

Pedal Press



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The Newsletter of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, Inc., October, 2001

President's Letter

Happy 30th Anniversary KBC!

Congratulations to everyone who has helped make history this year with the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club! I am honored to have shared in the last two years of its 30 years of existence. I am hoping that we can put together a special 30th Anniversary Edition of the Pedal Press for some great history and fun stories. If you have any thing you would like to share, please forward it to our awesome editor.

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer and managed to fit in lots of quality riding. Most importantly I pray that everyone is finding peace and comfort somehow in the midst of our current world affairs. I pray that we will come together as a nation and that God will bless America forever! Amen.

New name, new beginnings.....I would like to let everyone know that your president has a new last name. This summer I went through a divorce and have decided to take my "Italian" maiden name back. So Karen Sue Ouellette has now become Karen Sue Mackaluso. I know it will take awhile to get used to this again, but in time it will seem natural.

I would like to thank the officers and volunteers of the Kalamazoo Bike Club for a great year. We have a lot of talent in this club, and I don't want it to go unnoticed! So thanks from the bottom of my heart, to everyone who has pitched in, whether it be an office held, ride leader, a volunteer, or just showing up for the weekly rides!

I hope we'll all be around for the next 30 years! (Zolton, that includes you!)

Good Luck to those who are doing fall marathons or mountain bike races! Paul Stevens, Steve Secondi and I are doing the Chicago Marathon in October. Then I am off to Ironman Florida (along with Ken Fouts) in November. Oh Happy Days!

Happy Trails and God Bless,

- Karen Sue Mackaluso

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KBC's Wish List

That everyone come to the 2002 Ride Schedule Meeting (See page 2) so we get as much input as possible on this important issue.

Next KBC Meeting

The next regular KBC meeting will again be the second Tuesday of the month, October 9th, at 7:00 pm at the Borgess Fitness Center, located on the old Nazareth College campus, 3025 Gull Road. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Portage Bikeway Ride October 14

This year's Portage Bikeway Ride is set for Sunday, October 14, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. This family-oriented event has 9 and 15 mile routes along the various bike routes throughout Portage—routes for which we can thank our own Chris Barnes.

Please plan to ride if you can, and please call Paul Stevens, KBC's Treasurer, at 324-9024 if you can volunteer to help on the day of the event.

2002 Flowerfest Meeting Oct. 18

The first meeting to begin planning for next year's Flowerfest will be held Thursday, October 18 at 7:00 pm at the Portage Public Library. If you're remotely interested in helping with KBC's annual fundraiser, please plan to attend.

Meeting Set To Consider Possible 2002 Ride Calendar Changes

As Zolton notes in September's Minutes, possible changes to KBC's ride schedule have been a hot topic recently. At our September meeting, we decided to set a Ride Schedule Meeting to discuss changes to the ride calendar for 2002.

The meeting is set for Monday October 29, 2001 at 6:00 pm at McGinnis Landing, located at the Southwest corner of West Main & Drake (Thanks, Joan).

This is the first Monday after Daylight Savings time ends...you would be riding the Monday Night Ride if there was daylight but there's not, so you have no excuse not to be there

We plan to discuss options for next year's ride schedule, whether to leave it the same, change it all around or simply add options to the existing schedule.

Some of you will remember a flurry of email (started by Tom Cross) in which many of us expressed our pinion about the ride schedule. In response to these emails we feel it is best to get together and talk it over.

As there seems to be two factions in the populace we plan to split into two groups to facilitate appropriate discussion. One group will focus on the current schedule and the needs of a majority of the club. The second group will focus on racers and proposed changes that will focus weekly rides more towards race specific training.

This may result in reorganization of our ride calendar, additional weekly rides or no change at all. One thing is clear, there is considerable interest in this topic and a meeting is the most effective means to address it. If you have an opinion, be there!

- Greg Bouwman

Correction

In last month's article entitled "A Little History," we **incorrectly** indicated that Bruce & Dorothy DeDee had speculated that KBC began in the early 1980's. Bruce and Dorothy were misquoted. We regret the error, and we regret misspelling their last name too.

