

CANADIAN "SNOWBIRDS" ENJOY A "SECOND SUMMER" IN MAUI!

I looked glumly out the window, catching brief glimpses of our mailbox as the cruel February blizzard blew white curtains of snow across our front lawn. Was it just a dream? Had I simply imagined being picked up by Pete Penseyres and "lei'd" by Rob Templin on a beautiful tropical isle, all within the watchful gaze of my devoted captain and husband, Bill? A quick glance in the closet verified we were in possession of two new "Second Summer Tour" Jerseys, shorts and matching "hula girl socks", not to mention the polka dot "climber socks". All are cherished souvenirs of our 10th anniversary dream cycling vacation with Rob Templin's "Second Summer Tours" on the beautiful Hawaiian island of Maui.

We live in the "snow belt" of the central Canadian province of Ontario. Although we are further south than Seattle and only slightly north of Rob's home base of Eugene, Oregon, we experience four-season living "to the max". Positioned between Georgian Bay and Lake Huron, at the base of the beautiful Bruce peninsula (known by geographers as the "elephant's anus"...hint- check out a map of Southern Ontario), we are ideally located to receive the generous winter bounty of the moisture laden winds that sweep over



January in Canada can be cold. . . and snowy.

the open waters of the Great Lakes. Winter (snow that stays) arrives just before Christmas and is a pretty reliable presence until late March. Our outdoor cycling season lasts from April to October and true "short weather" is mid-May to mid-September. You can understand why we showed great interest when we heard from Rob Templin about the opportunity to participate in the inaugural tour of his company "Second Summer Tours", in Maui, Hawaii.

We've been sharing Canada's finest brews and tales of traveling and cycling since we first met Rob at the 1993 Midwest Tandem Rally (our first) in Lansing, Michigan. Through our connection with Green Gear Cycling (makers of the famous Bike Friday@ travel bikes) we have visited Rob's home of Eugene, Oregon and even watched Rob and Pete Penseyres compete in the 1997 Burley Duet Classic tandem stage race. Rob suggested we check out his website, www.secondsummertours.com. for a description of his tour in Maui.

Bill and I had been considering a "second honeymoon" in Maui as our 10th wedding anniversary celebration. I had visited Maui in 1986 (pre-Bill) and had been very impressed by the beauty and climate. Bill had seen my pictures and was intrigued by the stories of the famous "Road to the Sun" which climbs from sea level to the summit of Haleakala volcano (over 10,000 feet). His first question of Rob was, "Do we get to climb Haleakala?" The answer was affirmative with Rob adding two other challenges including, the West Maui "loop" and to complete the trilogy, the "Haleakala Century" (a.k.a. the Hell-e-akala Butt Blaster) which takes in some of Maui's lesser traveled roads as well as the famous "Highway to Hana"!

We signed up for the late January 2005 tour, at the 2004 MWTR and set about trying to stay/get into some kind of shape to meet the upcoming challenges. This meant spending tedious hours in our basement, on the indoor trainer and rollers, with 70's rock music blasting from vintage JBL 4315 studio monitors. E-mail updates from Rob were filled with encour



Ann West and Bill Moriarty enjoy the Hawaiian sun.

agement to "get in an 80 km (50 mile) ride outside" prior to the tour. We laughed! This was **not** going to happen and we would have to accept the limitations Mother Nature placed on our training schedule. We were entertained by e-mail stories of other "northern" participants preparing for the tour.

