

# KBC P P E D A L P R E S S S

The newsletter of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club

## July is Flowerfest Tour Month!

July, 1994

This is the month that the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club promotes our most important event: the Flowerfest Bicycle Tour. We would like all club members to participate by either volunteering to help staff the tour or by getting on your bike and riding the tour with your family and friends. If you're really ambitious, do both! But please help the club by taking part to ensure a successful and profitable tour in '94.

The Flowerfest Bicycle Tour accommodates cyclists of all abilities. Novice riders will find our 15 mile route the perfect introduction to touring, while our 62 mile route will challenge even the experienced cyclist. And our 31 mile route is perfect for cyclists of all abilities. The generous support of our sponsors ensures that our rest stops will be filled with a variety of refreshing drinks, fresh baked goods, fruits, and snacks to replenish your energy. So please use the enclosed pre-registration form and sign up to ride our tour:

**When and Where:** The Flowerfest Bicycle Tour begins and ends at Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC) on Sunday, July 24th. Pre-registration by mail is encouraged and will be accepted until July 15th. Day-of-the-tour registration will be from 7:30 A.M. until 12:00 Noon at KVCC. Tour routes will be serviced until 4:00 P.M. at

which time all riders should be finished. The Flowerfest Bicycle Tour will take place rain or shine.

**Routes:** We offer routes of 15, 31 and 62 miles (25, 50 and 100 kilometers). The 15 and 31 mile routes each have a mix of flat and gentle rolling hill terrain. The 62 mile route offers more of the same plus challenging hills for the experienced cyclist.

### Registration:

The pre-registration fees are \$10 for individuals and \$25 for families, with pre-registration post-marked no later than July 15th. Day-of-the-tour registration is \$12 for individuals and \$30 for families. The first 300 pre-registered riders will receive a free multi-colored 1994 Flowerfest Bicycle Tour water bottle.

### T-Shirts:

New for 1994 is a beautiful red, blue, and black floral design. The T-shirts are the best in the business - all white 100% cotton Hanes Beefy-T's. All in all, one of the best tour t-shirts you will find. Available in adult sizes M, L and XL for only \$12. Please order through pre-registration by July 15th to guarantee availability as only a limited quantity will be for sale the day of the tour.



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# Dave's World

As you have read elsewhere in this newsletter, July is Flowerfest Bicycle Tour month and we need your help to have a successful event. The profits from the Flowerfest Tour are extremely important to the club in meeting our month-to-month expenses. This is especially true since we no longer have the Trailblazer or Corporate Olympics as revenue. So please volunteer a few hours of your time to help staff the event. If you're not volunteering, you should be out on your bike riding the tour. Your support will help the future of the bike club and our efforts to promote cycling.

You should also be aware of the generous

help our sponsors are giving us towards the Flowerfest Tour. Without their help the tour would not be possible, so please say thanks to these sponsors by patronizing their businesses and products.

July is also Tour de France month, with the race beginning on July 2nd and concluding on July 24th. Check your television listings as ESPN will be offering daily coverage. Have you picked your winner yet? I'm predicting that Swiss rider Tony Rominger will be in top form this year and will upset three time winner Miguel Indurain to win the tour.

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## A Special Thanks

We have a great multi-colored Flowerfest brochure this year and it is now in the area bike shops. We owe a special thanks for Sue and Loring Janes for the typesetting and final layout of the brochure. They did a great job and they kindly donated their time for free. We appreciate their help in making Flowerfest '94 a success, and be sure to contact Sue for any of your typesetting needs: Sue Janes Typesetting, 132 N. Burdick Mall, Kalamazoo, MI 49007, phone 388-5010.

The '94 Flowerfest T-Shirts, water bottles, and brochures all feature a beautiful design work done by Club member Bill Fischer. Although we did pay Bill a nominal amount, he put in about 10 times the amount of work he initially planned on and Bill really went out of his way to please. Bill made a significant contribution and we owe him a special thanks and a tip of the helmet.

