

KBC PedalPress

The Newsletter of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club for December, 2017

www.kalamazoobicycleclub.org

THE NEXT KBC MONTHLY MEETING IS December 12th, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.
at the Kalamazoo YMCA, 1001 W. Maple St. All KBC members are welcome to attend.

KBC's Annual Recovery Party Set for January 27, 2018

It's not even Christmas yet your Social Director insists that you look beyond the Yuletide season to set aside January 27, 2018 for the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club's annual Recovery Party. The Recovery Party is arguably the best off-the-bike event of the season, and again will be held at the architectural firm of **Eckert Wordell**, thanks to longtime KBC member **David Jarl**.

Dress is extremely casual, but no spandex, please. Save that for later in 2018! We go from 7:00 to 10:00pm. More details to follow, but bear in mind that the party is potluck, so please bring a side dish or salad or dessert to share. We'll supply the plates, utensils napkins, beer, wine, soft drinks and small sandwiches.

--John Idema, socialdirector@kalamazoobicycleclub.org

President's Letter: Much More To Do

Woo hoo, we're in for another year! Thank you to everyone who came out to vote at the November membership meeting, and thank you for re-electing Mike Boersma Treasurer, Valerie Litznerski Secretary, John Olbrot Vice-President and myself as President. We were overwhelmed by the tremendous turnout of voters and meeting attendees. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as KBC's President for another year and know John feels the same way as Vice-President. We are excited for the opportunity to complete some projects and goals that have been in the works for a year or two.

Thank you to Scott Baron and Thom Brennan for being worthy opponents and providing the opportunity to work through KBC's election process. Finally, a huge THANK YOU to all the members who volunteered at the election, your help and dedication to KBC is greatly appreciated!

Even though the riding season is diminishing, KBC's work does not slow down, only the time we spend on our bikes. We use this time of year to nail down as much planning and coordination of events and activities as possible so when Spring rolls around, we can hop on our bikes and ride. Some of the items KBC's Executive Committee, Board Members and Committee Members are working on now and during the winter months include:

1. Confirming Board Positions for 2018
2. Updates to KBC's website for membership management
3. Coordination of RideWithGPS member feature
4. Social Media Administration

5. Assess KBC seeking 501(c)(3) non-profit status
6. Recovery Party Planning
7. Bike Camp Coordination
8. KalTour Preparations
9. Updating KBC History on website
10. Goal development for 2018
11. Enhance bike safety and education efforts
12. Insurance Administration for 2018

There is much that goes on behind the scenes and KBC has wonderful members willing to step up and volunteer their time to get things done. The best way to keep current on KBC happenings and get involved is to attend monthly membership meetings and read the PedalPress. It can be easy to sit on the sidelines and criticize what KBC could be doing and could be doing better. It's harder to recognize the positive steps KBC has taken to improve many aspects of the club unless you regularly attend meetings to keep in touch with the ins and outs of KBC events and activities.

I encourage members to be a part of the change they want to see in the club. If you have an idea for the club, please come to a meeting and share that idea with others or email myself or any KBC Board member. We will only get out of KBC what we are willing put into it. If you have an idea you'd like KBC to consider in our goals for next year, plan to attend the December membership meeting on Tuesday, December 12th as we begin seeking goals for 2018.

KBC is a bike club managed by volunteers and I know we all appreciate the time and talents KBC's Board members and others devote to the club. There is much we can accomplish working together in a positive way towards common goals while sharing our passion and love for bikes with others in our community. If you have any questions about becoming involved with KBC, feel free to email me at president@kalamazoobicycleclub.org.

Wishing all of you a safe and wonderful Holiday Season filled with many memorable times with family and friends!

--Renee Mitchell, President

KBC September Board Meeting Summary

In September the KBC Board held a meeting to review financials and budget, increase of membership fees, and the possibility of KBC obtaining a 501(c)(3) non-profit status. Thank you to the Board members who attended - **Renee Mitchell, John Olbrot, Val Litznerski, Mike Boersma, Mike Krischer, Pam Sotherland, Paul Sotherland, Paul Wells, Terry O'Connor, Marc Irwin and Paul Selden**. Below is a summary of the meeting.

