



May 2025

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER — JOHN KNOWLTON

Cool Winds, Cool Bikes!

Welcome to the windy part of the riding season! It seems that every time I want to ride there is a steady 20 mph wind with gusts up to 35. Well, strong winds make strong riders!

This is also a part of the year filled with cool bike events. Kalamazoo Area Bike Week is May 10 – 17. You can find all of the events and activities [HERE](#). KBC plans to participate in Bikes in the Zoo on Saturday, May 10 from Noon to 4 p.m. Come on down to the Kalamazoo Mall to see cool bikes on display and interact with other bike related organizations. Hey, why not invite a friend to ride with you from your home to downtown. Leave the car behind and grab lunch or coffee at a downtown vendor. I plan to do just that and then join the 5.10 competition at Climb Kalamazoo! In June we have the premier bike tour of Kalamazoo County, Kaltour. This is a lovely ride starting in Schoolcraft. There are multiple distances and routes and root beer floats when you get back for lunch! We even have indoor plumbing! Kaltour registration is available [HERE](#). And more information about the ride is [HERE](#). When you register early you help us plan for the right amount of food and volunteers. And you make the organizers feel good! It takes a lot of work to put on a big event and Mike Krischer is doing a great job! Please thank him when you see him.

### The sweetest wheel !

I decided to kick my training into gear this year. I joined Trek Travel for a ride camp in Greenville, SC in late March. The routes weren't too long, but they were hilly. Hillier than I was ready for. And on the third day I felt it. Hard. Thank goodness for my friend Mark. He gave me encouragement and a nice steady wheel to follow back into town. We all need help once in a while. And when some



### HIGHLIGHTS

President's letter .....	1
Club Updates.....	2
Membership.....	3
Bike Week.....	4
Bike rides for Blind.....	5
Bike Week.....	6
KalTour... ..	7
W Ride.....	8

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

[editor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org](mailto:editor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org)

one helps us, it can inspire us to pass the favor on. When you join KBC group rides, you have an opportunity to provide the sweetest wheel to the person behind you. Please come out to ride, introduce yourself, and don't hesitate to give encouragement to your mates. We all appreciate it, even if we can't catch our breath to say, "Thank you."

## 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

#### **2025 Meeting Schedule** (no longer monthly )

May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Nominations  
November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Elections

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

#### **- 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**



## **Kalamazoo Bicycle Club**

### **COME RIDE WITH US!**

#### **Weekly KBC Rides - See website for specific times, etc.**

- Monday Morning - departure alternates between Parchment & Portage
- Monday Night Ride - departs from Texas Drive Park
- Tuesday Night Women's Ride - departs from Celery Flats Picnic Pavilion
- Wednesday Night Ride - departs from Kal-Haven Trailhead on 10th street
- Thursday - Pedal Shop Ride - departs from Pedal North
- Friday Morning Women's Ride - departs from Texas Drive Park
- Sunday LGBTQIA+ Allies Ride - departs from various locations



***Ride to Live – Live to Ride***

## **April/May 2025 Membership**

Total Memberships: 258

Total Individuals: 497

**New or Renewed Members:** Keegan Adriance; Jeff Belknap; Clark Bennett; Anne & Tom Boomer; Sara & Bill Burhans; Rudy & Fawn Callen; Mike Cutler & Joyce Beebe; Andrzej Dudek; Andrea & Don Fore; Helen George; John Howson; Marc Irwin; Megan James & Family; Jennifer Johnson & Family; Kathy & Doug Kirk; Scott Kirklin; Jeff Kirschensteiner; Michael McKeeby; Dave Mitchell; Richard Morse; Rob Nicey; Barry Olson & Family; Mary Schmidt; Robin Sides; Timothy A. Stewart; Ruth Subers

**May Expired Members:** Becky Argue; Paul Banner; Zolton Cohen; Gene Decker; Kevin Douglass & Family; Sherrie; Glas; Dean Kindler; Linda & Jeff Kozacki; Molly Lacy; Todd Maguire; Sean Malone & Family; Paige Phizacklea; Paul Rehkopf; Kailey & Philip Swanson; Shawn Sullivan; Alan Sylvester; Janice Utter; Andrienne Wiltzer

**Rick Whaley, Membership Director**



You are invited to join KBC to promote our love of riding at Bikes in the Zoo, the City of Kalamazoo's third annual bike show during Kalamazoo Bike Week. It's on Saturday, May 10, from 12:00 to 4:00 on the Burdick St mall. We will be talking up the great rides, fun, and friendship we all enjoy. We will have KBC fliers, and "Give Them 5 to Keep Them Alive" yard signs to give out. Come on down just for a visit, or to volunteer some time to talk to folks about who we are and what we do. Also come out to KBC's rides during Kalamazoo Bike Week, May 10th to 17th.

I have delivered the Old Crank Award to it's rightful home a few days ago. I have appreciated KBC's giving this to me for safekeeping, now it is in the hands of Mike Boersma, who has been volunteering and supporting KBC for decades. I am in awe of his volunteer work on the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County for many years. As bike riders we have benefited from his efforts regarding non-motorized transportation's inclusion in infrastructure repairs and upgrades. Tell him thanks when you see him!