Dave Patrick  
KBC President

## Al Sabo Reopens

On Memorial Day Weekend the Al Sabo Land Preserve was reopened to the public. Access to the preserve is being provided, without a permit, by a parking lot about 200 feet east of the Boy Scout camp entrance on Texas Drive. The preserve is now open seven days a week, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. or as daylight hours permit. Users should also note and abide by the rules and regulations posted at the entrance near the parking area. Mountain bikes are permitted only on designated trails which include a loop about 5.9 miles long.

Please enjoy the Al Sabo Land Preserve but remember, a diligent effort was and continues to be required to get the Preserve open and to keep it open for everyone's enjoyment. Respect for the nature of this sensitive Preserve and other users will ensure continued access.

Saturday morning trail maintenance work is ongoing and necessary and is scheduled as needed. Volunteers would contact Nancy Bos of the Water Department at 337-8720 for scheduling. Whatever contribution you can make would be most appreciated by all those involved. --Dave DeRight

The Kalamazoo Bicycle Club would like to thank the following sponsors for participating in the 1994 Flowerfest Bicycle Tour:



320 East Michigan • Downtown Kalamazoo  
Hours: Weekdays 10-6  
Wed. & Fri. 10-8 • Saturday 9-5  
349-9423



5742 South Westnedge • Portage-Just South  
of I-94 next to Fretter Appliance  
Hours: M-F 10-8 • Sat. 10-5  
349-5555



West Main 1026 S. Westnedge Downtown 1838 S. Westnedge  
4646 W. Main 4026 S. Westnedge 157 S. Kalamazoo Mall Kalamazoo  
344-9471 385-5720 388-JOES 382-4455

**The Beyer Patch**  
10206 West Q Avenue  
(Centre Street) 5 Miles west of 131  
668-3429

**CELLULARONE**  
543 Mall Drive  
Portage  
580-5000

**Mackenzies' BAKERY**  
6225 S. WESTNEDGE 323-8226  
4606 WEST MAIN 343-1444

**Harding's**  
4604 West Main  
Kalamazoo  
Hours: Mon. - Sun. 7am - 11pm

**SAFETY CYCLE**  
SIB • SPORT  
1908 West Main  
Near W.M.U. & K-College  
Kalamazoo  
Hours: M-Sat. 10-7  
381-7233



**PORTAGE SCHWINN**  
300 E. CENTRE STREET  
327-3393

**MILWOOD SCHWINN**  
1015 E. CORK STREET  
349-6384

**VILLAGE CYCLERY**  
SCHOENKRAFT  
148 North Grand on U.S. 131 in Schoenckraft  
Schoenckraft  
Hours: M-F 9:30 - 5:30  
Wed. 9:30 - 8 p.m. • Sat. 9:30 - 3 p.m.  
679-4242



## 1994 Flowerfest Bicycle Tour Pre-Registration Form

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening phone \_\_\_\_\_

Rider Names _____	Age _____	Adult T-Shirt Size: (M,L,XL) _____
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_____	_____	_____
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### Pre-Registration Fees

Individual ..... \$10 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Family ..... \$25 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 T-Shirts ..... \$12 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL ..... \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
KALAMAZOO BICYCLE CLUB

Mail to:  
Flowerfest Tour  
c/o Kalamazoo Bicycle Club  
P.O. Box 50527  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49005

This form may be duplicated for additional riders

## KBC Ride Policy Statement

You must wear an ANSI or Snell approved helmet on all KBC rides. All riders should also bring a spare tube and tire, frame pump, water, food, money, and identification. Dress appropriately for the weather conditions, obey traffic rules, and ride on the right side of the road. Check your bicycle, especially the brakes, before each ride.

# July Rides

We are especially in need of club members to lead 10-15 mph rides. No prior experience is required, so give it a try. Please call Randy Putt at 649-1814 if interested.

