

February, 1993

Presidential Address, 1993

-- Dave DeRight

Al Sabo

The Kalamazoo City Commission approved the Al Sabo management proposal, Monday, Dec. 14th, as recommended by the advisory committee. While not the best that club mountain bikers hoped for, the agreement is a starting point for getting the work done restoring the preserve for possible opening in the spring. Paul Wells, who sacrificed enormously, deserves thanks from all mountain bikers. You can show your thanks by pitching in on the monthly trail work sessions held the first Saturday of each month. A lot of work remains. Confirm with Paul at Breakaway Bicycles for more info and in case trail work sessions are canceled.

February Meeting Program

Keith Schoonveld, of the Allegan City Rail Trail Committee; Cal Lamoreaux, KBC member and board member of the Sugarbush-Thornapple Trail Assoc.; and interested Rapid-Wheelmen will be on hand to discuss the proposed DNR rail-to-trail conversion between Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. A committee under the auspices of the Kalamazoo Forum are now organizing and details have not been made public yet. I was invited to attend a support gathering meeting yesterday and as of press time can only say that it looks like a very exciting proposal that the DNR has put forth. It's too early to go into details at this time, according to the DNR, so come to the February meeting at which time we should be able to freely discuss it. They are seeking

user group representation on their committee and KBC may have someone available who is willing to serve.

Expired Memberships

If your membership was purchased previous to September '92 and you haven't renewed—you've expired effective January 1st. This will be your last *Pedal Press* if you don't renew.

Constitution Committee Formed

A committee was formed at the January Club meeting to investigate possible improvements to the KBC constitution. If you are interested in and skilled at organizational bylaws, we could especially use your assistance. We will probably be dispatching the committee during the February Club meeting. Come if you have input or would like to serve.

Trail Blazer Huff

Our "Friends" from the Kal-Haven Trail apparently have decided not to ask for our co-sponsorship for their '93 Trailblazer after all. Sad, but true. Not many of us will be reaching for the Kleenex, however. Their formal letter to us is supposedly in the mail and will be read with mixed feelings of grief and elation—I'm sure. Their decision to come and disrupt our December meeting with a pro-

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Special Note on Ride Classes

Our esteemed executive board met recently on the important issue of ride classifications.

So, effective April 1st, the classifications will be:

A+ 25+ mph avg.
A 24 mph avg.
B 22 mph avg.
C 20 mph avg.
D 19 mph avg.
slug-18 mph avg.
dweeb-16
fred-15
comatose-<15

This means the average over a 100-mile ride, stops and breaks included. Remember the immortal words of Club-member emeritus Pat Florian: *If you're not in shape, get off the bike!*

Presidential Address (continued)

posal and make life difficult for myself and several others within KBC will not soon be forgotten. I almost resigned. There have been some ongoing problems of miscommunication within KBC and the Kal-Haven organizations that have led to this outcome. As a volunteer organization we and others shouldn't expect perfection, however, we do have to look after our interests and be clear with those who we do business with.

Newsletter Editor Needed

Marc is resigning as *Pedal Press* editor. This will likely be his last issue. With regret the board accepts his resignation without an immediate replacement in hopes that he'll continue to make newsletter contributions at his leisure. Therefore, we are seeking someone to help put together the *Pedal Press* on a monthly basis. The ownership of, or access to a micro-computer is of obvious assistance. Put your creative instincts to use, but be forewarned—while it can be a lot of fun, it can be a time-consumer. Knowledge of or willingness to learn about bicycle issues would be useful, but not necessary.

Board Meets

The KBC board met to discuss several issues, among them were the *Pedal Press*. It was resolved to combine the January and February issues like last year. And it was decided that the board will meet on a monthly basis until further notice. Some matters could be more appropriately addressed by the board and free up some of the regular meeting time for more fun!

