

PRESIDENT'S LETTER—DOUG KIRK

Be the Rider You Like to Follow

As the weather thinks about becoming rideable, I'm thinking about group rides. I've been doing KBC rides for over 30 years and each spring I see a few riders who are either new to group riding or have apparently forgotten what they knew the year before. In short, every spring I see a few riders display poor group riding skills.

And if I've learned anything at all about bicyclists, it's that they don't being told how to ride their bike, no matter how politely—especially during a ride. So I'm not going to trot out a bunch of rules you (hopefully) know—like don't cross wheels and do point out road hazards. I'm only asking you to do one thing. It applies 100% of the time to every rider in the group.

Ride your bike so you present the best possible wheel to follow, so the person behind you soon realizes yours is a smooth and trustworthy wheel. Be the person that you would tell a stranger, "That's a great rider to follow." Think about how your riding—what you and your bike are doing—affects the rider(s) behind you—all the time, every ride, till it becomes second nature and you don't even think about it anymore.

How do you do this? Ride your bike as though those are your teammates back there and it's your job to deliver them safely to the end of the ride. Assume the rider behind you has plumbed the depths of Phil Liggett's suitcase of courage, came up empty, and is barely hanging on. You've been that person yourself and you were mighty grateful for that nice, smooth wheel from some nice person in front of you .

This doesn't mean you necessarily have to wait for them if you are faster—other factors like the pace of the ride, how near you are to the finish, and whether it's a no-drop ride play into that. But it does mean if there are other riders behind you, treat them every bit as well as you'd like to be treated if you were barely hanging on.

Every year at the Recovery Party, we give an award for being the "Best Wheel to Suck." The recipients always seem nonplussed. I figure that's because it's become second nature for these people to be a rider everyone else is happy to have pulling them around. They're so smooth they don't even have to think about it. Please make that one of your goals this year.

—Doug Kirk President@kalamazoobicycleclub.org



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

KBC Meeting Notes.....	2, 3, 4
Kal Tour	5
Bike-a-Palooza!.....	7
Bike Camp.....	8
Dirty Donut	9
Blind Camp.....	10
W Ave. Route Announced!.....	11
What your club does besides ride bikes.....	12

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Do you take pictures? Send some cycling pics for inclusion in future PedalPress issues!

[editor@kalamazooBicycle
Club.org](mailto:editor@kalamazooBicycleClub.org)

KBC MEETING NOTES—MARCH 12, 2019

Finance report, Mike Boersema:

In the CD: \$6,178.21

Treasurer: Mike Boersma:

In the PNC Checking account: \$6,026.43 of which \$560 is in the Jeremy Smith Fund and \$2850.43 is earmarked for the education committee. The balance and the assets in PayPal and the CD are unrestricted.

As of March 12th, the club had the following assets

In the PayPal Account: \$2,474.12

HAVE YOU VISITED THE NEW MONTHLY CLUB MEETING LOCATION?

Free popcorn, huge piles of nachos, beer, wine, and fellow cyclists and KBC members! Where will YOU be April 9 at 7:00 pm? Shakespeare's!

The Kalamazoo Bicycle Club is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and donations are tax deductible. You may donate by holding Ctrl and clicking [here](#).

You may also designate how you wish your donation be used: general KBC activities, 5 foot passing education, or the Tuesday Night Time Trial series. You may also donate by check by sending your donation to Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, P.O. Box 50527, Kalamazoo, MI 49005. Please write "Donation" in the memo line.

Thank you, Mike Boersma
KBC Treasurer

KBC MEETING MINUTES

Vice-President: Paul Sotherland. Regarding the Ride Leader Summit, he mentioned David Riggs' comments about the complexity of organizing our rides. Paul noted that it requires lots of organization and cooperation between ride leaders and rides. Paul said we should be especially welcoming to new riders. VP mentioned that both Mike Boersma and Thom Brennan were appointed to positions with the Kalamazoo County Road Commission. Congratulations to both! Paul also toasted everyone who attended the first cold Monday night ride.

Paul Wells: (Education director) Paul mentioned that yard signs and magnets are available. Please take one for yourself and to distribute to anyone who wants one. If you already have a yard sign, please put it out soon. We are working with WMUK to get some underwriting spots to promote weekly rides, KalTour, and bike safety in general. Final expense and more information will be submitted to the executive community for approval.