## Mondays

Texas Corners on Texas Drive (Milham Rd.) for a ride in the flats south of Texas. We need a 10-14 mph ride leader. Jeff will lead riders at about 18 mph for 20-30 miles. Mike and Steve will lead their group at 15-17 mph for 20-25 miles.

## Tuesdays

Eastwood Plaza (corner of Nazareth and East Main). 25-35 miles at a moderate pace (16+ mph). Led by Mike "Java Breath" and Janet "Bruiser" Teel.

## Wednesdays

Kalamazoo Central High School on Drake Rd., about a mile north of West Main St. two rides:

- The 6:00 group goes to Bloomingdale and back (about 50 miles), at a pretty quick pace. Led by Roberta Hillman.
- The 6:30 group goes for 20-30 miles at about 16 mph. Led by Jim "Camelback" Wyrick and/or "Hyper" Harold Gleaves.

## Thursdays

Scotts Elementary School (located on QR Ave 1 block East of 36th St. in Scotts). A 20-30 mile ride at 17-18 mph and a 10-20 mile ride at about 10 mph. Join us at Scooter's for ice cream after the ride.

## Fridays

25-30 miles from Billy's Bike Shop, just east of the five-way intersection in downtown Galesburg. Led by team floppy disk.

## Saturdays

July 2:  
9:30 AM at Kalamazoo Academy at Milham

and Sprinkle for a ride of about 20 miles at 10 mph.

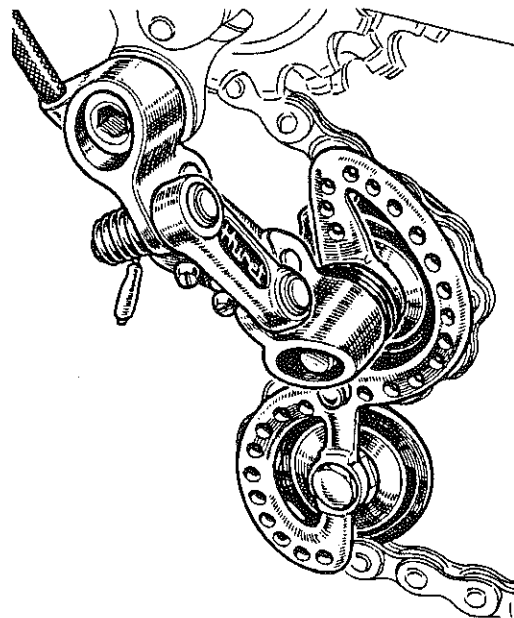
## July 23:

FARM SURVEY ride at 9:30 AM. 21 miles with the option of 12 and 17 mile loops. Starting at Pavillion Township Hall at Q and 29th St. The pace will be about 10 mph.

## Sundays

### July 3, 10, & 17:

July 3 and 17 at Kalamazoo Academy (East of the Airport off of Sprinkle Rd. and east on E. Milham 1 block to the school) at 8:30 AM. July 10 John at the Portage City Hall at Centre and S. Westnedge. 25 miles at 15-16 mph.



# Group Riding 101

*Group Riding 101 is a once-in-a-while column of tips, helps, and friendly safety reminders for group riding.*

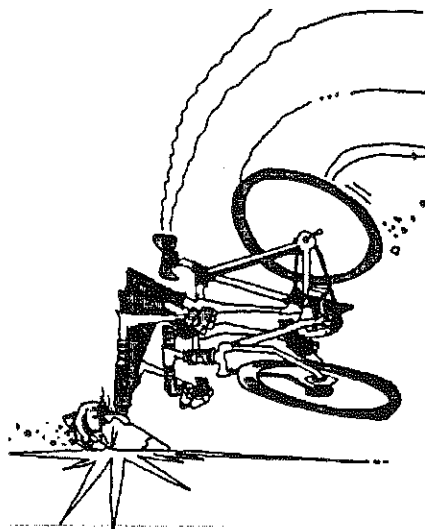
The most important thing for any KBC Club ride is **safety** above all (yes, even more important than getting back to the parking lot first).

