

KALAMAZOO BICYCLE CLUB NEWSLETTER AUGUST 1977

ESCAPE '78 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING: August 1, 7:30 pm 2301 Fairfield (Caruso's) Everyone's welcome. Call 381-0135 if you need directions.

GENERAL MEETING:AUGUST 15 Classroom section of Kalamazoo College 7 pm Everyone welcome.

MEETING SUMMARY: The meeting authorized the Executive Committee to authorize the Club's Proxy for the USCF meeting after consultation with the racers. Joel Dinda reported that he and Mike Murray thought a revolution might be brewing in the USCF given the legislative proposals before the General Meeting Aug. 1. Joel's report on Denver includes he broke his handlebars and had 6 flats total. The food was barely OK. The Rides and Exhibits and Workshops were good. The people he talked to there said they would be disappointed if Kalamazoo didn't have at least 1,000 for the Convention next year.

DENVER: Too hot and too dry, but I learned much and had a fine time. I expect to put the experience to good use. The organizers of the Denver Convention were friendly and helpful, and unanimously expressed their willingness to help, as best they can, our efforts.

My thanks to those whose contributions made the trip possible.

JOEL

ESCAPE '78: A Status Report The committee met on Monday, July 11; the main object of the meeting was for Joel to share what he'd learned of the scope of the task from his experiences in Denver.

Not surprisingly, we've decided to follow the basic format fo the previous convention: rides in the morning, rides and workshops in the afternoon, and workshops and

KALAMAZOO BICYCLE CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM 1977

Membership entitles person to newsletter by mail, distinctive club patch, membership card, KBC county map, and reduced fees at specified club events. KBC meets the third Monday of every month at 7 pm in the classroom section of the Kalamazoo College Library, northwest corner of Thompson and Academy streets.

Dues (Check one)

- Adult (over 17) \$5.00
- Youth (Under 18) \$2.50
- Family (all members of household) \$6.00
- Senior (over 60) \$2.50

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ AGE _____ BIRTHDATE _____ SEX _____

NAMES AND AGES OF OTHERS IF FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

OTHER MEMBERSHIPS: _____ USCF _____ LAW _____ AYH _____ OTHER _____

SIGNATURE _____ PARENT _____ (if under 18)

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special events in the evening.

Workshops—we are exploring some ideas, and welcome others. We are particularly interested in developing two or three themes for structuring sets of workshops -- Denver had much success with workshops on medical problems posed by bicycling, and workshops on bikeways and other facilities. Along the same lines, we are exploring such themes as Club leadership, Legislation and Politics, Tandeming and/or Family Cycling, and the League's Image (this last a nebulous notion of Joel's, provoked by something Denver's keynote speaker said).

A note on process: We'll need lots of helpers, but we won't always need them. Planning is basically a small-group process, and while participation and ideas are welcome, probably the committee chairs will do most of the work. All members are welcome to attend the Steering Committee meetings, and we'll keep reporting to you on the status of the project.

Next meeting: Monday August 1, 7:30 pm 2301 Fairfield.

RACING NEWS

Our congratulations to Ken Nowakowski, Scott Steurer, Chuck Shuster and Mike Murray for their fine showings at the state championships.

We've been making an effort this year to give some substance to the KBC racing program; and while we're unsatisfied with the progress, we've at least made some unsteady gains. Race results sometimes get reported, now, training rides, while uncoached, at least occur systematically and regularly (not, directly due to any effort on the part of KBC); Joel has developed a fairly reliable system for sharing race announcements with the racers; and a few racers have begun to take an interest in the government of the club and of the sport.

It's also become plain to most of us that KBC cannot remain affiliated with the USCF unless we find a racing sponsor. This conclusion does not stem from any great love for fancy jerseys, nor from any notion we can compete with Oakland or Wolverine for riders or for championships; rather we've examined our checkbook, and learned that racing is this club's largest expense. Look at it this way; without much benefitting our racers, we've handicapped all other activities which require money (politics, newsletter, tour publicity etc.). That's hardly fair to our members, as KBC's predominantely a groups of tourists and commuters.