In fact, they indicated that KBC had been in existence since the early 1970's, a fact of which they are quite certain as Dorothy's son, Jeffrey Park, participated in KBC events in 1973 or 1974. Even at that time KBC was offering rides of various lengths, Dorothy recalls.

Of course, Dorothy is right, and the fact that our 30th Anniversary Ride was September 22, 2001 shows that the club has in fact existed since 1971.

The fact is that your Editor has only been involved since the late 1980's, and would like to acquire information about the early days of KBC, especially written information such as newsletters, newspaper articles, etc. If you have access to any, please contact me.

- Doug Kirk

October Birthdays

Mary Aldrich
Lori Allen
Michelle Cudahy
Don Degen
Bill Duggan
Brendan Gaff
Deborah Gray
Mike Higgins
Scott Hite
Marcia Johnson
Tom Keizer
Harry Kraus
Mark Krook
Helen Lukan-Kavanaugh
Paul Pancella
Susan Peterson
Mark Prairie
Kathy Rewalt
Blake Showers
Andrea Thannhauser
John Thome
Sam Watt

New Members

Gwen Abney-Cunningham
Fred Einspahr
Chris Elston
Harry Kraus
Jennifer LaBrenz
Shari LaBrenz
Tom LaBrenz
John Looman
Kaitlin Noverr
Cindy Noverr
Thomas Noverr
Andrew Rosenbaum

Expiring Memberships

(The Editor is given to understand that sometimes people's names appear in this list even though they recently paid their dues. This problem is due to the time gap created between the mail being picked up at the Post Office, then delivered to the Database Manager, then entered into the computer. Just to add even more delay, the information is sent to the Editor on the 15th each month, and two more weeks pass before the PedalPress is written, printed, folded, labeled, and mailed. We apologize to those folks who pay up only to find themselves listed here.)

Linda Adamcz

Christopher Barnes

Marian Barnes

Stephen Barnes

Betsy Barnes

Jose Luiz Ferraz de Camargo Family

Laurie and Ron Doering

Amy Lehman

Cole Lehman

Gary Lehman

John Mathieson

Cheryl and Mark Olson

Paul and Anne Pancella

Susan Peterson

Mark Prairie

Kathy Rewalt

Austin Rewalt

Amber Rewalt

William Rewalt

Judy Van Fleet

David & Karen Watt

Richard Wolf

KBC September Meeting Minutes

Subject: Kalamazoo Bike Club Board Meeting Minutes, September 11, 2001.
Location: Borgess Health and Fitness Center, Gull Road. Time: 7:00 PM.
Present: Zolton Cohen, Karen Sue Mackaluso, Steve Secondi, Dave Newman, Paul Stevens, Doug Kirk, Terry O'Connor, Greg Bouwman, Emily Mattes.

Paul Stevens had received some comments after the Flowerfest Tour about the bathrooms at the Alamo Little League sag stop not being open during the event. While there was one Porta-Potty at the site, it was inconveniently placed and the stationary bathrooms were locked. Dave Newman is checking to see if this was an oversight or deliberate, and there was some discussion about whether KBC should, because of this situation, reconsider donating \$100.00 to the facility as has been done in the past.

Tom Cross had sent e-mails around to various KBC members several weeks ago suggesting KBC look into changing some of the weekly scheduled rides to better serve a race training regimen. Greg Bouwman agreed to facilitate a meeting and discussion about potential ride changes, scheduled for October 29 at 6:00 PM at MacGinnis Landing (SW corner of Drake and W. Main St.) The KBC Executive Board urges members and interested parties to attend to provide input and opinions on this important matter.

There was discussion about changing some of the verbiage in the Pedal Press to more accurately reflect the current average riding speeds (and to define "average" riding speed) at the weekly KBC rides. Doug Kirk will contact Randy Putt, Ride Captain, about these changes.

Emily Mattes brought up the subject of KBC's need to "train" and encourage young - and inexperienced - riders. Discussion centered around KBC's attempts to do this in the past, which resulted in low rider turnouts, and the fact that any experienced rider teaching such a "class" would give up valuable riding time. As always, there is a dearth of volunteers to work on projects like this, as well as ride leaders for this type of group.

