

Frequently Asked Questions

By Linda and Kevin Vinson

For those of you that weren't able to join us, we had a great turnout for the new members ride and picnic at White Rock Lake. We did several loops around the lake and then feasted on hot dogs and goodies provided by the members. Roane Logon, DATES Coordinator, shared some information about the club and activities, but I thought it would be a good idea to create a "Frequently Asked Questions" guide to share more information about DATES.

1. What is DATES?

The Dallas Area Tandem Enthusiasts are a recreational club for riders of tandem bicycles that enjoy socializing with the goal of having fun!

2. How many members does DATES have?

We currently have 72 tandem teams.

3. Who organizes the club rides?

Rides are "hosted" by DATES members on a volunteer basis.

4. How often are club rides held?

The ride coordinators keep track of the ride schedule to ensure we don't have conflicting events. We strive to offer a minimum of one ride per month, but the frequency depends on the club members volunteering to host a ride.

5. What if I want to host a ride?

Contact the ride coordinators to schedule a date and location. The ride leaders are responsible for selecting a route(s) that is safe for a group of tandem cyclists and providing maps and/or queue sheets for navigating the course. Multiple distance options are encouraged, but not required. Provide a brief write up of your ride to the web master and DATES-Line editor listing the date, time, location and brief description of your event. The ride coordinators can provide guidance and answer any additional questions about hosting a ride. For more details, see "Ride Leader Guidelines" at http://www.doubledates.com/uploads/documents/Ride_Leader_Guidelines.pdf.

6. What rides and events typically take place?

Several favorite club rides have become annual events:

- New Years Day Ride
- DATES Annual Meeting and Dinner
- 4th of July Ride
- Stoker Appreciation Ride

- Halloween Overnight Ride
- Christmas Lights Ride

7. Where can I find previously used cycling routes to plan a DATES ride?

The DATES website has a route library containing routes and maps at:

http://www.doubledates.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=100:route-maps-a-descriptions&catid=37:membership&Itemid=60

8. Where can I find more information about DATES?

The DATES website contains information about the club:

www.doubledates.com

DATES-Line is the monthly electronic newsletter published by and for DATES members. An email is sent out to the DATES members when a new issue of the newsletter is published to the website:

http://www.doubledates.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&id=6&Itemid=61

9. I'm not receiving an email that the newsletter is available online. Who do I contact?

Contact Kevin Vinson at double_dates@sbcglobal.net

10. Who contributes the articles to DATES-Line?

Any DATES member can submit an article to the newsletter about a recent DATES event, tandem trip or tandem cycling in general.

11. Where can I find information about tandem cycling?

There are numerous links posted on the "Cycling General Interest" page on the DATES website:

http://www.doubledates.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=64:cycling-general-interest-sites&catid=47:cycling-general-interest-sites&Itemid=63

12. Who are the club officers?

- DATES Coordinators: Roane and Juanita Logan
- DATES-Line Editors: Alan and Renee Kailer
- Ride Coordinators: Chuck and Kris Carlson
- Membership Coordinators: Kevin and Linda Vinson
- Treasurers: John McManus and Brenda Cole
- Secretaries: Tom and Brenda Shaddox
- Web Site: Kevin Vinson

13. How are the club officers selected?

The officer positions are strictly voluntary and the term is one year. Officers may continue in their current position as long as they would like, however, a nominating committee is formed each year in December/January to confirm which officers plan to continue in their role and nominate/suggest new members to fill officer positions being vacated.

14. How do I contact an officer?

Contact information can be found on the back page of the DATES-Line newsletter or on the website at:

http://www.doubledates.com/index.php?option=com_contact&view=category&catid=12&Itemid=62

15. Where can I find contact information for the DATES members?

The "DATES Active Members" list is posted on the DATES Information page on the website at:

http://www.doubledates.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=37&Itemid=60

16. How do I renew my membership in the club?

Membership dues are payable annually in February. The DATES Membership Renewal form is posted on the DATES website at:

http://www.doubledates.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=37&Itemid=60

17. What is a "captain"?

The front rider on the tandem.

18. What is a "stoker"?

The rear rider on the tandem.

19. My stoker or captain is not available; can I still come out and ride with DATES?

We realize there are times when both members of a tandem team are not available or the tandem may be temporarily out of commission. We encourage participation on singles bikes during these times.

20. I still have questions, who can I send them to?

Contact any of the DATES officers or email Linda Vinson at vinsonlj@sbcglobal.net