Rain, Rain, Go Away?

The drought we had for the last five years has certainly made the Bay Area convenient for bicycling! But good grief! Now we have many of our favorite roads closed (think Calaveras that will apparently be closed until at least December of this year), every other weekend all the rides get canceled or need to get rerouted to avoid flooding or road closures. All the while, we sit on our couches and watch the rain and our collective fitness levels fall.

It’s not fake news that we need the rain. The graph below shows the intensity of the drought in Alameda County for the last 20 years (taken from http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/). In the chart, darker colors represent a higher intensity of the drought.

So we all need to be patient as the rain falls and we wait to ride our bikes and wait for our favorite roads to be reopened. Remember that blue skies are ahead.

I want to thank all of the ride leaders who have had to reroute and revise rides and make the sometimes difficult call to cancel a ride. You are keeping our club members safe and I appreciate your efforts.
David Walker, FFBC President
Cinderella Coaching Training Riders on staging area off the Alameda Creek Trail.

Training Riders on road to Coyote Hills Park. Photo from Sydney Friedenberg

**Tuesday Hill Climb:** Marsh Road overlooking Calaveras Reservoir

Eating banana muffins with friends: Joyce, Terri, Louis, and Amy

**From Donna Kaplan:** Joe Banchero and David Walker. On my February 4th, Calaveras Clockwise ride—which actually turned into an Alum Rock Park ride because Calaveras Road is closed—Joe and David jumped off their bikes at the intersection of Warm Springs Blvd and Mayten Way to help a woman in need. She was just sitting in her SUV at the light, her car dead, unsure about what to do, when Joe flagged down another car. He and David then jumped her car’s battery back to life, and they got back on their bikes and rode on home.

Way to go Joe and David!
Al's Wednesday riders:

Cold ride and warm friendships make for a wonderful ride to Ed Levin park. Some of the regulars on Al Quintana’s Wednesday morning ride.

Friday, January 27, 2017, Al will be leading his 1,500 ride!

From Jon Graff: I had fun on today’s ride - except for the Lions, Tigers and Bears, Oh My! I heard a werewolf howl while we were going through the underpass - did you?

The Tuesday, Feb 28, Show n Go group at the Union City Anderson’s. From the left: Herman Rosenbaum, Donna Boomershine, Neil Michelfelder, Suzanne Reinlib, Randy Fewel, Ron Razura, Jon Graff, Lambert Caulfield, and Sydney Friedenberg.

The rained-out Tuesday Show n Go at Panera Bread for lunch, Feb. 21.

From the left, Sydney Friedenberg, Becky Smith, Donna Boomershine, Herman Rosenbaum and Jon Graff.
The first Thursday Morning Coffee Ride in a while and the sun was shining! Cindy and Jim coordinated efforts to pull off this birthday "surprise". They both cut their rides short to get the cake and lunch to Peet’s! There were lots of laughs in addition to the sweat and fun! Dale did the entire 26 miles and ALL the climbing...even passing people on the climbs. Nancy couldn’t ride but brought her dog, Frankie to the celebration. Even Sandra and Phil joined in at the Pleasanton Peet’s. The first Thursday ride in a while and the sun was shining! Thanks so much to everyone!
These pictures of Del Valle picnic area and restrooms were taken by a club member before there were "closed" signs at the guard shack, nor did he even get stopped at the guard shack...I think the guard actually looked the other way...until I arrived on scene. Let's just say the photographer was "on his own"...January 27, 2017. From Amy Giles

View from the top of Nike Hill February 2017
Thanks to February Ride and Training Leaders

Garry  Birch
Mike    Brasseur
Michelle Dudley
Jim     Fehrle
Louis   Friedenberg
Julie   Fuller
Amy     Giles
Julie   Gilson
Ken     Goldman
Becky   Hoffman
Donna   Kaplan
Margaret Koniniec
Cindy   Maxwell
Vanessa McDonnell
Colin   Moy
Larry   Nolan
Tim     O'Hara
Robin   O'Hara
Carrie  Payne
Al      Quintana
Lori    Sommer
Laura   Spano
Keith   Strong
Pat     Wai
Julia   Walker
David   Walker
Terri   Yi

Monthly FFBC Board & General Meeting
Held every month except July and December

Board Meeting: Second Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm
General Meeting: Second Tuesday of the month, 7:30 pm
Meetings are held at the Fremont Adult School (Room N6)
4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont

For more than 40 years FFBC has been the proud sponsor of the popular Primavera Century. The Primavera is a club-supported bicycle tour of the local area.

The next event is scheduled for Sunday April 23. Stay tuned for more details!

Last year’s event took place on Sunday April 17, 2016. Check out the Primavera Facebook page for photos and more!
Freemont Freewheelers Statistics for 2016
Presented at the Ride Leaders Appreciation Party
at Bronco Billy’s January 29, 2017

**Overall FFBC Statistics for 2016**

Total number of Club Rides - 499
Total number of Club Members who rode at least once - 280
Total Distance Ridden by All Club Members - 184,737 miles = 7.4 times around earth
Total Elevation Climbed by All Club Members - 8,215,855' = 283 climbs up Everest

**Individual Achievements in 2016**

Most number of rides led: Al Quintana - 90 rides (Robin-57, Vanessa-49, Tim-46, Lori-40)
Most number of rides participated (man): Louis Friedenberg - 204 rides
Most number of rides participated (woman): Robin O’Hara - 174 rides
Farthest ridden (man): Louis Friedenberg - 7,964 miles
Farthest ridden (woman): Robin O’Hara - 7,003 miles
Highest climbed (man): Louis Friedenberg - 356,633'
Highest climbed (woman): Robin O’Hara - 293,573'
Toughest (cumulative elevation gained per mile traveled: man): Steve Cannon - 22,759' in 295 miles
Toughest (cumulative elevation gained per mile traveled: woman): Terri Yi - 81,709' in 1,206 miles

**Distinguished Rides in 2016**

Most Popular: Monday Morning Recovery, 775 total riders
Longest: Mt Hamilton Loop: 108 miles
Toughest (Elevation gained per mile traveled): Mt Hamilton Laps and Repeats, 9,800' in 70 miles
Greatest total distance covered by all participants in a ride: Monday Morning Recovery, 28,715 miles
Highest elevation climbed by all participants: Friday Bike Club 715,000 ft
Have you joined the FFBC Facebook page? This is a closed group open only to members.

Please go to this link and request to be added:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/129389617321/

Once you request to be added, send an e-mail to: ffbc.newsletter@gmail.com

then you will be added to the group. Please allow up to 5 days for approval.

If you have not yet renewed your membership in the FFBC, I encourage you to do so. Our club is made stronger with your participation and your membership.

Go online to - www.ffbc.org - click on to the membership page, log in and then renew your membership. The price is still the same: $20 for an individual membership, $26 for a family membership.

Becky (FFBC membership)