Paul Stevens reminded the meeting attendees of the upcoming Portage Bikeway Ride on October 14th, starting at 2:00 PM. The organizers of this event need several more volunteers. Anyone interested can contact Paul, whose number and e-mail address is listed in the back of the Pedal Press.

In light of the upcoming November elections, candidates so far for the KBC Board posts are Karen Sue Ouellette, president; Greg Bouwman, vice president; Terry O'Connor, treasurer; Zolton Cohen, secretary. While not an elected position, Doug Kirk has agreed to continue for the time being as Pedal Press Newsletter editor.

The first Flowerfest 2002 committee meeting will take place on October 18th, 7:00 PM, at the Portage Public Library. Everyone is invited.

The next KBC Board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM, October 9th at the Borgess Health and Fitness Center. Respectfully submitted,

- Zolton B. Cohen, KBC Secretary

August/September Race Results

PedalPress publishes KBC members' race results. **Cheryl Olson** and **Chris Barnes** supply information they obtain to the Editor, who does his best to get it all straight. PLEASE notify the Editor of any mistakes or omissions. We try to list upcoming races too. Please help Cheryl and Chris by notifying them of any race results for KBC members you know of. Contact Chris at 327-8972 or email Barnesmc@net-link.net. Contact Cheryl at 616-664-6912 or caolson@resourceocean.com.

8/18 TK Lawless Time Trial

Class	Name	Placement
Elite Men 35+	John Meyers	1st
Single Speed	Richard Neumann	4th

8/26 Fort Custer Time Trial

Class	Name	Placement
Elite 34 & under	Mark Olson	1st
Elite 35+	John Meyers	3rd
Expert Women	Cheryl Olson	1st
Expert 24 & under	Pete Skellenger	1st
Expert 35-44	Mike Jones	2nd
	Scott Steurer	5th
Sport 45-54	Rick Updike	13th
Singlespeed	Richard Neumann	1st

9/9 Stoney Creek Cross Country

Class	Name	Placement
Expert Men 35-44	Scott Steurer	5th
Single Speed	Richard Neumann	4th

8/17 Mt. Snow NORBA

Class	Name	Placement
Expert Women	Cheryl Olson	3rd

Upcoming Events

- 10/7** Stoney Creek Cyclocross
www.tailwinds.net
- 10/13** Boyne Challenge Downhill
www.funpromotions.com
- 10/14** Boyne Challenge Cross Country
www.funpromotions.com
- 10/20** Cannonsburg Challenge Downhill
www.funpromotions.com
- 10/21** Cannonsburg Challenge X-C
www.funpromotions.com
- 10/21** Lower Huron Park Cyclocross
www.tailwinds.net

10/21 Steve Cox's Dirt Road Ride

Don't forget Steve Cox's NPR (NO Painted Roads) ride Sunday 10/21 at 9:00 at Texas Drive Park. Expect about 70 miles, around half on unpaved, rural roads. Put on some wider tires and go for it. Steve promises a dandy event. Email him to let him know you're coming at curlstays@aol.com

Race Ramblings

Because I'm the Editor I figure I have the right to say a few things about the race results we've been printing this year. First, if you've been paying attention, you have no doubt noticed that several KBC members have turned in lots of really excellent results. I think congratulations are entirely warranted to all KBC racers, and the racers above have been kicking butt all year. I THINK Richard Neumann has won the State singlespeed class for a second year running, and I THINK Cheryl Olson must have won the State Expert division in her age group. I hope to print some final results when they are available.

Second, look at the last race result above, where Cheryl Olson took 3rd. That's a NORBA race—a national event, folks, not a state event. Mt. Snow is in Vermont, I believe. Congratulations, Cheryl.

Third, I never received much in the way of road race (particularly Grattan) or triathlon results. If someone sends me the stuff, I'll print it.

- Doug Kirk

October Ride Calendar

by Ride Captain Randy

All KBC Weekday Rides Start at 5:30 in October Due To Shorter Days

The Tuesday and Thursday rides are done for the year.

