

Ft. CUSTER LITTLE BIG RACE

September, 1994

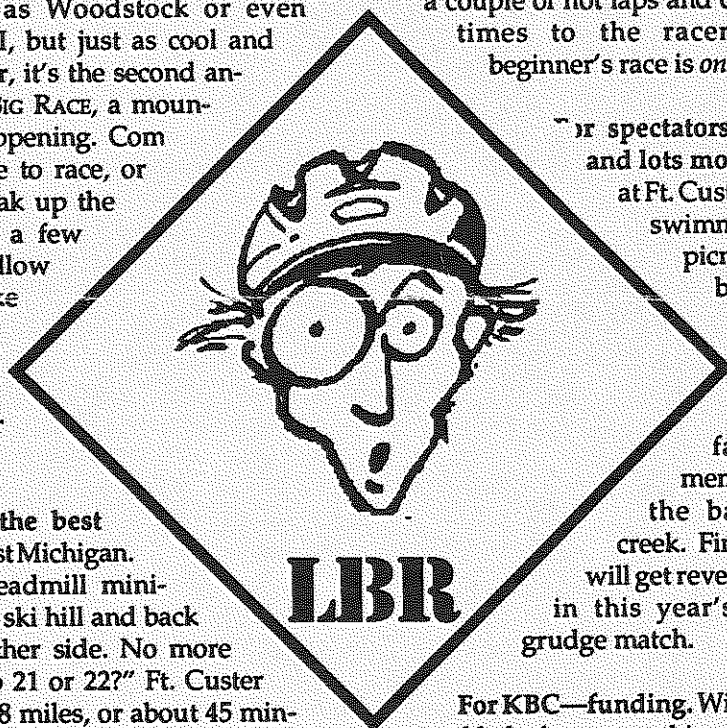
Spectate, Ride, or Race

Not as big as Woodstock or even Woodstock II, but just as cool and way healthier, it's the second annual LITTLE BIG RACE, a mountain bike happening. Come to ride, come to race, or just come soak up the ambiance of a few hundred mellow mountain bike enthusiasts playing in nature's grandeur for a day.

For racers—the best course in West Michigan. No more treadmill mini-loops up the ski hill and back down the other side. No more “am I on lap 21 or 22?” Ft. Custer offers about 8 miles, or about 45 minutes, of mostly singletrack trails. Race from 1-4 laps, depending on your category. And thanks to our title sponsor Alfred E. Bike, as well as other sponsors, cool prizes raffled to all registered riders, including a new Giant Iguana MTB, Lightspeed titanium stuff, Giro helmets, CA\$H money. The first 300 registered riders get cool free stuff (food!) in Velo News rider bags.

For riders—miles of smiles on Ft. Custer's great trails, whether your taste is open, hardpacked trails suitable for Granny and the kiddies, or gnarly singletrack to test your skills, Ft. Custer has it all. The race

course will be open before and after races throughout the day, in case you'd like to try a couple of hot laps and compare your times to the racers'. Or—the beginner's race is *only* one loop...



For spectators—hot racing and lots more awaits you at Ft. Custer. They have swimming beaches, picnic areas, barbecue pits, and hiking trails.

Come out and watch your favorite KBC member go over the bars into the creek. Find out if Bob will get revenge from Paul in this year's blood-feud grudge match.

For KBC—funding. With a bit of luck and help from you, this could be KBC's big money maker for this year, and next. If you can't race or volunteer, come and watch. And above all, spread the word. If you don't race, call at least one person who does and tell them about the Little Big Race.

For more info, call Marc at 731-2739.

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Dave's World

A special thanks

to the 7-Eleven store at the corner of KL Avenue and Drake Road for their generous donation of over 300 lbs. of ice for our Flowerfest Tour. Stop in and say thanks to Bonnie for her help. If you are out cycling on the west side of town stop in for an energy drink, a cold soda or that great 7-Eleven staple: the Slurpee! For a post-ride treat Bonnie has a great selection of Ben & Jerry's ice cream and bars. Thanks again 7-Eleven!

The good news this month is that our '94 Flowerfest Bicycle Tour was a great success. We had excellent weather and about 360 riders turned out. The t-shirts were a hit, and our sponsors went overboard in donating goods and services to ensure the tour's success. Thanks to all club members who volunteered and/or rode the tour to show their support.

All club members owe a special thanks to Phil Caruso, Clayton Gallop, and Bill Watt who were kind enough to join me the evening before the tour and help finish the marking of the routes. We spent about four hours painting pink, white and yellow arrows on the pavement, finishing in the dark at 10:30 p.m. Why wasn't this job finished before then? A very good question and one we asked ourselves while we were out painting that night. The two individuals responsible for the course only had two months to prepare and finish this job. There is a positive take on this situation as Phil Caruso is now taking brush to canvas and turning our beautiful Monet inspired landscapes, while Clayton can be seen throughout the area painting yellow stripes on all of the freshly paved roads.

I would also like to urge all club members to stay out on their bikes this fall. It always amazes me how many people quit riding after Labor Day each year. Our club ride calendar continues into September, with start times adjusted to accommodate the earlier darkness. We are also going to try to offer a series of weekend rides in October, so keep your eyes peeled on the next newsletter.

Without a doubt, the next two months are some of the best for cycling in our area. Put on a pair of tights and a jacket if it's a bit cool, but get out and enjoy the smell of the vineyards on the west side of town, and the beautiful fall colors. Ride your bikes to the cider mill, or go ride a fall tour. You're certain to enjoy yourself.

