




# This is your club....This is your newsletter....Feel free to contribute....

## 2007 Club Officers

President	Jay Brosnan	<a href="mailto:jbroshnan@earthlink.net">jbroshnan@earthlink.net</a>	704 545-9774
Vice President	Bill Murphy	<a href="mailto:wam-murphy@carolina.rr.com">wam-murphy@carolina.rr.com</a>	704-533-4799
Ride Coordinator	John Talani	<a href="mailto:jtalani@carolina.rr.com">jtalani@carolina.rr.com</a>	704-504-1875
Newsletter Editor & Sec./Treas.	Susanna Sisk	<a href="mailto:NewsieSuzieSisk@carolina.rr.com">NewsieSuzieSisk@carolina.rr.com</a>	704-301-5655

<b>INCOME</b> (balance forward from 10/24/07)	 <b>\$769.30</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$769.30</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$769.30</b>

Articles for the Jan newsletter are due on Dec 20 to [NewsieSuzieSisk@carolina.rr.com](mailto:NewsieSuzieSisk@carolina.rr.com)

For the full breakout of income/expenses go to:  
<http://www.tailwindtandemclub.com/Income2005.htm>

## 2007 Members in good standing as of 11/20/07

- Membership 07 - Jay/Mary Brosnan
- Membership 07 - Roy Peche/Nancy Dartnall
- Membership 07 - Charlie/Resa Blackmon
- Membership 07 - Ed/Bentha Johnson
- Membership 07 - Bill/Joyce Murphy
- Membership 07 - Dan Alion & Family
- Membership 07 - Ron/Marcia Blaine
- Membership 07 - Hank/Gail Cook
- Membership 07 - Talani/Sisk
- Membership 07 - Dan/Dolores Coughlin



## Reindeer Romp Ride

- Date: Saturday, December 8, 2007
- Location: Arysley Town Village, Hwy 49 at YMCA Steele Creek Branch, parking lot (2135 Arysley Town Blvd.)
- Time: 9:00 AM
- Miles: 20 and 40 mile options
- Cost: \$1.00 per rider (Thank you gift to the first 25 riders)
- Contact: John Talani, 704-504-1875 [jtalani@carolina.rr.com](mailto:jtalani@carolina.rr.com)  
Susanna Sisk 704-301-5655 [newsiesuziesisk@carolina.rr.com](mailto:newsiesuziesisk@carolina.rr.com)



Come join Team TASK from the TailWind Tandem Club for their year-end ride. A big thank you to all for keeping us safe on the road while group riding. This is open to all bicycle friends and will include a few tandems for your final year-end drafting.

Cue sheet provided; go at your own pace. Helmets are mandatory. After the ride, join the group in a holiday munch-fest. If in doubt of weather, check [www.tailwindtandemclub.com](http://www.tailwindtandemclub.com) morning of the ride for any change.

John **T**Alani and Susanna **S**iSK, Team **T**ASK, TailWind Tandem Club

## Two Weeks, Three Countries, Four Regions

by Bill Clay & Anna Rivola-Clay

Anna and I took a couple weeks this October for a tandem tour of Alsace. *Where?* You remember from high school. Alsace-Lorraine. The northeastern corner of France. Swapped between Germany and France after each war like a poker chip. The Maginot Line. etc.

Like most of our previous trips, this was a self-catered tour. Anyone familiar with Alsace thinks immediately of Strasbourg, the regional capital and seat of the European Parliament. But even though Alsace is France's smallest administrative region, with only two departments, it still seemed to us to have four quite distinct regions, each with its own ambience.

- Rhine valley plain
- wine-growing foothills
- Vosges mountains
- Sundgau's low undulating hills

### Switzerland in four hours

St. Louis was our base for the first night. It is a close-in suburb north of Basel right on the border with Switzerland – France, Germany, and Switzerland meet where the Basel city limits cross the Rhine. St. Louis is home to Basel's airport, which is entirely on French soil (though half of the airport terminal is officially Swiss territory)

We arrived at the hotel a bit before noon on a cool but sunny Saturday, Sept. 29, left our bags at the hotel and hustled by bus to the center of Basel for lunch, then to the tourist office for their daily 2:30 walking tour. This turned out to be the only time we had for Basel, and our guide gave us a



much better tour of the historical center than we'd have seen on our own.

Like every other city on this trip, we saw lots of folks of all

ages and classes using bicycles for practical everyday transportation.

