



DALMAC PRESS

KBC Does DALMAC 1992 —or— The Yorkie Hangs On

As I heard the manic giggling getting louder, I turned around on the front seat of my blue Santana tandem just in time to see three other tandems and a lone single bike bearing down on me at 40 miles per hour. As the lead bike pulled even, the captain (the rider who sits in front) leveled a high-pressure Super-Soaker at my head and let fly. I was instantly drenched and the red Burley was gone before we could retaliate. The other bikes provided the pointing-and-laughing peanut gallery. "Jump on it!" I yelled to my stoker (the rider who sits in back). As she lent her considerable legs to our effort, I threw it in the 54 X 12 and quickly gained on our tormentors. Lacking high-tech weaponry, we relied on water bottles to prove that paybacks really *are* a bitch.

This is the story of DALMAC '92 as told by a group of KBC riders, who represented the Club well with their prowess on the bike, at the dinner table, and in the Clam River Tavern. You should be proud...

DAY 1: Lansing to Mt. Pleasant

I was awakened early Thursday morning to the sound of thunder and driving rain. "Great, another soaked DALMAC." But by 7:00, when the van arrived to take us to breakfast and the start area, the rain was over and the sun was poking through the clouds.

With registration out of the way, and with the hated orange flags duct-taped to our bikes, two KBC tandems rolled out of the staging area in North Lansing. At an early rest stop, we were spied by Bruce, a KBC rider, who knowing the draft thrown by *one* tandem, jumped on behind our two-tandem

line. It was at our first stop in Maple Rapids where we stopped for tomato (or *tomatoe*, in deference to the Veep) juice with tabasco, that we first met the South Carolina Gamecocks fans. They were a rowdy bunch: as we clip-clopped into the watering hole in our cleats, one S.C. rider was pouring beer straight out of the pitcher onto one of his companion's head. The friend blithely continued dancing and shouting the lyrics to Clarence Carter's *Stroke It* along with the juke box, not seeming to notice his sudsy anointment.

With only another stop in Alma for refreshments, we rolled into Mt. Pleasant at about 2:00. By dinner time, all the DALMAC-ers had arrived, and a 1200-biker tent city had grown up in the CMU soccer field. Our two lost KBC tandems showed up *way* late, after three flat tires and a blown-up rim. (They spent most of the evening in a Mt. Pleasant bike shop, begging spare wheels and tuning up the big bike.)

Day 2: Mt. Pleasant to Lake City

In typical DALMAC fashion, we were awakened at 5:30 to the sound of tent zippers whining and tent poles clinking. "Where are these people going that they need to be up this early?" We were hoping to sleep until 7:30 or so.

After breakfast, as our companions were feverishly packing their gear, trying to beat the 9:00 cut-off time for baggage loading, we noted that we were the last three bikes in the camp. The scenery on Day 2 was much improved: The cornfields of Ingham county gave way to rolling hills and stands of pine. It was during the first leg of day two that our single bike companion earned his nickname "The Terrier." Now tandems are pretty slow up hills,

October, 1992

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NEW MEMBERS

Medgar Moya
Ramon Zupko

KBC Officer Nominations

During the October KBC meeting, candidates for Club officers will be nominated. Elections take place at the November meeting. We'll hold nominations for the following officers. *[These are summary job descriptions. For complete, official descriptions, please see the KBC constitution.]*

Elected Positions:

President: Runs monthly meetings, authorizes spending money, general delegation duties.

Vice-President: Arranges meeting activities (speakers, meeting sites, etc), and runs meetings when the President can't be there.

Treasurer: Balances the Club checking account

and disburses funds.

Appointed Positions:

Ride Captain: Arranges for ride leaders for the weekly rides and submits the names to the Newsletter Editor.

Newsletter Editor: Gathers and writes stories and ride lists, submits the camera-ready newsletter to the designated printer.

Database Administrator: Keeps the Club roster and mailing list, prints mailing labels for the newsletter.

KBC NEEDS YOU AS AN OFFICER CANDIDATE. SHOW UP AT THE OCTOBER MEETING.