KBC Finances and 2017 Budget

The Executive Committee presented KBC income and expenses for 2013-2016 and through August 31, 2017 as well as a proposed budget for 2017. Board members had the opportunity to comment and ask questions and accepted what was presented. For the first time in many years KBC has a budget in place that will be valuable in making future decisions for the club.

KBC Membership Fees Increase

During the past 20 years, the club's expenses have increased but the membership rate has remained the same. With insurance rates going up every year, increasing expenses for social activities, additional administrative expenses (membership tracking, website improvements, etc.) and the desire to support other events and organizations that share our mission, board members were in consensus that it was time to increase membership fees. After much discussion and evaluation, the Board voted and approved the following increase to take effect on January 1, 2018:

Individual 1 Year - \$25.00

Individual 3 Year - \$60.00

Family 1 Year - \$35.00

Family 3 Year - \$75.00

This increase seems more comparable to what similar bike clubs charge and will help KBC better fulfill its mission in the upcoming years. We appreciate your understanding of this increase. Thank you!

Should KBC Obtain 501(c)(3) Status?

The Executive Committee presented a review of club history, the pros and cons of obtaining this status, and what other options were available. After much discussion by all, this item was tabled for further discussion and information gathering, including advice as to how tax and accounting laws apply to a volunteer organization like KBC. It will very likely be brought up again at the next Board Meeting

--Renee Mitchell, President

Get Your Free 5-Foot Passing Stickers and Magnets

We received our 5-Foot passing stickers and magnets. They are available at all the local bike shops and various other locations. Quantities are limited, as they say, so don't delay. Please display them prominently on your vehicle, or your relative's, friend's, neighbor's, or co-worker's vehicle—or anywhere else that they will be seen. If you are so inclined, leave a donation to replenish the KBC education fund. We spent over \$1200 on these puppies, so we hope they have an impact, and that we will have more funds to do more promotion and education. Thank you for your support!

--Paul Wells, Educationchair@kalamazoobicycleclub.org

Ride with GPS Club Account coming to KBC

KBC purchased a Club Account with the popular Ride with GPS program, which will be a tremendous benefit to club members. The primary use of the Club Account will be the route library – this is a repository of routes the Club will compile. It will include regular weekly ride routes, KBC annual event routes (such as the Ride to South Haven, Ride Around Kalamazoo, etc.), Kal-Tour routes, and member-submitted routes.

As you can imagine, this will become a very extensive list of rides! The list of routes can be sorted by name, location, distance, elevation, and can be further filtered by club-designated tags (keywords), making it easy to find a great route for your next cycling adventure.

But wait, there's more! All KBC members will have all the added features of a paid "Premium" account on Ride with GPS. This adds some great features that are not available with the individual free Ride with GPS account, including turn-by-turn navigation, off-line route access, advanced maps & cue sheets, and much more. This is a value of \$80/year which members of KBC will get for **FREE** as part of their club membership!

Several account administrators are currently setting up the club account, loading some routes, and fine-tuning the member signup process. The program will be up and running and ready to roll with you on your first spring ride. In the meantime, if you do not currently have a Ride with GPS account you might want to open your own free account, download the mobile app and start playing with the individual account features. The "help" area of the website has good tutorials to help you get started, and you can also learn more about the Club Account benefits and premium options that will be available to you on the Club Account routes. Go to ridewithgps.com to get started.

Look for future announcements about how to access the KBC Club Account and how to submit routes. Please note that only members of KBC will have access to the routes and premium features in the Club Account – one more reason to be a dues-paying member of Kalamazoo Bicycle Club!