Member Survey

Newly relocated Rapid Wheelmen, Jim Dagwell, who is now a KBC member, offered up some suggestions at our December meeting. One thing led to another, with several of us involved, and after several revisions a phone survey of a very professional nature has been the result. It never ceases to amaze me what talent our club has when we put our minds to

work. So, this is the scam! The main purpose of this survey is to get information helpful for the club to make some decisions that are difficult to make otherwise. Mainly, the questions have to do with the riding characteristics of our members such as where you like to ride and at what times, etc.. Other general questions as to what you expect from KBC and how KBC can better serve your needs have been included so we can get some important feedback. Nothing of a personal nature just important things that will help troubleshoot poorly-attended rides and give us some direction as to activities. The information will be compiled and the results analyzed for future reference by Club leaders and wherever this information will be useful. Possibly the Constitution committee and most certainly our ride captains, for example. We will be seeking your input and some volunteer help at the February meeting so we can get this important project done.

We encourage your participation for the 5-10 minutes of time needed when called by our volunteers sometime within the next two months. As always, KBC appreciates your assistance.

Editorial Note

This will be my last *Pedal Press*. Thank you all for your help, suggestions, comments, and encouragement since 1989 when I took over the job from Keith Little. It's been a fun and gratifying job.

Special thanks to Phil Caruso, Steve Clarke, Janet and Mike Teel, Nancy DeBoer, Cal Lamereau, and others I can't remember right now. These folks actually contributed articles to the *Pedal Press* from time to time.

From now on Dave DeRight will have authority over the contents of these pages.

Thanks again—Marc Luoma, *Pedal Press* Editor, 1989-1993.

Letter To KBC

Dear KBC:

My name is Carolee Purk. I joined your Club a few months ago. I enjoy the newsletter! I haven't been on any of the rides because I don't have a helmet yet and I just haven't had time. I'm hoping to soon. I still want to be in your Club.

The reason I'm writing is because I have been riding my exercise bike, which is in the basement, for two and a half years. I keep a record of how many miles I go, and then plot them on a map of the U.S. The reason I did this was to exercise to lose weight and gain muscle. Really I have gone all this way and not leaving my basement of my house. I have been around the upper and lower parts of Michigan. From Kalamazoo to Orlando Florida. Then from Orlando to Beaumont Texas. I'm homing by the end of the year to be in Phoenix Arizona. I do ride my bike as much as I can. I also play basketball and run track. I call my own program Recycle Your Fat to Muscle. If you mark how many miles you go, then you have a goal to reach. I hope to be able to ride around Michigan on a real bike. I ride about 10-15 miles a day. It gives me power. I also listen to music, read, study, or sometimes write while I'm riding so I don't get bored. Biking is my favorite sport. My friends think it's cool. I have three maps I use to mark. I can send you pictures of them if you would like me to. I enjoy telling people about my successes because it helps them with their [goals]. Have fun biking.

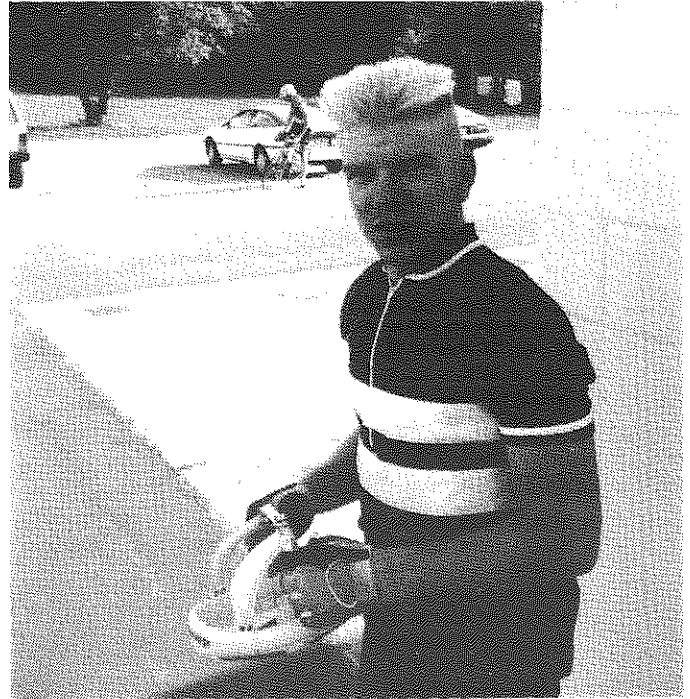
Yours truly,

Carolee Purk

Suddenly...



