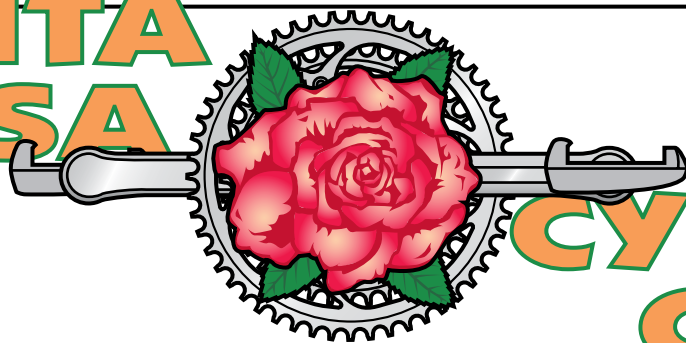


# SANTA ROSA



# CYCLING CLUB

## JULY 2011 NEWSLETTER

### Cool weather, new faces, and complicated timing on 2011 Terrible Two

The 2011 edition of the Santa Rosa Cycling Club's Terrible Two double century was held on Saturday, June 18. First, the raw numbers: 248 entrants were registered, including three tandems, for a total of 251 riders. (Tandems count as one entry and one place in the results.) There were only ten no-shows at the start, so 241 riders (238 entrants) hit the road at 5:30 AM, rolling off in one big peloton, heading out of Sebastopol along High School Road. One long day later, 178 entrants had crossed the finish line, 158 of them before the traditional 10:00 PM cut-off. (Riders finishing between 10:00 and 11:00 earn California Triple Crown credit but do not receive a free "I DID IT!" t-shirt.)

That means 66% of the starters finished by ten. This is considerably better than some of the bad (hot) years, where finishing rates plummet as temperatures soar. But it is also a good bit lower than the past two good (cooler) years, where the finishing rates were 80% and 72%. Riders and support staff both agree that the conditions seemed favorable or at any rate neutral. The official high on the day was 85°, but most of the time it felt cooler than that, even occasionally quite chilly. (In the dodging-the-bullet department, we can report that it was considerably hotter on Sunday: well up into the high 90's.) Winds were not especially helpful—no big push down the coast—but nor were they brutally bad. A few DNF's or lengthy delays are the result of what appeared to be an above-average number of mechanicals: derailleur ripped off bikes, brake calipers breaking off, cables snapping, rims bents... We don't have any hard facts to say for sure that there were more broken bikes than usual, but it seemed that way.

At the front of the field, new faces emerged to grab the glory. Adam Bickett of San Diego and Jim Atkinson of San Jose finished together in a time of 11:27. Another TT newbie, Brian Eckert, was third, four minutes back. Bickett was first at the Geysers and first out of the lunch stop, but Atkinson stormed back from an early flat and passed Bickett at the first water stop on Skaggs, then held a two-minute lead through the Rancheria and Fort Ross stops. Bickett clawed his way back up to Atkinson on the last climbs at the top of Fort Ross, and from there on they agreed to work together to the finish. Marc Moons, who also was delayed with a flat, finished fourth.

On the women's side, it was a battle between two SRCC members. Susan Forsman led out of lunch, but Megan Arnold caught her midway along Skaggs, and shortly after the pass, Forsman had a

flat. Arnold eventually rolled into the finish in a time of 14:06, and Forsman in 14:44. After finishing first at Devil Mountain as well, Arnold has built up a substantial lead in the CTC Stage Race.

Bickett's and Atkinson's time of 11:27 is the slowest fastest time in the event since 1999 (excluding the long-course year of 2005). This suggests that there was something about the day that made the ride a little harder than the weather and other conditions would have indicated. But this time is just a few minutes slower than some other recent times, so maybe it doesn't mean a thing. And there were other riders back through the field who had their best times ever. All in all, it was a fairly typical "Two."

There was a special wrinkle in the timing this year that we hope we will never have to repeat. Two construction zones in the first half of the ride caused delays of up to five minutes each for the riders, depending on when they arrived at the stoppages. Course marshals at each site logged the riders in and out, and the time lost was subtracted from their final elapsed times at the finish. The organizers felt this was the fairest way to even out the inherently unfair scenario of getting caught at the long red lights while others, just a few seconds ahead, got to roll on up the road. But it created a different sort of problem at the finish: three or four riders, arriving together, might have felt that they had finished as a team, bonded together by their suffering and moral support for one another over the long, late miles; but after their assorted time deductions were imposed, they might now appear in the results to have finished a few minutes apart. It's not a perfect solution and not one we especially like, but we're going to have to live with it.

Other items of note: the Patrick Seely-Marlies Radtke tandem was the first of two to finish in a time of 15:50. Frank Clark, age 17, was the youngest finisher and one of the youngest ever. Manoucher Brahman was the oldest at 65. There were two riders under 20 and a handful over 60.

There was only one crash of any significance, but it was a bad one. Karen Thompson—second in the 2010 Stage Race—went down hard on the Trinity-Dry Creek descent and had multiple injuries. She was airlifted to a hospital in the East Bay, where, at press time, she was in intensive care. She is awake and responsive and worrying about her bike and missing work, etc. Karen is an SRCC member and is active in the world of doubles and brevets. We wish her a full and speedy recovery.

For full results, visit the SRCC TT [web page](#).