Too bad the Vineyard Classic was pretty much washed out this year. The turnout, I heard, was close to nil, not surprising since it rained nearly all day. Maybe people woke up, heard the pitter-patter, and remembered the total deluge that actually flooded the road by Paw Paw Lake on last year's ride. Doug Kirk says he had to rebuild four different bottom brackets afterwards. I did hear that Ken Fouts did the entire ride this year anyway, since it was part of his training for an Ironman event in November. Way to make the rest of us feel like wimps, Ken!

The organized touring season is just about done for the year, but don't forget the Turning Leaves Century October 7 (see below). And don't forget the Portage Bikeway Ride October 14 at 2 o'clock at Borgess at Woodbridge (see Page 1). In the meantime...

The Monday Ride at Texas Drive Park consists of five ride groups which should provide a pace to suit riders of all abilities:

- 15-20 mile group at 10-15 mph no ride leader in October so those who show up can plan their ride as the weather and light permit,
- 25-30 mile group at 16-18 mph led by Terry O'Connor and Fred James,
- 25-30 mile group at 19-20 mph led by Randy Putt, Rick Whaley, Greg Bouwman, Tom Cross, and Larry Kissinger,
- 25-30 mile group at 20+ mph, need ride leader.
- the Paceline Skills Ride at 15-20 mph (25-30 miles) led by Doug Kirk. This is KBC's newest ride, also known as the DRAGS (Decent Riders Attempting to Go Slow.) Learn/practice proper paceline bike handling and drafting technique at a recovery ride pace, around 18 - 19 mph.

The turnout on Mondays and Wednesdays has been tremendous. Several riders from each group are typically present with as many as 50 riders all together.

The Wednesday ride meets at the Kal-Haven Trail Parking lot. We offer three ride groups:

- 25-35 mile group at 16-18 mph led by Bill Strome,
- 25-35 mile group at 20+ mph led by Zolton Cohen.

In addition to these two rides, the Wednesday **Hammerfest** also starts at Kal-Haven Trail Parking lot at 6 PM. The pace of the ride is greater than 20+ mph, and lately has averaged as high as 25 mph. The route goes to Bloomingdale and back (46 miles). No maps are available for this ride. **This group is generally large (20 - 40 riders) and consists of racers and other assorted masochists.** This ride is well known throughout southwest Michigan, and fast riders come from other cities. There is no designated ride leader. The group routinely fragments, riders get spit out the back of the pack, and the group is not particularly kind to people who have flats or other machanicals.

This ride is hard and is not suitable for inexperienced riders. Good pack riding skills are essential. It is also lots of fun if you are up to it.

The Friday Tour de Gull meets at Billy's Bike Shop in Galesburg for a ride around Gull Lake (27 miles). We have two ride groups this year.

- 16 - 18 mph group (need ride leaders,)
- 20+ mph group led by Randy Putt, Rick Whaley, with a host of others filling in as needed. All groups follow the same route. The route for this ride is well established so the ride leader job is easy. Give it a try.

Meet at the KVCC parking lot on Saturdays and Sundays at noon for 30-60 mile rides. There are no designated ride leaders. The riders who show up will determine the route, distance, and pace. **Note there is no 9:00 weekend ride, mostly because it's too cold so early in the day this time of year.**

Turning Leaves Century October 7

This is the last organized fall tour in southwest Michigan each year, and is a great ride on sparsely traveled roads with decent food and routes from 25 to 100 miles.

This ride is not real well known because it is sponsored by the Michiana Bicycle Association, and is NOT on the LMB Calendar. The ride starts/finishes at Southwestern Michigan College, just south of Dowagiac, less than an hour away.

We have no contact number or email address, but call Doug Kirk if you need to know more—he has entry forms and can tell you how to get there.

October

Due to shorter days, gosh darn it, all KBC *WEEKDAY* rides start at 5:30 in October.