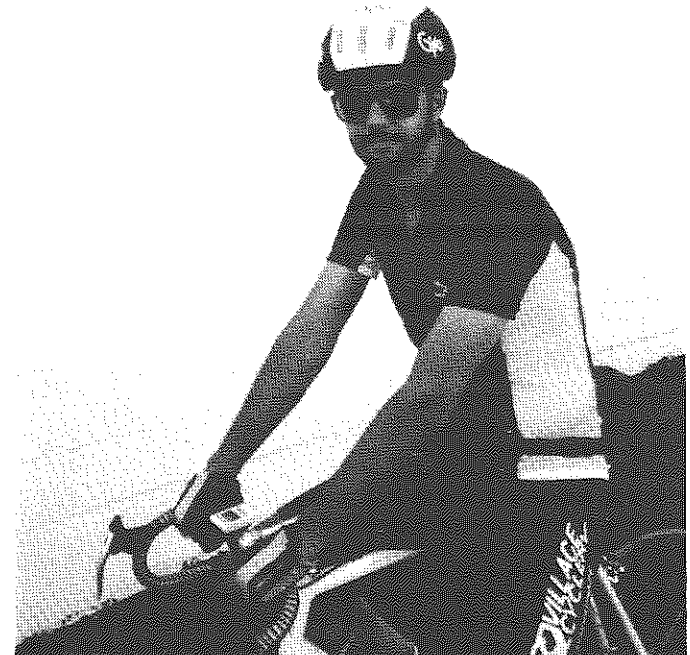
Roberta "Mo-Fo Hammer Princess" Hillman



Lewis "The Great Dane" Fischer



Dave "I See A Problem Here" DeRight



Bill "Billy the Boinger" Fischer

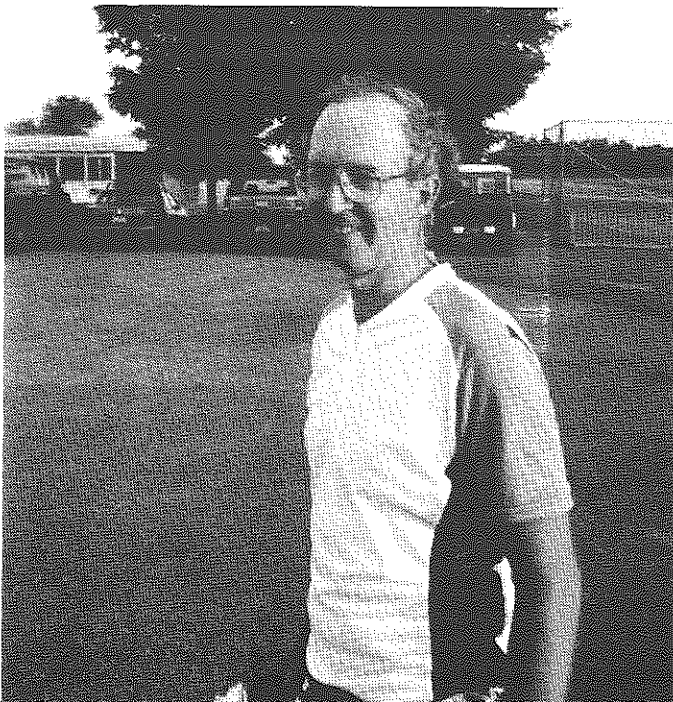
Last Summer



Bruce "The Terrier" Deede



Ann "Lycra" Johnson



Randy "Don't You Call Me Sterling" Putt



Bob "Bobke the Yachtsman" Kennedy

December Meeting Minutes

-- Marc Luoma

The December KBC meeting was held on Monday, December 7, at 7:00 p.m. at the Wayside Restaurant in Kalamazoo. President Dave DeRight presided. Topics included:

Introductions

Dave introduced Denny Morrison. Denny is our new Club Secretary, who will take meeting minutes and conduct the Club's correspondence.