Gordy Vader (ride captain): Gordy Five showed up for the first 20-mile Monday night ride along with 4 other riders. It was enjoyable but quite cold and everyone rode together as a group. Gordy also talked about the Ride Leader Summit. The group has grown so much that Gordy is not always heard by attendees when he makes announcements at the Monday Night Rides. He also wants to know who, of the Ride Leaders is available to regularly attend and lead the MNR. Gordy also proposed a slower ride on Wednesdays. There is a couple that has expressed interest, but Gordy would like support from others as well for this group. We should make efforts to support the slower groups. The faster groups are well supported and/or take care of themselves.

Old Business

Second Reading of a small amendment to the KBC Constitution relating to additional duties for the Secretary. The amendment is to add keeping archives of KBC records to the secretary's duties. The following statement would be added: "Serves as archivist of KBC documents."

The **St Patrick's Day Parade** is this Saturday at 10:00 am. They would like the cyclists to attend early to lead out the parade. Please consider joining.

Paul Wells brought 2019 **KalTour** brochures. Please help Paul distribute these. Paul will bring some to the bike shops. **Bike Camp** starts on Thursday, May 9th. We need more volunteer riders to support and moni-

KBC MEETING NOTES CONTINUED — FEBRUARY 12, 2019

tor attendees. We currently have 4 signed up and have the capacity for 60 riders in total. This will be posted as a Facebook Event soon.

Blind Camp is May 8-10 at WMU's BTR Campus. Blind middle and high school kids engage in athletic activities. The kids ride tandem bikes for a few hours every evening of camp. The Blind Athletic Association has 6 tandems to lend out. We need assistance captaining the bikes, helping kids on and off bikes and also some kids have seeing-eye dogs that need to be watched when the kids are out riding.

Paul Selden talked about his conversation with Thom Brennan about the **May Bike Club meeting**. Last year, we invited several organizations to speak at our May Meeting. This year, the meeting will happen during Bike Week. Organizations interested in speaking at this year's event are welcome to reach out to Thom. Thom has a few venues in mind but has not found the Venue yet. Boatyard is an option. We are looking for a place with beer and possibly even food.

The **Dirty Donut Race** is coming up. Dan Frazier is hosting this new Gravel Race. Paul Guimond reported that you can sign up for a Gravel Race, or you can sign up for the Donut Race, where eating donuts will take time off of your overall result. The overall race and donut race will be awarded separately. This will take place on what was the BTR / Race for Wishes weekend. Paul responded to Gordy to clarify that donuts must "stay down" during the whole race.

KalTour: Mike thanked Dale for her help with the flyers and Renee for her work on the webpage. A few have registered. The gravel ride is mentioned in the promotions. There is a narrower window for start time for the Gravel Ride. The stops on that route might be a little smaller since there are not parks on the rides. There will be a post-ride meal at the high school for the gravel riders. Mike will schedule a meeting soon and will likely schedule it at Shakespeares. The initial (lowest) price for registration is available through the first few weeks of April. Gordy mentioned that Steve Cox and Tim Potter are trying to organize a vintage bicycle gravel ride at KalTour. They are reaching out vintage bicycle enthusiasts that they know. The gravel route includes a gas station, so riders should bring cash if they want to buy something. Monica Tory asked if the capacity for registration was increased. Mike clarified that it was never capped. Mike mentioned that there are several incentives, especially for KBC members, to pre-register.

