



July 2023

PRESIDENT'S LETTER — JOHN KNOWLTON

Bridging and Bonding

“Bowling Alone” is Robert Putnam’s analysis of eroding social connections. In the book he built upon Glenn Loury’s concept of Social Capital, an idea that one’s social and economic potential is contingent not just on your personal attributes, but also your social environment. Putnam described groups which serve bridging and bonding functions. Bonding is the effect of building internal connectedness amongst homogenous groups. Bridging connects people across various social divides.

Bonding groups help individuals cope with highly pressured social environments. An example Putnam shares is black churches during the Jim Crow era. While people faced difficult interactions in the workplace and marketplace, they could find solidarity, strength and affirmation at church. While the conditions are much less intense than Jim Crow, road cyclists often feel pressured by traffic, rude drivers and chaotic infrastructure. A cycling club can play a role where riders feel accepted, strength in numbers and some institutional structure.

Putnam noted that some groups serve both bonding and bridging functions. In his black church example, families of all income and class status were welcomed. In this way, the church played a bridging function, bringing rich and poor together.

How do you see the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club? Using Putnam’s framework, are we a bonding group? Do we bridge across social chasms? Do you wish we did more or less in one of these dimensions?

Let me know what you think – send an email to: President@KalamazooBicycleClub.org.



HIGHLIGHTS

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**Please send stories
and photos of your
rides to:**

editor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org

KBC Business

The next KBC meeting will be **Tuesday, 08 August** at 7:00 p.m. at Oshtemo Community Center (North Room), 6407 Parkview Ave, Kalamazoo MI .

(! NO KBC MEETING IN JULY—HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY !)

Kalamazoo Bicycle Club 13 June, 2023 Oshtemo Community Center

ATTENDANCE

Mike Boersma	Rick Whaley
John Knowlton	Mike Krischer
Kathy Kirk	Paul Runnels
Doug Kirk	Paul Wells

President's Message – John Knowlton

June Schedule for KBC events highlighting two new rides, the Monday Morning ride and Saturday Morning ride, details for both can be found on the KBC website. KalTour is coming up on June 25.

The following were suggestions for possible guests at upcoming KBC meetings: Team Clark Logic, Thundercats, Portage Parks/Road leadership (Kathleen Hoyle is Parks & Rec. person responsible for trail system in Portage), Mode Shift, Open Roads, RCKC (Road Commission of Kalamazoo County), Friends of the KalHaven Trail, LMB representative, Kalamazoo County Park, Dirty Donut Organizer (Dan Frazier), Bike Packing travel presentation (Paul Guimond, Charlie Grdina, Jim Kindle).

Update on Woollam Preserve: The property is currently fenced with restricted access. Over 80 buildings needed to be surveyed. There is also a deed restriction regarding impermeable surfaces. A public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 22, 4:30-6:30, at Kalamazoo Expo Center where preliminary ideas will be shared.

Ride Captain Update – Gordy Vader

Rider good turnout has been great on Mondays and Wednesdays; almost back to pre-COVID levels. Ride leaders are stepping up and rides are being covered. There are some new faces in each of the pace groups. Monday morning has been had consistent numbers. Saturday morning group is mostly new people, the distance and pace for that group is usually determined at the ride.

Education committee – Paul Wells

Bike Camp - 12 people registered and all people showed up in spite of the cloudy windy weather. Two of the attendees came to the Anniversary Party later that day. Having a one-day camp worked fine. Campers were directed to the KBC website where there are videos for cleaning, shifting, fixing a flat. We need to have a post camp debrief to discuss the issue of promoting Bike Camp. The numbers have been going down for the past few years.

Pedal's – Learn to Ride in a Group. The first week 3 people signed. Paul Wells lead a 22-mile route. The second week had 3 people and the focus was learning to shift.

Smart Cycling and League Certified Instructor Training - City of Portage is hosting SC Class on June 24, \$50 registration fee and a LCI training the first weekend in August, \$500 registration fee. KBC will offer scholarships for the SC class (\$50) and LCI training (\$400). It will be promoted to KBC members, Chain Gang Club, and will include a complimentary 1-year membership to KBC.

KalTour – Mike Krischer

This Thursday – Road painting, 6 pm Wind + James parking lot. Ride Leaders are needed – Paul G. will ask TCL members and Gordy will ask at Monday & Wednesday rides.

Anniversary Party – Paul Sotherland

It was a great gathering with about 80 people attending. Plenty of food and a lot of fun.

Member comments – Doug Kirk

Hats off to Kevin Oostema who won Dirty Donut for the 3rd year ! (12 donuts consumed)

July meeting - cancelled.