Now that we've a consensus on the need, the next step is to develop a strategy for recruiting a sponsor. Toward that end, we'll hold an informal meeting on Monday, August 15, after the regular club meeting. This meeting will not be long; the main objects besides soliciting ideas, will be to recruit a committee, and to set another meeting date. Every member interested in racing should attend.

Several KBC members attended a board track evening in Southfield a few weeks back. The track's a huge bowl, with high sides and steep banking which fits inside a standard hockey arena. The racing is spectacular.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: We remind you of the following events. Mark your calendars and plan to join us.

SEPTEMBER 3 (Saturday) A Kalamazoo County Tour KBC's seventh fall century, featuring fine scenery and Alamo Hill.

OCTOBER 1 GLEEP is back and we'll be helping.

OCTOBER 7 (Friday) Ian Hibell world traveler, will show slides and share tall tales about his recent tour through Europe and Africa.

OCTOBER 15 (Saturday) Wine and Cheese and Color Tour Our annual excursion to Paw Paw. Wine tasting and touring, with fall colors at their best.

DECEMBER 19 (Monday) Christmas party.

JUNE 22-25 1978 ESCAPE '78/ The National convention of Bicyclists

CLASSIFIED: FOR SALE: one pair used (750 miles) sewup wheels: Flame Red Rims, Gunuti Hubs. Italian threaded, but used successfully with British thread freewheels. \$35.00 inc QR skewer. Russ Schipper 349-4643

AUGUST RIDE SCHEDULE

A SHORT NOTE: Several of us have heard that many members fear that they can't keep the pace on our tours. This notice is to assure them that they can surely keep up with our Thursday tours, and that few KBC rides are devastateingly strenuous. We ride for the scenery and the company.

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ROAD ETTIQUETTE AND SAFETY:

We're delighted, of course, with the large turnouts we've been getting at club rides this year. The crowds create problems, though, and a short lesson in road behavior is obviously in order. Group riding requires a certain amount of communication, else the riders pose safety hazards to one another. What follows is both common courtesy and common sense.

The first rule is predictability. If possible, go in straight lines, and don't make sudden stops -- unexpected changes in direction or speed are often the causes of collisions.

The second rule is communications. Tell people what's coming up -- "car back", "Glass", "turning left" "Bumps", "(passing) on your right (or left)", "stopping" or just "heads up". Anything in fact that might pose a safety hazard to the people you're with -- road conditions, traffic, dogs, other cyclists, or changes in your behavior -- must be announced. LOUDLY.

The third rule is courtesy -- to each other, and to other road users (some of us are notoriously negligent about this). 'Tis good safety and good politics.

The last rule is to obey the law. Again: good safety, and good politics.

Finally: These are simple rules, and good practice whenever you're out with a group. Spread the word. Anything that makes cycling safer is good practice.

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STANDING RIDES: THESE RUN EACH WEEK THIS MONTH

TUESDAY: TIME TRIALS AT AUGUSTA. How fast can you ride 10 miles? For tourists and racers; Meet on M-96 just east of the village limit and the railroad tracks, at 6:30 pm. Questions? Ken Nowakowski (327-2353) or Joel Dinda (349-3094).

WEDNESDAYS: EXHILERATING RIDINGS FOR STRONG RIDES. Wayne Fisher, Gary Keene Rick Bauer, Joel Dinda invite strong riders to join them for a ride in which strong riders don't wait at check points for the slower riders. 35-35 miles in 2-2 1/4 hours from KVCC at 7 pm.

THURSDAY LEISURELY RIDES: Our most popular ride. 7 pm from Lexington Green School (Milham & Sprinkle) Usually 10-15 miles through flat farm land in 1 1/2-2 1/4 hours August leaders: 4th Debbie Dinda; 11th Sandy Kimbrough; 18th Jan McLain; 25th Jini Caruso.