Mike Boersma thanked everyone for their support of the his and Thom Brennan's candidacy for the **Kalamazoo County Road Commission**. Thom attended a conference in Lansing instead of attending the club meeting tonight. The road commission is going to look at the flood damage in Texas Township. The club rides and our rides in general largely take place on KCRC-maintained roads. Their oversight and maintenance impact our rides. We need to continue to support bicycle-friendly policies and weigh in when necessary to promote these policies. **We need a volunteer to continue to attend road commission meetings as a club volunteer.** Much of the information in the meetings will be technical and some will be more relevant to cycling, while some will be less relevant. Mike encouraged individual advocacy promoting bike safety, expanding the reach of the club to introduce others to cycling and publically displaying our support of the club. Bike Camp is especially attractive to new riders who are looking for a safe, supported experience. Our increased presence and visibility will help to promote our cause. Paul Guimond congratulated Mike Boersma and asked who was responsible for the Oakland Drive bike lanes. David Riggs mentioned that the KCRC have paved shoulders but not bike lanes. Drake Road will be redone there will be a dedicated non-motorized path along Drake Road. There is currently tree-trimming to prepare, and this will take years to implement. There will be some expansion and work on the KRVT as well. Many of the roads we ride will never have bike lanes, but hopefully, some of the floodings will be addressed. Paul Selden brought up a letter from the club to the KCRC. The club will write a letter to the KCRC for their commitment to Complete Streets and implicitly for the appointment of Mike and Thom. It will be sent soon. **Paul Runnels** volunteered to start attending KCRC in place of Thom.

ATTENDEES:

Paul Sotherland

Valerie Litznerski

Rob McDougall

Terry O'Connor

Pam Sotherland

Renee Mitchell

Dale Abbott

Paul Runnels

Paul Selden

Gordy Vader

Bill Surna

Charlie Gadina

Paul Guimond

David Riggs

Larry Kissinger

Michael Kriscehr

Paul Wells

Terry Florian

Rick Whaley

Jim Murry

Kevin High

Monica Tory

Jonathan Evans

Paula Thomis

Terry Butcher

Jeff & Linda Kovach

Your name could be here, too, if you attended the KBC monthly meeting!

KBC MEETING NOTES CONTINUED

Terry Butcher mentioned starting a **Thursday ride for young kids**. He would like others to join him as he and his daughter and friends on their scooter bikes and with training wheels. They are looking at off-road paved trails for the ride with a short loop. Adult supervision for the kids will be needed and responsible adults should attend along with their kids. He is hoping to encourage cycling for more kids. Paul Selden asked Terry to share this event and to start this ride during Bike Week. Monica also mentioned that Markin Glen has a great paved trail and kids could later “graduate” to the paved trail.

Announcements

Bike-A-Palooza, Paul Runnels, is coming up on May 18th from 6-9 pm. There will be live music, beer, wine, a raffle, and a silent auction. There will also be a Bike Valet Parking. Registration is \$40 but increases to \$45 on April 18th.

Val shared a conversation that she had earlier in the day with a **Portage Park Ranger**. Steve Yonker, the park ranger shared with her that many of the cyclists on the path do not announce their presence to runners and walkers when passing. She and the park ranger chatted about their feelings about cyclists on the trail. As a multi-use trail, **cyclists should be mindful of other path users**. Anyone who wants to ride at a higher rate of speed should consider using the roads. Some trail users are not as attentive to their surroundings and this can lead to dangerous situations.

Paul Selden asked everyone who wants to publicize an event during **Bike Week** to reach out to him.

Renee Mitchell, Dale Abbott, and Monica Tory were sanctioned as **ride leaders** at the meeting. Everyone is reminded that there is an online registration component to Ride Leader Sanctioning.

**NEXT KBC CLUB MEETING IS
APRIL 9, 7:00 P.M. AT SHAKE-
SPEARES PUB; TOP FLOOR, BACK
LEFT. FREE POPCORN AT THE
BAR.**



Correction: Paul Selden’s name was inadvertently omitted from the March Pedal Press article about 2018 mileage logs. Thanks Paul, for your ongoing support of the club and cycling in general!

Wouldn’t this empty space look better with a cool cycling photo instead of empty space? Please send pictures of you and your friends engaged in cycling activities to Editor@KalamazooBicycleClub.org.

KAL-TOUR WHAT'S NEW AND WHAT'S OLD

What's new with KalTour this year? It will take place on a **Saturday** instead of a **Sunday**. There will be a new lunch stop for the Century Route and **two new gravel routes**.

KalTour even under its old Flowerfest name was always on a Sunday. Since heavy traffic is less of a concern at our start location in Schoolcraft than when we were closer to I-94, we are holding KalTour on a Saturday this year.

Last year, century riders might have noticed that it was a long way from the morning sag stop at Scotts Mill to the lunch stop at Markin Glen Park. This year **lunch for century riders will be at Richland Township Park** which will better balance the distances between morning sag stop, lunch stop, and afternoon sag stop.

