

PEDAL PRESS

The newsletter of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club

April, 1994

Club Rides, Liability, and You

In this newsletter you will find a copy of the release form that ride participants will be asked to sign at each ride. Clearly this is a nuisance and as evidenced by the signatures and names on release forms submitted to the club by riders in the past, many of you do not take them seriously. Perhaps it would be useful to offer a rationale for the policy.

In recent years it has become very difficult and expensive to obtain club insurance which protects the club in the event of a successful law suit. The League of American Wheelmen offers such a policy. Like most insurance policies the policy is only effective if the rules and procedures of the insurance company are followed. The LAW requires that we have participants sign a release form and that the ride leader be responsible for collecting those signatures and assuring that riders have read the form.

You might ask why such insurance is necessary. Let me state a few principles. The release form does not prevent a suit. (Indeed, it is possible that the existence of insurance may attract suits because of the chance of collecting larger sums of money.) However, the release form does reduce the likelihood that someone can collect from a suit (and thus may reduce the number of suits).

Even if the person suing does not collect, be assured that defending yourself/the club in court is not pleasant and is certainly time consuming. It also is expensive. Taking the time to get signatures and being sure that people have read the release form is trivial if it saves you the stress and aggravation of a courtroom defense.

There are other things ride leaders should probably do. Assuming that you have rid-

den the ride before, you may know of dangerous places on the ride. For instance, you may know that there is a dog which likes to chase bicycles on the route. You may know that there is a downhill corner on which gravel tends to collect. It would certainly not hurt to mention such dangers to riders, especially those who have not ridden that particular route.

I am sure that some of you think that accidents don't happen. No matter how good of bike handler you are, remember you are vulnerable to less experienced riders and to cars (especially drunk drivers).

One last point. Your President is trying to track down the details of an accident that occurred several years ago in the Battle Creek Club. My memory and some third hand evidence suggests the following story. A group of riders affiliated with the Battle Creek Club were on a club ride. At a corner, they were joined by someone on bicycle who chose to tag along. As they proceeded down the road, the new rider overlapped a wheel, went down and experienced severe injuries. That rider sued the Battle Creek Club. The rider did not collect but the officers experienced some aggravating time. The officers of the Club refused to serve after that unless the club was insured.

Some of our members are attorneys. If you are and can think of a better policy, please notify Dave Patrick. There may be other insurance firms which would offer us insurance without the nuisance of release forms. If any member knows of one, please call Dave Patrick.

--Phil Caruso

In This Issue

April/May Meetings

2

Classifieds

6

Dave's World

2

Liability Issues

1

Potholes

2

Ride Calendar

3

Ride Descriptions

4

Waiver

5

Dave's World

KBC Rider Photo In *Bicycling*

See if you can spot the KBC rider pictured in a photo in this month's *Bicycling* magazine. Yes, in what may be a first for our little Club, one of our members has achieved the ultimate in cycling fame: a photo in *Bicycling*. If you're the first to correctly identify the rider and tell him or her about it, you'll win a special prize, selected especially for you.

[Now, we're not suggesting that you actually spend good money on this cheesy rag—go to the library and look at it there. --ed.]

Thanks, but...

Thanks to Harold Gleaves, Bruce Deede, Dave DeRight, Dave Patrick, and all the others who sent good stuff for this month's *Pedal Press*. We're sorry, but we couldn't use it (nor any *Tales from the Bike Shop*) and stay within our 6-page limit. Maybe next time...(?)

The club had another great membership meeting in March and we had an excellent turn-out. The presentations were very informative and everyone there benefited. Richard Neumann from Alfred E. Bike covered tuning-up and maintaining your bike, while Paul Wells from Breakaway Bicycles discussed proper bike fit and sizing. The efforts Richard and Paul put into their presentation are greatly appreciated and thanks to both of you.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a copy of the waiver form that we have riders sign at the beginning of all KBC rides. Accompanying this form is text written by Phil Caruso explaining the importance of the waivers. All KBC members should take the time to read both the waiver and the text, as

we will be asking all ride leaders to use these forms consistently this year. We are asking for your help by taking the time to sign the waivers before your rides this year.

April marks the beginning of the '94 KBC ride calendar. The coming months will offer you the opportunity to experience and enjoy our club rides, which are one of the best activities within KBC. Regardless of your abilities we will be offering rides to suit you. We realize that a lot of members don't ride their bikes until it really warms up, so you will see a more complete ride calendar in May. The most important thing is that we see you out on your bike riding with the club.

April Board Meeting

The KBC Board of Directors will be meeting on Monday, April 4, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will take place at the United Way building on S. Westnedge (across from old Central High School) and all members are invited to attend.

Big Plans for May

There will not be an April Membership meeting. However, there is a rumor floating about that there will be a KBC spring party in May. Keep your eyes peeled to next month's newsletter for all the details.