2001

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
30 KVCC at NOON Riders present decide pace and distance.	1 Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park 5:30 10-15 mph 5:30 16-18 mph 5:30 20+ mph Paceline Practice	2	3 Kal-Haven Trailhead 5:30 16-18 mph 5:30 20 - 22 mph 5:30 22++	4	5 Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 5:30 15-16 mph 5:30 17-19 mph 5:30 18-21 mph	6 KVCC at NOON Riders present determine pace and distance
7 KVCC at NOON Riders present determine pace and distance Turning Leaves Century (Page 5).	8 Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park 5:30 10-15 mph 5:30 16-18 mph 5:30 20+ mph Paceline Practice	9	10 Kal-Haven Trailhead 5:30 16-18 mph 5:30 20 - 22 mph 5:30 22++	11	12 Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 5:30 15-16 mph 5:30 17-19 mph 5:30 18-21 mph	13 KVCC at NOON Riders present determine pace and distance.
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21 KVCC at NOON Riders present decide pace and distance.	22 Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park 5:30 10-15 mph 5:30 16-18 mph 5:30 20+ mph Paceline Practice	23	24 Kal-Haven Trailhead 5:30 16-18 mph 5:30 20 - 22 mph 5:30 22++	25	26 Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 5:30 15-16 mph 5:30 17-19 mph 5:30 18-21 mph	27 KVCC at NOON Riders present determine pace and distance.
28 KVCC at NOON Riders present decide pace and distance.	29 NO RIDE—GO TO RIDE SCHEDULE MEETING AT 6:00. SEE PAGE 2	30	31	1	2	3 KVCC at NOON Riders present determine pace and distance.

KBC Elections Coming Up

Annual elections for KBC's elected positions of President, Vice-president, Secretary & Treasurer will take place at the November regular monthly meeting, which will be Tuesday, November 13th at 7:00 pm.

We are currently holding the meetings at the Borgess Fitness Center, 3025 Gull Road, which is on the campus of the old Nazareth College. There will be a sign directing you to the meeting once you come in the main entrance to the fitness center. Or you can ask at the desk.

As of now, Karen Sue is running unopposed for reelection as President, as is Greg Bouwman for Vice-president, and Zolton Cohen for Secretary,

Paul Stevens advised us a few months ago that he would not be seeking another term as Treasurer, and thus far, Terry O'Connor is the only individual stepping up for the job.

KBC would be happy to receive additional nominees for any of these positions. Simply contact any Board member (the phone numbers and email addresses are on the back page), or come to our next meeting, October 9th, also at the Borgess Fitness Center. Most of us will likely attend the October 29th meeting about the ride schedule (see page 2), so you could speak to us then also.

It's YOUR club, and we encourage everyone out there to be as involved as possible.

- Doug Kirk

DALMAC 2001

Another DALMAC is history, and it was another great ride. The weather was great—not too hot or too cold. Highs in the mid 60's to the mid 70's every day.

There was a BIG crossing head wind on Thursday which made for a long, long day, but some tailwind Saturday and LOTS of tailwind Sunday. It rained a bit Thursday night and a bit more around noon Friday, but otherwise was dry.

When we checked in, they had a big printout on the wall listing the riders, their home towns, and the routes they were riding. I counted 46 riders from the Kalamazoo area—not including Battle Creek—and about 20 of these were doing the Quad century route, which is the most

challenging of the five different routes DALMAC offers from Lansing to the Mackinaw Bridge.

Although most of the route the last two days is very hilly, the last 25 miles for all five routes, from Cross Village (home to the famous Legs Inn) to Mackinaw City is very flat. With that big tailwind blowing from the southwest and some big groups forming, many of us covered this last 23 miles in well under an hour, some folks averaging 27 mph after already covering 375 miles in the previous 3 days!!

There are lots of tired but very happy faces at the end of DALMAC every year. Making it to the bridge still gives me a true sense of accomplishment, even though I've done it many times now.

Special congratulations to KBC members Deb Gray and Frank Machnik (and any others I don't know of) for completing their first (and I bet not their last) DALMACs.

Bye, Han

Wen Han Teoh, ex-KBC member and WMU grad student from Malaysia, stopped by recently as he prepared to return to Malaysia, most likely permanently, he said. Han had moved to Arizona about a year ago, but was a victim of the poor economy and was laid off. Under the terms of his visa, no job meant he had to leave. (It's not that simple, but that's how it worked out.)