One thing I know about gravel riding is that I can ride a mile on gravel and count the cars (passing and oncoming) with the fingers on one hand and still have a few fingers left over. I also know that south and west of Schoolcraft, you find more gravel than pavement. The extreme southwest corner of Kalamazoo County where it meets three other counties is an intersection of two gravel roads, and is well worth the trip. KalTour will have two gravel routes of 30 and 60 miles that reach into St. Joseph and Cass Counties with a sag stop (in the middle of nowhere). Gravel riders will have **lunch at the school after the ride**.

What hasn't changed about KalTour? It still takes a lot of people to make it run smoothly (or even run at all). We need people to shop for supplies, paint the arrows on the roads, handle registrations and check in, run sag stops, patrol the course, serve watermelon, and clean up after the ride. If you are any of those people, please join us for a short KalTour committee meeting before the next regular KBC meeting on Tuesday April 9 at 6 pm in the backroom at Shakespeare's pub. If you can't make the meeting, but would like to help out, please let me know.

Michael Krischer Kal-Tour Director
Follow this link for more information
and to register:

[www.kalamazooobicycleclub.org/
events/kaltour/](http://www.kalamazooobicycleclub.org/events/kaltour/)



Photo taken by Editor last August at the junction of Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Cass and VanBuren Counties. Z Ave. Who Knew?



TOMME'S FAVORITE CYCLING STORY

Back in 2002, some 17 years ago, the LMB (League of Michigan Bicyclists) sponsored a bike tour called The Bow Tie. It was a "figure 8" shaped route starting in Gaylord, crossing the straights of Mackinac before pushing north to Sault Ste. Marie and then looping back through Cedarville to Mackinaw City, and on to Petoskey before returning to Gaylord.

It must have been on the leg between Sault Ste. Marie and Cedarville where we were worried about finding food on the remote UP roads. Somewhere around mid-day we came upon a small non-descript road side restaurant with only a couple cars in the lot. An elderly lady greeted us warmly, handed us a menu and asked us to seat ourselves. As she was taking our order more cyclists began to trickle in and a worried expression came over the lady. She scurried over to serve the new arrivals while the door kept jingling as more and more cyclists were crowding in and a tangle of bicycles were piling up outside. She turned to us with a look of panic and nervously said "I'm alone today, what will I do?" Without hesitation one of the cyclists stood up and offered to wait tables, and another explained that she could run the cash register if it was OK. The restaurant was soon packed as animated cyclists swarmed the place. Other folks cleared and set tables, took new orders, rang up the cash register and collected tips while the proprietor stayed in the kitchen frantically cooking for the throng.

To this day I still enjoy imagining the woman arriving at home and explaining to her family how the restaurant had its most profitable day ever.....and she managed it alone!

Thanks to Tomme Maile for this cool story submission! -Ed.

KBC STATISTICS

Total Memberships: 324

Total Individuals: 530

April Expiring Members: Ryan Corbin; Andrea Fore; Joy Doorlag; Mark Schauer; Carrie Kraegel; Bob Schuler; Mike Bingham; Robert Taylor; Sean Sharkey; Patricia Guilford; Laurie Oleksa; Erin Denay; Dave Brown; Elijah Jones; Eric Zahrai; Michal Barnett; Marc Irwin; Mike Connelly; Jerry Traxler; Pam Stinchcomb; Kate Rizer

New or Renewed Members: Joe & Jeaneen Stephansky; Dave DeBack & Family; Tom Cross; Sandra Frazier & Dan Frazier; Jim Murray; Molly Cartwright; Rick Whaley; Mark Atkinson; Natalie Eib; David Mitchell; Brett Dodds; Joe Kucharski; Charlie Eaton; Janet & Herman Evenboer; Dan Ferrara; Matt Gunderson

BIKE- A- PALOOZA

Join Open Roads Bike Program for the grand finale of Kalamazoo Bike Week on Saturday, May 18 from 6-9 p.m. at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts! Bike-a-Palooza is a one-of-a-kind fundraising event that supports local youth gaining access to a bicycle, as well as the skills and confidence to navigate their community. Event features include live music, a silent auction, abundant hors d'oeuvres and drinks, a bike raffle sponsored by Pedal, bike building demonstration by students, access to the KIA art gallery, bike valet parking, and so much more!