--Dale Abbott

Come Vote for KBC's Friend of Bicycling Award Winner

KBC members will vote to determine this year's Friend of Bicycling Award winner at the December 12th regular club meeting at 7:00 at the Maple St. YMCA. We hope you come add your vote to the tally. KBC's Awards Committee has reviewed this year's nominations for the Friend of Bicycling award. The nominees are:

Steve Stepek and the KATS Moves Steering Committee

Steve Stepek led the KATS Moves Project Team and Steering Committee that produced an amazingly helpful plan for improving and expanding the bicycling (and pedestrian and transit) infrastructure in the Kalamazoo region. This plan provides well considered, clearly described, and practical improvements to our regional bicycling infrastructure, and includes priorities for implementing the improvements. The recently released "KATS Pedestrian, Greenways, and Transit Plan" provides guidelines for "a network of both on-street and off-road bicycle and pedestrian facilities" doubling the existing infrastructure and linking it more closely with transit routes. The plan "lays out a prioritization and implementation guide that KATS can use to track completion of projects. The public can use this plan to understand where and when new non-motorized projects will be constructed in the future". Boosting bicycling infrastructure from 250 miles to 525 miles would be well worth the effort.

Kalamazoo County Commission

On December 20, 2016, the Kalamazoo County Commission unanimously approved a resolution to adopt a comprehensive non-motorized plan for Kalamazoo County. The County's plan incorporates the non-motorized plan developed this past April by the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS). The resolution also encourages all local agencies to "likewise support and implement" the KATS non-motorized plan. This measure will have far-reaching consequences in serving as a positive influence for the region and has already served as a model resolution that a number of townships have adopted. In addition, in March 2017, the County Commission appointed two new road commissioners to six year terms, Larry Stehouwer and Dave Pawloski, both of whom have made known their favorable views toward non-motorized users. The County used a vetting process for these appointments that surfaced applicant's views about Complete Streets and non-motorized road users. This process should further help to institutionalize an even more bike friendly environment in the County.

City of Portage

This nomination is for the City of Portage as a whole, representing the great number of contributions of many departments, city administration and its city council. This past year the city council passed four measures to make Portage even more bicycle friendly. The first was an ordinance requiring that a motor vehicle "at all times, must be not less than 5 feet between any part of the vehicle and the bicycle." The next three measures: a) declared the months September-April as Bike Light Safety Season; b) supported implementation of a bike route network of signed bike routes throughout the KATS metropolitan planning organization; and c) resolved to take steps to achieve Gold level Bike Friendly Community status, to emphasize bicycles as a means of transportation and to increase bicycle safety. Portage's Department of Public Safety went all out to escort the 2017 Ride of Silence and the Jeremy Smith Memorial Ride, with help from the Parks and Public Services departments. Portage's Parks Department installed three bike maintenance stations, created/coordinates with a bicycling citizen's advisory committee and is an active member of the Kalamazoo Region Bike Route Cmte. Portage installed the area's first-ever Bikes May Use Full Lane (BMUFL) sign, and its Manager has written to MDOT asking that the BMUFL sign be added to MDOT's book of approved traffic signs. Its Department of Utilities & Transportation installed Kalamazoo County's first buffered bike lane. Its Manager worked with State Sen. Margaret O'Brien and Rep. Brandt Iden to hold a bike-motorist safety forum. For these reasons and more, the City of Portage is receiving this nomination.

Bronson Methodist Hospital

Bronson Methodist Hospital achieved a Gold level Bike Friendly Business Award, as announced by the League of American Bicyclists. According to an LAB announcement, 'Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo, MI, "offers \$5 for every 50 miles that any employee rides to work and has rewards for anyone that joins the

Bike2Work Club. We also reward employees if they meet goals that they set to bike or walk to work. Any Bronson employee can also ride any Kalamazoo bus for free and in 2016 we had over 11,000 rides by Bronson employees. We have seen a large crossover between our Bike2Work Club and Bus2Work Club with employees taking the bus to work then riding their bike home.””

Pedal Bicycle

Being in the bicycle business and providing bikes, gear and apparel, and quality service, Pedal goes way beyond advancing the interest and encouraging more cyclists as evidenced by the following:

- Pedal supports bicycling organizations such as Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, Tri Kats, Southwest Michigan Mountain Bike Association, Kalamazoo River Valley Trail, Markin Glen and provides leadership and assistance with weekly rides.
- Trained professional mechanics help with Bike Camp’s new rider vehicle sizing & fit, and mechanical support at events such as our BTR Criterion Race.
- Pedal provides employment opportunities to college students and others interested in learning the bicycle trade.
- Pedal has expanded its business to Portage and through advertising, and educational articles and interviews on WMUK, WKZO, Facebook, YouTube, and their monthly newsletter, their all-inclusive approach has engaged and informed the general public about the importance and benefits of cycling.
- Pedal is very quick to respond either with financial support or services to each worthy bicycle related request.

