

## Travels With a Bicycle in the Cevennes

By Rich Freggiaro

When Robert Louis Stevenson was a young man, and before he became a famous author, he went to France and hiked through the Cevennes mountains with a donkey he named Modestine carrying his supplies. He grew to respect and even love this stubborn but ultimately loyal and good hearted animal. He also created an early prototype of the sleeping bag for his journey. He wrote a book about his experience called *Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes*.

Last week my fellow SBC member Bill Leach and I did our own journey through the Cevennes. Instead of hiking on rugged trails we rode our bikes on smooth paved roads. Instead of sleeping on the ground we stayed at chateaus and castles and stylish European style hotels. Instead of cooking on a campfire we dined at excellent restaurants. But with 354 miles to ride and 30,200 feet to climb in 6 days of cycling, it was still a pretty rugged trip.

Bill became the 8<sup>th</sup> SBC member to do the Cevennes trip with **44 | 5 Cycling Tours**. I've done the same tour 4 times, starting back in 2014. Why do the same tour 4 times? Quiet roads, incredible scenery, wonderful food, unique accommodations and friendly helpful guides might answer the question. The Cevennes are really a magical place to ride a bicycle.

Bill brought along his spouse Frances, who didn't cycle but seemed to really enjoy riding in the van looking at the incredible scenery and cheering her husband and the other riders around another 180 degree uphill switchback. *Allez, allez!* It's too bad she didn't bring any cowbells.



**Metric century around (not up) Ventoux.  
Cevennes Tour warm up ride**



**Hot conditions on the Perjuret: open jerseys and bring me water.**



## The Ride Zone

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or call (209) 931-9143.

The trip had a limit of seven clients and it was sold out. Sally, Rob, Steve and Jack were all strong riders and good company, and dinner conversation never lagged. There was one night where instead of dining together we were scheduled to have dinner on our own in Meyrueis, the only stop on our trip with more than one place to eat. The group decided to dine together and offered to treat the guides to join us, and another excellent and entertaining dinner was the result.

The weather was about as close to perfect as one could hope for. It was cool every day except one, we only got wet once (but drenched by a downpour), and the mistral mostly stayed away and winds were calm.

On the so called Queen Stage on our 5<sup>th</sup> ride, we had 74 miles and 7,400 feet to climb over some 5 cols. To be fair two of them were little hills, but the other 3 were significant ascents. It got very hot on the last one, the Col de Perjuret, and we arrived at the summit lathered in

sweat. The post ride beer (rosé for me) after more than 6 ½ hours of pedaling tasted especially good.

The last day's ride started with a lovely false flat DOWN the gorge of the Jonte River. We started the tour a week earlier riding up the gorge of the Tarn River slogging our way on a 3% uphill road that looked completely flat. So it was a real treat to be going down a similar road getting some free speed. We rolled into Millau for coffee before we took on the last climb of the trip up to the Causse Noir. After the 7 km climb we had a few kilometers of rolling road across the Causse, a steep technical and fast descent to La Rosier, and then we crossed the Jonte and Tarn confluence to return to the same hotel we started at a week before. Time to celebrate: bring me a glass of rosé!



**Downpour is on the way, keep that rain jacket handy. Typical Cevennes traffic.**



**Crossing the border between Departments: leaving Gard and entering Lozere**

# RIDE SCHEDULE – June 2022

Helmets required.

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

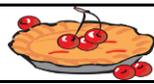
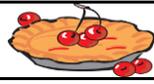
Rides may be amended and additional rides may be scheduled via the Stockton Bicycle Club Yahoo! Group. (details below).

**A** ride: 18+ 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 [robertahoffman10@gmail.com](mailto:robertahoffman10@gmail.com) 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
	<b>Remember to</b>	<b>check our</b>	<b>Please observe all Facebook page for</b>	<b>Covid-19 requirements of local business communities. Schedule changes due to extreme weather or air quality.</b>	
<b>Tue</b>	<b>8:00</b>	35-45 F/R	Lockeford Jack Tone & Hwy 88 Payless Mkt	Show and go or meet us along the way! This month's route destination is to the Towne Corner Café <a href="https://ridewithgps.com/routes/31222300">https://ridewithgps.com/routes/31222300</a>	
<b>Wed</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>	25 F	Stockton Bear Creek HS	W.A.R. Route map is posted on <a href="http://www.stocktonbikeclub.org">www.stocktonbikeclub.org</a> 18-22 mph	rposadas @comcast.net
<b>Thur</b>	<b>8:00</b>	35-45 R/H	Wallace Tri-Lakes Church	Show and go Ione, or Valley Springs, Common Grounds	
Sat 4	<b>8:00</b>	38/51/90 H	Starbucks (ValleySprings) Mar-Val Shopping Ctr	38: Pardee-Stoney- Jackson Break - out and back (3900') 51: Loop up Butte Mtn and down Clinton Rd. 90: Join Lodi Cyclery to extend Tabeaud, WP, Jesus M <a href="https://ridewithgps.com/routes/39654981?privacy_code=X4PR8gJvR1ZvvG8S">https://ridewithgps.com/routes/39654981?privacy_code=X4PR8gJvR1ZvvG8S</a>	90 miles 10,000' Rt Lodi Cyclery On Strava By Dino
Sun 5	<b>8:00</b>	35 F	Woodbridge Meet Lower Sac at <b>Woodbridge Florist</b>	Woodbridge, Blossom Rd., Thornton, New Hope, Valley Tree, Harvey to Galt for coffee	
Sat 11	<b>8:00</b>	42, 65	Ione Harras Northern CA 4640 Coal Mine Rd.	<a href="https://ridewithgps.com/routes/35118091">https://ridewithgps.com/routes/35118091</a> 3100' 42: Up Coal Mine, Curran to Brubeck, Ione, Sutter Creek – Break Return 65: Volcano, PG, Tabeau, Jackson, Martel, down Stoney Creek	
Sun 12	<b>8:00</b>	34/42 F/R	Linden Orlando's Market	34:Flood Rd.,EscalonBellota,Shelton, Wimer,Hwy26,Shelton and back 42: Milton Rd to Jenny Lind for pancake breakfast \$7	
Sat 18	<b>8:00</b>	45/48 H/VH	Ione Howard Park	45: Volcano (3400') 48: Ram's Horn, Shake Ridge (4300') <a href="https://ridewithgps.com/routes/2053940">https://ridewithgps.com/routes/2053940</a>	Eric Typo
Sun 19	<b>8:00</b>	35-40 F	Lodi Pine St. and Guild	Curry, Realty, Live Oak, Tully to the Fruit Bowl! Join us along the way. Meet us there!	
Sat 25	<b>7:45-B 8:00- A</b>	40,52 H	Ione Howard Park	40: Irish Hill, Plymouth, 52: Shenandoah, Steiner, Fiddletown, Plymouth, Carbondale (3500')	
Sun 26	<b>8:00</b>	35-40 F	Lodi Pine St. and Guild	Curry, Realty, Live Oak, Tully to the Fruit Bowl! Join us along the way. Meet us there!	

**Club Facebook page for ride updates. Join or renew your membership on our web site:**  
<http://stocktonbikeclub.org/>