Presenting sponsors include: Old National Bank, Honor Credit Union, Lindenwoods Dental, Miller Energy Company, and Eaton.

Event website: <https://www.openroadsbike.org/bike-a-palooza.html>

Tickets: \$40 Early Bird Ticket until April 13 / \$45 Advance Ticket / \$50 At-the-door Ticket

For More Information, Please Contact: Erin Denay at director@openroadsbike.org or call 269-365-9142.

OPEN ROADS
- PRESENTS -
BIKE-A-PALOOZA
PEDALS TO THE PEOPLE

Saturday, May 18: 6-9pm
at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts

A NIGHT OUT FEATURING:
Live Music by Jordan Hamilton
Abundant Hors d'oeuvres, Beer, & Wine
Bike Raffle by Pedal
Silent Auction
Bike Valet Parking

*** SPONSORED BY ***

EATON Powering Business Worldwide
OLD NATIONAL BANK Your bank. For life.
HONOR CREDIT UNION Come Be Part of It!
MEC Miller Energy Company
LINDENWOODS DENTAL FAMILY & COSMETIC DENTISTRY

THIS IS ANOTHER GREAT SPOT FOR YOUR CYCLING PHOTOS!
But since you didn't send them in, you get Julie and John AGAIN
SUGGESTION: SEND PICS OF YOU IN YOUR KBC JERSEY



Bike Camp 2019 Coming in May

Registration opens on January 1st for KBC's Bike Camp. If you or someone you know, a family member or friend who isn't comfortable with riding on the road, tell them they can benefit by enrolling in Bike Camp for 2019, a multi-session information and training program for cyclists getting more serious about the sport, or wishing to hone their skills.

KBC has successfully trained new cyclists for 14 years with this program. The instructors are seasoned, experienced cyclists who are passionate about bringing interested folks into this great sport. Attendees complete the program knowing how to safely, comfortably, and efficiently ride their bike.

Topics covered include a review of laws applying to bicycles, safe biking skills, bike fit adjustments to improve comfort and efficiency, fitness goals, nutrition, and bike maintenance. Families, adults new to road cycling, and those renewing their interest in the sport can all benefit from Bike Camp.

Bike Camp Dates:

Session 1: Thursday, May 9th, at 6:30 PM. This is an orientation and informational session, without your bike, held at the Greater Kalamazoo Association of Realtors (GKSR) Auditorium located at 5830 Venture Park Drive, Kalamazoo.

Sessions 2 and 3: Saturdays, May 11 and 18. These are educational and riding sessions held at the Portage YMCA, 2900 West Centre Ave in Portage. We will be getting into the details of safe riding and keeping your bike operating properly, so bring your bike and all your riding gear (helmet, mirror, bike clothing, protective eyewear, and bike gloves).

Sessions 4 and 5: Saturdays, May 25 and June 1. These are also educational and riding sessions, but held at the Texas Township Park Pavilion on Texas Drive. Bring your bike and all your riding gear.

On Saturday, June 29, Bike Camp concludes with participation in KBC's KalTour, the Kalamazoo Scenic Bicycle Tour, which starts at Schoolcraft High School. Schoolcraft, MI 49087.

Cost, includes Bike Camp, one-year KBC membership, and entry into KalTour:

\$60.00 for individuals signed up on or before May 1

\$75.00 for families signed up on or before May 1

For additional information and to register, hold the Ctrl key and click [here](#).

If you would like to volunteer to help at Bike Camp, or have questions, please email:

bikecamp@kalamazobicycleclub.org

Please come and join us!

-KBC Bike Camp Committee

Dirty Donut Race – Free Registration (and dig that hardware)!

Have you taken a look at the Dirty Donut race yet? Do yourself a favor and sign up now before the price goes up next month for what will be one of the most fun races of the year. Years from now you can sit around with your cycling friends and tell them how you raced in the First Dirty Donut race, back before it was one of the most popular races each year.