Past Recipients of the Friend of Bicycling Award include:

2017 – Kalamazoo City Commission, 2016 - Kalamazoo Charter Township, 2015 - Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study, 2014 - Open Roads Bike Program, 2013 - Breakaway Bicycle and Fitness of Portage, 2012 - Department of Streets and Equipment, City of Portage, 2011 - Friends of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail

--Pam Sotherland, awardscommittee@kalamazobicycleclub.org

KBC Monthly Meeting Notes for November 14, 2017

In Attendance: Andrew K. Fore, Annie Swier, Barb Hart, Bill Price , Carolyn Willie, Christina Thomas, Dale Abbott, Dale Krueger, David Jarl, David Riggs, Don Fore, Don Mitchell, Doug Wales, Gordy Vader, John Hart, John Olbrot, Juda Gesmundo, Kathy Kirk, Kevin Oostema, Marc A Irwin, Michael Krischer, Mike Boersma, Pam Sotherland, Paul Runnels, Paul Sotherland, Paul Wells, Peter Coles, Phil Timko, Renee Mitchell, Rick Whaley, Ryan Heidenfeld, Scott Baron, Scott F. Powers, Stephanie Robinson, Sue Bourget, Teri Olbrot, Terry Butcher, Terry Florian, Terry O'Connor, Thom Brennan

The meeting started at 7:30 because the Club’s annual election took place from 7:00 to 7:25. Results below.

Renee Mitchell, President: Welcomed everyone, thanked the election volunteers for their help running the election, and thanked the candidates for their work in preparing for the election. She also requested that we support the leaders we elect in this evening.

Renee added KBC is a volunteer-run organization working together for common goals. It’s easy to sit on the sidelines, and harder to recognize the positive steps that the club makes unless you are involved, attending meetings and volunteering to support the club. We will only get out of the club what we put into it. Let’s work together to promote bicycling through all of the many facets that we do.

John Olbrot, Vice President: 1) We spent much of the last month preparing for the election. There was a surprising amount of work to be done. There was an overwhelming response to the request for volunteers for the election for which we are very grateful. 2) We are preparing to present the 5-foot ordinance to Texas Township again and will address the legal issues brought up by the township. 3) The club membership for Ride with GPS has been established. We will set some standards for how routes are entered into the club library.

Mike Boersma, Treasurer: Also thanked everyone who attended the meeting to vote. As to the Club's finances: PNC Checking Account: \$6,025.42, of which \$560.00 is dedicated funds for Jeremy Smith. \$2,507.78 in dedicated 5-foot education funds are also included in the account; KBC's CD: \$6,169.94, \$0.49 cents of interest since we last met; PayPal: \$6,142.93
23 membership renewals through November 11th

Valerie Litznerski, Secretary: Thanked everyone for attending, voting, and for the volunteers for the election.

Terry Butcher, Ride Captain: Announced that the organized club rides were on hiatus until spring, and was challenged by many club members who figure on riding all winter. Terry clarified that he meant regularly scheduled club rides have ended. Terry added he hopes many club ride/routes will be posted on Ride with GPS by springtime now that KBC has a club membership with Ride with GPS. John Olbrot mentioned that he was at the last Monday Night Ride, and recognized the riders in attendance at this meeting from that ride that went out in the dark and the sleet (**and are thereby entitled to be known henceforth as true flahutes!—Ed.**)

Mike Krischer, KalTour: We are starting on KalTour, he is seeking input on routes. Feel free to email Mike or Terry about any routes. Planning meetings will start soon. Mike Boersma mentioned that the covered bridge is a popular destination. Kaltour@kalamazooobicycleclub.org

Paul Wells, Education Committee: 5-foot stickers and magnets are available. Encouraged everyone to pick one up to spread the word about the new ordinances. He is asking for help distributing the stickers. There are 1,000 total between stickers and magnets available for distribution. The stickers and magnets are **free**, but donations are welcome and will be directed to the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club Educational Fund. The funds can be sent to Paypal@kalamazooobicycleclub.org if you want to make a contribution via PayPal and you can do this through the website. This will also be posted on the website. The stickers and magnets will also be available at bike shops. Valerie will help promote this on social media.

