

2019: a not-so-terrible Terrible Two

No one knows what the weather will be like when they sign up for the Terrible Two. Mother Nature breathes in and out every few days—on-shore, off-shore...back and forth—and we never know which end of the cycle will greet the troops when they line up at the start. One thing we can almost predict though: if it's hot early in the week leading up to the TT, it will probably have cooled down by the weekend.

That was the case this year. On Monday and Tuesday we were seeing readings around the county as high as 106°. Life was a little uncomfortable then, but we took comfort in knowing or at least hoping the fever would break before Friday. And so it did. On the day of the big ride—Saturday, June 15—highs around the course ranged from 85° in Cloverdale to an almost nippy 67° in Sebastopol.

This was one of the years when the Terrible Two was included in the California Triple Crown Stage Race, which usually leads to a bump up in entrants. So we were a little disappointed that only 109 riders signed up for the full double, plus another 57 for our 200-K ride (the “Tolerable Two”). (Is it possible there are too many doubles? Or are there simply very few riders who feel up to tackling the challenge that is the Terrible Two? Perhaps a bit of both.)

Minus a few no-shows, 104 riders lined up for the 5:30 AM mass start from Analy HS in Sebastopol, rolling out into a light mist...more of a clammy fog than anything that could be called rain. It did eventually warm up to that aforementioned Cloverdale high but pretty much stayed comfortable all day, perfect weather for banging out a big, hard ride. A few complaints were heard about unhelpful winds but what would a bike ride be without a few complaints about the wind?

Eventually, 79 out of the 104 starters completed the course, crossing the finish line to the cheers and applause of friends, family and fellow travelers. That means one rider out of four found the task of knocking off this bad boy of a ride a bit too much, a ridge too far, even on this relatively benign day. We always fixate on the weather, especially when we catch one of those brutally hot days. But even with the weather cooperating, there are still all those miles, all those hills, all those funky, nasty descents on roads that range from decent to decrepit. It may be easier than in the hot years, but this ride is always a monster. Anyone who finishes it, on any day, can be proud. And anyone who takes a DNF should not feel too bad about it.

Speaking of which, we had something like a dozen of those so-called DNFs on our bail-out ride down the valley. Most of them stayed together the whole way and had a great time. They completed a spectacular 142-mile ride they can count among their better riding accomplishments. No shame there! So there were only a few riders who came back to Analy in sags, and even most of them completed an awesome century over the first half of the course. All in all, it was a pretty good day for most of our participants.

But not quite all: we had one ambulance call early in the day. Near the gnarly county-line hairpins on the backside of Trinity, a combination of slightly damp pavement and some washboard buckling caused a rider to take an ugly tumble, ending up in Queen of the Valley Hospital with broken ribs and a punctured lung. Another rider went ass-over-tits in one of the many gravel traps on the north side of the Geysers. He looked like Pigpen—covered in dirt from top to bottom—but sustained nothing worse than a little road rash. Both riders can take some consolation from knowing their bikes survived with next-to-no damage. As far as we know, those were the only significant crashes on the day.

On a more positive note and up at the sharp end of the field, Santa Rosa Cycling Club members were stoked to see their popular club mate Miguel “Torito” Sanchez finish first in a time of 12:10. Meanwhile, another SRCC stalwart and past TT winner, Marc Moons, finished first on the 200-K, setting a course record of 6:52. Unless we're missing someone, Alyson Watson and Shelby Weber were the only women to finish the full double, while Jennie Phillips was once again the first woman to complete the 200-K (good for 8th overall).

Perhaps the most amazing story on the day was that of Peter Colijn, 35, of San Francisco. He rode from SF to the start, did the ride in a time of 14:38, then did the course again—more slowly the second time around—and finally rode home to SF. 538 miles and almost 44,000' of climbing, more or less non-stop (no sleep breaks). Total time: 38:19. Only two other riders have ever completed the Horrible Four and we know neither of them cycle-commuted to the start and home again at the finish. This is truly a ride for the ages, something we doubt will ever be duplicated or even attempted.

Other interesting stories: Max Mehech, with dead electronic shifters, doing the whole ride in his big ring; Joe Gorin, cranking out his 22th TT finish at age 68; Eric House, cranking out his 23rd TT in a time of 13:11, quick enough for 7th place; Steve Smead completing the ride on a fixie (again) in a time of 14:36. Peter Verbiscar-Brown completing the ride at age 71, tying the record for the oldest TT finisher. That's what we love about this ride: the stories behind the stats.