After watching over 300 cyclists on the day of our Flowerfest Tour, I couldn't help but notice how many cyclist still don't take the time to adjust their helmets properly. So many cyclists wear their helmet back on their head like a cap, which offers minimal if any, protection to the forehead area. It is important that you take the time to adjust not only your helmet, but also children's helmets, to provide the maximum protection in case of an accident. A good rule of thumb is that if you are standing up straight, and you are looking straight ahead, if you roll your eyes up towards your eyebrows you should be able to see the lower edge of the front of your cycle helmet as it covers your forehead. Refer to your helmet instructions or your local bike shop if you have any questions, but cycle as safely as possible.

To close it up for this month, I want to invite everyone to our Ft. Custer Mountain Bike Race. Alfred E. Bike and Giant Bicycle have done a tremendous job of sponsorship and this will be a great event. Come on out and help out. This will be a great day of mountain biking. See you there.

Dave Patrick
KBC President

Take One Step Forward

Once again it is time for nominations of club members to fill positions on our board of directors during the '94-'95 season. These nominations will be made at the October membership meeting and elections will take place at a November meeting. I would like YOU to consider stepping forward and taking a place on our board. The time commitment is not that great as board meetings are

held once a month December through April, and these meeting average about 90 minutes in length. Board meetings are held sporadically throughout the rest of the year and these are short and sweet.

If you like the progress you've seen in the club during the past year, it is time for you to help us continue.

September Rides

NOTE THAT ALL EVENING RIDES WILL BEGIN AT 6:00 PM STARTING IN SEPTEMBER.

Thanks to all the ride leaders this year for their efforts to make the ride calendar for 1994 a successful one. Since there are numerous tours in this area on weekends during the month of Sept, there are no scheduled club rides on Sat. or Sun. Please feel free to call the ride line to setup impromptu rides at any time. If anyone has any ideas for club rides in Oct, especially color tours on the weekends, give Randy Putt a call at 649-1814.

Mondays

The *Monday Recovery Ride* continues into September with 3 ride leaders with a pace to suit riders of all abilities. This continues to one of our most popular rides. If you haven't tried a club ride yet, this ride is for you. Join Bill Watt, Dave Patrick, Randy Putt, Clayton Gallop, and Mike Higgins at Texas Drive Park, just east of Texas Corners on Texas Drive (Milham Rd.) for a ride in the flats and sometimes hills southwestern Kalamazoo County. Mike will lead his group at 10-15 mph for 15-20 miles.

Clayton will lead his group at a 16-18 mph pace for 20-25 miles.

Bill, Dave, and Randy will lead riders at about 19+ mph for about 30 miles. The pace of the 19+ mph ride will depend on who shows up.

Tuesdays

This ride is leaderless at this time. The Tues. group will continue meeting at Eastwood Plaza (corner of Nazareth and East Main) and create their own route. The pace depends on those who show up at the ride. Thanks to the Teels for their tireless leadership of this ride during the past summer.

Wednesdays

Kalamazoo Central High School on Drake R., a mile north of West Main St.

Two rides:

The fast group rides to Bloomingdale and back (about 50 miles) at 20+ mph. No leader, no maps, no prisoners.

The second group rides at about 18 mph for about 30 miles lead by Jim Wyrick. The ride can be hilly at times.

Thursdays

The *ice cream ride* is gaining strength week by week. We had a record a record number (9) of 10-12 mph riders the last week in July and the first week in August. Come join us at Scotts Elementary School (located on QR Ave 1 block East of 36th St. in Scotts) on Thursdays in September at 6:00 PM. The terrain is flat with a few small hills. A 20-30 mile ride at 17-18 mph will be led by a Charlie Fuentes on Sept. 1, Vince Odenwaller on Sept. 8, John Mathieson on Sept. 15 and 22, and Richard Walter on Sept. 29. Deb Carlson will also be there on Sept. 1 leading a 10-15 mile ride at about 10-12 mph. If enough riders attend this ride, she will continue into Sept. All of you 10-12 mph riders come out and give her your support. As always join us at Scooter's for ice cream after the ride.

Friday

The *Tour de Gull Lake* meets at Billy's Bike Shop, just east of the five-way intersection in Galesburg. The prettiest route on the schedule goes around picturesque Gull Lake. Pace depends on who shows up. The course is kind of hilly. Led by Marc and Michele.

REMEMBER THAT ALL EVENING RIDES WILL BEGIN AT 6:00 PM STARTING IN SEPTEMBER.

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.

KBC Phone Numbers

President

Dave Patrick 382-5818

Vice President

Bill Watt 349-9562

Secretary

Harold Gleaves 381-9753

Treasurer

Jim Wyrick 349-1744

Race Team

Open

Ride Captain

Randy Putt 649-1814

Ft. Custer MTB Race

Marc Luoma 731-2739

Database

Phil Caruso 381-0135

Ride Line

Ann Johnson 327-7767

Classified

For Sale:

Bicycle: 1992 18" Giant Rincon. Black, w/computer and rear rack. As new; 45 total miles, all on-road. Selling to buy road bike. Best offer. For more info call Mike at 969-0031 (days).

Personals

Clincher: Maybe I've been too hasty. I'll give you one last chance. We can try just one more century ride together. —Pookie

Skinsuit: Thanks for last weekend. I'm still out of breath. What a race, what a rider! I don't know what I saw in that old paceline I used to draft in. —Clincher

Frequently-Called Numbers

Alfred E. Bike 349-9423

Billy's Bike Shop 665-5202

Breakaway Bicycles ... 349-5555

Millwood Schwinn 349-6384

Parchment Bicycle 343-8118

Portage Schwinn 327-3393

Safety Cycle 381-7233

Scooter's Malt Shop ... 626-8860

Team III Schwinn 962-7688

Village Cyclery 679-4242

Vorncamp Bike 344-3599

Weather Line ... 382-8585 (3333)

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