



**Kalamazoo
Bicycle Club**

March 2025

PRESIDENT'S LETTER — JOHN KNOWLTON

What a great spring for riding so far! On the first Monday night ride there were 45 people. And the second week it was very windy and 48 degrees, but 12 people still came to ride! That's quite a difference from some years when 2 or 3 of us rode a mile in the snow or rain just to say we did it!

For 2025 we have simplified the scheduled start times for evening rides. In March and October we will start at 5:30 p.m. April through September wheels roll at 6 p.m. If a 6p.m. start prevents you from joining us, please send me an email. We don't want to exclude people, just make things simpler to remember.

You have elected me president of the club 4 years in a row. From 2022-2024 we added an emphasis on re-connecting after COVID. We sought to connect KBC with other cycling or bike-adjacent groups. In 2025 we have decided to narrow our focus on our core product: the best group road rides in the area. We want to offer rides that are safe and fun for everyone. A key element of safe is the pre-ride briefing. Ride leaders share the route, pace, and some reminders about safety: no more than two across, point out road hazards, follow the rules of the road, etc.

And don't forget the fun: in surveys of KBC members, camaraderie and companionship are the main reasons you choose to ride in a group. That can be enhanced by knowing the names of the people you ride with. I encourage ride leaders to introduce themselves and ask everyone to share their name. Whether that happens or not, you can start a conversation with the person next to you. "Hi, I'm John. What's your name? How long have you been riding with the club?" If you do that, I'm sure it will begin a great conversation and maybe even a friendship!

See you on the roads!



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

editor@kalamazoobicycle
club.org

KBC Business

The next KBC meeting will be **Tuesday, 13 May 2025** at **7:00 p.m.** at **Oshtemo Community Center** (North Room), 6407 Parkview Ave, Kalamazoo MI .

Kalamazoo Bicycle Club Oshtemo Community Center Minutes from Business Meeting - 08 March 2025

2025 Meeting Schedule (no longer monthly)

May 13th, 2025
June 10th, 2025
October 14th, 2025 – Nominations
November 11th, 2025 – Elections

**** **This is The Kalamazoo Bicycle Club's 54th year!** ****

- KBC Spring Kickoff Party held at Wind + James in Schoolcraft was well attended. There was plenty of conversation, and laughter; delicious food and many items were discussed for the 2025 riding season! Chief among them, KalTour!

- The President's message for this year "**KBC has the best road ride around – Safe & Fun for Everyone**"
The Monday and Wednesday ride start times for April and October – 5:30pm, May through September 6:00pm
Everyone that agreed to being a ride leader was sanctioned by John Knowlton with him asking them to go to the KBC website and fill out the application to be a Ride Leader. If you are interested in becoming a Ride Leader click on this [link](#)

- A pre-ride briefing list for club rides was passed out to those that were interested.

- Ride leaders need to make sure to communicate within the pace group. Paul Guimond will be putting information about club rides on Discord

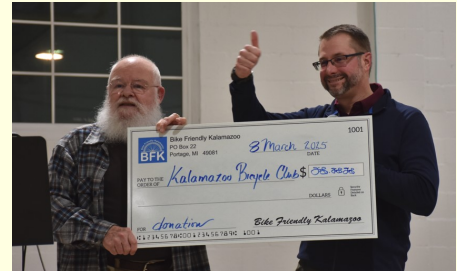
- KBC Club members stepped up when being asked for volunteers: Food, Registration, and Road Painting have enough volunteers however we need Ride Leader volunteers for all rides. Terry O'Connor has committed to a 30 mile ride.

- John Knowlton will be stepping down as President of the KBC to take on another venture. This is John's 4th year as President. Please consider volunteering your time to the KBC. The position is open for applicants with nominations made in October and the election is in November. Please

contact anyone on the Executive Committee if you are interested or know of someone that would be interested.

- Bike Friendly Kalamazoo generously donated \$500.00 to the KBC

Ride with GPS KalTour routes will be available for 2025 soon. If you like to see the routes from last year, they are still available on the website.



- Barb Hart gave out several name stickers for helmets and the meeting and she has many names available still. It is a great idea to help remember your co-riders' names!

