

REAL PRESS

April, 1992

Finally! KBC Hosts A Tour

The Rapid Wheelmen have one. The tiny Battle Creek Bike Club has one. For gosh sakes, the TCBA in Lansing has four or five! For years, people have been asking "why doesn't the Kalamazoo Club host a tour?" Good question. We have some of the nicest roads for touring and some of the friendliest Club members. With KBC's desparate financial situation, a Kalamazoo county tour seems a natural. In years past, however, the KBC has been spread pretty thin. When asked to volunteer their time, KBC members have always come out in support of bicycling in Kalamazoo county. A perceived lack of focus, and a plethora of one-time Club efforts, however, have exhausted the Club's volunteers.

At a Club meeting in 1991, Houston Peterson, local racer and Club member asked the "why no tour" question. Not getting a good answer, he took matters into his own hands and promised to look into organizing a KBC tour for 1993.

Recent events have decided for us, however, that 1992 will be the year that a traditional KBC tour gets its start. In early March, Judy McClain Lukich, director of the Kalamazoo Flowerfest contacted the Club, asking us to consider hosting a bike tour connected with the Flowerfest. This affiliation with the Flowerfest presents KBC with a number of advantages:

- Publicity: free publicity in Flowerfest literature.
- Credibility: The Flowerfest is an annual festival in Kalamazoo, well-known in the community.
- Organizational support. KBC should be able to tap in to existing Flowerfest sponsors and supporters.

Done right, the continuing KBC Flowerfest

Bicycle Tour (FFBT) will become the cornerstone of KBC fund-raising over the years to come. With the sponsors of the Kal-Haven Trail Blazer becoming less and less willing to share proceeds of that tour with KBC, despite our volunteer support, it's clear that KBC needs a fundraiser of its own. The Stage Race will provide us with a racing-format fundraiser in the Spring. The Flowerfest Tour will be our other fundraising venue, in the later summer.

General Flowerfest Tour Information:

- What: A KBC-sponsored, family-oriented bicycle tour in Kalamazoo county.
- When: tentatively scheduled for Sunday, July 26.
- Routes: 25, 50, and 100 kilometers (15, 31, and 62 miles) around Kalamazoo county.
- Amenities: Free Flowerfest Tour water bottle, Sag stops with refreshments, sag wagon support.

Volunteer Job Descriptions:

Now is the time to pick the volunteer spot that best fits your talents. We will staff the following positions on a half-day basis, so you can volunteer and still enjoy the tour:

Committee members:

KBC members have already volunteered to head most of the committees involved with the FFBT. Committee heads are still available for Sag Stops and volunteer recruitment.

Registration (Libby Nedervelt-375-4664):

Help develop rider packets (maps, etc), obtain final registration list, distribute registration packets and check in riders, accept day-of-ride

Please Continue on Page 4

In This Issue:

Al Sabo Closed
3

April Ride Calendar
5

Classifieds
4

KBC Tour
1

March Minutes
2

Spike Bike
6

April KBC Meeting—

New Meeting Site

The April KBC Meeting will be held on Monday, April 6 at Kalamazoo Central High School. Park in the large student lot, and enter at the "office" door.

Ride Leaders Needed

We need ride leaders for ALL week-day rides in May. A ride leader merely needs to bring a map and signup sheet to the ride site.

The ride leader does NOT need to ride sweep nor offer repairs to riders. To volunteer, call the ride line or anyone on the phone number list on page 8.

March Meeting Minutes

The March Kalamazoo Bicycle Club meeting was held on Monday, March 2 at 7:00 p.m. Below is a summary of topics covered.

KBC Spring Open House

The KBC Spring Open House will be held on Saturday, May 2 at the Concord Place Apartments clubhouse on KL Avenue. There will be a ride at 3:00 with socializing and refreshments at 5:00. Please bring beverages, a snack to pass, and new prospective members.

Summer Meetings

Summer meetings, beginning with the April meeting, will be held at Kalamazoo Central High School.

KBC Jerseys

The first jersey order is in, with over 50 garments (jerseys and skinsuits) ordered. Mike Teel, who is handling the order for the Club, will put in another order later in the spring. To try on a jersey to determine the correct size, come to the April meeting. For more information about jerseys, contact Mike.

Newsletters

All members who haven't renewed will be sent a special notice containing a membership form. This will be their final mailing.