Han also has kept up with Nick Morin, another ex-KBC member who took 2nd at the national 24 hour mountain bike race in California last year. Both these guys are really strong riders, and Nick in particular amazed us one day when we came upon him riding back from Saugatuck at about 25 mph with a huge backpack. Han says Nick got into downhill skiing last winter and broke an ankle badly enough that he had to spend this summer rehabbing it, and not riding competitively.

Nick is currently living and working somewhere around Lake Tahoe. I'm sure I'm not the only one around here who wishes both of these fine, and fast, young men the best.

- Doug Kirk

It's Not About The Miles

When I was a young man I went on a camping trip to the Porcupine Mountains in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It was beautiful—my first experience with bears in the wild, wilderness vistas, and an unforgettable scenic overlook of Lake of the Clouds. But I never returned — it was too far to drive.

But not too far to bike. Jill and I made the Porcupines and the Keweenaw Peninsula our destination this summer on our tandem bike. We drove to Ludington, left our truck in the parking lot, and rode our trusty and loaded tandem to the entrance to the ferry. We arrived in Manitowoc four hours later.

Our first day on the tandem, we headed north to Marinette, WI. and then onto Iron Mountain to visit friends, Rick and Wendy Fox, former Kalamazoo residents. Just before biking into L'Anse, MI, we experienced a few of the many highlights of the trip—two eagles soaring overhead and a magnificent waterfall.

The next day we biked to Houghton/Hancock through an early morning rain and spent the day with other friends who we had not seen for many years. They actually drove out to see us riding our tandem because they couldn't imagine us coming all this way on a bike.

Amidst clouds, but not rain, the next day was on to the Porcupine Mountains. We spent the day biking up to the spectacular Lake of the Clouds overlook and then hiking down to the actual lake and hiking back in a torrential downpour. A wet bike ride down took us to our hotel for a soak in a hot tub.

Does it get any better than this? Bears in the wild? Yes, bears; but not in the wild. We saw a huge black bear poking his head out of a dumpster at a funky restaurant in Silver City.

Now it was on to the lake district in Northern Wisconsin. What an area! It is well worth experiencing the biking in Wisconsin as other KBC bike members have shared. We loved the Twin Lakes area with its small town, evening concerts, and refreshing lakes for swimming after a hot hard day on the bike.

Amidst major thunderstorm warnings the next morning

we headed to the town of Crandon, Wisconsin. We did a fast 30-mile ride racing ahead of the thunderheads, arriving at 8:15 a.m. just as the cloudburst hit.

While scouting out breakfast at a local restaurant, a lady noticed our dilemma. She immediately offered her house as shelter. She was the local Methodist minister's wife. Not only did we take shelter at her house that morning but since the day did not improve, we stayed the night. This was a real lesson for us in seeing how far small town hospitality really extends.

The next stop and our longest day (110 miles) was Green Bay and again we experienced local people going beyond normal courtesy in helping us find a hotel room. The next morning we pedaled the short distance to Manitowoc, showered at a local marina, and boarded the ferry for the easy trip back to Ludington.

As usual with these trips, we loved the challenge of the ride, and being able to eat as much as we want and still return losing weight. We were also amazed at the reaction of people when they discovered the scope of our trip and their admiration at our adventurous spirit.

What we really value are the people we meet along the way—old friends, new friends, but most of all the casual brush with people who eagerly fill water bottles, who start conversations at gas stations, grocery stores, or even cheer you along as they zoom past in their SUV's.

We believe these occupants of fast moving vehicles actually envy us. Are we crazy? We were amazed at the hotel owners/managers who always went out of their way to make sure that we were comfortable and had what we needed to service our bike and even suggested storing our bike in a locked shed for safe keeping (Green Bay).

Truly, fellow bikers, if you have not experienced an unsupported bike trip, it is worth planning. Remember, it is not the number of miles you cover that is important; it is taking the time to enjoy the spirit of the adventure and the wonderful people you meet along the way.