Recruiting New Members

Only through increased membership will the Club have an increased voice in the community. Higher membership levels will also let us have more and better rides and social events as well. Each member should recruit prospective new KBC members from their cycling companions. There are lots of non-Club cyclists out there. Let them know the benefits of riding with KBC.

Affiliations

The following cycling organizations help us as cyclists and our members are encouraged to join.

- **USCF:** United States Cycling Federation. Governs amateur bicycle racing in the U.S. For information, write the USCF at One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5775.
- **LAW:** League of American Wheelmen. A cycling advocacy organization for more than 100 years, the LAW has been our only national cycling lobby. They watch out for our interests in Washington in a way no other organization does. Members get a monthly magazine and legislative updates. For information on how to join, write Phil Caruso c/o KBC, P.O. Box 527, Kalamazoo, MI 49005.
- **LMB:** League of Michigan Bicyclists. A state-oriented organization with aims similar

to that of the LAW, above. Once again, write to Phil c/o the Club.

KBC Promotional Literature

Do we have any marketing/sales experts out there? Your Club needs your talents. We need to update our promotional brochure.

KBC Constitutional Review

We're going to once again update the KBC constitution. If you want a say in this important charter for our Club, be part of the constitutional committee. Call Dave.

Membership Expirations

KBC memberships currently run from January 1-December 31. Expiration during a non-cycling season leads to members not renewing until Spring, depriving KBC of their membership dues, and depriving them of KBC services for a few months. Two alternatives: 1) Let memberships run from April 1- March 31, and 2) let memberships run for one year, regardless of when a member signs up. The second option was moved and seconded by the membership, but the proposal was tabled for now. If you have an opinion on this matter, come to the next meeting, write to the Club, or call the ride line at 327-7767 and leave a message.

Kal-Haven Trailblazer 1993

Don Stahlbaum and Steve Haddad from the Kal Haven Trail Blazer '93 organizing committee attended our meeting. They expressed surprise at seeing more than "six or seven people hanging out" and made the following offer to the Club: In exchange for our continued support, co-sponsorship, and the work of our members, the Trail Blazer

Continued on page 9

January Meeting Minutes

-- Denny Morrison

KBC MEETING - MONDAY - JAN 4th, 1993

PRESENT: ALL BOARD MEMBERS WERE PRESENT.

minutes: December 1992 minutes were read amended.

Monies from the Trail Blazer for the 1992 Tour have been received.

January Newlsetter, hopefully, will be out in Mid-January with a separate letter about Trail Blazers coming from our presedent.

Dave will be going to a Safe Kids meetin Jan 5th. There agenda consist of forming 3 Safety Bike Events. This will be a volunteer event for the KBC.

There was some discussin about the one day tour among members, this was further discussed in the minutes.

Dave indicated we will be having a speaker in February meeting talking about the hook-up between Kent County and Kal-Haven trails. Dave will be going to Trail Blazers next month, concernfng our participation in their events.

MEMBERSHIP: Members dues are expected this month, as they expired at the end of the year 1992.

PROPOSAL; Membership, all expire at the end of the year.

Moved by Rene O and Seconded by Mike T. Passed.

Dave indicated the goals for 1993 What is needed and need to act together. More active members to head rides. More positive type programs. Indicated he will do the best he can.

Dave asked Nancy is Year End Financial Statement will be ready for February Meet-

ing. She stated there will be a Statement forthcoming for the meeting. She further stated that their was about \$2300.00 in the fund.

CONSTITUTION: Dace indicated ther is a need to change the current constitution, a committe needs to be formed and go over each article seperately. Than bring up for approval.

PROPOSAL: A committe to be formed for revision to the constitution and to investigate what has to be formulated.

Rene O. moved Jim D. seconded. Passed. Anyone interested in helping to form a committe should be in the Pedal Press, so members will be aware fo who is on this important committe. Dave will be Exfacio member and will appoint a director.

