

# FLORISS

September, 1992

## First Annual Flowerfest Bicycle Tour A Success!

Whew! KBC's first annual Kalamazoo County Flowerfest Bicycle Tour is history! I will admit, as I awoke to the sound of a relentless, driving rain on that Sunday morning, I was a little skeptical. But by 7:30, the rain had stopped and the first cyclist showed up at 8:00 a.m. sharp. A total of 158 cyclists rode the Tour, 70 of them registering late. Not bad for a rainy day!

Participants described the course as "nice roads," "a little hilly in the beginning," and "not enough straight-aways." (C'mon Mike Teel, it's a tour, not a race.) The road markers, while plentiful and well-placed, were perhaps a little too small and cyclists unwittingly began to follow the Trailblazer course down H Avenue. Hey, a few extra hills won't hurt you!

The T-shirts were definitely a hit with the riders and volunteers. This will work to our advantage next year as cyclists often judge tours by their t-shirt design. Really! The only problem was that there weren't many left to sell. Next year...

Refreshments including fruit, subs, cookies, muffins, and lemonade were provided at the Kalamazoo Nature Center, Alamo Township Hall, and KVCC. A slight over-estimation in the anticipated number of participants led to a surplus of food following the tour, which was donated to local food banks.

I am happy to report that our tour was a safe one with no accidents reported. Late in the day there was an unconfirmed report of a kid with a bb gun on the 25k Route. No one was hit, but that experience pointed out the importance of having an efficient means of

communication. The Kalamazoo Amateur Radio Club was invaluable to us in this respect.

I would like to thank everyone who helped to make this tour a success by giving their time, talents, cash, sponsorship, and lended personal property. Special thanks go to a few KBC volunteers whose efforts were indispensable: Michael Radtke, Phil Caruso, Charlie Fuentes, Dave Koenig, Marc Luoma, and Jeff and Libbie Wetters.

So how much did we make? The tour netted KBC a profit of \$863.40. This is very encouraging because most tours just break even during their first year. Judy Luckich and the Flowerfest Board of Directors wish to congratulate

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### KBC Volunteer Appreciation Party

Plan on attending the KBC volunteer appreciation party to show our gratitude to those who volunteered their time and effort to help make the first annual Kalamazoo County Flowerfest Bicycle Tour a success. **The party will be held at 8:00 on Friday September 18** at the Concord Place Apartments Clubhouse. Concord is about a half-mile west of Drake Rd. on KL Ave. (West Michigan Ave.). KBC will provide music and beer. Bring munchies and soft drinks. For more information, contact Shirley Williams at 329-4003.

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# 1992 Kalamazoo County Flowerfest Bicycle Tour Income Statement

For the Year Ended July 31, 1992

## INCOME

Pre-registration.....	\$1,004.00
Late Registration .....	\$774.00
T-Shirts .....	\$549.00
Heart Institute of Michigan .....	\$200.00
Scooters .....	\$25.00
Miscellaneous Donation .....	\$5.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME .....</b>	<b>\$2,557.00</b>

## EXPENSES

Administrative .....	\$46.98
Bulk Mail Postage .....	\$185.87

Address Correction Fees .....	\$127.55
Wristbands .....	\$48.32
Portable Toilet Rental .....	\$165.00
KVCC Gym Lobby Rental .....	\$40.00
Alamo Township Hall Rental .....	\$50.00
T-shirts .....	\$547.12
Signs .....	\$70.00
Waterbottles .....	\$186.60
Insurance .....	\$158.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES .....</b>	<b>\$1,625.44</b>

less Flowerfest Fee .....\$68.16

**KBC NET INCOME .....\$863.40**

## FFBT Report (continued)

KBC on a tour well run and have extended their invitation to us to do it again next year. What do you say KBC?

## KBC Flowerfest Volunteers

Libbie Wetters  
 Jeff Wetters  
 Phil Caruso  
 Jini Caruso  
 Ann Johnson  
 John Lewandowski  
 Michael Radtke  
 Lee Heighton  
 Annette Gassner  
 Bruce DeDee  
 Marcia Rusin  
 Miles Kusik  
 Jerry Nyberg  
 Dennis Jackson  
 Jum Wyrick  
 Gus Baldauf  
 Pat Hempel  
 Charlie Fuentes  
 Clayton Gallup  
 Shirley Williams  
 Dan DuPree  
 Dan Ferrara  
 Dave Koenig  
 Mark Ehrhardt