Rider Speed Incompatibility

For the 351st consecutive KBC meeting, we discussed riders unhappy about being unable to keep up with other riders, and how to make them happy. After much discussion, the group decided that at each Club ride members should ride at a pace that they like and not worry about anyone else, and stop whining. Really.

Safety Committee

Safety guy Dave Deright reported that there is tremendous community interest in obtaining bicycle safety information. Parents want and need information about how to keep their children safe on their bicycles. The club is distributing information via bicycle retailers and public schools.

KBC Video

Kalamazoo Public Access television will make available video equipment and virtually unlimited broadcast time. Anyone who has interest and/or experience in video production, please contact Shirley Williams.

Portage Field Day

KBC will participate in the 1992 Portage Community Field Day held on Saturday, May 30. This will be an important opportunity for KBC to gain exposure and new members. We will have a booth where we will present KBC and safety information and roller riders to gain information. If you can spare an hour or two, please call Dave Deright at 381-2678.

Stage Race

Mike Teel, bike racer and KBC *wunderkind* reported that the KBC Stage Race passed an important hurdle recently by securing a tentative \$3500 sponsorship from Physicians Health Plan. PHP has been a strong supporter of bicycling in the past and the Stage Race is lucky to have them on board for '92.

MMBA Benefit Race

A mountain bike race will be held on May 31 at Yankee Springs Recreation Area to benefit the Michigan Mountain Bike Association. The funds will go to develop new bike trails at Yankee Springs.

Al Sabo Closed To Bicycles

... and to everyone else, for at least two months, and maybe forever. In a surprise move, the Kalamazoo City commission, during their March 2 meeting, closed the Al Sabo Land Preserve to allow the park's erosion to heal itself. The decision followed a long history of the commission being harangued by the local Sierra Club to prevent use by bicyclists. The self-appointed Kalamazoo Environmental Concerns Committee, a mouthpiece for the Sierra Club has, in session after session, told tales of mass destruction and erosion at the hands of hordes of marauding cyclists at Al Sabo.

The Land Preserve, adjoining Kalamazoo Valley Community College, is a City of Kalamazoo water well field. The land was donated to the city with the condition that it be maintained as a public land preserve. The local Sierra Club volunteered to help maintain trails, overlooks, and bridges. With the advent of mountain biking at Al Sabo, the Kalamazoo Bike Club and its members also volunteered time to maintain trails. At that time, KBC representatives contacted Vern Mills, the Sierra Club member in charge of Al Sabo trail maintenance, to find out how the two groups could best cooperate in terms of land usage and in terms of trail maintenance. It was hoped that Kalamazoo could be the exception to the Sierra Club's nationwide anti-bicyclist stance. The cyclists involved agreed to work on the Sierra Club's terms, on their regular maintenance days, at their direction. Over the ensuing time, KBC members have worked on trails, side-by-side with Sierra Club members. KBC members Paul Wells, Steve Cox, and Mike Teel have been instrumental in this work, and KBC members often outnumbered Sierra Club members during the monthly work sessions.

Despite our efforts to cooperate with the Sierra Club, they earlier this year recommended to the Water Department, which is in charge of Al Sabo, that Al Sabo be closed to bikes because of erosion damage. Bruce Minsley of the water department personally surveyed the land preserve and found in-

significant amounts of additional erosion caused by cyclists. Al Sabo lies on hilly, sandy soil. Erosion has existed at Al Sabo long before the advent of mountain bikes. Increased use by all groups has shown on Al Sabo trails.

Frustrated by Minsley's objective assessment, the Sierra Club circumvented normal procedures and went directly to the City Commission, giving opinions directly divergent from Minsley's, decrying cyclists as the scourge of the environment, Al Sabo included. The City Commission called the situation a "user group" dispute and refused to close the preserve to cyclists. They appointed an Al Sabo Land Use committee to make recommendations. The committee consisted of a Sierra Club member, a Cyclist, a Boy Scout camp (which joins Al Sabo) official, and another citizen. The committee is still studying the issue and will make recommendations in the future.

Once again frustrated at the City's refusal to bend to their wishes, Sierra Club members refused to wait for the committee's recommendations and continually brought the matter before the commission. The Sierra Club also went directly to the local press, presenting their opinions as fact. Local reporters were taken in, and Sierra Club dogma has appeared in the local newspaper and on local radio, as fact. Meanwhile, the City Commission, tired of hearing the issue at meeting after meeting, decided to simply close the park to *everyone* for at least two months.

What Now?