It all takes place on **Sunday June 9, 2019** as part of the National Donut Day celebration weekend. The race will start and finish at the US 131 Motorsports Park in Martin, Michigan. It is a dirt road race that offers three different distances of races, 18, 40, and 64 miles, and welcomes a wide variety of cyclists. Everyone from the very serious racer to those that just want a fun riding experience have a place at this event. Each race distance will have “donut stops” positioned along the race route. Participants will deduct five minutes from their final finish time for each donut they consume at one of our “donut stops” in the race. If donuts are not your thing and you just want to race, then our Sprint race will be for you.

Our inaugural raffle will be awesome!!!! Pedal has provided a 2019 Trek Checkpoint ALR 5 gravel bike valued at over \$2,000. Velocity has donated a pair of Aileron wheels, and SportCrafters has donated 2 of there Rollers. Each registered racer will get one raffle ticket for these prizes and we will be selling additional raffle tickets on race day for \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. The proceeds will be going to Walk Tall for Kids Foundation and Make-A-Wish of Michigan.

A very beautiful high quality medal will be presented to everyone who finishes. We will be awarding custom winners cycling jerseys, trophies, and custom medals in several different divisions and age categories. We have even more hardware for our divisional and age division winners as well! Visit our web page at www.dirtydonutraces.com for all the details. Keep checking our “Dirty Donut Race” Facebook page as well for up to the minute news on what is happening.



2019 Blind Camp!

When: Wednesday May 8th, Thursday, May 9th and Friday; May 10th

Time: 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Where: WMU BTR Park / Western Michigan University College of Engineering

4601 Campus Drive, Kalamazoo, MI

The BTR park is at the south end of Drake Road at Parkview near US-131

KBC members are invited to volunteer for blind camp. We meet rain or shine. If it rains or snows we ride in the parking garage next to the Engineering College. Campers will ride on the back of a tandem piloted by volunteers.

The Blind Association owns seven tandem bicycles so you do not need to own a tandem bicycle to participate.

If you own a tandem and would like to use it, you may.

If you would like to allow your tandem to be used during the event we would greatly appreciate your generosity.

Ride captains will have the option to guide their camper(s) on a 1, 2, or 3 mile closed course on Wednesday and Thursday nights. Friday will be a one-mile time-trail.

Volunteers are needed to be ride Captains and help fit riders' bikes and helmets.

The more volunteers will allow the campers to more riding experiences. We hope to utilize their 90 minutes of time with us to give them as much riding experience as the desire each day. This is a great way to share our sport and pass on the love of cycling while putting a positive note on Kalamazoo. People can volunteer on one or all three nights.

Wednesday and Thursday night campers will be riding with ride campers at a conversational pace to help gain more cycling experiences. Friday night campers will be doing a one mile time-trail with their captains. Students can make as many attempts with as many ride captain as possible to ride the time they desire. Note some campers are strong and can ride very well others may treat it as a leisurely ride and just enjoy the time on the bike.

Campers are kids from all parts of the US as well as several countries throughout the world. They are Middle school and High School students that will be showing up to ride. The campers have a wide variety of cycling experience. Some have never ridden a bike in their life while others ride often on a regular bases.

I hope you can join us one or all of the evening. If you have questions you can email me at BikerTerry@mail.com or text me at 269-929-7595 or send me a message on the KBC Facebook page.

Thanks, Terry Butcher



20TH W AVENUE RIDE ANNOUNCED!

It's now officially spring. Can summer be soon upon us? Ah, but let us not rush ourselves and savor the magnificent cornucopia of sights, sounds, and experiences that this season has to offer us in all of its glorious wonder. Including, of course, the W Ride! And not just any W Ride! The 20th W Ride!

Yes, the 48 mile W Ride, the epitome of spring in the sense that participants are able to savor the magnificent cornucopia of sights, sounds, and experiences that W Avenue has to offer us in all of its glorious wonder. Twice!

This year, the ride will be on Saturday, April 27 and will begin, as usual, at 9:00 A.M. from the east parking lot of Vicksburg High School. And because 2019 is an odd numbered year, we will be riding the Classic West-East-West W Ride Route.

So, where exactly do we go? After leaving the parking lot, we will turn right and ride, ride, ride on W Avenue until we reach the Van Buren County line. At that point, the sun will beckon us and we will ride east back to Vicksburg, stopping at the Shell station for chocolate milk, cheese doodles, or any other nutritional-like item that your stomach desires. And then, we will continue to ride, ride, ride on W Avenue until we reach the Calhoun County line. Finally, we'll turn around and ride back to the parking lot, completing our Odyssey; the Ride Leader provided snacks and Gatorade luring us like the Sirens, as we lash ourselves to our bicycle pedals.