Current KBC Open Positions:

Ride Captain
Social Director
Communications Director

Near Future KBC Open Positions:

President (November 2025)
Vice President (November 2025)

Consider volunteering for one of these open positions and helping KBC pedal into the future.

Jacinda Roedel, KBC Secretary

March 2025 Membership

Total Memberships: 264

Total Individuals: 414

New or Renewed Members: Michael Brus; Pat Cronin & Karen Halsted; Cindy Gippert; John & Barb Hart; Bill Keene; Katie Little; Dan Martz; Jill & Will Roberts; Bill & Sharon Surna; Robert Taylor; Nancy Vandeville; Rick Whaley; Randall Yagiela

March Expired Members: Tom & Anne Boomer; Travis Branderhorst; Teresa Distefano; Janet & Herman Evenboer; Gustavo Garza; Gary Hammock; John Howson; Cindy & Tom Little; Cheryl-Marie Manson; Michael McKeeby; Dave Mitchell; Vince Patrizi; Tracy Reilly; Bruce Taylor

April Expired Members: Keegan Adriance; Clark Bennett; Lauren Cummings; Amanda Cunningham; Joe & Julie Dill; Andrzej Dudek; Andrea & Don Fore; Jason Gabos; Rick & Faith Huyser; Marc Irwin; Scott Kirklin; Joe Kucharski & Family; Josh Lacey; Ann LaPoint & Family; Mike Louwaert; Richard Morse; Rob Nicey; Kyle Odonohue; Jacinda Roedel; Mark Schauer; Scott Spray; Pam Stinchcomb; Kathy & Ben Zimont

Rick Whaley, Membership Director

“Well, Traveled” (guidance and appreciation of a cyclist)

I figured out today that I’m starting my 54th year of road riding. It was 1972 when I got seriously infected with the bike bug. I read every bike magazine I could find, cover to cover. The bug has never been cured. I read back then that I should ride my bike on the right side of the road, and operate just like I drive my car, except not down the middle, unless I had to because of left turns, construction, debris, or other impediments.

Then later, I heard the phrase, “Same Rights, Same Roads, Same Rules,” from The League of Michigan Bicyclists (great organization, working for years to preserve and expand cycling rights and education in Michigan. We should all be members to support their good work- please join!). Somehow, through my adherence to these rules, and big doses of luck, I have avoided physical contact with motor vehicles. There have been some contacts with other riders, and with the pavement, but nothing catastrophic. I’m lucky, but I’m also predictable, defensive, assertive (taking my place on the road), communicative (using hand signals for every change of position), and friendly, (waving to drivers who give me space and have a bit of patience.)

More recently, about 10 years ago, I added daytime-bright lights, blinking white front, blinking red rear, and brighter jerseys and vests to my arsenal of safety stuff. I have learned that with really bright flashing lights, drivers (99+%) give me more space when passing. I’ve got my rear flasher attached to the back of my helmet, up high where drivers in taller vehicles can see them better, and sooner. I don’t recommend using a helmet mounted light if riding in a group. Really bright rear flashers can help get the attention of distracted drivers. Cheaper, low-power flashers aren’t visible in daylight. Don’t bother with them. Get a bright one.

At my advanced age, I have reduced flexibility to turn my head easily to see behind. I have a mirror attached to my riding glasses. It’s little, close to my eye, always right there to check behind. I don’t have to look down to the end of my handlebar at a convex mirror. I don’t have a big, vibrating mirror three or four inches out there attached to my helmet. And surprisingly, my field of vision is greater because the mirror is much closer to my eye. I still turn my head (as best I can) to let drivers know I see them before I signal to change positions on the road.

So I’ve had thousands of great, safe rides, all these years. I’m thankful, and I hope it holds for a few more years! I have concluded that road riding is a lot safer than most folks believe. Sure it’s potentially dangerous, but safer than the couch, tobacco, drugs, alcohol, etc...you know the list.

Then, there’s the rules of safe group riding. KBC has a really great list of these rules on the website, and they get reviewed by ride leaders before KBC group rides. Click on “Rides” then “Ride Safety.” Check it out. I’ll see you out there on KBC rides.