A REPORT ON AN EXPERIMENT:

In response to a concern registered by the riders who were interested in riding short, slow rides, Jini and I volunteered to lead rides of that description. We volunteered to lead about a dozen thursday night rides and about four weekend rides. On the four weekend rides we were joined by a total of five other riders interested in such a ride. On the Thursday rides we were joined by two people who rode with us only because they came late for the other ride and one tandem team with a young stoker which came out specifically, I think, to ride our ride. **CONCLUSION:** the experiment failed! Either there are no such riders out there in the Club any longer or for some reason they were unable to make it out to any of our rides or... Any suggestions?? If you would like such rides in the future, please contact us at 381-0135 so that we can plan strategies for next summer.

Phil & Jini Caruso

KBC Jersey Update

KBC members who ordered jerseys from the first order please give us a call and we can arrange a pick-up. Otherwise they will be up for grabs. The second order still needs to be printed but will be ready soon. Also if you would like a jersey we have several extra and unclaimed garments so give us a call. Thanks.

-- Mike & Janet Teel (344-7354)

First-Timers' Account: Team Teel Does DALMAC

At first we weren't sure about riding 340 miles and calling it a vacation, but we were already registered, so what the heck. We had great company: Mike and Amy Landers, Bill and Melissa Schuman, Marc Luoma and Roberta Hillman, and the two of us. All

long it would take us to ride 80-100 miles, and then letting them feed us when we arrived. Besides, if you ride too fast and get into camp first, you get stuck unloading the trucks. Take your time!



eight of us were on tandems with Bruce Deede bravely drafting this runaway party train.

The way the summer had been going, we were amazed, no, *stunned* the sun actually showed itself. We even had some strong tailwinds. We realized that excessive food stops and water fights during the day, and beers at night were the only way we could deal with this bizarre weather.

The DALMAC tour was very well organized and they made us feel like pampered cyclists. Trucks carried all our camping gear, so all we had to worry about was how

For four days, 1600 bikers owned the road. "Big Fun!" in Marc's immortal words. We still get a rush thinking back to four tandems and a single doing 50+ mph down hills. Yes, we're hooked on DALMAC.

P.S.

What word best describes riding across the Mackinaw Bridge? Terrifying! Nothing like riding on wet pavement with the wind howling, strapped to the back of a tandem with your rear wheel sliding all over the place. Next year if it's raining I think I'll let Mike take the tandem across without his stoker.--J.T.

but point them downhill and *look out*. Not wanting to miss the draft from the two big bikes, the Terrier held on to the wheel of the back tandem no matter what. Even when we had our biggest gear spun out, we'd look back, and there was Bruce; we didn't need to wait for him even once. His steadfastness was threatened only one time, when we passed an unruly cluster of riders in a rag-tag paceline who jumped on our wheels as we sped by. Wanting the best draft, they pinched Bruce off to the back of the group. Having none of it, we sat up, scolded them, and soft-pedaled until our own single-biker was safely in our draft once again. Taking umbrage at our favoritism, one member of the upstart *Team Butthead*, as they would come to be known, made impertinent remarks about our bias. Seizing an opportune downhill, we gave them their comeuppance: after a blazing downhill run, we looked back, and sure enough, the only single biker on our wheel was the intrepid Terrier.

We arrived in Lake City just in time for happy hour at the Willard Hotel overlooking Lake Misaukee. Cold Labatt's never tasted so good. I was reminded of that *cold* Labatt's when I got in the shower at the Lake city High School.

Day 3: Lake City to Central Lake

Saturday was the *perfect* cycling day, period: seventy-three degrees, sunny, and with a 15 mph tailwind the entire day. The scenery was truly beautiful, with curvy, smooth roads. It was after our first stop that the above Super-Soaker attack took place. Riding in a four-tandem paceline made the mileage slip by quickly, and before we knew it we were in Elk Rapids, for our noon ice cream stop.

After a 25-mile ride around the blue-green waves of Torch Lake, we made our final stop in the Clam River Tavern. After a healthy meal of beer and french fries, we clomped out into the blinding sunlight two and a half hours later. Noting our galeful laughter, the now-cowardly Terrier declined to draft us and took off with another tandem team, earning him a second nickname, that of the smallest terrier of all: The Yorkie.