Now, hopefully, the Land Use Committee will make recommendations for cooperation and land use by all groups.

New Members

Bill Alfred
Robert Blanchard
Betty Caldwell
Jerry DeVries
Molly Fairbanks
Brett Fisher
Judy Freeman
Paul Guimond
David, Jerry, Marilyn, Mark, and Brian Koenig
Tom Mocerri
Brian, JoAnna, and Garret Phipps
Leah and Richard Pulaski
Mark Yancey
Andrew Bohr
Steven Caudill
Matt, Kim, and Michelle Davies
Richard Garcia
Annette Gassner
Scott, Rebecca, and Monica Harmsen
Mark Kerstetter
Ann Mongreig
Silvia Roederer
Diane and Michael Schafer
Leslie, Nicholas, Monica, and Anita Tung

Classifieds

FOR SALE:

Yakima Roof Rack for car with rain gutters. Complete with two bike mounts. CHEAP! Call Marc at 731-2739.

WANTED:

Person with moped or small motorcycle to do motorpacing. Fee paid. Call Houston at 343-1414.

Bicycle. Poor father would like a 19"/48 cm frame touring bike for daughter. Call Jim at 349-1744.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the May newsletter is April 15. Mail anything for the newsletter to me:

Pedal Press
c/o Marc Luoma
112 W. Van Buren
Augusta, MI 49012

or call me at 731-2739.

Timing the Ride—Response

— from Fred Funster, aka Cal Lamereaux

Touring is fun. The more fit I am, the more fun it is. Therefore, I stop every half hour and let my heart rate drop down. This maximizes the aerobic conditioning effect. The computer automatically stops while I am stopped, since I set it up that way. If I were to pass a frozen yogurt store every half hour, that would be perfect.

I wanted to be as comfortable on a bike as I was last fall, so I tried to get out every week. When I was finally able to get on the bike and ride my traditional ride around the lake, 18 miles, I found that I had not quite kept up my conditioning. I had made it in my old time, but the hills were a bit steeper than they were last fall,

and I had to stop 3 times for trail mix and water, in addition to my usual half-hourly breaks.

The elapsed time (about 2 hours) was perfect, because I got home before it was too dark. I only had to take off my shades for the last half mile. I haven't even looked at the computer yet to see what my average speed was, but I believe it was close to what it was last year.

In summary, average speed riding and elapsed time are both interesting, but what is most important is getting home in time for supper, and not "dying" while doing it!

Kalamazoo Tour (continued)

registration forms, collect money, answer questions. Hand out water bottles to first 300 registrants. Six volunteers needed.

Course (Houston Peterson-343-1414):

Develop the course, have maps printed, make template and paint arrows on the road, build and post temporary road signs, communicate with Kalamazoo County Road Commission, conduct trial ride prior to the event. Seven volunteers needed.

Sag Stop Workers (committee chair open):

Get food and drink from a central location, drive to the sag stop, set up a table, arrange fruit and cookies on the table, keep up the supply, and generally schmooze with friendly, lycra-clad bikers, take down the table and take back the extra food. About four volunteers for each stop.

Sponsorship Seekers (Shirley Williams-329-4003, Dave DeRight-381-2678):

People who will approach their employers, acquaintances, etc to get sponsorship. We need: sag services, safety check, sag service material (tires, tubes, etc.) road paint, sign materials, use of facilities, tables and chairs for sag stops, trash cans, food, drink, cups, paper, printing, postage, cellular phones, and CASH. This is VITAL! Without sponsorship we can't

show a profit. Sponsors will get all the publicity we can give them.

Publicity (Marc Luoma-731-2739):

Someone to contact radio, TV, and newspapers, and have them cover our event. One or two volunteers needed.

Sag Wagons (Mark Ehrhardt-345-8582):

Drive the route in your van, truck, or car with bike rack. Look for riders at the side of the road. Ask if they need mechanical help. If they need help, do what you can, or take them to the start point, where a mechanic will be waiting to help. About eight volunteers needed.

Safety (Jim Wyrick-349-1744):

Provide all riders with safety information and programs as appropriate. About three volunteers needed.

Volunteers (committee chair open):

Recruit volunteers via telephone. Distribute job descriptions.

Administration (Nancy DeBoer-376-7198):

Coordinate committee chair activities, liaison with Flowerfest director.

To volunteer, call the chair of the committee on which you'd like to serve or Nancy DeBoer at 376-7198 during the day.