Basel is full of historic buildings, eclectic art museums, and theaters. It merits at least a weekend, if not a week, but Saturday afternoon was all we could spare for it. We still had to assemble our S&S-coupled tandem for the first leg of our trip on Sunday!

### The Rhine valley plain

We started our tour in earnest on Sunday, Oct. 30. The region has a number of canals of varying vintages, mostly running parallel to the Rhine. Some of them have cycle routes along the old tow paths; some paved, some surfaced in fine, well-packed gravel. We headed north along a canal on the Bike Path of the Planets: it stretches for a mile or two, with markers showing the relative positions of the planets from the sun, its starting point.

Outside Niffer began what we came to know as the typical Alsatian Rhine plain: lots of corn fields punctuated by small towns and an occasional industrial plant. There were virtually no isolated houses in the countryside. Everyone lives in towns or villages, which are only 3-5 miles apart.

Minor roads took us north a mile or two west of the Rhine to the village of Ottmarsheim where there was

a lovely little octagonal church sheltering the remains of the local Saint Ottmar and



consecrated by the Pope in 1055.

We crossed the Rhine and continued on the bike path along its right bank. We soon encountered a large rally of horse-drawn carriages. Some attractive modern carriages sported cast alloy wheelsets that might make some of TWTC's weight-weenie members jealous. Our Sunday destination was Freiburg, known as Germany's greenest city, where 30% of local trips are by

bicycle. Bill wanted to look at some of the well-designed commuting bikes produced here and we both wanted to see the lovely old city center with its fine old Romaneque/early Gothic Munster. But Freiburg is off the plain, about 15 miles west of the Rhine, just inside the edge of the very hilly Black Forest.

A well-marked cycle route to Freiburg gave us our first taste of riding in wine country. The vineyards started with the first hills. Mile after mile of perfectly-tended trellised vines with small paved lanes running through them, perfect for pleasant cycling. The hills were not too strenuous - about like riding in Charlotte -- and you could stop and taste the grapes for a break. The locals were out in full force riding, running, and walking on this lovely Sunday afternoon.

We found our way to our Freiburg hotel in time for a couple hours' ramble to see the sights, chief among them the impressive and well-preserved Munster church. Freiburg University's campus is right in the old town, making it a lively combination of modern young people and fashionable stores populating a 15th- to 18th-century urban landscape.

### Back to Alsace

Monday morning Bill went take care of his commuting bike lust and Anna got an in-depth look at Freiburg's historic sites. We headed back toward Alsace, starting on a bike path that follows the babbling Dreisam river down from the Black Forest. There was one obstacle before we could reach the Rhine plain: a steep, high ridge covered with vineyards. We pedaled up to enjoy the view.



We found a good view – and also ripe walnuts. We collected enough for snacks that lasted a couple of days.

We zoomed down the other side of the ridge, through the village at its foot, and as we entered the next town, Anna saw a sign advertising "Neuer Suesser" (German new wine) in front of a restaurant at the edge of the next town. Good call! This was the

first of several tastes of several distinct varieties of new wine, and it turned out to be the best. The rest of lunch was just as good!

We crossed the Rhine on a busy 2-lane bridge and arrived at Neuf Brisach, an octagonal-walled, fortified city built by Vauban in the 17th century. Another hour of riding and we reached our destination, Colmar, a city almost as pretty as Strasbourg.

Home for the next two nights was the Martin Jund house (<http://martinjund.com>), an old winemaking family farmhouse right in the middle



of town. The Jund family was cleaning up the courtyard from a day pressing grapes when we arrived. The tandem stayed in the entryway to the winemaking "cellar" and we went up to our spacious but basic mansard apartment

Colmar's pride is the Unterlinden Museum, a former convent and cloister with an extensive collection of centuries-old local art and crafts. The museum's masterpiece is the early 16th C. carved and painted Issenheim Altarpiece.

A leisurely walk showed us Colmar's well-preserved historic center with it many interesting public and private buildings as well as lovely take-out delis. Their windows were full of the local gastronomic specialties like "Baecaoffe," a terrine with different meats, potatoes, onion, celery, and carrot -- basically pot roast with three kinds of meat and "tarte flambe'," a specialty that we saw everywhere. It's a super-thin crust, a bit like pizza, garnished with a variety of different toppings.

Colmar, like most large towns on the Alsatian Rhine plain, has a major portion that's criss-crossed

by streams and canals, called – you guessed it! – "Little Venice."