A vocal 13 miles followed, as we inched up the two-mile-long hill and screamed along the pay-back downhill into camp in tiny Central

Lake.

Locals hosted a cook-out for the bikers and we dined on corn on the cob, burgers, home-made baked beans, all-you-can-eat home-made deserts, lemonade, and all the fixings.

Day Four: Central Lake to St. Ignace

The morning of day four was easily the prettiest *and hilliest* of the trip. The campground was abuzz with talk about THE WALL, a super-steep hill at about the 25-mile point. Even given the tourists' granny gears, the wall imposes a 75% walker rate on the DALMAC-ers. In tiny gears, all four KBC tandems (and Bruce) made it up the wall in good style.

The afternoon of day four saw the only rain of the trip, with on-and-off showers. After a stop in Harbor Springs for a third breakfast, the five bikes set off on a 25-mile trip along the most beautiful road in Michigan, M-119 from Harbor Spring to Cross Village. 119 winds along the shoreline, with trees inches from the road. Time after time, the road curved through the woods and then broke through the trees for a spectacular view of Lake Michigan. After 25 miles, the road breaks into an open field that contains all 100 yards of Cross Village, home of the infamous Legs Inn, a restaurant and bar. After waiting a couple hours for the rain to subside, and blowing off the 3:00 Mackinaw Bridge crossing in favor of the 4:30 group, we set out into the soft rain for the last 25 miles of our 350-mile journey. Having lost one tandem, the three remaining tandem teams and the Yorkie put their heads down and did a team time trial to the Bridge.

The crossing was a site to behold: 500-600 riders crossing the five-mile span in a double line a mile long.

In nine trips, this DALMAC was easily the best this writer has participated in. The combination of weather, companions, and pure happenstance made this the almost-perfect cycling weekend.

For more information on DALMAC, contact the Tri-County Bicycle Association in Lansing.

October Rides

Tuesdays

About 15 miles, moderate pace, from Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Led by Kristen Wasche (628-5358).

Thursdays

Do you like to check out the scenery, socialize and BREATHE when you ride? If this sounds like you, then I have the perfect ride for you! Join me Thursday evenings at Kalamazoo Central High School at 6:00 p.m. for a 15-mile tour that averages 15-16 mile per hour. I guarantee that nobody will be left behind. Call me (Jim Dagwell) at 372-0103 if you have any questions or comments. See you Thursday evening.

Saturdays

Off-road (mountain bike) ride at noon every Saturday at the picnic area at Ft. Custer.

*** October 3: Ride to meet the Rapid Wheelmen.

On October 3, there will be a ride to meet the Grand Rapids *Rapid Wheelmen* bicycle Club. The ride will meet at 10:00 at an as-yet-undetermined site. We will go north to meet the Rapid Wheelmen at 1:00 at the Hilliards Corner Bar in Hilliards. The ride will be approximately 30 miles long. For more information, call Shirley Williams at 329-4003.

1992 Choice Ride On October 3

Join the Annual Planned Parenthood Ride For Choice on Saturday, October 3, 1992. The route is a 12-mile loop around beautiful Gull Lake in Richland. The ride is from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and starts at the Bayview Gardens parking lot, 12504 East D. Avenue.

Provided:

- Door prizes
- Maps
- First Aid
- food and drinks
- well-marked routes
- a sag vehicle with help for riders
- souvenir
- bicycle mechanic on duty

Cost:

Pre-registration--\$8, day of ride--\$12.00.

Pledges:

Riders are strongly encouraged to solicit pledges. Pledge forms will be sent to you upon receipt of your pre-registration. A prize will be awarded to the rider with the most dollars pledged.

For more information:

Call Planned Parenthood at 372-1205 or write them at 4201 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49006.



Kalamazoo Bicycle Club
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Newsletter Marc Luoma 731-2739
Ride Line Ann Johnson 327-7767

October Meeting

The October KBC meeting will take place at 6:00 on the first Monday of the month, as usual. This month, that day will fall on October 5. The meeting will be held at the Kalamazoo Central High School. The meeting agenda is the nomination of Club officers.