Pothole Alert

The harsh weather that West Michigan has experienced this past winter has left the roads with an abundance of large and deep potholes. These can cause major damage to both you and your bicycle so be alert this spring while riding. While the road crews will be trying to repair the roads as promptly as possible, they will have an extremely large work load. You can do everyone a favor by reporting hazardous potholes and other road conditions to the following authorities:

City of Kalamazoo Public Works
ph. 337-8002

Kalamazoo County Road Commission
ph. 381-3171

KBC Ride Calendar—April 1994

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ALL RIDES START AT 6:30 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sunday Supplement, 40-75 Miles, KVCC, 1:00. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday Recovery Ride, 15-30 miles, Texas Drive Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Teel Tandemfest, 20-30 miles, Eastwood Plaza. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bloomingdale Loop: 20-50 miles, Kzoo Central, 6:00 and 6:30. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour de Gull Lake, 30 miles 	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sunday Supplement, 40-75 Miles, KVCC, 1:00. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday Recovery Ride, 15-30 miles, Texas Drive Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Teel Tandemfest, 20-30 miles, Eastwood Plaza. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bloomingdale Loop: 20-50 miles, Kzoo Central, 6:00 and 6:30. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour de Gull Lake, 30 miles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phil's Frolic: 5-20 miles, Kalamazoo Academy, 1:30
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sunday Supplement, 40-75 Miles, KVCC, 1:00. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday Recovery Ride, 15-30 miles, Texas Drive Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Teel Tandemfest, 20-30 miles, Eastwood Plaza. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bloomingdale Loop: 20-50 miles, Kzoo Central, 6:00 and 6:30. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour de Gull Lake, 30 miles 	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sunday Supplement, 40-75 Miles, KVCC, 1:00. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday Recovery Ride, 15-30 miles, Texas Drive Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Teel Tandemfest, 20-30 miles, Eastwood Plaza. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bloomingdale Loop: 20-50 miles, Kzoo Central, 6:00 and 6:30. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour de Gull Lake, 30 miles 	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

April Rides

PHP: No Más, No Más

In a late-breaking development, Physician's Health Plan (PHP) has declined to continue sponsorship of our Spring Valley Circuit Race. PHP has generously supported our race and our club for many years. This year marks an end in that relationship. Thanks for many years of support, PHP!

Two Fun Events:

Kal-Haven Train Bike/Run

This year's Kal-Haven Trail Bike-and-Run is sponsored by the Kalamazoo Track Club. It will be held on Wednesday, May 18. For more info, call Jack Forester at 342-9965 or Terry Hutchins at 375-5316.

Explorer-Seahorse Triathlon

They need volunteers, too. Event held Sunday, July 10. Volunteer day-of or the day before for course marking. For more info, call race director Clifton Schultz at 323-7103 (w) or 679-5083 (h)

Mondays

The *Monday Recovery Ride* is back! Join Jeff "Pretty Boy" Wetters at Texas Drive Park, just east of Texas Corners on Texas Drive (Milham Rd.) for a ride on the flats south of Texas. 20-30 miles, 18 mph average.

Tuesdays

The *Team Teel Tandemfest*. Bring doubles and singles to a new ride for KBC with Mike and Janet Teel. Beginning at the Eastwood Plaza parking lot on the corner of East Main St. and Nazareth. This ride will cover the area north-east of town. The terrain is a mix of flats and rolling hills and is a great area to ride often overlooked by cyclists. 18+ mph average.

Wednesdays

Kalamazoo Central High School on Drake Rd., about a mile north of West Main St. two rides:

- The 6:00 group goes to Bloomingdale and back (about 50 miles), at a pretty quick pace. Led by Roberta Hillman.
- The 6:30 group goes for 20-30 miles at about 16 mph. Led by Jim "Camelback" Wyrick and/or "Hyper" Harold Gleaves.

Thursdays

HELP! We need a Thursday ride leader to resurrect the famous ice cream ride? Any takers please call Randy "I-Can't-Chip-But-I-Can" Putt.

Fridays

The Tour De Gull Lake. 25-30 miles from Billy's Bike Shop, just east of the five-way intersection in downtown Galesburg. Ride

around picturesque Gull Lake. Pace depends on who shows up, but all are cordially invited. Led by Marc, Michele, and "Tasha the Cycling Cat."

Saturday, 4/23 only

Phil (and possibly Jini) Caruso will lead their first ride of the season from Kalamazoo Academy at Sprinkle and Milham at 1:30 on Saturday, April 23. Phil has amassed(?) 30 minutes on rollers this winter so you can imagine it will be Phil's normal pace. He would like to think about a 5 mile ride and may actually do less. Maps of routes up to 20 miles will be available for those who wish to rub it in. Phil's riding pace will be somewhere around 10 miles per hour (unless its windy) and the terrain is flat. He does not expect to need a stop. You may also call Phil at 381-0135 for further information.

Sundays

Steve's Sprint to Decatur. 40-75 miles from KVCC at 1:00. Join Steve, Dan, Paul, Mike, and the rest of the usual suspects for a brisk ride to parts unknown. The ride out emphasizes smooth pacelines and good technique. The ride back? Hike up the leiderhosen . . .