Kalamazoo Bike Club Rides/Events - April 1992

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	• KBC Meeting @ Kalamazoo Central High School	• Ride: 6:30 @ KVCC	• Ride: 6:30 @ Kal. Central H.S.	• Ride: 6:30 @ Scooters in Scotts	• Ride: 6:30 @ Billy's in Galesburg-Ann Johnson (327-0342)	• Ride 12:00 noon @ KVCC-Brad Consgrove.
5	• Ride: 6:30 at Texas Corners-Mark Erhardt (345-8582)	• Ride: 6:30 @ KVCC-Dave Deright (381-2678)	• Ride: 6:30 @ Kal. Central H.S.-Eric McInlyre	• Ride: 6:30 @ Scooters in Scotts	• Ride: 6:30 @ Billy's in Galesburg-Ann Johnson (327-0342)	• 2:00 pm, 5, 10 miles, flat, slow, from Pavilion Township Hall, ☉ Ave at 29th St. Phil & Jini Caruso, 381-0135.
12						
	• Ride: 6:30 at Texas Corners-Mark Erhardt (345-8582)	• Ride: 6:30 @ KVCC	• Ride: 6:30 @ Kal. Central H.S.-Eric McInlyre	• Ride: 6:30 @ Scooters in Scotts	• Ride: 6:30 @ Billy's in Galesburg-Ann Johnson (327-0342)	• Ride 12:00 noon @ KVCC-Brad Consgrove.
19						
	• Ride: 6:30 at Texas Corners-Mark Erhardt (345-8582)	• Ride: 6:30 @ KVCC-Dave Deright (381-2678)	• Ride: 6:30 @ Kal. Central H.S.-Eric McInlyre	• Ride: 6:30 @ Scooters in Scotts	KBC needs May ride leaders-- Call the ride line at 327-7767.	
26						

Spike Bike #5: Armageddon in Detroit (Part 4 of 7)

by Bob Fishell

[In the year 1998, one man fights the tyranny of the automobile. Now he faces a much greater evil...] —

Morgan's laughter died down and my struggles ceased—partly because I'd managed to partially free my right leg, and partly because I needed a cool head to size up the situation. I was alive only because of Morgan's maniacal ego. He'd conquered Spike Bike, and couldn't resist confronting me, just to gloat. I studied the device on the desk before me. One of the displays on the suitcase Bomb was changing. It read:

3:58:21... 3:58:20... 3:58:19...

I had to keep Morgan talking, to find out what he had planned, and to divert his attention from my quiet struggles with the leg restraints. He evidently hadn't realized the strength in a cyclist's legs. As I exerted steady, concerted pressure, the strands of tape tore slightly on the squared corners of the chair legs. Eventually, they would break and my legs, if not my arms, would be free.

"You'll never get away with it. Even Iacocca wouldn't approve of nuking an American city."

"Actually, he doesn't know anything about it. He's mainly a figurehead, anyway. Past the age of retirement, you know. In any case, four hours from now—make that three hours and fifty-six minutes—your friends down there will be radioactive vapor, and the people will have to look to the only government they have—us—to see them through the ensuing international crisis. And you, my friend, will go down in history as the most infamous terrorist of all time."

"The bomb goes off in four hours?"

"10:00 PM sharp. Senator Crisp should just be finishing his speech to the convention around

then. I'll be long gone by then, driving west toward Chicago. Couldn't take a chance on the airlines. You, on the other hand, will be right here, snoozing away on another dose of aneprazine—that's the stuff we shot you with downstairs. You'll have the whole building to yourself. We gave the cleaning staff the night off—not much point in mopping the restrooms in the middle of ground zero, is there?

"Well, Spike, it's been nice meeting you in person, but I have pressing matters to attend to. It seems there's no way to disarm this thing once the countdown has started—which it has—and Detroit is fast becoming a crummy place to be."

He extracted a hypo from a briefcase on the desk. My legs were not quite free. I had to stall him a few moments more, fan his ego.

"One more thing. How did you find me?"

"The computers did it. Took us a long time. Seems you always traveled under assumed names, paying with cash for your airline tickets. But you used your family's business shipments to transport your weapons and bicycles by rail and truck to the areas you hit. It was just a routine audit of our shipping records, anything to get a lead. When we found out that Spiro Bikopoulos, former bicycle racer, was shipping merchandise to areas that were shortly thereafter visited by Spike Bike, we had a pretty good idea who you were.

