

Safe Kids Rodeo

May 2nd was the Safe Kids Rodeo held in the Home Depot parking lot and KBC was there. The safe kids coalition sponsored a kids helmet drawing. Club members Chris Barnes, Brad Cosgrove, Al Cergol and Tom Cross showed up to give riding and equipment advice to kids and parents. What kept us busy though was sizing and giving away helmets won in the drawing. We met a great bunch of kids and parents as well as Officer John Blue. A big thanks to Deb Carpenter for inviting us to be a part of such a worthwhile event.

- Tom Cross

KBC Climbs Kalamazoo

May 9th was Climb Kalamazoo night with KBC and MMBA. A small but brave band of adventurers arrived ready to do battle with gravity & vertigo.

First we had a lesson that had us laughing about our lack of coordination and knot skills. After the lesson and a quick check out we were on the walls. With out going into a lot of detail I would like to mention that I got a cool scrape on my knee.

I would like to thank the members of KBC and MMBA as well as Paul Wells of Breakaway Bicycles fame who came down and helped make this event so much fun. I would also like to thank Gail, Mark, Chris and Eric the human fly for taking such good care of us.

If you are interested in a great cross training work out or just a fun time, head down to Climb Kalamazoo and check it out.

-Tom Cross

Take the Grand Tour

Want to do a really nice ride? Try 100 GRAND TOUR just outside Grand Rapids. The tour takes place on Saturday, June 6. Routes of 17, 30, 50, 62 and 100 miles. Cost is \$15 by May 31, \$20 after. Call 616-752-8123 for more information.

Upcoming Events...

June

- 9 Fort Custer Mountain Bike Time Trial, Fort Cust Trailhead, 6:30 PM.
- 13-14 Hoosier Hills Bike Tour, Bloomington Bicycle Club, PO Box 463, Bloomington, IN 47402-0463.

July

- 11 22nd Annual One Helluva Ride, Ann Arbor, 15 to 100 miles and fat tire route too, 313-432-0881, E-mail jmasural@biostat.hfh.edu.
- 11 N.I.T.E. Navigate Indianapolis This Evening, continuous 20 mile loop of big city sites, 317-327-BIKE.

Ride Captain's Special

Randy Putt is planning a metric century ride (The Old Car Ride) from Vicksburg High School at 8 AM on Saturday June 13. The pace will be 17 to 18 mph and the route will meander through southern Kalamazoo County and parts of St Joseph County.

If you want stoke up on pancakes before the ride, there is a pancake breakfast at the Vicksburg Fire Station in downtown Vicksburg beginning at 7 AM on June 13. Otherwise, bring your own food for during the ride, although there will be a couple of stops to purchase snacks and drinks.

The high school is located on the southeast side of Vicksburg on E. Highway St (W Ave) just east of Becker's Shell on the corner of Highway St and Silver St. The annual Vicksburg Old Car Festival in downtown Vicksburg will be occurring on June 13 also. The ride will be canceled if it is raining. If you have any questions, give Randy a call (649-1814).

Major Taylor Velodrome Trip

Imagine riding on a road as smooth as glass and never having to worry about traffic. Envision a multi-million dollar facility solely built to ride bikes in. Think about doing something that only 1% of serious cyclists have ever experienced. I'm talking about the Major Taylor Velodrome in Indianapolis.

I lived in the Indianapolis area for about 3 years and loved to ride and race on the Velodrome. Riding at the track is unlike any other cycling experience I have ever had. The air is quiet and devoid of any sound but the rush of wind as the bikes fly by. The banking takes a little getting used to but the feel of riding is very natural and surprisingly safe.

Major Taylor holds races for the 35+ age group and first time riders on Saturday evenings. The season runs from mid May to the end of August and racing usually begins at 6:00 PM. I plan to make the trip down to ride at least once this year. The track is open for riding hours before the racing begins and I can teach anyone the proper riding techniques in about 30 minutes.

Anyone remotely interested in riding on the Velodrome should please give me a call to talk about this road trip. Do not worry about your speed or experience, your desire is the only prerequisite! I have 2 rack bikes (52 cm and 57 cm) and guarantee that I can get one of them to fit about anyone. Feel free to just come down, ride a little on the track, and enjoy the racing as a spectator. Call me at 327-8972 if you are interested.