Al Sabo. Dave talked to Paul Wells, that committe still in discussin Boy Scouts will be responsible for Trail Work and anthing they see.

RACE: Mike Teel explained that the Race Team is planning TWO events this year. One a Circuit Race at Spring Valley, two a Mountain Bike Exhibition Race at either Ft. Custer or Tur-Ski-ire. They hope to get Physician Health Plan to Sponsor the races,

PROPOSAL: That the KBC promote two one day races. APRIL 25, 1993 CIRCUIT RACE at SPRING VALLE. SEPTEMBER 19, 1993 a MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE at either FT. CUSTER or TUR-SKI-iri.

Mike T. moved, Rene O. seconded. Passed.

Dave Comments were this club not go backwards but plan for a full stage race next year.

1-13-93 7 pm Dave to set a meeting with Charlie, Dave, Mike to talk about the Spring Valley and Also talk woth YMCA for Corporate Olympics Riders.

Nancy indicated that the Tour went well. It
Continued on page 9.

Fear and Loathing on the Kal-Haven Trail -- An Editorial

I remember working at Cycle City bike shop (R.I.P.) in the early '80's when a young enthusiastic city employee named Rick Oberle came in to talk to us about a new idea: a hiking/biking/skiing/horseback riding/snowmobiling trail going from Kalamazoo all the way to South Haven. In the ensuing years Rick was the primary force behind the trail becoming a reality. He pleaded with the State, he started the Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail. He probably spent more time working on the trail in those first years than he did at work or at home. You had to admire Rick: he was absolutely tireless in his quest to make this weird idea a reality.

It was on DALMAC that he first asked me about helping on the Trail Blazer #3. I was part of the organizational committee that year. I was in charge of volunteers and technical support. I remember panicking one week before the tour when the guy who had promised to get us "at least 25 volunteers" called to let me know that he had found two "maybe's." We got all the positions covered, but just in time and just barely. I drove my truck around the route and helped people who were broken down and a couple of people who were just plain tired.

In those early days, it was mostly all Bike Club people who worked on the Trail Blazer. We did the route, the markings, the organization, the computer support (Phil, as usual). The racers and their sponsor bike shops volunteered to help with mechanical support (sag wagons). A South Haven bike shop provided the sag at that end. Yep, in those days it was pretty much a Bike Club event. Heck, the "Friends" was a new small organization, and they didn't know anything about bike tours. KBC didn't see a dime from the tour either. In fact, we paid extra to get the tour covered on our insurance. But we were flush with funds from the Spring Valley race, and we were all

committed to making the trail a reality, which meant all the money went to the trail. And the Bike Club was there in full force to make it come true.

And finally the trail opened. Rick Oberle had left for a job in Lansing by then and others had taken on the Trail Blazer leadership. With the trail a reality and the Club, at that time, teetering on the verge of bankruptcy, Club President Steve Clarke asked that KBC receive a percent of the profits. The "Friends" grudgingly agreed, sending 'round a check months after the event.

Which brings us to Trail Blazer 1993. At our December meeting, two Trail Blazer officials appeared with a three-pronged purpose: to "eyeball" our Club, to talk about our non-participation in Trail Blazer '93, and to make the following offer: that if we continue to "co-sponsor" the event, the "Friends" will place \$300 in an escrow account for bike safety efforts only. When KBC spends money on bike safety, we can submit a receipt for the "Friends" review. If they deem our expenditures appropriate, they will then make a reimbursement from the \$300 account. The Trail Blazer officials at the December meeting stated that the new deal was "not negotiable" and demanded a decision on the spot.

How soon the "Friends" forget when the members of KBC gave our all to make the trail a reality, when they were nascent little group with no idea how to run a bike tour. Clearly, there is only one possible response to this course the "Friends" have chosen: rejection of their offer. We KBC members will surely keep volunteering our time to the 'Blazer, as the trail itself is still a worthy cause. But we can't let the "Friends" govern KBC affairs. Rick Oberle, where are you when we need you?