Paul Wells, Bike Camp: The 2018 committee is comprised of returning volunteers, the dates are chosen, and this has been added to the LMB ride calendar. There will be a similar format. We will work on promoting this better in 2018, with the hope of increasing participation. Valerie mentioned that she will help with this on social media and Renee invited club members to volunteer for Bike Camp. Valerie mentioned that she was a past participant and volunteer, and encouraged people to come help and ride. Pastor Dale asked where the 5' passing ordinance was the law. John elaborated and mentioned the communities where it is the law and also that statewide, this is out of the Senate, and is in the House, but not moving forward yet. The bill stalled in the house last year. Pastor Dale asked if it was enforceable, John mentioned that it will be taken into consideration in accidents. Mike added that in the death of Jeremy Smith, the underlying charge in the moving violation was the 5' law. Valerie mentioned that it's enforceable without an accident. Phil Timko mentioned that law enforcement has asked cyclists to report incidents, and are willing to follow up with drivers. Annie Swier had a very different experience.

Pam Sotherland, Awards Committee: The annual Friend of Bicycling award goes to an entity that supports bicycling in our area in an extraordinary way. There are 5 nominations. The nominees are being reviewed for eligibility. The nominees will be voted on in December. Paul Selden encouraged participation in the voting, as it is a significant way that connects KBC with an outside individual or organization.

Paul Selden, Road Safety Director mentioned the meeting with State Senator Margaret O'Brien. Those present received a lot of input from our members. Paul was very impressed with the panelists at the meeting. They were

effective with their arguments. The need for culture change and the need for everyone to expect cyclists on the roads was stated as a potential driving force supporting the legislation. Pastor Dale asked what can be done on West Michigan Ave to widen the lane and encourage students to be safer. He suggested that we attend Bronco Bash to educate the students and also to encourage safe riding habits, including using helmets.

David Jones, Database Manager, said the house was going to repeal the 1% funding for non-motorized traffic in the transportation budget. These efforts have stalled. **Paul Selden** mentioned that general political awareness has increased in the community. David is not hopeful that the state-wide legislation to protect non-motorized traffic will move through the State House. He also mentioned that the general input to the lawmakers was supportive of cyclists. The economic impact of tourists who bring their bikes is significant (\$668 million annually), much higher than what John had expected, especially with bicycling-specific vacations. The state police were supportive of cyclists at the meeting. **Pastor Dale Krueger** mentioned that the chief of public safety Hadley was leaving. **Caroline Willie** mentioned that there will be a new chief who will be welcomed at the Fetzer Center on Campus this Thursday, at 5:30 – 8:30 with remarks at 7:00 pm. David mentioned that the police and prosecutors are sometimes slow to charge drivers because it closes the case and eliminates the possibility of more charges.

New Business: Ryan Heidenfeld asked when applications for sponsorships of events are accepted. The National 24-Hour Challenge will be requesting sponsorship. Renee stated that the grant applications are accepted at any time and can be sent to the grant committee.

Ride Leader Sanctioning was not done because it would expire by February.

The secretary announced the results of the election: 85 people voted. **Renee Mitchell, John Olbrot, Mike Boersma and Valerie Litznerski** were all elected for another year. (**Val got the most votes!—Ed.**) Valerie asked for continued involvement, Mike added that the discussion about the election has been passionate and he's heard more in the past few weeks than in the past several years. The ideas generated in these discussions will inform the leadership moving forward. Renee thanked the executive committee for their time and the viewpoints.

Terry O'Connor motioned to adjourn, **Paul Sotherland** seconded.