Paul Wells, Education Chair (Click on links above and below for more information)





## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



The 2025 [Michigan Blind Athletic Association \(MBAA\)](#) Sports Camp is taking place once again. This is a fun and rewarding experience for volunteers and riders. Blind/legally blind kids age 13-18 get to experience riding on the back of a tandem bicycle. Captains for the tandems and other volunteers are needed.

Tentative Dates and Times for 2025 are as follows:

**May 14**, Wednesday 6:30 – 8:30pm

**May 15**, Thursday 6:30-8:45 pm

**May 16th**, Friday 6:15 -8:15 pm



Location is the WMU Business Technology and Research (BTR) Park off of Parkview Rd. It is held rain or shine.

This is a fun and rewarding experience for volunteers and riders. Blind/legally blind kids age 13-18 get to experience riding on the back of a tandem bicycle. Captains for the tandems and other volunteers are needed. If it rains rides will take place in the parking garage.

MBAA has quite a few tandems, including a recumbent side by side, most of these tandems will have flat pedals so be sure to bring appropriate shoes. If you own a tandem and want to use it, that is always appreciated. Volunteers are needed to captain tandems, no tandem experience is required, but if you are not comfortable doing that there are many other things you can help with. Kids need help getting helmets on, securing pant legs, adjusting seat height, and help getting on and off tandems.

On the last day when the time trials happen, 5-6 timers are also needed. Distances are short, just over a mile for a loop around the business park and it is pretty flat. It is a busy week with Bike Week but hope some KBC members can come and help out on one, two or all three days. It is a memorable experience, some of the kids have never been on a bike before. Watch for updates and reminders on KBC facebook page and KBC website under the Volunteer heading. **This event would not be possible without the help from KBC members.**

Barb Hart, KBC Member and Ride Coordinator





Bike Week 2025 will offer more than 30 events, including:

Mayors trail ride  
Local bike club and shop rides  
Community rides  
Bike rodeo for kids  
Dirt & gravel road riding  
Local bicycling developments forum  
Blind & vision impaired bike sports camp  
Fix-it & bike maintenance events  
Teaching kids to ride safely  
Traffic safety tips  
Bike-related nonprofits  
Lessons on how to get bikes ready to ride and fix flats  
Maps & safety literature  
Tire and inner tube recycling  
Food donation opportunity.

Bike Week shines a spotlight on fun bicycling events that take place throughout the year, plus helping to underscore need to drive and bike safely. Bike Week Events and Announcements are being added almost daily at its official website at [www.kalamazoobikeweek.org](http://www.kalamazoobikeweek.org) and announced on Facebook at @kalamazoobikeweek. Bike Week offers plenty of reasons to get out there and stretch your legs – all while enjoying the great outdoors!

### Kalamazoo Bicycle Club Women's Ride



Paul Selden, KBC Member & Bike Friendly Kalamazoo Liaison



## **! KalTour Price Increase Coming Soon !**

As the weather improves and we find more reasons to get outside and ride, remember that KalTour on June 29th is not very far away. Even closer is the end of KalTour's "Early Bird" prices. Increased prices for KalTour registration will go into effect after Memorial Day. Beginning May 27, the cost of individual registration for KalTour will increase from \$45 to \$50. KBC members receive a \$10 discount. Similarly, the cost of family registration which covers two adults and minor children will increase from \$90 to \$95 (with a \$20 discount for KBC family members). KalTour registration is available online through the **BikeReg** website at the following link: <https://www.bikereg.com/kbc-kaltour>

## ***Volunteer for KalTour on SignUpGenius***

Putting on an organized ride with marked courses, sag stop (perhaps a more accurate designation would be snack stop), organized ride groups, and post-ride lunch is a major project for a bicycle club, one that requires many volunteers. KalTour uses the **SignUpGenius** website to recruit and communicate with volunteers. You can volunteer to help with KalTour by using the following link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944afab2ba5ffc61-2023#/>

## ***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>

KalTour is now in its 33rd year, having begun in 1992. If anyone is counting, we missed 2020 due to COVID. It was originally called the Flower Fest Bicycle Tour because of the local celebration of the greenhouse industry. Flower Fest is no more, but KalTour is still going strong. Last year was our best turnout of the post-pandemic era. Please do your part to keep this trend alive in 2025!

**Mike Krischer, KalTour Director**

## The W Ride is Coming ..... Eventually

It's time for the W Ride again this year and time waits for no man, except for me, when it comes to the aforementioned ride. Due to two knee replacements (and I am thankful that humans have just two legs), I did very little riding for 7 months and I started riding again a couple months ago. So, I'd like to get in better shape before leading this ride and I'm thinking about having the ride in the late spring or early summer.



And what is the W Ride? It's a ride that began in 2000 and has been held every year, except for the Covid Year of 2020. We begin the ride at Vicksburg High School and this year we will ride to the Calhoun County line on W Avenue, turn around and ride back to the high school. Then, we'll continue riding on W Avenue to the Van Buren County line, turn around, and ride back to the high school again. Forty-eight miles, one road, and countless memories.

Further details about this ride will emerge when I choose a date, which will give KBC members something to look forward to.

Rick Whaley, W Ride Leader and Cycling Cyborg