Treasurer Urges "No" To "Friends" Demands

--Nancy DeBoer

As a third-year member of KBC, I have found that some club issues tend to repeat themselves. One issue is whether to pledge KBC participation in the Kal-Haven Trail Blazer. I am not qualified to discuss the seven-year history of this event. However, I feel obligated as treasurer to strongly urge KBC to reconsider its December decision on this matter.

At the December meeting, KBC members voted yes to involvement in Trail Blazer '93. The [Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail] in their own meeting voted to allow KBC participation with the stipulation that any funds paid to KBC would be put into escrow. KBC could access this money provided it was spent on a safety program-related expense, and if the [Friends] gave their approval.

What kind of a deal are we getting ourselves into? Participation in Trail Blazer '93 with this escrow stipulation would put KBC in a financially-vulnerable position. We might extend ourselves into a safety program only to find out later that the [Friends] will be reluctant to reimburse us from the escrow account. I fear this will be the case, because 7-1/2 months after the Trail Blazer in '92, we have just now received partial payment for KBC's participation in that event. This payment came only after KBC decided to participate in Trail Blazer '93.

This is our club! Let us be accountable to KBC members first, and set our own agenda for club activities. Let us reject this offer from the [Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail].

December minutes (continued)

would place \$300 in an account whose funds would be used for bicycle safety-related activities. KBC would access these funds by submitting receipts to the Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail, and if the Friends judge our expenditures to be appropriate, they would reimburse KBC, up to the \$300 limit. When Dave questioned this change from cooperative co-sponsorship that we've enjoyed in the past, Stahlbaum and Had-dad indicated that the terms were "not negotiable" and demanded a decision on the spot. Dave decided that KBC would be involved in the '93 Trail Blazer.

Program: Paris-Brest-Paris

Club member Roberta Hillman gave a slide presentation on her experience riding 750 miles in 78 hours during Paris-Brest-Paris 1991. (See the December Pedal Press for more information about PBP.) Roberta can take credit for the greatly-increased attendance at the December meeting. Thanks, Roberta!

January Minutes (continued)

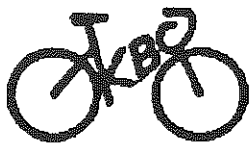
was completely our tour without any outside help. She stated we need to form a committee. She also stated she received a lot of help from the Kalamazoo Gazette. She indicated that monthly meeting with volunteer to help with this year's tour has to be started very soon. Need a Director to preside over meetings, making sure everything runs smoothly. ANY ONE INTERESTED IN THIS RESPONSIBILITY?? Any one interested please call NANCY at her day work phone #376-6441.

RATIFYING THE CONSTITUTION CONCERNING SECRETARY DUTIES: Strictly keeping track of minutes and important documents. Moved by Rene O and seconded Mike T. This was ratified by a majority.

Personal Note; This job will be open next November, Dave will not give me a raise. —DM

NEW BUSINESS: Jim Dagwell member KBC has put together a survey to help us determine the need of the club by its current

Continued on the next page.



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Vice-President .. Shirley Williams.. 329-4003
Treasurer Nancy DeBoer .. 376-6441
Secretary Denny Morrison 344-7354
Race Team Mike Teel..... 344-7354
Database Phil Caruso 381-0135
Newsletter Open
Ride Line Ann Johnson 327-7767

January Minutes (continued)

members and former members. Dave Patrick suggested we fo thie by mail but we are leaning towards the phone call. By mail we would be lucky to receive 1 to 5% returns. NO QUESTIONS ABOUT INCOME, TYPE BIKE, WHAT YOU WEAR, Only what pertains to help the club help you. There will be a meeting at Dave home Thursday 1-7-93 at 6pm for working about the detailes. More to come in future news letters.

Shirly went to thes general membership about putting the meeting in a Daily Almanac in the Kalamazoo Gazette. Dave state he in past but now, sees NO problem.

She also stated that there will be an OPEN HOUSE in the Spring. This was tabled

Sunday 1-17-93 Breakaway Bikes will host rollers races at Maple Hill Mall.