–**Val Litznerski**, Secretary@kalamazoobicycleclub.org

About Those Yard Signs

Education Director **Paul Wells** reminds us that we should take in our “5-foot” yard signs by the time the snow flies and keep them inside until spring because winter weather is likely to beat them up pretty badly. Paul will have new 5-foot passing stickers and magnets available at the December KBC meeting, so you can get some for your use and also provide to friends.

Kudos

Kudos to the 60 or so Pfizer employees in Portage for building 75 bicycles donated to children of military families. The effort was organized by members of their employee group, Veterans In Pfizer and according to MLive, "was part of a Pfizer Bike Build partnership with the USO through which 1,000 bicycles were assembled in one day across eight Pfizer locations nationwide." We appreciate the work being done by Veterans In Pfizer to connect bicycling with the families of the men and women serving our country!

--**Paul Selden**, directorroadsafety@kalamazoobicycleclub.org

Kudos to **Jamie Clark** for organizing a collection of bicycles, parts & equipment from our own **Team Clark Logic** race team. The goods were donated to Open Roads, the local non-profit that works with at-risk youngsters to teach them about bicycling, bike repair and maintenance, and social skills. Several team members including your Editor met at the Open Roads facility at 1925 Riverview Drive on November 15th to make the donation, meet some of the kids and mentors, and receive a tour of the facility from Executive Director **Erin Denay**.

--Doug Kirk, Editor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org

Submit Your Own Kudos

KBC members are encouraged to submit kudos to the PedalPress and also to the Awards Committee as a possible nominee for KBC's Friend of Bicycling Award. For consideration for the Friend of Bicycling award include the name of the individual/organization, what they did, and how it promotes bicycling. Indicate in your submission if you would like to be acknowledged for the submission. Because KBC has its own awards for members, the Friend of Bicycling award is intended for organizations and individuals who do not belong to KBC. Submissions can also be submitted via the KBC website. Go to ABOUT KBC – Community, then go to the Kudos Section. Here's the link: <http://www.kalamazoobicycleclub.org/about/community/>

--Pam Sotherland, awardscommittee@kalamazoobicycleclub.org

Editor's Letter: Crime and Punishment

Letters to the editor are a rarity here at the PedalPress, but I hope the following will result in some thoughtful reflection and maybe some letters to my email address below

After the media reported the driver who killed Jeremy Smith on Portage Road last June was charged with a “moving violation causing death”, (a misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of one year in jail), I saw some Facebook posts bitterly citing this as more proof the law does not take bicyclists’ lives seriously. That might be true, I don’t know. And you know what? You Facebook posters don’t know either. Let me explain.

First let’s talk about the alleged crime. What do you actually know about the accident—not what someone else told you or read someplace? I’ll bet not very much. Have you read the police report? Have you talked to any witnesses? I suspect you haven’t.

Now, what do you know about the alleged driver, Joshua Najcht? How’s his driving record? Is he an otherwise wonderful young man who supports his widowed, disabled mother and three brothers and sisters? Or was he texting? Is he a 4.0 student headed for medical school? Or out on bail from a drunk driving charge? Has he been going around to schools since the accident, tearfully talking to kids about the importance of safe driving? Or has he attempted suicide several times since the accident (like a local driver who killed a bicyclist actually did here in Kalamazoo about 20 years ago)?

When deciding what criminal charges Mr. Najcht should face, these things (and lots of other things) matter, and a responsible prosecuting attorney considers all the circumstances when deciding what to charge an individual with. And unless you know all the circumstances, you would do well not to second guess people—on Facebook or elsewhere—who are very likely to have a much better grasp of the whole situation than you do.

Now, let's assume Mr. Najcht did kill Jeremy Smith. Let's also make a few other assumptions. Assume that he didn't do it on purpose, wasn't texting, and wasn't impaired. Assume he just screwed up royally and made an awful mistake. Good people make terrible mistakes sometimes. You have, I have.

Let's also assume Mr. Najcht is a reasonably compassionate human being, that killing Jeremy haunts him every day, and he would do just about anything to have a chance to live that day over again. Assume he has personally apologized to the family. Mind you, I don't know if any of these assumptions are true—maybe he's flaming jerk with no conscience—but most of these assumptions might well be true.