While this cornucopia is available from Pottery Barn, Pottery Barn's got nothin' on the W Avenue Ride!

Maps for the very directionally challenged will also be provided and Rick Whaley will lead the main group of riders at about 15 to 17 mph. And there will likely be other groups of riders who will be riding at other speeds, as well.

So, take advantage of all that spring has to offer and come to the W Ride! The weather will be exquisite (as usual), the company pleasing, and the refreshments tasty. And a life of what might have been won't be yours.

Rick Whaley, W Ride Leader

Official W Avenue Ride Route Map:

ABOUT KBC

Recognizing that Southwestern Michigan offers a rare combination of good bicycling roads and great scenery, several cycling enthusiasts got together in 1971 to form the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club.

They wanted to support and encourage other riders in the area, to promote the sport of bicycling, and to have fun. As shown in the Club Mission, that tradition continues today in the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club.

Club Mission

The purpose of the Club shall be to promote bicycling; to encourage and facilitate touring, races, bicycle outings, and all forms of recreational bicycling activities; to defend and protect the rights of bicyclists; to secure a better understanding and recognition of the need for safer riding conditions; to encourage the allocation of facilities for bicycling on public lands; to cooperate with the public authorities in the observance of all traffic regulations; to provide an opportunity for members to socialize with others who have an interest in bicycling; and to recognize bicycles as vehicles used for pleasure, fitness and transportation. The Club will cooperate with other organizations with a similar goal and purpose. Hold Ctrl and click [here](#) to view the constitution.

Editor's Letter: What we do besides ride bikes

The KBC is a wonderfully diverse bicycle club. Like many people I was introduced to the club through a group ride. I started group road riding in the early 1980's in Mt. Pleasant, MI out of the shop owned by Chuck and Terry Quast, Motorless Motion (which is still in business, owned by one of their daughters). For a brief time I had a USCF racing license and was a member of the Oil Capital Sports Club. When I lived near Coldwater, the nearest organized group ride I could find was the shop ride out of (now Mike's) Team Active in Battle Creek. I would drive 30 or 40 minutes up I-69 and across I-94 every Wednesday to join the group ride. When I moved to Battle Creek for a year I was in love with the fact that I could skip the car ride and join the group from my house! After moving to Portage I was looking around for another group ride and someone suggested the KBC Monday night ride out of Texas Corners. My wife Julie also had a co-worker who rode the Wednesday night rides from the Kal Haven trailhead and I was invited to join that ride as well.

So as far as I knew, the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club organized bicycle rides. That makes a lot of sense. What I have since come to learn is that the club, through its members, spends a lot of energy helping other people who aren't members of the club going on club rides.

Some of those activities include helping non-riders get into the sport.

Bike camp is a great example. Bike camp is designed to help non-riders, mostly adults, learn or re-learn how to safely ride and enjoy cycling. It takes place over 5 sessions in May and June this year and many club members allocate Saturday mornings to helping fellow humans get comfortable with cycling to meet

their transportation and health goals and to meet new people. Hold ctrl and click www.kalamazoobicycleclub.org/events/bike-camp/.



Another example is **Blind Camp**. Kalamazoo is home to the state's Bureau of Services for Blind Persons Training Center. Blind camp is a three day event pairing sighted captains on tandem bikes with visually impaired stokers who enjoy the thrill of riding a bike! This year blind camp is May 8-10. My tandem and I will be there this year.

Another way the club helps the community is through advocacy for Complete Streets, Kalamazoo Bike week, and now two of our club members are on the **Road Commission of Kalamazoo County**. Mike Boersema and Thom Brennan are attending hours of meetings each month to help the County allocate resources for all road users, including motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians. Those resources are not infinite, and choices always have to be made. But through their service, we can be confident that the question "How will this affect non-motorized road users" will at least be asked.

Please do join us for group rides. And you can also feel great that your club is making a real difference in the lives of other people, too.

John Knowlton, editor (ctrl+click) editor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org