- Jill Stewart and Dave Sluyter

Insecurities

by Axel Kleat

I was still numb from the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon when I paged past the front section of the newspaper the following Saturday morning. The headline at the top of the second section read "Bike accident kills girl, injures father". A charming picture of the dead daughter stared up at me.

You've likely heard about it by now. It happened about 8:00 pm, just before dusk, on Friday, September 14th practically in front of the high school on Drake Road. A sober 17 year old girl, a good kid apparently, just ran right into the back of the tandem. She said she never saw it. With cell phones, CDs, and any number of other distractions, who knows where her attention was. She had her headlights on, the bike had reflectors. She still never saw the tandem, and apparently never slowed before the impact. Criminal charges are still pending.

The five year old stoker died shortly afterwards of spine and brain injuries. Her father, a music teacher for the public schools here, was in critical condition with a head injury. He'll survive, but the extent of his brain damage is still unknown.

Both were wearing helmets, for all the good it did them. Maybe it saved his life, I don't know. But either way, a family has been totally devastated, an innocent child killed, and relatives traumatized. And much easier to identify with when the cause of death is one that bicyclists risk every time we hit the streets. Much easier to identify with than hundreds of strangers from far away about whom I know nothing.

When I try to consider the horror on the east coast, it's impossible to get a grasp on the enormity of the tragedy. Intentionally turning airliners into kamikaze missiles full of civilians, then aiming them at civilians. I just can't imagine it, much less the result. But I can imagine the circumstances of that car/bike accident very well indeed. I know the road, and I know the intersection. Until a couple of years ago, we used to run the Wednesday Night Ride from the parking lot right next to the scene, and start the ride on Drake Road. I would bike on the very asphalt

where it happened on the way to the ride. We moved to 10th St. in large part because Drake was dangerous (thank you, Zolton).

I know that drivers make mistakes, and often do not react to anything smaller than a car. I also know there's no excuse for not seeing a tandem no matter the conditions, and that this particular driver no doubt has some trauma of her own to deal with.

We're all feeling less secure after the terrorist acts. But security is a relative thing, and most members of western civilization are by far the most secure people in history. The vast majority of us live long lives, never worry about heat or shelter or having enough to eat. Crime is minimal enough that a large amount of our law enforcement has been directed towards victimless crimes.

But any thoughtful bicyclist knows—and feels—when reading about this terribly sad incident that we could have been that victim, that life's all a big roulette wheel, that the next ride might be the last ride. We've seen our share of inattentive motorists, angry motorists, and drunks. We know we take our lives in our hands each time we push off. We simply decide it's a risk worth taking. Bicyclists are a good deal more aware just how fragile this life is than most folks.

It's all a risk folks, and both these incidents simply highlight this truism. It may just turn out that someone who knows nothing about you—or thinks he knows all he needs to know about you—decides that today is the day. Or maybe it will just be that someone isn't paying attention and punts you into oblivion. You're dead either way.

The problem with security is that it takes away from the most precious thing life gives us, which is this moment right now. I've written here before about the analogy between life and biking—that the journey's the thing, not the destination. The journey's going on right now. Plan for tomorrow, but don't bet too much on it.

Just because the sun comes up again doesn't prove you will too. Make the most of right now. Ride your bike because you love to, and make sure you savor it. It would be nice if you could do it again tomorrow, but tomorrow really is a question mark. Always has been. We've just been reminded very forcefully.



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 Ride Captain: Randy Putt 649-1814
 email SRBike@aol.com

KBC Info and Ride Line: 343-2288

KALAMAZOO AREA BIKE SHOPS

Alfred E. Bike 349-9423
 Billy's Bike Shop 665-5202
 Breakaway Bicycles 324-5555
 Milwood Schwinn 349-6384
 Parchment Bicycle 343-8118
 Portage Schwinn 327-3393
 Team Active Schwinn 962-7688
 Village Cyclery 679-4242
 Vorncamp Bike 344-3599
 Freedom Recreation 381-7233

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

Rider Category: Fitness Casual Competitive

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