### The wine-growing foothills

Tuesday through Thursday were a close-up view of Alsace's "Route des Vins," 110 miles north-south along the eastern base of the Vosges mountain chain. We rode its northern two-thirds, a seemingly endless chain of picturesque villages full of flower-bedecked, half-timbered houses and old Romanesque churches alternating with perfectly-kept vineyards stretching down to the plain and up



to the mountain forests.

Needless to say, this is prime tourist territory. The official Wine Road is fairly heavily traveled, but there are many lanes between the vineyards that are very pleasant cycling -- at the cost of more



hills, of course.

Our first stop was the village of Kaysersberg,

tucked tightly into hollow of a stream rushing down the mountain-side. A bit further up the road, Riquewihr is probably the most famous Route du Vin tourist stop. Disneyland couldn't do better. We bought lunch at a take-out featuring local specialties and had pleasant hour people-watching from a bench at the edge of a park.

Bergheim was Anna's favorite Alsatian village, as pretty as the others, but more genuine and less touristy. We followed the route of an old Roman road to our afternoon's objective, Kintzheim, and our first unreserved overnight stay. Picking a modest chambre d'hote "by nose," we found a comfortable room and a very hospitable hostess.

After cleaning up, we took our host's suggestion for dinner, Wistube Jenny, which seemed to be full of regular customers and had a delicious dinner of Alsatian choucroute (sausages and sauerkraut) -- after starting with tarte flambe, of course. Just another perfect day in Alsace, topped off by the best bed and quietest room of the trip. But the next day started with a real challenge, at least for us.

(to be continued in Jan. 2008 issue of Double Spok'n)

A SECRET NOMINATION FOR "JAY BROSNAN" as 2008 TWTC president was received after overhearing this conversation.

"Thanks for the vote of confidence, but with the great help I've received from our core of stalwarts a chimp who could ride a bike could do the job".

**Jay, you sell yourself too short!**

Who went to a lot of meetings on behalf of TailWind and the "community". YOU DID!  
Who gave us things to laugh about each month in the newsletter - Double Spok'n? YOU DID!  
Who pushed us all to continue to ride - A, B or C category when we wanted to be couch potatoes? YOU DID!  
Who raised the question of awareness on "who can ride a tandem, be a tandem wannabee"? YOU DID!  
Who took the lead to get the impaired children on a tandem with parents (upcoming date yet to be posted)? YOU DID!  
Who lead a ride out of Mint Hill and pizza conversation later? YOU DID!  
Who shamed us into being something better than we are? YOU DID!  
Who continued to show us a little push goes a long way? YOU DID!  
Who kept us all in line when most of us didn't want to show up at the time trials to help? YOU DID!

Monkey my butt.....

Dec. Birthday wishes:

Butch Holt	Dec. 9
Perry Broome	Dec. 17
Seth Gartner	Dec. 21
John Schierlmann	Dec. 23
Jack Boettger	Dec. 27
Dolores Coughlin	Dec. 29

Anniversary Wishes

Bill/AnnaClay	Dec. 1
Butch/Marianne Holt	Dec. 1
Dean/Angie Forbis	Dec. 17
Mitch/Sherry Lee	Dec. 19
Gordon/Mary Langston	Dec. 23
Arthur/Lisa Reaves	Dec. 28
Beth/Ken Rehme	Dec. 28

Also we have:

Kathi Child Dec 14

Anniv: - Charles/Gayle Patton  
Dec. 14



Wishing all TailWind  
Members a great New  
Year 2008.





## *TailWind Tandem Club Holiday Gathering*



*Date: Wednesday, December 5*

*Time: 6:30 Happy hour*

*Dinner 7:00 pm -*

*Location: Red Rocks Cafe, Bar & Bakery*

*Address: 4223 Providence Rd.*

*Phone: 704- 364-0402*

*Reservation: Ask for the table for TailWind*

*Please bring one- unwrapped children's  
present*

*OR*

*Non-perishable staple to be given to a needy  
family this Holiday Season.*

*Please confirm your attendance to Susanna  
at [newsiesuziessisk@carolina.rr.com](mailto:newsiesuziessisk@carolina.rr.com) . so proper  
seating can be made or call 704-301-5655.*

*Please RSVP no later than Dec. 3*

**Did you ever wonder what you as a “volunteer” received from helping with CCTTA – time trial (tt) series at Lowes?**

- o Welcome smiles from the many participants
- o Feeling of self-worth
- o Free cold bottle drinking water
- o Volunteer party @ yr. end
- o Your “red” volunteer t-shirt sets you apart from all the others



- o Thank you greetings from new friends found at the track
- o Helpful hands to assist you if needed during tt series
- o A “big thank you”
- o Accomplished goal for the evening – helping others
- o You made a difference in the evenings’ progression as an ABC volunteer

As an ABC volunteer for the tt series, Dolores Coughlin TailWind representative provided year-end totals to those TWTC volunteers.