January 25 finally arrived and we toted our beloved Tandem Two'sDay (a travel tandem that cleverly comes apart to fit into two standard suitcases) to the Toronto airport. We were waiting to claim our luggage in Maui, when Bill was approached by a fit-looking gentleman who turned out to be Pete Penseyres. Fans of ultra marathon bicycle racing will know the name Pete Penseyres. He has competed in the Race Across America, in solo, tandem and men's over 50 team time trial divisions (winning the solo race in 1984 and 1986 and setting the solo men's highest average speed record of 15.4 mph over 3107 miles, a record that still stands!) Pete and Joanne Penseyres are long time friends of Rob and have an unbelievable inventory of "Rob stories" that we enjoyed hearing. Joanne was recovering from a tandem crash that they experienced on their last day of a cycling vacation in Switzerland (resulted in 8 broken bones and a concussion for stoker Joanne and a serious case of road rash for captain Pete). Joanne is an amazing and generous woman! She cheerfully drove the big van and kept us all organized and out of trouble. Pete was always there on the road to offer encouragement and distract us from "the pain" of early season riding with countless tales of cycling in Raam. We had the

great privilege of being frequent dinner companions of Pete and Joanne including a delicious and memorable "wallet draining" meal at Maui's renowned Mama's Fish House. I am forever grateful to Pete for reminding Bill that razors could be used on legs as well as faces.

We arrived in Hawaii after sunset and when we arose the next day we were greeted to the manicured gardens and pool surrounding our home and the sound of the ocean surf 50 meters away. Our "upstairs" tandem riding neighbors (Russ & Cindy and Mark & Angela) had an absolutely beautiful view of the ocean from their balcony. We soon met the rest of the "gang" which included Cary, Jorge, Mike & Carolyn on "half-bikes" and Paul & Diana our fourth tandem couple. Although not advertised as a tandem tour, Rob emphasized that he welcomed the "big bikes". We all had in common that we had known Rob for some time and it did not take long for everyone to get acquainted and form new friendships.

Rob had selected an absolutely perfect location from which to base a cycling vacation in Maui We stayed within view of the beautiful north shore and a short 15 minute walk to the funky town of Paia (pronounced paw-ee-ah). Although our accommodations had a fully equipped kitchen (and Rob made sure we had "the basics", which means plenty of Starbuck's Kona coffee) we frequently availed ourselves of the many, varied eating options "in town". We enjoyed several mouth-watering Second Summer group feasts, which included a fabulous seafood binge



orchestrated by Joanne with able assistance from her "sous chef", Pete.

The rides that Rob had in store for us were challenging, unique and absolutely packed full of the most beautiful island scenery to be found anywhere. After a week cycling in Maui I can honestly say I have never been so "spoiled" (and I've never been more "deserving" of being spoiled!). Not only did we get to cycle some of the most scenic and challeng-



Massage on the beach.

ing routes in the Hawaiian islands, we were treated to a traditional island luau, snorkeling and whale-watching (January and February are the best times to see humpback whales who visit the islands to have their babies and mate) and a most welcome massage (under the shade of massive shoreline palm trees,



with the surfers in view). Ahh, Paradise! The week went so quickly and sadly we had to wish our new found friends safe passage home, while we stayed another week (kindly arranged by Rob "Full Service" Templin)! We highly enjoyed this option as it gave us a chance to revisit some of the parts of the island that we didn't get to explore on two wheels. We did some hiking including a trip down the crater of Haleakala and a pleasant stroll around the Iao Needle. Having ridden the famous Highway to Hana, on two wheels the week before, we decided to drive to Hana and take the time to explore every little detour along the way. We also explored some of the "touristy" parts of Maui including the town of Lahaina and yes, we did a little cycling too!

All in all, we had a **wonderful** experience with Rob, Pete, Joanne and all of the other guests on the inaugural "Second Summer Tours" cycling vacation in Maui Rob has some other tempting tours scheduled for this winter/spring including a return to Maui, plus the "Big Island" (Hawaii) and trips to New Zealand's scenic South Island (with options to tour the North &/or Tasmania) and the Andes (Argentina & Chile). Check out his website at www.secondsummertours.com for all the juicy details. I guess that means more time "sweating to the oldies" on the indoor trainers this winter. It really isn't that bad when you know that the reward for your efforts will be a warm and memorable winter cycling vacation with Rob Templin and "Second Summer Tours"!

Ann West and Bill Moriarty
Owen Sound, ON CANADA



A final Hawaiian sunset for our memories.