ALSO: DAILY RACER TRAINING RIDES: MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY AT 5:30 pm from corner of Rose and Cedar across from the Kalamazoo Police Station.

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WEEK END RIDES:

SATURDAY AUGUST 6: 9 am from Pavilion Township Hall (Q and 29th) to Centerville, 50-55 miles in 3-7 hours, (some of us fast, some of us slow) Terrain is fairly flat. Richard Dinda 349-3094

SUNDAY AUGUST 7: 5:30 pm. from Oshtemo Harding's (Michigan & 9th) 15 Leisurely miles through rolling countryside with lots of lakes. Joel Dinda 349-3094.

MORE NEXT PAGE.

SATURDAY AUGUST 13: THE CARUSO'S ANNIVERSARY RIDE: 9 or 11 mile loop from H and 26th (Comstock North Elementary). Its a rolling terrain loop with two short steep climbs, (early) its beautiful country side, its short, its hill climbing practice for Sunday's ride and its topped of with anniversary cookies and lemonade. We're riding the 11 mile loop for our 11th anniversary. 9:30 am, 26th and H, Jini and Phil Caruso, 381-0135.

SUNDAY AUGUST 14: DISTANCE MEDLEY RIDE. THIS IS A SMALL SERVICE MAJOR PATCH RIDE. \$2.50 from Spring Valley Park water tower on Mt. Olivet Rd. 6 am. LAW Patches included. Sanctioned Half Century (50 miles in 6 hours) Sanctioned Metric Century (63 miles in 9 hours); Conventional Century (100 miles in 12 hours) or Double Metric Century (125 miles in 15 hours). All are hilly. PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED. Joel Dinda 349-3094.

SATURDAY AUGUST 20. 9:30 am from Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Parking lot Northwest corner, (8th & O). 15 miles of rolling and flat terrain. in 1-1 1/2 hours.

SUNDAY: AUGUST 21. RIDE FOR DINNER AT THE GILKEY LAKE TAVERN: Family style old fashioned Sunday Chicken dinner, plus the atmosphere of Gilkey Lake Tavern. You'll need locks for the bikes, NO CLEATS ON THE FLOOR PLEASE, and money for dinner. The atmosphere is unique. LEAVE AT NOON FROM SPRING VALLEY PARK (MT OLIVET RD.) Under water tower. 45 hilly miles total. three-quarters of it before dinner. Tom Mohill 345-1830.

SATURDAY AUGUST 27 from Gull Road Hardings (H and Gull Road) to the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary. at 9 am. 35-40 miles in rolling countryside. at a slow pace. Bring lunch or a snack. Sandy Kimbrough 327-7690.

SUNDAY AUGUST 28. FARM SURVEY V 6pm from Pavilion Township Hall (Q&29th) loops of 13 1/2-19 1/2 miles mostly flat 3 miles of gently rolling terrain. The ride includes a stop at Scotts Mill Park, and a waterfall. If you take the longer loop you also get belligerent swans with half grown little ones. Jini Caruso 381-0135

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A SAFETY NOTE: Two members, now, have suffered head injuries on club rides (the latest being George Yeager on the way to the Gilmore Museum). Fortunately, neither was badly hurt. We remind everyone that even the best cyclists sometimes take spills, and that even at walking speed a fall can kill. Helmets save heads.

MILEAGE PATCH PROGRAM.

We have been very pleased with the high attendance on our rides so far this year -- and we hope this continues. Those of you who have been riding with us will find the miles we have recorded for you on our club rides through July 24 this year listed below. The totals we have used are the ones supplied by the ride leaders. Hopefully you are keeping track of these miles (plus any miles you've ridden with other clubs) on your KBC Ride Log Sheet. Please let Debbie Dinda 349-3094 know if the total we have is very far from the total you have. For more log sheets call Jini Caruso 381-0135.

_____ has _____miles on _____KBC rides
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