So...there were around 160 riders on the course. Also out there, helping them along, were just about the same number of volunteers. Think about that: a one-to-one ratio of riders and workers. Riders and helpers alike both recognize the Terrible Two as one of the more important days on their annual cycling calendars. It's a challenging day for the riders, some of whom are out there for over 16 hours. But it's a challenge for the workers as well, and frankly, at least a few of them work longer shifts than most of the riders. But hard work aside, most folks in both camps agree that what keeps them coming back each year is the sheer, stupid fun the day produces. We all love it. Most of time, most of us wouldn't be anywhere else on that particular Saturday in June. See you next year!

2019 Terrible Two

109 registered riders

104 starters, 79 finishers

68 by 10:00 PM cut-off (64%)

Place Time Name, age, city

1	12:10	Miguel Sanchez, 42, Santa Rosa
2	12:16	Daniel Pescetti, 32, Napa
3	12:18	Kenny Owen, 47, Castro Valley
4	12:28	Jady Palko, 46, Windsor
5	12:29	Sakae Wada, 42, El Cerrito
6	13:03	Yuri Hauswald, 48, Petaluma
7	13:11	Samer Rezkalla, 45, Brentwood
	13:11	Eric House, 57, Emeryville
9	13:14	Ryosei Kaneko, 57, El Sobrante
10	13:21	Bryan Kilgore, 37, Oakland
11	13:24	Carl Andersen, 58, Woodside
12	13:30	Nodair Razi, 34, Seattle Wa
13	13:31	Colin Ng, 31, Orinda
14	13:32	Sam Addison, 30, Santa Rosa
15	13:34	Enrique Rojas, 34, Rohnert Park
16	13:43	Gary Egorov, 51, Fresno
17	13:45	Shea Nolan, 48, San Francisco
18	13:53	Christopher Childs, 34, San Francisco
19	14:01	Gregory Plumb, 44, Santa Rosa
	14:01	Bart Hackworth, 51, Richmond
21	14:13	Max Mehech, 57, Santa Clara
22	14:22	Tai Tran, 45, San Jose
23	14:24	Tim Morken, 65, Livermore
24	14:33	Brian Volkoff, 49, Rocklin
25	14:34	Jerome Sicard, 33, Alameda
	14:34	Gordon Craig, 52, Palo Alto
27	14:36	Steve Smead, 55, Lincoln (fixie)

Terrible Two results continued

Place	Time	Name, age, city
28	14:38	Eric Hjort, 57, Oakland
	14:38	Peter Colijn, 35, San Francisco
30	14:42	Eduardo Rodriguez, 29, Napa
	14:42	Marty Holloway, 55, Sacramento
32	14:46	Roehl Caragao, 56, Fresno
33	14:58	Metin Uz, 53, Palo Alto
34	15:03	Wayne Dunlap, 57, Austin TX
35	15:06	Robert Fisher, 63, Spokane, WA
	15:06	Craig Hutchinson, 58, Windsor
37	15:17	Chris Richards, 66, Walnut Creek
38	15:21	Bob Fetherston, 66, Los Gatos
39	15:22	Kevin Williams, 36, Carmichael
	15:22	Jeff Williams, 57, Livermore
	15:22	Alyson Watson, 41, Pacifica
42	15:28	Gilles Bouchard, 59, Los Altos
43	15:30	Alonso Cruz, 33, Richmond
	15:30	Vill Anabeza, 50, Hayward
45	15:31	Randy Becker, 45, Santa Rosa
46	15:39	Alexis Berthillier, 47, Mountain View
47	15:41	Raphael Gernez, 56, Los Altos
48	15:46	Joe Gorin, 68, Oakmont
	15:46	Kemal Abuhan, 54, Benicia
50	15:57	Mar Villaflor, 50, San Leandro
	15:57	Frank Meltzer, 59, San Ramon
	15:57	Daniel Romero, 30, Vallejo
	15:57	Renato Arnoco, 51, Fremont
	15:57	Ferdinand De Guzman, 42, Pacifica
55	16:00	Tertius Thakar, 57, Mill Valley
	16:00	Andy Tautges, 58, Santa Rosa
	16:00	Jason Hooker, 44, San Francisco
58	16:08	Michael Brochier, 58, Novato
59	16:10	Shelby Weber, 36, Westminster
	16:10	Rick Jacobson, 60, Van Nuys
61	16:13	Jonathan Thackeray, 56, Sacramento
62	16:16	Mark Buettner, 49, Auburn
63	16:20	Marc-Cedric Latreille, 41, Vallejo
64	16:22	Ian Brian Ramirez, 35, Santa Clara
	16:22	Ernesto Torres, 42, Oakland
	16:22	Thomas Koegel, 57, Mill Valley
67	16:24	Stewart Thompson, 66, El Macero
68	16:27	Thomas Dunscombe, 60, Kensington
69	16:32	Ben Kavoosi, 37, Roseville
70	16:33	Van Trieu, 52, Milpitas
71	16:48	Cedric Enoc, 37, Roseville
	16:48	Randall Coleman, 55, Sacramento
	16:48	JC Cua, 42, Roseville
74	16:57	Byron Ho, 64, San Francisco
	16:57	Tommy Pham, 57, Campbell
	16:57	Marlon Tamayo, 38, Roseville
77	17:08	Chris Beauchamp, 53, Los Gatos
78	17:29	Lindsay McKinley, 57, La Mirada
79	17:30	Peter Verbiscar-Brown, 71, Santa Rosa