And once again, I ask you to get those “Give Them Five to Keep Them Alive” signs out. We need to remind everyone. If you need one, just stop by Pedal Bicycles to pick one (or more) up.

Thanks,

Paul Wells, KBC Education Chair



KalTour Online

Do you remember when the only way make a payment was to write a check and mail it? When the only way to find your way was to look at a paper map? And when the only way for someone to remember what you told them was to hope they would write it down on paper? Thanks to some forward-looking KBC members (not me!) KalTour now has convenient online options for all of these tasks.

Register for KalTour on BikeReg

Advance registration for KalTour (including the KBC member discount) is available on ***BikeReg*** through the following link: Remember that prices for KalTour will increase after Memorial Day.

<https://www.bikereg.com/kbc-kaltour>

Day of Registration: \$55 individual or \$100 family (\$10 discount for KBC members or \$20 for KBC family)

Find KalTour Routes on Ride with GPS

The following link will take you to the KalTour event page on ***Ride with GPS***. You may view and download all of the planned routes for KalTour 2025. Please note that the planned routes may change slightly due to road construction and/or pavement conditions.

<https://ridewithgps.com/events/354168-kaltour-2025>

Volunteer for KalTour on SignUpGenius

Everything from road painting to clean up after the ride is listed on the following link. You can see all of the different tasks that have to be accomplished before and during KalTour and determine what is best suited for your schedule.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944afab2ba5ffc61-2023#>

Mike Krischer, KalTour Director

The idea behind KBC's Annual Mileage Almanac is to share the joy of bicycling that the numbers represent -- with others -- regardless of the number of miles you ride or how and where you ride them. Thanks to all who submitted reports, and thanks for inspiring everyone to get out there and ride -- no matter how much!

<u>Miles</u>	<u>Member</u>
12,591	Mark Atkinson
6,000	Sandy Blix
2,671	Jon Burke
4,425	Randy Button
4,500	Jamie Clark
5,569	Terry Florian
4,212	Brian Germain
3,157	Charlie Grdina
8,964	Paul Guthrie
9,100	Barb Hart
4,038	Terry Hutchins
2,822	Tom Keizer
7,155	Jim Kindle
11,115	Doug Kirk
2,149	Jenna Kovach
3,100	Michael Krischer
2,350	Katie Little
7,508	Thomas Noverr
3,100	Terry O'Connor
10,209	Kevin Oostema
2,196	Jessica Opfer
1,100	Elsa Opfer
5,800	Katja Opfer
3,000	Leah Peterson
2,360	Bill Price
600	Paul Rehkopf
171	Paul Selden
1,871	Libby Subers
3,425	Gordy Vader
2,230	Matthew VanMiddlesworth
3,030	Valerie Vuk
4,013	Paul Wells
2,822	Rick Whaley
3,218	Gregory Worsnop
1,800	John Knowlton



Call For Annual Mileage in 2024

Thanks again for sharing - hope all your rides are safe and happy in the coming year!

Based on member reports received in time to submit for the March Pedal Press; may be approximate or a best guess. Not responsible for errors/omissions, etc. Please send any corrections/updates to the Pedal Press Editor at editor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org. Keep track of your mileage for next year's KBC Member Mileage Almanac!

Paul Selden, KBC Member

March 2025 KBC Anniversary 54th Party

Off to a good start for the year at the KBC Party. It was a great to see everyone and **Thank You all** for bringing a dish to pass as the food was awesome. Many thanks to the Vice President, Paul Guimond, for coordinating this years event.

If a picture says a 1000 words then the smiles in the montage speak to what a good time everyone had at this event. See you all at the next one.





cycling

people for bikes

Good news for cycling enthusiasts and advocates: more Americans are riding bicycles than ever before. The latest U.S. Bicycling Participation Study from **PeopleForBikes** reveals that in 2024, 112 million Americans—35% of people aged three and older—rode a bike at least once. That's the highest participation rate recorded since the study began in 2014, reinforcing the pandemic-driven cycling boom as more than just a temporary trend.

Click on the link above to read the full article along with many others on cycling adventures and progress across the globe. Thank you Pam Sotherland for sending.