## #1: No Aero Bars

Now riddle me this, Batman: if the rider behind you is drafting you on his or her aero bars and you use your brakes to miss a woodchuck (this really happened on a recent Tuesday ride), where's that geek-bar buddy behind you going to end up? *Right:* taking you and most of the group onto the pavement. He or she just can't respond when that far away from the brakes. The moral to the story? There's a place for using aero bars, like when you're at the *front* of the group or (better still) riding alone, **NEVER** when you're riding behind someone. **Please please** do the whole group a favor that could save them broken bones and mucho road rash: if you see a neophyte drafting on geek bars, give him or her some (friendly) words of advice. Even if they cop an attitude and won't take the advice in the manner it's offered, it's better to give someone a little snit than to have someone in the hospital. And yes, it *is* *too* your responsibility.

## #2: Ride A Straight Line

When you're riding in a group, people around you are counting on you to ride a straight line. There may be someone coming up close to you. If you veer all over the road like a drunken sailor, that person is going to get *taken out*, along with most of the group. The corollary to riding a straight line is make smooth, deliberate moves within the group, so everyone knows what you're doing. I realize that for newer people, riding a straight line may be an acquired skill. That's just one more reason to ride *rollers* rather than a wind trainer next winter.



## #3: Wait Up For Slower Riders

Now I'm talking about the situation where you have a pretty cohesive group, but one or two people are just a *little* bit slower. You know, they get dropped a little on that hill. Or through inattention, they let a gap open up into a bad headwind. *Give them a break* and sit up for a few pedal cranks and let them catch again. It's sooo demoralizing to dangle behind the group, working your hardest, while you watch the group ride oh-so-slowly away, and then riding in alone. If they're trying at all, give 'em a break.

**Corollary #1:** If the group waits for you, don't ride off the front while they're waiting for someone else. Until last week I couldn't believe there were people stupid and rude enough to do this, but it's true. We waited and a dropped rider finally caught, and while we were waiting for one more person, the droppee gave us one of these "you suckers" smirks and sprinted off the front. Will anyone who was there *ever* wait for him again?

**Corellary #2:** If you get dropped, chase for a while. The group will wait, but not forever. Make a little harder effort until you reach the group again, then you can rest in the back of the pack.

Do you have any group riding tips you'd like to share? Please send them in to the Club P.O. box or E-mail the Editor at Internet [Marc\\_Luoma@glfn.org](mailto:Marc_Luoma@glfn.org). We will publish *any* non-profane input we get.

# Tales From The Bike Shop

## Otis

by Maynard Hershon

"SCAREDEST I ever was, was on the back of the tandem with that guy Otis," Jack said.

"Otis and his buddy had broken records on that bike all over the northern half of the state. They'd sign up for some century, leave last, and pass everyone. Take 'em maybe an hour and a half to ride the 100 miles, eat a Fig Newton, shower, and split an apple juice. They were known to be fast.

"Anyway, I would never have had a chance to ride on that bike if the buddy hadn't hurt his knee on some record attempt. That time, they had a guy driving a Corvette along to hand up food; they were trying to drop him. After 750 miles in the 57 x 13, Otis's buddy's knee starts bothering him. What a wimp, eh?

"So Otis has this tandem, *The Bike That Made Him Famous*, and he has no partner. Couple of times he says to me, 'Hey, Jack, let's go out on the tandem sometime.' When he'd say that, guys who overheard would laugh. I asked, 'What's so funny about Otis and me on that bike?' They told me, and I heard them, but I guess I wasn't really listening

"What they said was, Otis liked to go fast.

He liked to do other things, too, like eat food and spend time with women, but what he truly cared about was the going fast. He liked to go fast all the time, not like guys like you and me. We do it when we think we can get away with it, without hospital visits and convalescence. Otis does it always. Always.