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From: Dolores Coughlin  
 Sent: Monday, November 05, 2007 2:24 PM  
 To: Sisk, Susanna; Jay Brosnan; roy peche; nancy\_dartnall; Botruff, Tracy; Dan Coughlin  
 Subject: Volunteer points

All volunteers get awarded individual points PLUS their club gets points for there service

Each individual point is equivalent to \$2. Individuals can "spend " their points on:

1. Products - I am sending you a separate attachment
2. to pay for the awards banquet -DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS 11/
3. To defer the cost of next years time trial fees
4. A gift card
5. The \$ can be assigned back to the individual's club

ALL 2007 POINTS EXPIRE 12/31/07. YOUR HELP WAS APPRECIATED!!!!

**POINTS AWARD:**

Susanna 84                      Jay 48                                      Dolores 44                                      Dan- 28  
 Tracy 22                              Nancy 22                                      Roy 20

Thanks a million! Safe Riding! Dolores

**Splurge, spend, buy, buy, buy....Or simply give, give, give...**

<b>CCTTA Volunteers Points 2007</b>			
Items that points can be redeemed			
	Point Value (cost)		Point Value (cost)
CCTTA Coffee mug	6	TT event Timing Chip	52
CCTTA Tee Shirt	4	LMS Skin Suit	55
CCTTA Polo Shirt	10	Donate to ABC	Part or all Pts. Specify
CCTTA Ball Cap	11	Donate to CCTTA	Part or all Pts. Specify
Awards Banquet	12	Donate Speedways Children's charity	Part or all Pts. Specify
Gift Card - (Visa)	minimum of 13 pts	Use towards 2008 years registrations	Part or all Pts. Specify
CCTTA Fleece Jacket	25		

Those TWTC members that missed out – next year 2008 we hope to have a bigger showing of club members as ABC volunteers. We had a lot of fun ... missed having you join us!

# Ride Calendar 2007

Ride Coordinator – John Talani, 704-504-1875  
[jtalani@carolina.r.com](mailto:jtalani@carolina.r.com)

Date	Event	Location	Information	Contact	URL
Dec. 8	Reindeer Romp	Charlotte, NC	Mile options 20 / 40	Team TASK 704 504-1875	<a href="http://www.tailwindtandemclub.com">www.tailwindtandemclub.com</a>
<b>WHAT A GREAT YEAR.... CAN'T WAIT UNTIL 2008!</b>					
<b>Tandem Rallies 2008</b>					
Mar. TBA	Sebring Tandem Rally	Sebring, FL			<a href="http://www.kenlodge.com/packages/?id=105">http://www.kenlodge.com/packages/?id=105</a>
Apr. TBA	Alabama Tandem Rally				<a href="http://home.comcast.net/~alabamatandemweekend/">http://home.comcast.net/~alabamatandemweekend/</a>
Apr. 25-27	Southwest Tandem Rally	Tulsa, OK			<a href="http://www.denlynmor.com/SouthWestTandemRally2008.htm">http://www.denlynmor.com/SouthWestTandemRally2008.htm</a>
May 16-18	Georgia Tandem Rally (GTR) 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.	Albany, GA			<a href="http://www.georgiatandemrally.com/">http://www.georgiatandemrally.com/</a>
Jun. TBA	Tennessee Tandem Rally (TTR)	Alcoa, TN			<a href="http://www.thetandemlink.com/TTR.html">http://www.thetandemlink.com/TTR.html</a>
Jul 4-6	NW Tandem Rally	McMinnville, OR			<a href="http://www.nwtr.org/">http://www.nwtr.org/</a>
Aug. 1-3	ETR	Durham, NH			
Aug. 29-Sep 1	Midwest Tandem Rally	Springfield, IL			<a href="http://www.mtr2008.org/">http://www.mtr2008.org/</a>
Sep. TBA	STR	Bowling Green, KY			

To view other day rides and or tandem rallies currently posted go to ~

**Do you have a favorite ride you know about?  
 Let your ride coordinator know so it can get posted.**

**TailWind Tandem Club**

*Non-profit Organization*  
11918 Hookston Lane  
Charlotte, NC 28273



**TailWind Tandem Club**  
Charlotte, NC

# December

<http://www.tailwindtandemclub.com>



*Happy Holiday and Safe Riding Season 2008*