- Chris Barnes

Ride for Humanity

Check out "Bike to Build" in Centerville beginning at Centerville Elementary School, 190 Hogan St, on July 11 at 7:00 AM. It is a fund raiser for Habitat for Humanity, a really worthwhile organization. There are routes of 10, 25, 40, or 62 miles and the entry fee is \$20. The roads are lightly traveled and Centerville is not far from Kalamazoo. Several KBC members met in Vicksburg last year and made the ride a full century. Randy Putt, Kathy Barrett and Doug Kirk highly recommend this ride.

- Randy Putt

Cyclocross Race on Schedule

Plans for the cyclocross race are proceeding on schedule. The race will be held October 17th at the Christ the Cathedral Episcopal Church. The course will be very spectator friendly with 75 % of the race course visible from the church parking lot. The course will have a couple of challenging dismounts and some pretty good mudpits. The club recently received its 1998 USCF club affiliation notification. For anyone wishing to race this year, you can use the KBC club for your team and avoid unattached rider fees.

- Chris Barnes

June Birthdays

Jeff Barker
 John Hoek
 Alyce Brady
 Ligia Camargo
 Phil Caruso
 Alyssa Muller
 Rosanne Degen
 Toni Fuentes
 Jeannette Greselin
 Amy Mack
 James Magnuson
 Erwin Maier
 Carrie Miller
 John Mott
 Vincent Odenwaller
 Joan Orman
 Leigh Smith
 Isaac Standish
 Rick Standish
 Sally Pitt
 Carolyn Vonderfecht
 Jeff Wetters
 Kristyn Whitcomb
 Alyssa Binczyk
 Chloe Binczyk
 Joe Jewett

New Members

Kathy Appledorn
 Joe Gallagher
 John Looman
 Alfredo Barros
 Jodi Hansen
 John Hoek
 Terry O'Connor
 John Sorenson
 David Lowery
 Mary Meagher
 Joseph Nuismer
 Patricia Morales
 Cliff Muller
 Robin Muller
 Alyssa Muller
 Robert Martin

Mountain Biking 101

May 5th marked the first Beginner's Mountain Bike Ride with KBC at Fort Custer. What a blast! We started by talking trail rules and safety. Then a quick bike check (yes you have to fasten the quick release to keep the wheel from falling off). We learned to change a tire, and reviewed the difference between presta & schrader valves. After a quick helmet adjusting session we were off.

The group rolled easily through the first section of *Single Track*. Each of the riders did very well calling out obstacles to those behind them. As a point of interest we rode to the starting line of the Custer Stampede that had been held 2 days earlier. And of course someone yelled out "Gentlemen start your engines." Anyway after a mock mass start we rode some more trail.

We rode up some hills and had to push up a few others. When we got to the entrance to Granny's Garden we took a break a while and I told the tale of my first trip through Granny's and my first 2 trips over the bars that year. So we skipped Granny's and rode some more trail. Seeing the confidence levels building we decided to ride the Playground.

OOPS! We learned what happens when you grab to much front brake on a downhill turn. We also learned how to recover from a crash. After the Playground we decide to skip Crazy Beaver and save it for next ride.

I would like to thank every one who showed up. If there are any other new mountain bikers interested in coming out for another ride like this one call me.

Oh yeah, to Shannon: I was just kidding when I said I ride with clipless pedals because then I don't have to chase the bike as far when I crash.

-Tom Cross

Early Bird Ride

For you early birds who would like to get a ride in first thing Saturday morning, before the heat of the day, or before the kids get up and about, join Chris Barnes at 7:30 AM at Texas Drive Park in June. Chris has indicated he is flexible as to the speed and distance, but expect at least a 17 mph pace for about 40 miles. He would just like to get out and ride with some fellow cyclists. Give it a try.

Do-Dah Parade Fun

Saturday June 6 is the date for the 17th annual Kalamazoo Do-Dah Parade. KBC has their spot reserved. We are looking for 6 to 8 people who want to come out and make fools of themselves. Do you know a better way to have a good time?

Participants must be at the staging area in downtown Kalamazoo by 10 AM. We will be done and out no later than 1 PM. The plan is to have a surrey around which we will circle on mountain bikes. We might even throw in some squirt guns.

If you want to participate give me a call and I will get you all the information. If you have any other ideas please let me know. The first 8 lucky people to call me at 649-1944 get a spot. Don't miss out!

