

My First Death Ride

By Keith Smith

Rich made me promise to write up my experience doing my first Death Ride, so here goes ð

I did the ride as part of the [Tour Against Trafficking](#) which was created by members of the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin to raise awareness of and money (over \$51k so far) for anti-human trafficking efforts in the Central Valley. Each year since, some of the riders have gotten together to do the Death Ride to continue the effort. I was one of five to go this year, including the Bishop (the tall guy in the back).



Team Tour Against Trafficking: Keith is on the right.

Saturday morning, the team rolled through the starting point in darkness at 5 AM. On the advice of Dr. Paul, I tried to stay within myself, but I also knew I was doing well going up Monitor Pass. The sun was rising the whole way up; by the time it finally crested the mountain I was at the top of the pass and I had taken about 10 minutes off my previous time. The ride up the back of Monitor was also good, and I took almost 15 minutes off my previous ride up that side.

At the bottom of Monitor, I waited for my two teammates who were going to try for all five passes. The first rolled past in a few minutes. After about 35 minutes I gave up waiting for the second. I knew he was having trouble with his carbon rims, so I was a bit worried.

The ride up Ebbets Pass wasn't as enjoyable as it could have been as a result. Ebbets was also when I began spending more time at the rest stops sucking down fluid because of the heat. Memorably, somewhere after Wolf Creek, a large group of women in their Kentucky-Derby best were enjoying some morning cocktails while cheering us along. The backside of Ebbets (down and up) was uneventful but bumpy from the recent roadwork.

As I rode from Ebbets to the start of the Carson Pass climb, I passed our cars and saw my missing teammate, the Bishop. He had come off Monitor in an ambulance after crashing about 2/3 of the way down. He managed to escape with some minor road rash, a cut on his arm, and the general pain that comes from hitting the deck but thankfully no broken bones and no concussion.

Carson Pass was a long, hot grind. Toward the end, a cold wind came over the pass, making the last part tolerable (if not harder). When I hit the final check-in at 4:17 PM, I was a tired, tired puppy. I sat in the shade for a bit, enjoyed my celebratory frozen fruit bar, and then signed the poster before heading back down the mountain.

I crested the final hill to where we had parked and finished the ride at 5:30 PM. I

was one

of two team members to make it over all five passes. I had set a personal goal of 13 hours total for the ride and finished in 12.5 despite some extra, nervous waiting and needing to make longer, more frequent rest stops due to the heat. I had ridden the Death Ride and survived.

Now to try one of those double centuries I hear so many of you talking about ò



He Did It! Signing the Poster at the Finish

The Ride Zone

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The Ride Zone is emailed to all members of the Stockton Bicycle Club. Printed copies are available at local bike shops in and near Stockton. A membership application is on the back page of the printed version. All submissions to The Ride Zone must reach the editor by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Email to brumbyroad@peoplepc.com or call Rich Freggiaro at (209) 931-9143.

Members: Please be sure our membership chair has your valid email address or is notified that you wish to receive the printed version.

SBC Picnic at Lodi Lake

Our Annual Picnic is set for August 12 (Saturday) at the picnic area at Lodi Lake. We had to move because floods damaged our previous site. Our reserved picnic area is along the south side of the park, just over the berm from Turner Road

There will be 23 and 37 mile ride options starting at 8:30: Meet at the picnic area. Bear in mind that parking at Lodi Lake is \$5, but if you want to park outside and ride your bike in that is free.

To rsvp, send an e mail to rbwilliams72@gmail.com by Thursday, August 10. We need a count to prepare the picnic. Bring your own blanket and lawn chairs. We hope we get a nice turnout for a nice ride and delicious picnic lunch.



RIDE SCHEDULE – August 2017

Helmets required.

Rain or 'serious' threat of rain cancels. Follow Stockton Bicycle Club Facebook page for updates on ride status.



Rides may be amended and additional rides may be scheduled via the Stockton Bicycle Club Yahoo! Group. (details below).

A ride: 20+ mph, paceline riding, few if any regroup. **B** ride: 16-20 mph, experienced rider, regroup at major intersections, turns.

C ride: 12-15mph, regroup, no drop ride. MPH is based on a flat ride

For questions or to list a ride of your choice, please call or email Roberta Hoffman at nikehoffman@comcast.net or 763-2807

New Riders Note: There is a rest/refuel break about the middle of the ride. Unless otherwise stated, all rides are recreational in nature and intended for the enjoyment of all. **Terrain:** F=flat, R=rolling, H=Hilly, VH=very hilly

Date	Time	Miles/ Terrain	Start Location	Description	Leader
Tue	8:00	34-38 R/H	Valley Springs 1900 Vista Del Lago	Meet at Common Grounds' terrace and decide route. There will not be an extended refueling break. Lunch on return? Beat the Heat!	
Wed A-ride	5:30 PM	25 F	Stockton Bear Creek HS	W.A.R. Route map is posted on www.Stocktonbikeclub.org 18-22 mph	Rafael Posadas
Wed B-ride	6:00 PM	20-25 F	Lodi Lower Sac and Turner Rd. (NE)	W.E.B. - Wednesday Evening B ride 16-20 mph, experienced riders	Ken Meyers 747-5748
Thu	8:00	35-45 R/H	Wallace Tri-Lakes Church 8021 Wards Ave.	Show and go	
Sat 5	8:00	34,48 VH	Wallace Tri-Lakes Church	34: BV, Stoney, Pardee Dam Rd., Paloma, V.S. 48: Stoney, break in Martell, Stoney, Pardee, Campo (3900')	
Sun 6	8:00	40-45 F	Clements Fire Station	Mackville, Peltier, Tully, Baker - Join us at the Fruit Bowl	
Sat 12	8:30	23,37	Lodi Lodi Lake Park 1101 Turner Rd.	Annual Stockton Bike Club BBQ Lodi Lake Lunch after the ride around 11:30 Short route, Long Route https://ridewithgps.com/routes/23612229 https://ridewithgps.com/routes/23560186	Chuck Millier
Sun 13	8:00	34/42 F/R	Linden Orlando's Market	34:FloodRd.,EscalonBellota,Shelton, Wimer,Hwy26,Shelton and back(726') 42: Milton Rd to Jenny Lind for pancake breakfast at Odd Fellows Hall	
Sat 19	7:45-B 8:00A	42 H	Ione Howard Park.	Michigan Bar, Carbondale, Forest Home, Old Sac, break Plymouth, return Irish Hill (2055')	
Sun 20	8:00	32-38	Clements Fire Station	Omelette Ride – No extended break ride through vineyards and orchards. Benefit Omelette breakfast, \$8, at Clement's School on return.	..
Sat 26	7:45-B 8:00- A	45/56 H/VH	Ione Howard Park	45: Volcano (3400') 56: PG, Tabeau, Jackson Gate, SC(4000)	
Sun 27	8:00	38-42 F	Clements Fire Station	Mackville, 88, Atkins, Brandt, Tully, East on Eight Mile, Baker – Break at the Fruit Bowl.	

For changes/additions to the ride schedule, participate in online discussions or for other club news, join our Yahoo!

Group at groups.yahoo.com/group/Stockton_Bicycle_Club or send an e mail to [Stockton Bicycle Club-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:Stockton_Bicycle_Club_subscribe@yahoo.com). Also, see our Stockton Bicycle Club Facebook page for ride changes, and comments.