200-K results

Place	Time	Name, age, city
1	6:52	Marc Moons, 53, Petaluma
2	7:21	Shawn Daly, 52, Santa Rosa
	7:21	Daniel Quirk, 50, Healdsburg
4	7:26	Jens Vidkjer, 57, Calistoga
5	7:29	Joe Hughes, 39, Sebastopol
6	7:46	Gabe Sanctuary, 48, Novato
7	7:59	Joseph Bootier, 50, Santa Rosa
8	8:05	Jennie Phillips, 57, Danville
9	8:15	Brad Simeral, 42, Healdsburg
10	8:18	James Drake, 49, San Anselmo
	8:18	Glenn Goodman, 62, Mill Valley
11	8:27	Doug Wagner, 65, Glen Ellen
	8:27	Brandon Crowell, 44, Santa Rosa
13	8:41	Craig Stewart, 58, Orinda
14	9:04	Mark Fine, 43, San Francisco
15	9:05	Naomi Williams, 39, Windsor
	9:05	Steve Behler, 52, Santa Rosa
	9:05	Chris Coppinger, 54, Windsor
	9:05	Mike Behler, 54, Santa Rosa
19	9:16	Jeff Mann, 55, Reno NV
20	9:37	Carlos Sanchez, 32, Pacifica
	9:37	Carlos Sanchez Sr, 62, Pacifica
22	9:56	Del Bogart, 62, Petaluma
23	10:02	Tim Schaefer, 56, Santa Rosa
24	10:25	Kate Christensen, 59, Greenbrae
25	10:26	Luke Scrivanich, 56, Windsor
	10:26	Cali Scrivanich, 46, Windsor
27	10:31	Alec Strom, 27, Los Altos
28	11:08	Jeffrey Davis, 58, San Francisco
	11:08	James Zaky, 61, Los Gatos
30	11:09	David Gottfried, 59, Moraga
31	11:11	Ben Compton, 55, Glen Ellen
32	11:15	Wayne Smith, 61, Palo Alto
	11:15	Elizabeth Benishin, 61, Palo Alto
34	11:19	Richard Sawyer, 67, Sonoma
	11:19	Nancy Morrow, 60, Walnut Creek
	11:19	Kristen Scheller, 54, Walnut Creek
37	11:32	Nicole Steinmetz, 16, Loomis
	11:32	Catherine Carbonaro, 53, Loomis
39	11:34	Laurie Anderson, 59, Walnut Creek
40	12:21	Buzz Yancich, 57, Danville
	12:21	Andrew Bowdle, 67, Mercer Island WA
	12:21	Craig Needham, 72, San Jose
43	12:31	Doug Heirich, 59, Palo Alto
44	13:03	Lidia Karina Alcazar, 42, Santa Rosa
45	13:16	Marlene Hoffmann, 49, San Francisco
46	13:17	Abhishek Kapatkar, 44, San Francisco