"That business you pulled back in Illinois confirmed it. Incidentally, that was a half-million dollar chopper you blew up. Fortunately for us, the pilot radioed your situation just before you smoked him, so we had the train diverted here. Quite a stroke of luck for us; we got some nice pictures. The security cameras caught your entrance

Please continue on the next page.

Weekly Ride Descriptions

Mondays

Recovery ride from Texas Drive Park on Texas Drive (Milham Rd.), almost to 8th Street. 20-30 miles, usually quite flat. Led, as always, by Mark "12-Tooth" Ehrhardt and/or Jeff "Big Bunny" Wetters.

Tuesdays

A new ride for 1992. Leaves from the same site as race team sprint ride, Kalamazoo Valley Community College on the corner of 9th Street and O Ave. Meet in the parking lot near the Gym entrance (near the tennis courts). Probably the usual 20-30 miles. Led twice this month by Dave "Safety Man" Deright.

Wednesdays

Hilly ride from Kalamazoo Central High School. About 30 miles. Led in April by the lovely and talented Eric McIntyre.

Thursdays

The *Ice Cream Cruise* returns for the third season! Starts at Scotts Elementary School on QR Ave., just east of 36th Street in downtown Scotts. Ride a leisurely 15-30 miles

(many routes usually offered) then go back to Scooters Malt Shop for ice cream and conversation. Led this month by the recalcitrant Marc "Bad Attitude" Luoma.

Fridays

The ever-popular *Tour de Gull Lake* is back. Starts at Billy's, one block east of the five-way intersection in downtown Galesburg. The demeanor of this ride depends entirely on who shows up. Usually a reasonable cruise with a couple of uphill jams thrown in; but if Erhardt shows up, hike up the *lederhosen*, it's time for the *hammerfest*. Led in April by Ann "Nice Tan" Johnson.

Saturdays/ Sundays

A new concept for KBC, the Saturday family ride. The watchword for Saturdays is **SLOW**. Get casual; take it easy; mellow out... KVCC ride (see *Tuesdays* above for start) led by "Smilin'" Brad Cosgrove, starting at 12:00 noon. One Saturday, one Sunday ride led by Phil "The Professor" Caruso (see calendar for detail).

Spike Bike (continued)

downstairs and got a nice close-up of your face before we tranqued you. It was not strictly necessary, but it will add credibility to the story of the world's first nuclear terrorist. In a few days, the tape will be on every TV screen in America, along with the stuff we got in New Mexico."

"You got a ringer for me."

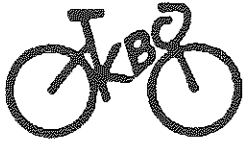
"Remarkable likeness, at least from a distance. Good with weapons, too, an ex-Marine, like yourself. Down on his luck, poor chap. He was more than happy to work with us after we got him off death row in California. He took to a mountain bike like a natural. Did a great job for us in New Mexico. We need more men like him. Pity you don't work for us, Spike. Well, Spike, I could go on for hours, but I really should be going. Have a nice nap."

He prepared the hypo and crossed from behind the desk. My legs were free. I would have just one chance. As he drew close to administer the shot, I rocked back on the chair and kicked up violently with both legs, catching Morgan in the rib cage. The thrust hurled him through the air several feet, until his back crashed through the expansive, mural window. They say that from 103 floors up, you're dead before you hit the ground. I always thought it was a myth, but I didn't hear him screaming the whole way down, just 50 floors or so. Maybe there's something to it after all.

My hands were still bound. I lay on the heavily carpeted floor, alone with the Bomb.

3:42:01... 3:42:00... 3:41:59...

* TO BE CONTINUED *



Kalamazoo Bicycle Club
P.O. Box 527
Kalamazoo, MI 49005
Address Correction Requested

Membership Renewal

Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State: _____

Zip, Phone: _____

Type of Membership (circle one)

Individual (\$17) Family (\$20)

Student/Senior (\$15)

Family Member Names _____

Mail to: KBC, Box 527, Kalamazoo, MI 49005

KBC Phone Numbers

President Jeff Wetters 375-0940

Vice-President ... Shirley Williams ... 329-4003

Treasurer Nancy DeBoer 376-7198

Race Team Mike Teel 344-7354

Database Phil Caruso 381-0135

Newsletter Marc Luoma 731-2739

Ride Line Ann Johnson 327-7767

Kal-Haven Trail-

Blazer Liason Charlie Fuentes ...

Stage Race Gary Goscenski ... 343-0498