Richard Walter

Fear Is Fun

*Fear is gaining experience,
Trying something different.
Exceeding all expectations,
Then starting all over just for fun!*

*Fear is pushing the limits,
Ignoring the consequences.
Feeling the adrenaline rush,
And looking back when it's done!*

*Fear turns the stomach,
And may make you shake.
All of which is normal,
On the days you really have fun!*

*Fear is part of life,
And everyone experiences it.
For those who have NO FEAR,
Are you really having fun?*

Pedaling Poet

June Rides

by Randy Putt

The weather this Spring has been fantastic for riding. The attendance at the Monday ride has been averaging 40 riders spread over the three ride groups. The Friday ride had a record 24 riders on May 5 in two ride groups. The Tuesday and Wednesday ride groups are growing.

If you have not tried a KBC ride yet this year, come on out. The Monday and Wednesday rides are especially suited for riders new to the club or group riding. Also, there are ride groups on Monday and Wednesday that are especially suited for families. If you any questions, please call me.

There is one change in start times for Monday club rides. STARTING IN JUNE ALL MONDAY RIDES WILL BEGIN AT 6:00 PM INSTEAD OF 6:30 PM. A vote by Monday riders showed the vast majority prefer the earlier start time. The Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday rides will remain at 6:30 PM. The race group ride on Wednesday also remains at 6:00 PM.

The impromptu **Saturday** and **Sunday** rides from Texas Drive Park will continue in June starting at 9 AM. The riders who show up can decide the route to take. Give me a call if you like to lead one of the weekend rides in June.

There are three ride leaders at the **Monday Recovery Ride** at Texas Drive Park. There should be a pace to suit all riding abilities, so come out and give it a try at 6:00 PM. Maps will be available and the ride leaders will make sure that the groups stay together.

Mike Higgins will lead a group for about 20 miles at 10-15 mph (the riders present will decide the pace each week). This ride is especially suited to riders not accustomed to group riding and to families. Steve Vonderfecht plans to lead the 16-18 mph group 25 to 30 miles, and Paul Guimond will lead the 19+ mph group for 25 to 40 miles. Mike, Steve, and Paul have agreed to lead these rides all season but will need substitutes once in awhile.

A new ride was formed on **Tuesday** evenings in May at 6:30 PM. The ride leaves from Breakaway Bicycles on Romence Rd near S. Westnedge in Portage. Paul Wells will lead the 25-30 mile ride at 17-19 mph. I encourage you to check out this new ride.

The **Wednesday** ride meets at Kalamazoo Central HS. Enjoy the rolling hills of northwest Kalamazoo County for a ride of about 20 to 30 miles at 16-18 mph lead by Paul Stevens and Bill Strome. Jim Wyrick has agreed to assist as needed. We could use additional ride leaders for this group. In addition, a fitness ride of 10-15 miles on the Kal-Haven Trail beginning at the Kal-Haven Trailhead will be lead by Mary White. This ride is well suited to riders not accustomed to group riding and families. Mary is a first-time ride leader...thanks for volunteering!

A fast group also rides from Kalamazoo Central on Wednesday evenings beginning at 6:00 PM. The pace of the ride is typically greater than 20++ mph and the route goes to Bloomingdale and back (about 46 miles). The route is well known to most of the riders, no maps are available. This group consists of racers and other experienced riders. There is no designated ride leader. This ride is hard and is not suitable for inexperienced riders. Some riders can be expected to be dropped from the main group.

The **Friday** ride meets at Billy's Bike Shop in Galesburg at 6:30 PM for the Tour deGull Lake. The route for this ride is a loop around Gull Lake and the terrain is rolling hills. The route is well established (about 27 miles) and consists of two groups. Rose McKenna leads the 16-17 mph group while Randy Putt and Richard Walter lead the 19+ group.

If anyone is interested in establishing a regular ride, road or mountain, or a one day ride at another time, please contact me. KBC welcomes any suggestions on types of rides, locations, and times that would interest KBC members. We still need ride leaders for the regular club rides to make the rides successful. Think about being a ride leader for a week, a month, the season, or any combination of the above. Please call Randy Putt at 649-1814. See you out there.