KBC Ride Policy Statement

You must wear an ANSI or Snell approved helmet on all KBC rides. All riders should also bring a spare tube and tire, frame pump, water, food, money, and identification. Dress appropriately for the weather conditions, obey traffic rules, and ride on the right side of the road. Check your bicycle, especially the brakes, before each ride.

Ride Liability Waiver

**LEAGUE OF AMERICAN WHEELMEN ("LAW")
RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT ("AGREEMENT")**

IN CONSIDERATION of being permitted to participate in any way in (Name of LAW Club) ("Club") sponsored Bicycling Activities ("Activity") I for myself, my personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin:

1. ACKNOWLEDGE, agree, and represent that I understand the nature of Bicycling Activities and that I am qualified, in good health, and in proper physical condition to participate in such Activity. I further acknowledge that the Activity will be conducted over public roads and facilities open to the public during the Activity and upon which the hazards of travelling are to be expected. I further agree and warrant that if at any time I believe conditions to be unsafe, I will immediately discontinue further participation in the Activity.

2. FULLY UNDERSTAND that: (a) BICYCLING ACTIVITIES INVOLVE RISKS AND DANGERS OF SERIOUS BODILY INJURY, INCLUDING PERMANENT DISABILITY, PARALYSIS AND DEATH ("RISKS"); (b) these Risks and dangers may be caused by my own actions, or inactions, the actions or inactions of others participating in the Activity, the condition in which the Activity takes place, or THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASEES" NAMED BELOW; (c) there may be OTHER RISKS AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LOSSES either not known to me or not readily foreseeable at this time; and I FULLY ACCEPT AND ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSSES, COSTS, AND DAMAGES I incur as a result of my participation in the Activity.

3. HEREBY RELEASE, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE the Club, the LAW, their respective administrators, directors, agents, officers, volunteers, and employees, other participants, any sponsors, advertisers, and, if applicable, owners and lessors of premises on which the Activity takes place, (each considered one of the "RELEASEES" herein) FROM ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, LOSSES, OR DAMAGES ON MY ACCOUNT CAUSED OR ALLEGED TO BE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASEES" OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING NEGLIGENT RESCUE OPERATIONS; AND I FURTHER AGREE that if, despite this RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT 1, or anyone on my behalf, makes a claim against any of the Releasees, I WILL INDEMNIFY, SAVE, AND HOLD HARMLESS EACH OF THE RELEASEES from any litigation expenses, attorney fees, loss, liability, damage, or cost which any may incur as the result of such claim.

I HAVE READ THIS AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND HAVE SIGNED IT FREELY AND WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT OR ASSURANCE OF ANY NATURE AND INTEND IT TO BE A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY TO THE GREATEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW AND AGREE THAT IF ANY PORTION OF THIS AGREEMENT IS HELD TO BE INVALID THE BALANCE, NOTWITHSTANDING, SHALL CONTINUE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

KBC Phone Numbers

President

Dave Patrick382-5818

Vice President

Bill Watt.....349-9562

Secretary

Harold Gleaves381-9753

Treasurer

Jim Wyrick349-1744

Race Team

Andys Burns964-4703

Ride Captain

Randy Putt649-1814

Spring Valley Race

Erik Kayser388-5287

Database

Phil Caruso381-0135

Newsletter

Marc Luoma731-2739

Ride Line

Ann Johnson327-7767

Classified

For Sale

Bike Parts:

- Avocet R30 MTB saddle, \$10
- San Marco Titanio 2000 saddle, \$20
- 2 Continental Grand Prix Clinchers, 700 x 20 (new), \$10 each
- Ultegra 7-sp shift levers (downtube), \$10
- Ultegra 7-speed rear hub w/13-21 cassette, \$30
- SR Laprade seatpost, 27.0, \$10
- Suntour 6-speed freewheel, 13-26
- Regina America 7-speed freewheel, 13-19, \$15
- Dura-Ace 7-speed freewheel, 12-18, \$25
- Time trial wheels: Pelissier hubs, 28-hole; oval spokes, radial laced front; Wolber profile 18 rims; Wolber tires; \$80

Call Scott @ 327-6087

Bicycle: Cannondale R2000, 1991, 58cm. All Dura-Ace group, with STI, Mavic rims and Flite saddle, only \$1200. Call Matt at 679-4242 or 782-8220.

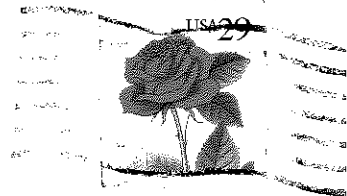
Bicycle: Raleigh Marathon 12-speed, 18" frame, chome-moly frame, red, excellent condition. \$175. Call randy at 649-1814.

Want to Buy:

Bicycle baby seat in good condition. Call Dan at 279-5108 (w) or 668-2505.



Kalamazoo Bicycle Club
P.O. Box 50527
Kalamazoo, MI 49005



Address Correction Required

*****expires 95/01
Phil & Jini Caruso
2301 Fairfield Ave.
Parchment MI 49004