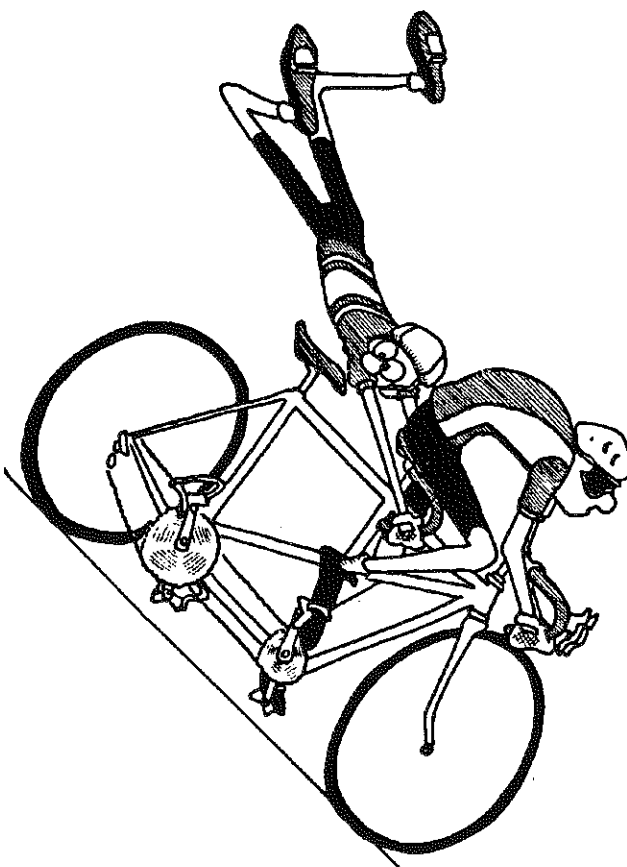
"Remember, I was not a new rider at the time. I had done things on a bicycle. I had ridden down steep hills and around corners, many of them sharp. While I admit I'm not known as a fearless descender, I can usually make the post-ride lunch before the waiter brings out the cigars and brandy.

"I thought—and this is where I made my mistake—that I'd probably do okay riding with

Otis. I noted how free of scars Otis's legs were. I thought about how nice he is. I thought (and wrongness like this is seldom approached—someone on the *Titanic* was probably this wrong) that, if I asked him, Otis would slow down. Right.

"Came the day. We adjusted the bike to me and rolled out toward the coast. Not being able to steer or shift or control your fate felt

*Continued on the next page*



strange, but it was kind of exciting. The power of the two of us on that thing was intoxicating, like driving a V-8 car after a puny four cylinder. For a good while, maybe 10 or 15 miles, I thought I liked it.

"It began to dawn on me that I was where I shouldn't have been," Jack said, "when Otis neglected to brake before the left turn at the bottom of the hill in King's Point. We negotiated that corner at a speed I associate with factory aircraft testing.

"I was stunned speechless. My mind raced. I asked myself one question after another. What if a dog ran out? Or a child? What if a car backed out of a driveway? What if I couldn't control my bowels?

"I began to speak to Otis in a reasonable manner. I explained patiently to him that I was alarmed, that I had not thought to make peace with my maker, that I had composed no will. I tried, using understatement, to communicate my concern.

"'Hey, you'll be fine,' he said. I was not reassured. And soon (be still, my pounding heart), there were the mountains.

"Otis's tandem is a terrific machine," Jack explained. "It's a road racing tandem, not a touring bike, so it doesn't have lots of brakes. Touring tandems have brakes on both rims and usually a hub brake in the back, brakes on the bottle-cages—brakes everywhere.

"Otis had two rim-brakes, Campy sidepulls, but Otis did not use them. *He did not use them.* My fear, already past the maximum limit of dread I can experience, began to increase.

Those mountains to the west of here are not really so high. The peaks reach only about 2,500 feet, but sections of the roads are as twisty and steep as those featured in famous European races. Bicyclists with experience, cautious bicyclists, riding safe machines at safe speeds, can travel those roads in relative security.