Hector Arias  
 Dave DeRight  
 Tony Jackson  
 Mike Houghton  
 Kyle Houghton  
 John Biermacher  
 Tim LaVasseur  
 Janet LaVasseur  
 John Mathieson  
 Randy Putt  
 Thom Brennan  
 Kim Socia-Chosay  
 Vince Odenwaller  
 Houston Peterson  
 Marc Luoma

--Nancy DeBoer, FFBT Tour Director

[Additional note from a FFBT committee member: While everything Nancy says is true, she left out the fact that her own tireless dedication was the single most important contributing factor to making the tour a reality and a success. Period. Her planning, attention to detail, follow-up, and hours of sweat and toil made this event a triumph for KBC. While only Nancy can estimate the number of hours she spent on the tour, we can guess that it's easily in the several-hundred range. The next time you see her, thank her for making our first KBC tour happen. And think of a way we can talk her into doing it again next year...]

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# Spike Bike: Armageddon in Detroit—The End

[Synopsis: fugitive Spike uncovers a nuclear conspiracy in Detroit. He escapes the evil Ames Morgan, a high-ranking member of the crumbling Corporatist government, but not before Morgan starts the countdown of a 30-kiloton, suitcase-sized H-bomb. It cannot be disarmed. Spike escapes with the Bomb and elicits the aid of Anticorporatist leader Senator Joseph Crisp in getting the Bomb to the only place it can be exploded in relative safety: the vast salt mines under the city of Detroit. After a spectacular auto chase, Spike and the Senator part company near the mine's entrance. Spike engages the Security force guarding the mine and plants the bomb deep in the mine. There is now less than one hour left before the bomb explodes.

In the year 1998, the fate of millions rests in the hands of one man...] ---

This, you understand, will be my last entry. I heard the satchel charge go off a few minutes ago. It had to be done in order to seal the mine shaft and contain the blast. It also leaves me with a problem. That was the only elevator. When the Bomb detonates in thirty-nine, make that thirty-eight minutes, Spike Bike will be no more.

Men like me are, I suppose, an inevitable consequence of harsh times. But when the times change, we are out of place in the World.

Do not lament. I have longed for this day. Although it is an end for me, it is the beginning of everything I've fought for. But the fight isn't mine any longer. It must be won with law and order, not guns and bombs. Make it happen for me. I never made it to the Olympics. Let Spike Bike go out a winner.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I think I've still got a pint of Jack Daniels stashed away on the bikesomewhere. I've got about half an hour to kill, and I could sure use a belt. It's been a long day.

---

[Epilogue:

It was Spiro Bikopoulos's wish that his diaries be made public in the event that something happened to him. Had I not known Spike, albeit briefly, and seen the climax of this adventure unfold, I might not have believed the fantastic accounts recorded on the diskettes that were sent to me by the Bikopoulos Family. I am honored that he chose me to be among the first to read it.

The nuclear blast was well-contained by the deep mine. There was considerable structural damage from the shock, but little radiation escaped, and Detroit-Windsor has remained safe for habitation. Casualties were minimal, and an international crisis was averted, thanks to Spike's sacrifice.

We do not know, as yet, how widespread the Morgan conspiracy was. We are searching for Morgan's accomplice, the man who, posing as Spike Bike, stole the Bomb that was almost the end of us all. He should be able to tell us much, if we ever find him.

President Iaccoca resigned in lieu of impeachment. We decided not to pursue criminal proceedings against him, in deference to his age and satisfactory evidence that he knew nothing of the Morgan affair. Vice-President Turner has resigned as well, although there are charges pending against him. The Cabinet has, of course, been dissolved.

House Speaker Trump has resigned in scandal, leaving the job of U.S. President to me, as President Pro Tempore of the Senate. It is with great reluctance I have accepted the Office. Spike was right; I'm going to need some luck.

The new Congress has a staggering agenda. The Corporatists did an incredible amount of damage, and it will take more than a decade to

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New

## Members

Carolee Purk  
William, Rita, and  
Connor Dolak  
Paula Gross  
Ronald Leong  
Thomas Mathews  
Denny Morrison  
Jackie & James  
Pettis & Rick  
Evans  
Steven, Carolyn,  
Tyson & Kevin  
Vonderfecht

## Classifieds

FOR SALE:

FRAMESET: 51 cm  
(ctc) Tommaso  
SLX Racing Frame.  
\$400. Call Dave at  
343-1461.

BICYCLE: Trek 500  
Sport/Touring  
road bike. \$200.  
Call Dave at 343-  
1461.

# September Club Rides

## Mondays

*The Texas Recovery Ride.* Recover from that weekend race or long tour with a flat 15-30 miles. Due to the terrain, this is a great ride to bring the tandem on. From Texas Drive Park on Texas Drive (Milham Road), almost to 8th Street. Led by Jeff "Big Bunny" Wetters (343-4328).