Let's also assume he had insurance on the vehicle (unlike an estimated 15% of the cars on Michigan roads), and the insurer has already offered its policy limit to Jeremy's family. This might be as little as \$20,000 (the smallest policy amount allowed under Michigan law), or much more.

What does a civilized society want to accomplish when punishing any criminal? We want to teach the guilty a lesson, show the rest of us this activity won't be tolerated, and maybe keep him locked up to protect the rest of us. Maybe we want the person to atone somehow—talking to kids or doing some other public service. Maybe we want to keep him on a short leash—on probation—and make him prove he's learned his lesson and won't screw up again.

When the alleged killer is a jerk like the sociopath who committed the “tragedy” a year and a half ago, figuring out what might be a fitting punishment is easy. Lock him up and throw away the key. Plus, I'd have some excellent additional suggestions if the Constitution didn't ban cruel and unusual punishments. That guy has it coming.

What punishment should society impose for an unintentional horrible mistake that costs an innocent life? When the crime is a terrible mistake, not an intentional act, which still causes death or serious injury and it's the driver of a motor vehicle doing great bodily harm to a bicyclist, how should we as ordinary people—or as bicyclists—expect society to punish the individual?

I get the emotional nature of those Facebook responses, and I understand anger, frustration and the need to vent. But when you post on Facebook it's for the world to see. It might be a good idea to stop and think about what you know of the big picture before you click “Post.”

I hope to hear from you.

--Doug Kirk, Editor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org

DECEMBER KBC STATISTICS

Active subscriptions: 396 Active Members: (Includes family members): 637

New members:

Kalyn Campbell • Mike Cutler • Ken Derrico • Cassie English • Nick Hampton • Matt Jensen • Jeff Kahler • Gabe Lagina • J'son Lechner • Ryan Maguire • Allison McKenna • Audrey Negro • Marco Pastrana • Jason Rutgers • Jack Sosville • Rick Stubbs • Jess Weir •

December Expiring memberships:

Ethan Alexander • Carol Champion • Dan & Mary Duncan • Shawn Kloha • Bradley Powell • John & Maureen Shubnell Family • John & Abby Talanca • Joseph Williams

Renewed memberships:

Dave Hauschild • Larry Kissinger • Scott & Laura Steurer Family • Kevin Abbott • Jim Kindle • Tim & Amy Krone • Aliceanne Inskeep • Terry Butcher • Ryan Maguire • Tim & Liz Popp • Gary Solomons • Amy & Chris Chopp • Bob & Elliott Klose • Valerie Vuk

YOUR LOCAL BIKE SHOPS:

They support us so please support them

Billy's Bike Shop, 63 East Battle Creek Street, Galesburg, (269) 665-5202. Sadly, Billy's no longer has a website

Custer Cyclery, 104 North Augusta, Augusta, (269) 731-3492, www.custercyclery.com.

Gazelle Sports, 214 South Kalamazoo Mall, Kalamazoo, (269) 342-5996, www.Gazellesports.com.

Join us for Run Through the Lights - December 7 at 6 pm.

RTTL is a festive fun run or walk through the holiday lights of downtown Kalamazoo.

The event is an un-timed, non-competitive 2.4 mile run/walk. Streets will be closed.

Learn more at <http://gazellesports.com/wp/run-through-the-lights/>

Kzoo Swift, 445 Forest St, Kalamazoo, (269) 929-8053, www.kzooswift.com.

Pedal Downtown, 611 W Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, (269) 567-3325,

Pedal South, 185 Romence Road, Portage (269) 324-5555,

info@pedalbicycle.com and www.pedalbicycle.com.

Trek Bicycle Store, Battle Creek 22 West Michigan, Battle Creek, 1-800-841-9494,

www.trekstorebattlecreek.com (Team Active has changed names but not owners).

Village Cyclery, US 131 in Schoolcraft, (269) 679-4242, www.villagecyclery.com.

Zoo City Cycle, 4328 South Westnedge, Kalamazoo, (269) 552-3000, www.zoocitycycle.com.