesting tidbit - Santana had organized with the ship to do our laundry for the entire week for \$99 per room, and the ship's laundry room and attendant was overwhelmed. Then they had the answer, to do the laundry off of the ship and bring it back, sounded great!!! Then when it came back, it was all in one big bag.... Needless to say, they cancelled the laundry service for the rest of the week. Everyone's one order of clean laundry was put out on display for them to collect, underwear, bras and all. Ha Ha!! The Ship's staff was extremely polite, and provided exceptional service. We would definitely recommend this tour, it was wonderful.





Loran and Kelly Wilson

6th Annual Braille Ride

Saturday, November 5, 2011 at 8:30 am - Start/finish at Oak Ridge Baptist Church-Oak Ridge North, Texas

16-18 mile multi-sensory event route in Oak Ridge North

<http://www.orbchurch.org/directions>

Registration fee is \$25 rider. \$40 family fee (2-4 members) No fee for sight impaired stokers.

Forms can be emailed to Marcia@houseoftandems.com or Faxed to 281-362-0810

**All proceeds will go to The National Camps for Blind Children, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. The camps which began in 1967 have served as a place to allow blind children to discover undeveloped potential, increase self-confidence and improve physical vigor.*

If you are not familiar with the event, here's our story:

House of Tandems and Team HOTT Wheels have been joining forces with *National Camps for Blind Children and Christian Record Services for several years, bringing about this one-of-a-kind camp. The Blind Bikers across Texas program offers the opportunity for blind children and young adults to experience the joy of riding a bike. In this unique tandem bike ride the blind stoker is piloted by an experienced tandem captain and joined by their very own team of solo or sighted tandem guides.

An invitation is attached that outlines the Braille Ride and the details pertaining to the ride. We will be limiting participation this year to 30 tandem teams. We are asking *you* to join us in this exciting and unusual adventure. We are certain you will be rewarded above and beyond your imagination by spending a few hours with these courageous individuals. The ride will take place in Oak Ridge North, Texas. This community is located off of I-45 North just north of the Hardy Toll Road and east of The Woodlands Mall. Oak Ridge Baptist Church will once again be our start/finish site.

If you are aware of a child/young adult that is sight impaired and you think they may like to participate please let me know. We will contact them with the information.

We encourage you to create your own Tandem Team. We are working with local agencies to provide your team with a blind stoker. You don't have to be a tandem captain to participate in the ride. Single riders are encouraged to participate in this special ride. Call your family or

friends and build your team, give it a name, be creative. This will mean so much to these young people. We do ask that team's size be kept to a maximum of 6 people, including both tandem riders. If you know of someone that wants to be involved but is not riding, we need several volunteers to produce this event. Please have them contact us; we would greatly appreciate their help.

We are also searching for corporate or organizational sponsorship and in-kind donations. If you know someone or a company that we may contact, please let us know. We will be happy to explain the purpose of this ride to the appropriate people. Volunteers are also needed to help facilitate the event.

Please call or drop me an email if you have any question. This is another opportunity for cyclists to give back to our community in a unique way. We would be delighted to have you join us and look forward to seeing you soon!

Thank you,

Marcia Becker

713-962-1417

www.houseoftandems.com