## Tuesdays

*The Wine Country Cruise.* From Kalamazoo Valley Community College for a brisk, refreshing trip through prime vineyard country. Led by Dave "Dirk" DeRight (381-2678).

*Race Team Sprint Training.* Starts at 6:00. No map. No sign-up sheet. Call Blair Dudley for details.

## Wednesdays

*The Drake Road Double.* Its "two rides- two rides- two rides in one." Usually splits in to two groups, with the faster group riding "the loop" while another group rides an interesting route. This ride is pretty hilly. Leaves from Kalamazoo Central High School on Drake Rd, about a mile north of West Main St. Led by Roberta "Berta-Meister" Hillman (345-0531).

## Thursdays

*The Ice Cream Cruise.* A great introduction to Club rides. 10-30 mostly flat miles from Scotts Elementary School on QR Ave., just east of 36th Street in Scotts. After the ride, we meet at Scooters Malt Shop in Scotts for conversation, socializing, idle gossip, and the best darn ice cream deals in the county. Please bring maps. This ride is leaderless in September.

## Fridays

*The Tour de Gull Lake.* Circle beautiful and picturesque Gull Lake. The terrain is rolling and the scenery stunning. Leaves from Billy's, one block east of the five-way intersection in Galesburg (next to the video store). Please park in back. Note: This ride offers only one route of about 25 miles. Led by Annie the Bike

Dog and her helper Marc (731-2739).

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO HEAR ABOUT LATE-BREAKING RIDES, CALL THE RIDE LINE AT 327-7767.

## Spike Bike (conclusion)

overcome it all. Yet Spike was wrong about a few things. The first Act of the new Congress was a unanimous resolution to repeal the Bicycle Act of 1992. The legislation left in its place provides for a nationwide effort to improve the roads to better accommodate bikes, and outlines severe penalties for motorists who engage in "willful acts of hostility" against cyclists.

Attached to the bill was a resolution, passed by acclimation, granting a general pardon to Spiro Bikopoulos, a.k.a. Spike Bike, for "all crimes and misdemeanors, known or otherwise," committed during the years the '92 Act was in force. It also ordered that a medal be struck in his honor. However, the Cities of Detroit and Windsor have upstaged us. On an artificial island in the center of the Detroit river stands a statue of a man astride a mountain bike. Twenty feet tall, it is appropriately larger than life, as was the man it honors.

Respectfully Submitted,

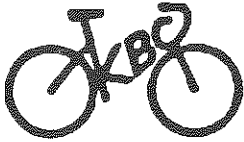
Joseph Crisp, President of the United States  
July, 1999]

[Editor's Note: This is the last of the 16 installments of Spike Bike, downloaded from the Bicycle Bulletin Board of Misoula Montana. If you know of any suitable stories that we could serialize for the Pedal Press, please call and let me know.--ML]

# Kalamazoo Bicycle Club Events--September 1992

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	• Ride from KVVCC.	• Ride from Kalamazoo Central High School.	• Ride from Scotts Elementary School.	• Ride from Billy's in Galesburg.	
2	• Ride from KVVCC.	• Ride from Kalamazoo Central High School.	• Ride from Scotts Elementary School.	• Ride from Billy's in Galesburg.	• O.D.R.A.M.
3					
4					
5					
6	LABOR DAY • Ride from Texas Drive Park.				
7					
8	• Ride from KVVCC.	• Ride from Kalamazoo Central High School.	• Ride from Scotts Elementary School.	• Ride from Billy's in Galesburg.	• Bronson Heleath Fair- 10:00 a.m.
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21	LABOR DAY • Ride from Texas Drive Park.				
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26					
27					
28	LABOR DAY • Ride from Texas Drive Park.				
29					
30					

All weeknight rides start at 6:30



Kalamazoo Bicycle Club  
P.O. Box 527  
Kalamazoo, MI 49005

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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KALAMAZOO, MI  
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Phil & Jini Caruso  
2301 Fairfield Ave.  
Parchment MI 49004

## 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

## The View from Elsewhere

*Reprinted from Bicycling Magazine, June, 1992.*

**Q:** What's the correct method for measuring average speed on a century? I've always felt that the only meaningful way is from start to finish, including time off the bike. Others only count riding time and omit long breaks at rest stops. Who's right?

**A:** You are. When riding an organized century, your average miles per hour should be based on elapsed time from the first to last pedal stroke. That is how timing is done by events that publish results.