June

1998

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1 Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park 6:00 10-15mph 6:00 16-18mph 6:00 19+mph	2 Breakaway Ride Breakaway Bicycles 6:30 17-19mph	3 Wed Night Ride Kazoo Central HS 6:00 20++mph 6:30 10-15mph 6:30 16-18mph	4	5 Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 6:30 18-21mph	6 Group Ride Texas Drive Park 7:30 AM 17 mph 9:00 Self-paced
7 Group Ride Texas Drive Park 9:00 Self-paced	8 Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park 6:00 10-15mph 6:00 16-18mph 6:00 19+mph	9 Breakaway Ride Breakaway Bicycles 6:30 17-19mph Mtn Bike Time Trial Fort Custer Trailhead 6:30	10 Wed Night Ride Kazoo Central HS 6:00 20++mph 6:30 10-15mph 6:30 16-18mph	11	12 Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 6:30 18-21mph	13 Group Ride Texas Drive Park 7:30 AM 17 mph 9:00 Self-paced
14 Group Ride Texas Drive Park 9:00 Self-paced	15 Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park 6:00 10-15mph 6:00 16-18mph 6:00 19+mph	16 Breakaway Ride Breakaway Bicycles 6:30 17-19mph	17 Wed Night Ride Kazoo Central HS 6:00 20++mph 6:30 10-15mph 6:30 16-18mph	18	19 Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 6:30 18-21mph	20 Group Ride Texas Drive Park 7:30 AM 17 mph 9:00 Self-paced
21 Group Ride Texas Drive Park 9:00 Self-paced	22 Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park 6:00 10-15mph 6:00 16-18mph 6:00 19+mph	23 Breakaway Ride Breakaway Bicycles 6:30 17-19mph	24 Wed Night Ride Kazoo Central HS 6:00 20++mph 6:30 10-15mph 6:30 16-18mph	25	26 Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 6:30 18-21mph	27 Group Ride Texas Drive Park 7:30 AM 17 mph 9:00 Self-paced
28 Group Ride Texas Drive Park 9:00 Self-paced	29 Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park 6:00 10-15mph 6:00 16-18mph 6:00 19+mph	30 Breakaway Ride Breakaway Bicycles 6:30 17-19mph				

Flowerfest Bicycle Tour

We are pleased to report that Flowerfest Tour pre registrations have begun to trickle in during May, at a rate of about 5 or so per week. We're off to a good start, our advertising appears to be working. We expect that the pre registrations will increase significantly in June, as the pre registration deadline for the prize drawing, July 1, approaches.

Remember, as a KBC member, registering before July 1 provides you with a chance at a great prize drawing for *two* United Express / United Airlines tickets. Plus, as a KBC member you receive a 30% discount off the regular tour price, all for acting early. **WHAT A DEAL!** Super prizes, excellent food, post ride massage, plus a great fun tour.

For the benefit of new KBC members and those not familiar with the Flowerfest Tour, it's our club's annual fund raiser, held in conjunction with the Kalamazoo County week of festivities. Proceeds from the tour help KBC promote community bicycling activities and awareness.

Flowerfest is always a great time, with distances for all rider skill levels, travel on quiet country roads, plus good food at a beautiful rest stop. New this year is an escorted family ride, post ride sports massage plus an appearance by Saturn Race Team pro riders. Plan to attend the 7th KBC Flowerfest Tour, July 19, at KVCC, you'll have a fun time and remember that "it's a ride for everyone."

The following Club members deserve your "at'ta boys" for a job well done: Zolton Cohen, for heading up the great looking Flowerfest poster design and printing; Bruce DeDee for designing and building the brochure holders you see in various locations; and Paul and Ann Guimond, Sherri Higgins, Jeanette Holm, John Mathieson, Angie Richman, and Roland Richman for helping stuff and fold 2,000 additional registration forms. Thanks again!

We hope that everyone is enjoying the start of a great '98 riding season. And remember, if you have questions about the Flowerfest Tour, please call. See you at KVCC on the 19th.

Rick Whaley - 329-1285
Paul Stevens - 324-9024

Fort Custer Time Trial, Round 2

The second round of the Fort Custer Mountain Bike Time Trial series is scheduled for Tuesday June 9 (rain date of June 16). The course is the well established green loop. We are riding one lap which is about 6 miles and riders times should average around 30 minutes. While this course is not extremely technical in nature it does have some sections that can be very interesting when ridden fast (I know, I crashed twice the last time around).

This event is directed towards the beginner and intermediate rider. There are no prizes and no glory. The idea is to have some fun and generate some friendly competition. The start time is 6:30 PM. Come on out and give it a try!

Richard Walter

Calling All Captains

Sherry Gordon is a KBC member. She's also blind.

Sherry has a Cannondale tandem and knows her way around the back half of the bike. She is looking for people interested in being the captain.

Sherry didn't tell us what size the front of the bike is, but I've seen it and it's a real nice bike.

Sherry would really like it if people would give her a call about sharing a ride. Phone 383-4144.

- Doug Kirk

Go Ride Your Bike

Born, Not Made

by Axel Kleat

Of the primary aerobic sports, only biking requires some mechanical skills. Want to go for a run? Tie up those stinky sneakers and have at it. A swim? Slip into a Speedo and dive in. Either you're at a lake, or somebody at the YMCA or your parents' house looks after the pool for you.