Finance report as of 06/20/2023, Pam Sotherland

PREVIOUS BALANCE CASH (PNC Checking + PayPal) ACCOUNTS: \$14,551

Monthly RECEIPTS (Cash In): \$5,597

Monthly EXPENSES: \$2,714

CURRENT BALANCE CASH ACCOUNTS: \$17,434

TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS: \$3,965

Discretionary Expenses: \$266

Education Fund: \$2,812

ROR21: \$887

ENCUMBERED EXPENSES: \$0

AVAILABLE Balance for Remaining Budgeted Expenses: \$13,470

Current Cash minus Designated Funds minus Encumbered Expenses

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT: \$6,191

July 2023 Membership

Total Memberships: 326

Total Individuals: 503

New or Renewed Members: Regina Alleman; Lue Cervone & Terry Brown; Doug Chapel; R.G. Cox; Thomas Dewhirst; Ed Doctor; Hugo Galvez; Dan & Jane Goldberger; Gary Greenop; Paul Guthrie; Scott Hagenbarth; Mike Hughes; Donald Juzwiak; Joan Orman; Sara Reeves; Natalie Rowe & Mike Limerick; Mary Schmidt; Heather Shinnars; Tom Sprinkle; Libby Subers; Kim Tabor; Julie Terrell; Gordy Vader; Kitty Vader; Brian VanderHoff; Holly VanLuke & Tim DeLaRonde; Doug Wales; Jana Zollinger

July Expired Members: Heather Boersma; Kathy Braginton; Jay Campbell; Steve Glista & Family; Steph Guyor; Dawn Hinz; Jillian Howland; Billie Jo Mundy; Venkata Turlapati; Mike & Sharon VanderMeulen

Rick Whaley, Membership Director

Community Support Opportunity

Date 5/17/2023

Lifecycles BIKE-4-LIFE

522 Mills Street

Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Dear Friend,

My Name is Rhonda Ethridge director of Lifecycles Bike 4 Life nonprofit organization.

In 2010 I loss my son Anthony Hensley through suicide. Suicide is such a taboo topic for families struggling with grief. I would like to bring awareness by providing surviving families the opportunity to meet others who understand the loss. Giving families a place to come celebrate the life, the love, and the legacy of our family members.

Beginning June 23rd, we will be hosting an all-summer long bike-a-thon fundraisers leading up to our main memorial biking event on September 16th. Bike-4-Life is our first charity annual event. All proceed will be going to support Gryphon Place Kalamazoo Michigan, in memory of Anthony Hensley.

The Gryphon Place is the leading agency for suicide prevention in the area. Gryphon Place connects people to a wide variety of resources. They are certified by the American Association of Suicidology and are passionate about their services being available to anyone in need. I'm writing to ask you to support us and the Bike4Life event. Just a small donation can help us reach our goal.

Thank you in advance for your contribution. You have no idea how much it means to us to have your support. Here are the ways you can donate:

- Donate online at lifecyclesbike4life.org (**link not working at the release of this article**)
- Come to my fundraising event on September 16, 2023, at Lifecycles 522 Mills Street Kalamazoo MI 49001.

Thank you again!

Sincerely,

Rhonda Ethridge

PEDAL THE ZOO

Event Information

Date: Sunday, July 30, 2023
Time: 1pm - 5pm
Address: Heritage Hall
625 Oakland Dr, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

In-person registration at 12pm the day of the event. Online early registration is available. Visit our website for more details! www.PedaltheZoo.com

Purpose

Pedal the Zoo is an engaging tour and celebration of downtown Kalamazoo. This excursion is designed to encourage our participants to visit downtown, celebrate the unique places that help to define our community, and support the local cycling culture. The outing itself is designed to celebrate small businesses, local bicycle shops, food entrepreneurs, merchandise vendors, and local breweries alike.

Our Sponsors:

Kalamazoo
Experiential
Learning Center

Irving S. Silmore
FOUNDATION

(269) 388-2830
publicrelations@eventkalamazoo.com
www.experientiallearningcenter.org
1417 S. Burdick St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49001



INFO PACKET

JULY 30, 2023

2023 Cycling Events.

Not all inclusive but looking to capture the main cycling events in the immediate (50 mile or so) area. Provided for informational content only — **KalTour, W-Ride Bike Camp and KBC Recovery Party** are KBC sponsored events.

[RACE SCHEDULE — MGRS \(michigan gravel races series.com\)](https://michigan gravel races series.com) - Link to all gravel races



<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Link</u>
100 Grand	01 July 2023	Rapid Wheelmen Bicycle Club
Holland 100	15 July 2023	Holland 100
Pedal The Zoo	30 July 2023	Pedal The Zoo
Gilmore Gravel	TBD	Gilmore Gravel Grand Prix
Lowell Gravel Race	28 October 2023	LOWELL CLASSIC GRAVEL ROAD RACE - Home (thelowell50.com)