

## Chuck Bramwell

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**From:** Scott Halversen <syh\_cpa@pacbell.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 19, 2015 11:48 AM  
**To:** Chuck Bramwell (cbrams@caltriplecrown.com)  
**Subject:** 2015 Knoxville Double Century Cancelled -> Love Lake County Century charity ride announced

To all Knoxville 2015 registered riders and volunteers:

I'm sure most of you know that on Saturday September 12th at 1:24 PM, the "Valley" fire started in the town of Loch Lomond. This fire grew at an almost unprecedented rate and very quickly covered over 60,000 acres. As of this morning at 8:00 AM, it had stretched to 73,700 acres and still was only 40% contained. To date over 585 homes and 100's of other structures have been destroyed. I believe that somewhat miraculously there are only three known fatalities, although of course even one is too many. To put the size of the fire in perspective, 73,700 acres is roughly equivalent to 115 square miles. Currently, approximately 30 miles of our normal course is within the fire zone. In addition, there were two other large fires, the "Rocky" and "Jerusalem", in mid-August that together burned almost another 95,000 acres, and through which roughly 25 miles of our course passes. The devastation is truly unbelievable. The current fire approached Middletown so quickly that many could only run for their lives and took nothing with them but the clothes on their back. Entire city blocks were completely decimated. Anyone that has ridden either the Davis Double or the Knoxville Double would know these areas well, as only a cyclist can. My guess is that much would be completely unrecognizable at this point.

All week we have been watching these events unfold. I have received countless emails from concerned riders and others. A big thanks to all who have been so supportive. I think many double riders have a very can-do attitude. Most would not be able to continue riding these events without it. I admit that my initial response, and that of many that contacted me, was to figure out how to "make this work". However, as time progressed it became very evident that that was exactly the wrong thing to do. We are therefore cancelling the double century.

Our hearts and minds turned to those who have lost so much; many have lost virtually everything -- a lifetime gone in a moment. Was there something we could do to give back to this place that has such wonderful memories within us? Our next thought was to see if we could arrange a work-party to go up there for the weekend and help. Aside from the fact that it is almost impossible to get there currently, we quickly came to the conclusion that at least at this time we would most likely be a hindrance and in the way rather than a help. The next thought was to convert our event into one where hopefully together we could raise a significant amount of money to contribute to the relief fund. And thus, the Love Lake County Century was born. Our hope and prayer is that you will come and bring others with you as well. I believe that together we can make a difference.

What follows are words that our fearless California Triple Crown leader, Chuck Bramwell, put down regarding the Love Lake County Century.

**"We all have to make difficult decisions in life. Some are good. Some are better. Some are BEST. We HIGHLY encourage you to ride the Love Lake County Century on 9/26/15. We believe it is the BEST decision you can make for your ride plans on that day.**

**You will then have the satisfaction of not only riding a good part of the beautiful Knoxville Fall Classic course but more importantly you'll be helping the fire victims who have lost so much in Cobb Mountain, Loch Lomond, Middletown and the surrounding areas. We also need your support at the California Triple Crown Awards Dinner that will follow the Century on 9/26 to recognize the Stage Race Winners, the Hall of Fame Inductees, the 100 Double Century Inductees, and the 150 Double Century Inductees.**

**The California Triple Crown has considered making an exception and giving California Triple Crown credit for the Finishers of the Love Lake County Century. Never before has a fire destroyed the core 50 Miles of not just one Double Century but also another Double Century in the California Triple**

Crown series. Never before has a CTC Organizer organized a shortened course to raise funds for the victims of such a horrible disaster and we HIGHLY applaud that.

The problem is that the California Triple Crown has always been about recognizing riders who complete 200 Miles in One Day. To make an exception, as much as we would like to do, would be precedent setting and could undermine the credibility of the California Triple Crown.

So we have decided that riders will not get California Triple Crown credit for completing the Love Lake County Century.

However, some things are more important than California Triple Crown Credit!! This is one of those times we need to reach out and help people who live in the core pieces of the Knoxville Fall Classic Double as well as the Davis Double.

The California Triple Crown will recognize the finishers of the Love Lake County Century by sending out an e-mail to the entire California Triple Crown E-mail List showcasing those riders who complete the Love Lake County Century. The finishers will also be recognized on the California Triple Crown Facebook page. [www.CalTripleCrown.com](http://www.CalTripleCrown.com) will recognize those Finishers on the Home Page and on the Schedule Page. We will HIGHLY applaud and recognize those riders who are reaching out to help the fire victims ... by simply riding their bikes!!

Please do the BEST thing and help the fire victims on 9/26/15."

Chuck Bramwell

I am so grateful to Chuck for his vision and leadership. To my knowledge, there is nothing in the world to compare with what we have in the California Triple Crown.

Perhaps not surprisingly, there have been countless questions raised about what we are trying to do and how to do it. I'm sure there will be many more between now and next Saturday, but wanted to share as many details as possible at this time. Here are many FAQ's. There will be more:

1. What is our primary goal? To make a significant contribution to the people of Lake County affected by the fire.
2. What course does the ride follow and how long is it? Starting at Pena Adobe Park in Vacaville, CA, we will initially follow the normal Knoxville double century course, with the exception that Oakville Cross Rd is currently closed due to a bridge reconstruction. As such we will U-Turn at rest stop #1 and head back to Silverado Trail where we will continue north. Upon reaching the junction of 128 and Silverado Trail, you will have a decision to make. If you choose the "Lowland" option, you will turn right on 128, follow 128 for 3.8 miles (this is the only part of the day not on the regular course) until you bear left at the junction with Chiles Pope Valley. Just 1.3 miles up on the left you will find Moore Creek Park, our lunch stop for the day. If you choose the "Highland" option, you will continue on the normal course up and over Howell Mountain and down into Pope Valley, at which point you will be back on the normal Knoxville course. In about 11 more miles you will find the lunch stop at Moore Creek Park on your right. I will add that we may decide to not even run the "Highland" course. There are some areas not too far north of there that are being affected by the fire and there could be a number of reasons for not going that way. The "Lowland" route is 90 miles and I would estimate at under 4,000 feet of climbing. The "Highland" is 110 miles and would likely be closer to 6,000 feet of climbing.
3. How many rest stops will there be? Three, all normal stops on our standard course. #1 is at mile 36.5 at the Napa River Ecological Reserve; #2 (Lunch) is at 67.4 - Highland / 48.0 - Lowland; #3 is at the old Pardehsa store location on the corner of Pleasant's Valley and 128 at mile 96.3 - Highland / 76.9 - Lowland.
4. What types of items will I find at the rest stops? This was a hard one. As Quackcyclists we normally strive to provide the ultimate in choice and quality at our rest stops. However, in an effort to simplify the execution of the ride and also attempt to preserve as much of the entry fee as possible for Lake County, we have decided to go with a very simplified approach. At rest stops #1 & #3 we are planning to have water, soda, energy bars, a limited amount of Hammer products, Gatorade, Jesse's potatoes, and perhaps a few other items. Lunch will likely be Subway sandwiches, chips, soda, water, and perhaps a few other things.

5. What hours is the course open? The course will open at 5:00 AM and close at 4:30 PM. This should be plenty of time for all to finish their desired course.

6. What about the CTC Awards "Breakfast"? This year it will be the CTC Awards "Dinner" starting at 5:00 PM on Saturday. We debated whether we should prepare our own food like we do for the breakfast as it is generally much less expensive. There were two major factors influencing our decision to go with our normal Knoxville caterer, Pietro's #1 of Vacaville. The first was that we knew that everyone would likely be very hungry by that point in the day. The second was that in the spirit of what we are doing Pietro's agreed to provide the food at a much-reduced cost from the regular price. I think most would agree that we can look forward to an excellent meal. All participants and volunteers are invited to attend the dinner. You can also invite friends and family, but please let me know so that we can have enough food. There would be an extra fee of \$12 per person to cover the cost for those not participating in the ride.

7. What about a T-Shirt? I really like to have mementos related to significant events in my life. My wife asks me occasionally, "How many jerseys does one person need?" (I'll let you answer that.) I believe and hope this will be one of those touchstone experiences, at least for me. Becky Berka, the fabulous Quack Jersey designer, has agreed to provide the artwork (which I just saw the first draft of a few minutes ago and it's awesome). The preliminary artwork can be seen at [T-Shirt Design \(graphic at top of form\)](#) at <http://www.quackcyclists.com/LoveLakeCountyCentury.cfm>. Our T-Shirt guy is giving us a good price, especially considering the short time-frame involved. We really wanted all participants that so desire to be able take away something tangible to remember this day by. The cost would be \$10 and you can indicate your size preference on the [Entry Form](#) at <https://www330.safesecureweb.com/quackcyclists/Admin/RiderEntry.cfm?strRide=KX>. Please sign up as early as possible as I need to order the shirts soon.

8. Can others sign up? How and when? Typically we close registration the Monday before the ride. We really want to have as many riders as can, come and thus are extending the deadline to Thursday at 6:00 PM. There is an online registration form available at [Love Lake County Century Registration](#) at <https://www330.safesecureweb.com/quackcyclists/Admin/RiderEntry.cfm?strRide=KX>. Those signing up through this method would need to pay the \$95 entry fee and sign a waiver when they check in.

9. What about staff? We currently have roughly 70 volunteers signed up, ready, and willing to help. With the simplified format and reduced distance, we actually probably need maybe a third of that number. I would encourage those that would like to, to sign up for and ride the public event. We obviously do need some volunteers so just let me know what your thoughts are and we'll work it out. We will likely have a staff ride on this same course either the last half of October or first half of November, but I don't know the date yet and of course the weather can be much more suspect as the year progresses.

10. What can you do? Tell your friends. Post on blogs and on Facebook. Get the word out. All things considered, we would probably have difficulty with the logistics with over 300 riders, but as of now there are under 120, so we certainly have room to grow the event and make even more of a difference.

11. What if I don't want to ride? Our official policy is no refunds or exchanges, however, given the circumstances, I am willing to make an exception. The situation is very emotional for many, myself included, and I would certainly desire to ease someone's burden if at all possible.

12. What else can I do to help? [www.lovelakecounty.org](http://www.lovelakecounty.org) seems to be an excellent resource of opportunities.

13. Where will the money go? As of now, we are planning on giving it to the [Redwood Credit Union](#) at <https://www.redwoodcu.org/about-rcu/news-announcements-specials/rockyfire> fire fund. It's hard to know with these types of things, but they have stated that 100% of the funds will go to help victims of the fires.

14. What do I need to do? Sign up now at [Love Lake County Century Registration](#) at <https://www330.safesecureweb.com/quackcyclists/Admin/RiderEntry.cfm?strRide=KX>. We will automatically roll your entry fee from your Knoxville entry. It should only take you 5 minutes! Plus you can indicate your shirt size (if you want one) and if you are bringing extra people to the dinner.

Sorry this email is so long! I wanted to get as much info into your hands as early as possible. There may be additional information. I will likely create a page on our website at [Quackcyclists](#) <http://www.quackcyclists.com/> for disseminating additional information as it becomes available. I sincerely hope that you are as excited about what we can do together as I am.

Sincerely,

Scott

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