"Otis, though, Otis disdained safe speeds and, even though his machine was equipped with capable, well-designed alloy sidepull brakes, Otis *would* not use them.

"My mind has drawn a curtain closed over many of the most painful memories of that ride," Jack said, "but one moment I can remember clearly. We were passing a van on a steep descent, on the way into a blind corner. (Otis passed cars as soon as he came up behind them, no matter what the circumstances.) I remember having trouble with my legs.

"Mind you, I wanted to get around that van and back in our own lane as badly as anyone on the planet wanted anything at that moment. It was urgently in my interest to pedal with all I had, but my legs would not work. They turned to rubber.

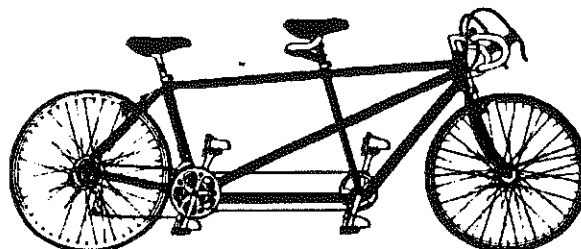
"I remember willing them to work, to roll the pedals around the way they had so many times before. They would not work. We were about two feet across the double yellow line, even with the van driver's door, when this silver Mercury appeared out of the fog, coming at us.

"It was one of those mid-sized Mercurys with the vertical grill, trying to look like a Bentley. While I know now that it was probably not any larger than a small motor home, it looked like the Queen Mary to me.

"I remember thinking, When it's your time, it's your time. Horns honked; the blood roared in my ears. My legs, my trained, toughened, shaved bicycle-racer legs: Jello.

"Well, obviously if I'm here today to tell the story, we did not get killed. Otis steered us through a 6-inch gap between the cars; 44-centimeter handlebars through a 6-inch gap.

"Now, nothing will ever scare me again. It's like measles: I've had fear, I'm not going to get it again. I'm immune, but I'm not crazy. Once in a while, Otis will ask me if I'm ready for another tandem ride. I tell him I have to wash my hair."



## KBC Phone Numbers

**President**  
Dave Patrick ..... 382-5818

**Vice President**  
Bill Watt ..... 349-9562

**Secretary**  
Harold Gleaves .... 381-9753

**Treasurer**  
Jim Wyrick ..... 349-1744

**Race Team**  
Open

**Ride Captain**  
Randy Putt ..... 649-1814

**Spring Valley Race**  
Erik Kayser ..... 388-5287

**Database**  
Phil Caruso ..... 381-0135

**Ride Line**  
Ann Johnson ..... 327-7767

## Classified

### For Sale:

**Bicycle:** 1992 18" Giant Rincon. Black, w/computer and rear rack. As new; 45 total miles, all on-road. Selling to buy road bike. Best offer. For more info call Mike at 969-0031 (days).

**Rollers:** Kreidler Competitor model. Excellent condition. Paid \$200 new, asking \$100. For more info, call Paul at 375-4650.

### Personals

**Clincher:** Stay off my wheel! You've hooked me into the ditch one too many times. I'm racing in a new *peloton* these days and you'd never keep up! -Pookie

## Frequently-Called Numbers

Alfred E. Bike ..... 349-9423

Billy's Bike Shop ..... 665-5202

Breakaway Bicycles ... 349-5555

Millwood Schwinn ..... 349-6384

Parchment Bicycle ..... 343-8118

Portage Schwinn ..... 327-3393

Safety Cycle ..... 381-7233

Scooter's Malt Shop ... 626-8860

Team III Schwinn ..... 962-7688

Village Cyclery ..... 679-4242

Vorncamp Bike ..... 344-3599

Weather Line ... 382-8585 (3333)

**KALAMAZOO**



**BICYCLE CLUB**

**P.O. Box 50527**

**Kalamazoo, MI 49005**

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