
HOUSTON AREA TANDEM SOCIETY HATS

JUNE 2011 NEWLETTER

Summer Riverhaven Ride

After many years of hosting the Summer Riverhaven Ride, Team Mahoney is proposing something different! How about a ride optional Play day! Mark your calendars now for Saturday July 23, 2011, for a fun day in the country...horseshoes, croquet, floating in the river, boat rides, chillin' and grillin'...and if you're determined to ride, maps will be provided. More details to follow.

2011 Moonlight Classic

For those of you who want to beat the heat and sun, the HPD is sponsoring the 2011 Moonlight Classic on Friday June 10th, 2011. The Family start is at 8:30 PM and advanced riders start at 9:30 PM. The ride is a 5 mile loop of Memorial Drive. You can take as many loops as you can fit into a two-hour period. Check local bicycle shops for more info.

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Top Hats

In Town Ride and Lunch

June 12th, 2011 - 9 AM

Location and route to be determined

With hot weather being here and us new to being the Top Hats, we would like to do an in town ride in June. With school out, summer starting and people on vacations, we are not sure how many people would be available. If anyone has suggestions for a starting place and routes, please let us know.

Following the ride, anyone interested could get together for lunch and discuss HAT's business: membership, rides, funds, jerseys, newsletter, etc. Neither Janet nor I have HATS jerseys, only the wind vests we purchased some number of years ago.

Santana – Chattanooga Rally Review

Thanks Hugh for the ride review. The Lookout Mountain area is a great location for a ride with wonderful views.



NEXT RIDE – JUNE 12TH

The next scheduled ride is June 12th in Houston, TX from the Memorial Park? at 9:00 AM. Contact Janet and Stephen Bain at bainsj@ATL.net if you have suggestions for a start location and route.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 10TH – 2011 MOONLIGHT CLASSIC

JUNE 12TH - IN TOWN RIDE: STEPHEN AND JANET BAIN

JULY 23RD - RIVERHAVEN GET TOGETHER (RIDE OPTIONAL) MIKE AND SUSAN MAHONEY

AUGUST – OPEN

SEPTEMBER 16 – 18TH - TROLS GREAT ADVENTURE

OCTOBER- BRENHAM: OKTOBERFEST: MOORMANS

FREDERICKSBURG: OKTOBERFEST: REEVES

NOVEMBER- OPEN

DECEMBER- COLVIN/JOHNSON - CHRISTMAS LIGHTS RIDE

DECEMBER 18TH – 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.

Friday May 06, 2011 Lookout Mountain: The Delta Queen has a rich history as a steam propelled riverboat, but because of its wooden superstructure, the safety at sea act prevents it from sailing on our waterways; it sits today on the Tennessee River at the foot of the Market Street Bridge. It is maintained and seaworthy, but it's a little lacking to compete as a hotel...the rooms in a Holiday Inn or Hampton Inn are much more comfortable even if they don't have unique qualities of a 1924 riverboat. The morning began at 7:00 with a full breakfast buffet on



board. Bill started his route talk with some history of the battle for Lookout Mountain and then explained the sights we would see on the route including the inclined railroad, Point Park, The Battles of Chattanooga, tornado ravaged areas and Ruby Falls. We rolled out at 8:30 and arrived a few minutes later at the parking lot for the Inclined Railroad. We had the option to ride the 8% grade uphill to the top or take the funicular and have our bike delivered at the top. Several teams chose to challenge the hill, but the majority (including us) was happy to ride the steepest rail ride in the world. At the top we had time to visit the observation deck before riding on to Point Park and the presentation of the Battles of Chattanooga. After the movie, we rode into Georgia through some of the areas hit by the tornadoes of the previous week. The damage was extensive and selective...it's hard to imagine how one house can be so seriously damaged while the next door neighbor is visually untouched. Our loop through Georgia ended at the Café on the Corner for lunch...our group challenged the capacity of the restaurant, but we enjoyed the lunch in spite of the sluggish service. After lunch we coasted down Lookout Mountain to Ruby Falls. This is a cave with a waterfall...a real tourist attraction...it was an interesting sight but somewhat overblown with artificial colored lighting and mood music designed to enhance the natural wonder of a 140 foot waterfall 260 feet underground. From Ruby Falls we had 5 miles to finish the day's 38 mile ride at the Delta Queen. The evening buffet on the riverboat began at 7:00 in the New Orleans Room; it offered an interesting selection but nothing remarkable. The evening entertainment included Mark playing dinner music and later joined with Tootsie and Brendie to perform their interpretation of Janis Joplin styled music selections. We stayed for a couple of numbers, but chose to exit before the end of the concert.