Maybe you can get your buddies or the folks at the bike shop to do all your bike work, it isn't very practical. At the very least, a bicyclist has to cope with pumping up tires, changing flats, and maybe even lubing a chain.

And let's face it, if you ride much, you've likely learned to handle a good deal more—like truing wheels, cleaning parts, hunting down rattles and squeaks, and adjusting derailleurs, seats, and handlebars.

Some of us hate doing bike work, some of us tolerate it, and some of us actually enjoy it. My name should clue you in: count me in the latter group. I actually *like* working on bikes.

Years of observation have taught me that, like salesmen, people who like doing mechanical stuff are born, not made. Either your gene pool includes the *tinkerer* gene or it doesn't, and there's not much you can do about it one way or the other.

Those of you without such genes might wistfully wish from time to time that you could trade in, say, your *lawn maintenance* gene for a *tinkerer* gene (especially when your derailleur cable snaps twenty miles from home). But you can't, and it's probably just as well. There's a heavy price to be paid if your DNA dictates you're born to twirl a wrench.

There's the matter of where to work. Gotta have a workshop, and it better be well lit and warm enough. If you enjoy the work, you sure want to be in a place that's comfortable. All this ain't cheap, and can be a bit of a problem, depending where you live.

And of course, when you're finished wrenching,

there's grease, dirt, grime, and general filth. The fact that my bike is clean is certainly no indication that my clothes or my fingernails are, and really is a virtual guarantee that they aren't. And every job, no matter how simple, always takes longer than you think, and lots longer than you told your significant other it would.

Or you might end up turning wrenches professionally. This is a good news/bad news deal because everyone else gets the benefit of your skills and knowledge, but you get too tired of turning wrenches to be inspired to work on your own stuff as much as you'd like. So you're never happy with your own steed. Something's never quite right. Something always needs fixing.

At least as a professional mechanic, all the money you spend on the tools you need to do everything just right (and every year the manufacturers make sure you need a few more) will theoretically pay for themselves. I've got all sorts of tools hanging around the shop I used a few times to work on obsolete stuff I'll probably never touch again.

But maybe the biggest problem is what to do with all that old stuff I've peeled off one bike or another. Can't quite bring myself to trash those old, rusty frames and forks. All those old chains—they might be a bit stretched, but they hadn't broke yet when I took 'em off. And who knows—those goofy tri-geek handlebars from ten years ago might be worth something if I hang on to them long enough.

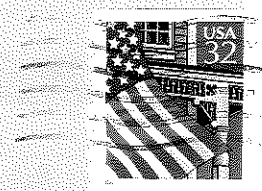
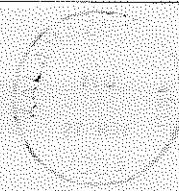
The list goes on: freewheels, platform pedals, slightly maimed handlebars, leaky bottles, snakebitten tubes, brake levers with cables that come out the top and cracked rubber hoods, and only slightly pretzeled rims.

Oh! Almost forgot about helmets—never know when I'll need that Skid-Lid.

Personally, my finest collection is of low mileage saddles—the kind that looked good in the store, but my butt declared unbearable, unbelievable, or worse shortly thereafter. At least they broadened my vocabulary.



KALAMAZOO BICYCLE CLUB
 P.O. Box 50527
 Kalamazoo, MI 49005



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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KALAMAZOO AREA BIKE SHOPS

Alfred E. Bike349-9423
 Billy's Bike Shop665-5202
 Breakaway Bicycles.....324-5555
 Cycle Works & Sports353-7615
 Milwood Schwinn349-6384
 Parchment Bicycle.....343-8118
 Portage Schwinn327-3393
 Pro Sport.....381-7233
 Team Active Schwinn962-7688
 Village Cyclery679-4242
 Vorncamp Bike.....344-3599

KALAMAZOO BICYCLE CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dues (Check One)

- Adult Membership \$15.00
- Family \$17.00
- Senior (60+) \$13.00
- Youth (17 or younger)..... \$13.00

Please Print

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State ____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Birthdate _____
 E-mail _____

Family Member Names

Birthdates

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Signature _____
 Parent's Signature (if under 18) _____

Interested in working on KBC Events? Yes No
 Registered Racer: USCF NORBA

SEND TO: KALAMAZOO BICYCLE CLUB, PO BOX 50527, KALAMAZOO MI 49005