

PRESIDENT’S LETTER — JOHN KNOWLTON

Riding season, ride leaders

Football season is over – at least for Lions fans. (Great job guys, deepest run in 32 years! The future is bright.) And that means outdoor road riding season isn’t too far away! I managed a road ride recently and the snow was pretty much gone. I saw a faint shadow for about 45 seconds, which is noteworthy this time of year! I can confirm that R Avenue still has hills, waiting patiently for us to climb them. Group rides officially start with Daylight Savings Time, March 11. We will invite group ride leaders to step up in the next month. Please watch your e-mail for details. Consider teaming up with a riding partner or two to share the load for getting rides organized and executed. My goal for all KBC rides is that they will be safe and fun for everyone.

Great Rides

Our quality rides have been recognized by Guitar Ted. That is the public name of Mark Stevenson, founder of the Trans Iowa gravel race and a member of the inaugural class of the Gravel Hall of Fame. Mark recently interviewed me about how to organize and facilitate awesome group rides. You can listen to the January 18 [podcast](#) (<—click me) or at g-tedproductions.blogspot.com.

Amplify

Great group road rides are one of the main things we do for the club. We also seek to serve the broader cycling community with Kal Tour and recently Cycling Shorts. The last sentence of our Constitution says we “[C]ooperate with other organizations having similar goals and purposes.” I have been amazed to learn of more and more groups in the Kalamazoo area focused on some aspect of cycling as sport, transportation or healthy lifestyle. KBC is by far the largest cycling membership organization in the county. We have a good-sized platform (website, email database, etc.). One thing you will start to see is something I call “Amplification.” KBC and other groups can begin to amplify cycling messages to our members, on our social media platforms and by other means. While this is an experiment, I can imagine six to ten organizations amplifying key messages each month or quarter to reinforce a culture of cycling. You can help by sharing the point of contact for other bicycling related groups in the region. Feel free to drop me an email at president@kalamazoobicycleclub.org.

See you on the road soon!



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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, Feb 13 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** at Oshtemo Community Center (North Room), 6407 Parkview Ave, Kalamazoo MI .

Kalamazoo Bicycle Club January 09, 2024 Oshtemo Community Center

ATTENDANCE

Paul Sotherland	Paul Guimond	Paul Selden
Mike Krischer	John Knowlton	Pam Sotherland
Pam Sotherland	Charlie Grdina	Paul Runnels
Tom Holton		

Bike Camp 2024. It was discussed that this would be a morning event 8:00 - 11:30 AM from the Oshtemo Community Center. The main objective will be to teach group riding skills. < *FLASH—Bike Camp is currently under consideration for being canceled in 2024* >

Discord: Discord, a mass multichannel communication platform, will be rolled out to the club this spring as communication platform for ride information. To start with Discord will be one way communication with ride leaders posting about KBC sanctioned rides to Discord subscribing club members.

Kalamazoo Cycle Show will be held this year on May 11th. Paul Wells will coordinate the KBC booth utilizing this opportunity to promote Bike Camp and KalTour.

Recovery Party: This year's party will be held in the early fall and a date. Paul Guimond and Charlie Grdina will be the event coordinators and thank Paul Sotherland for his excellent work in past years parties.

Upcoming Cycling Shorts:

- Feb - George Waring - Safer Streets
- March - Pat McGinnis - City Manager of Portage
- April - Chris Lampen Crowell - Kalamazoo commuter challenge

Business Meeting adjourned at 19:00

Call for Your 2023 Bike Mileage

How many miles did you ride in 2023?



I know a lot of you keep track of the miles you ride. This is a shout out to submit yours, in time to print in the March edition of Pedal Press. Your report may inspire others to get out there and ride, too -- regardless of the distance!

If you are a current KBC member and want to give others a sense of what you are doing mileage-wise, email your first and last name and miles logged to pselden@aol.com. Estimates ("about 750"), reasonable rounding (if you say, "under 1000" that is close enough for me), and exact numbers ("1234") are all equally okay. Indoor and/or outdoor miles -- we play no favorites in this annual KBC column. In other words, this is for fun and it's very informal.

To make March's Pedal Press, reports submitted on or by February 20 will be printed. After that, I'll close the request for our "**2023 KBC Member's Annual Mileage Almanac.**"

Paul Selden

February 2024 Membership

Total Memberships: 306

Total Individuals: 475

New or Renewed Members: Tori Cane; Steve Cox; Suzie & Michael Flood; Anne Gentz; Caleb Kamphius; Laycie Lafler & Family; Ed Maring & Family; Carolyn Peurach & Family; Steve Stapleton; Bruce Taylor; Mike Vandever; Michael Waldrop; Margaret & Dave Wochaski; Mark Zettel

February Expired Members: Kevin Douglass & Family; Chris Geierbach; Rob & Karen Grainger; Arya Jayatilaka; Alice Rowe; Monica & Jonathan Tory

Rick Whaley, Membership Director



Cycling Shorts - 13 February 2024



Safer Streets — Kalamazoo’s Quest for Safe All-User Access to Our Streets

Please join us on 13 February where George Waring, Civil Engineer, City of Kalamazoo, will discuss his vision for “Safer Streets – Kalamazoo’s Quest for Safe All-User Access to Our Streets” .

George is a Civil Engineer (EIT) actively engaged in furthering the infrastructure and well-being of the City of Kalamazoo. As the City of Kalamazoo’s senior civil engineer he is performing engineering and planning for local and major road networks throughout the city. His enthusiasm and enjoyment for the work of civil improvement and social betterment drives his passion for this line of work.



DA2



Soliciting membership for their observations for improvement, things that are working well and creative ideas that would improve the overall bicycling experience for riders in the community. One paragraph or two will fit the bill. Send articles & associated photos to editor@kalmazoobicycleclub.org. Lots of good things happening on da2 wheels.

KRVT II— (i.e. the sum is greater than the parts)

What if, like the City of Portage and its wonderful network of shared-use pathways, the City of Kalamazoo were to be responsible for developing and maintaining the KRVT within the City limits?

Paul Sotherland posed this idea after his ride with Pam this summer on the [Monon Trail](#) (Indianapolis area). His observation was the entire trail is really quite impressive, but some parts are more impressive than others, leading them to assume (probably correctly) that cities care for “their” segment of the trail. He is not alone in his observation, as I have experienced the same in riding the [South Haven-Port Huron](#) route with friends a few years ago. You can really tell the communities that have invested in the non-motorized infrastructure. Kalamazoo is at the crossroads of significant non-motorized infrastructure that has taken decades to develop. It is about to get much bigger as the [North Country Trail](#), which passes through Augusta, has been designated a unit of the National Park Service. THIS IS A BIG DEAL! It is really big, as the trail starts in Connecticut, ends in North Dakota, and covers the entire state of MI.



So.... Imagine what could happen if the City of Kalamazoo (leaders, staff, and citizens) were to assume ownership of the KRVT and treat it as a multi-spoked array of linear parks and then care for those parks like any other City park. The “hub” of those parks could be somewhere in downtown Kalamazoo and the “spokes” would connect the hub with the KalHaven Trail to the west, the Kalamazoo Nature Center to the north, many points (including Bell’s in Comstock!) to the east, and...eventually...a south “spoke” connecting with the extensive network of shared use pathways in Portage and beyond. Just imagine the awesome result.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS TO KBC

The Kalamazoo Bicycle Club wishes to thank the following individuals and organizations for their financial support in 2023:

Bike Friend Kalamazoo

Michigan Blind Athletic Associate

Nancy Heller and Roger Lob

Diane & Paul Heller

Mike Boersma

Submitted by Pam Sotherland