Saturday May 07, 2011 Chickamauga Battlefield

National Park: Our second morning on the Delta Queen was similar to the first, but the selection of the breakfast buffet had been changed with all new selections. Bill's route talk explained the two routes to the visitors' center at the Chickamauga National Park...one over Nob Hill and Missionary Ridge or the lower route along the base of the ridge. We chose the high road along the ridge...we had a short 7% climb to the top of the ridge, but the ride along the ridge was worth the effort. It seemed that every house had a



battlefield marker and civil war artillery...the entire ride passed through the site of the decisive civil war battle that opened the gateway to the South for the Northern aggression. We descended off the ridge

into the national park where we saw a 30 minute film about the Battle of Chattanooga. We visited the weapons museum and then listened to a ranger talk about the civil war battles. Next we had time to choose our route through the park to see the monuments and read the place placards. We exited the park and headed to the lunch stop at the Lee and Gordon's Mill; here we enjoyed a barbecue buffet featuring excellent ribs with great sides and banana pudding for dessert. The afternoon ride took us through the town of Chickamauga where the main street was closed for a festival. This



provided an interesting change of pace as we walked our bikes through the town while observing all the carnival booths which lined the three blocks of the main street. Back on the bike we continued through the Georgia country side enjoying the hills, turns and scenery as we made our way back to Chattanooga. At lunch we arranged with four other teams to meet at the Terminal Brewery which was right on the

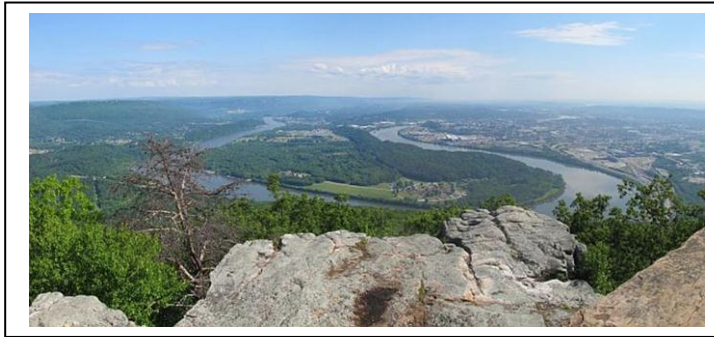
route at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo. We arrived at the brewpub (located in the old railroad terminal hotel) and managed to squeeze around a bar table to sample several of their beers. We tried the IPA...it had nice hops but the tannin was a little objectionable...probably due to a low pH in the mash water. We stayed for an hour discussing the rides and scheming to plan a chance to ride together again in another location. We paid our tab and continued the route through a deserted downtown Chattanooga and once



more across the Walker Street bridge to Coolidge Park and our floating hotel. Saturday night was open on the schedule...while at the brewery we planned to meeting for dinner at a local restaurant. Our first choice, Tony's Pasta was packed with a 2 hour wait for a table, but just across the parking lot was the Back Inn which could seat us almost immediately. This

turned out to be a lucky second choice with a good menu and good service...we enjoyed the food and conversation around a large table in a private dining room. Following dinner we walked back across the Tennessee River to a pub for one last beer. Soon we were feeling the effects of a great meal and a 44 miles bike ride and left the bar.

Sunday May 08, 2011 Moccasin Bend: The breakfast for Mother's Day was a continental buffet served in the main salon. Bill gave a short route talk explaining what we would see on the North Shore inside



the peninsula created by Moccasin Bend. The ride was only 15 miles and covered some of the scenic lanes and ridges that had been the site of some of the first skirmishes of the battle for control of Chattanooga. There was one nice vista, but otherwise the ride was just a pleasant one hour cruise through some low traffic neighborhoods. Back at the

Delta Queen, we loaded the bike and then had plenty of time to shower, change and check out before the Mother's Day Brunch in the New Orleans room. The buffet was extensive and fit for the occasion...the most remarkable (and popular) item was the Death by Chocolate cake...the reviews were good but I enjoyed the ice cream instead. As the brunch wound down to its conclusion, Bill gave a preview of the upcoming Santana rallies and tours. We have not yet chosen what we'll do for the next tour, but we're sure there will be another in our future. We wished everyone well and departed for home at 1:00. We had decided to break the trip into two equal distances...Shreveport happened to be the halfway point where we stopped for the evening. The following day we drove the final 8 hours to Fredericksburg with a stop at the Timpson lake house to pick up some items we needed to return home.