

# Pedal Press



The Newsletter of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, Inc.  
October, 1996

## President's Letter

Don't let the change in weather keep you indoors. Monday and Wednesday night rides will continue through October but they will be starting earlier (see article by Randy Putt). Anyone interested in Saturday rides please get in touch with Randy or me. We can start at KVCC and follow a modified Flowerfest route or for those of you interested in farther, faster routes there are those rides available but they are generally impromptu and require some organizing (we can help!).

There are a few fall tours available. I'm interested in organizing a group for the Turning Leaves Tour in Dowagiac (Oct. 6 - see September newsletter article). If you would be interested in car pooling for this tour give me a call.

Over the winter months the board will be considering some changes in direction for the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club. These changes will involve a more active role in community government in an effort to communicate tolerance on our roadways for cyclists.

We are also looking for ways to educate the public on subjects involving effective cycling (safety) and encouraging our members as well as the public in matters of advocacy concerning cyclists and pedestrians. KBC will be kicking-off that effort by hosting the annual League of Michigan Bicyclist meeting in October. Please look over the agenda in this newsletter and if you can't attend or don't want to consider checking out some of the city commission/planning meetings coming up in the next few months.

Ground work is being established at these meetings that will affect cyclists over the long term. But more importantly, there are things which can be done over the short term which will effect cycling safety now. These items do come up at city commission meetings now and are showing up in the Gazette with more frequency. Keep informed and express an opinion.

- Rose McKenna

## Upcoming Events...

### October

- 8 KBC Board/General Meeting, Conference Room A, United Way Building, 709 S. Westnedge Ave, 7:00 PM.
- 13 Borgess Bike Rodeo, Borgess Out-patient facility on Angling Road, 2:00 PM. Contact John Mathieson at 329-0692.
- 18 Triathlete Ray Browning to speak, Arcadia Commons Campus, 202 N. Rose St., 7:00 PM. Contact Gazelle Sports at 342-5996 for more information.
- 20 League of Michigan Bicyclist's Annual Meeting, KVCC Arcadia Commons Campus. Contact Dave De-Right at 381-2678.

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## KBC Board Meeting/ General Meeting

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 8 at 7:00 pm at the United Way Building (conference room A) 709 South Westnedge across from the old Kalamazoo Central High School. To put issues on the agenda contact John Mathieson (329-0692) no later than 7:00 pm Monday, October 7. A brief time frame will be assigned for agenda additions. Meetings last one hour.

This meeting will cover Portage/KBC tour (October 13) and the LMB Annual meeting (October 20). Nominations for board members will be taken at this meeting. General elections will take place at the November general meeting date and time to be announced in the November newsletter.

# October Rides

October is upon us and the riding season is coming to an end for another year. The colors are at their peak and if the weather cooperates some of the best riding of the year is in October. It has been a great summer for riding and I would like to thank the ride leaders once again for the great job they have done, especially those who lead rides for the entire season (Mike and Darryl Claffey, Charlie Fuentes, Mike Higgins, Rose McKenna, Randy Putt, Steve Vonderfecht, Richard Walter, and Jeff Wetters). I would also like to thank Clayton Gallup, Don Povendo, and Jim Wyrick for the leading rides several rides during the season.

A limited ride calendar will continue into October. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE START TIMES FOR ALL RIDES WILL BE 5:30. If you have any questions about the ride calendar or would like to lead a special ride in October, please give Randy a call at 649-1814 and we can organize an impromptu ride most any time the weather looks good, especially on the weekends.

## Monday

There will be two ride leaders at the Monday Recovery Ride at Texas Drive Park in October. There should be a pace to suit all riding abilities, so come out and give it a try at 5:30 PM. Mike Higgins will lead a group for about 20 miles at 10-15 mph, Steve Vonderfecht plans to lead the 16-18 mph group for 20 to 25 miles, as the weather permits. Maps will be available and the ride leaders will make sure that the riders in each group stay together. The riders in each of the above groups will start and finish the ride together.

## Wednesday

The Wednesday ride meets at Kalamazoo Central HS and will continue this month. The 16-18 mph group will ride for 25 to 30 miles and Don Povendo is leading this ride. Maps will be available and the ride leaders will make sure that the groups stay together. The riders in each of the above groups will start and finish the ride together. These rides can be quite hilly in the northwestern part of Kalamazoo county.

A fast group also rides from Kalamazoo Central on Wednesday evenings beginning at 5:30 PM. The pace of the ride is typically greater than 20++ mph and the route goes to Bloomingdale and back (about 46 miles). Since the route is well known to most of the riders, no maps are available for this ride. This group is typically large (more than 15 riders) and consists of racers and other experienced riders. There is no designated ride leader. The group typically fragments into smaller groups and the riders often times do not finish together. This ride is hard and is not suitable for inexperienced riders. Some riders can be expected to be dropped from the main group. The ride is a loop and those riders who get dropped meet up with the main group on the return part of the loop.

## Friday

The Tour deGull Lake will continue on Fridays in the parking lot behind Billy's Bike Shop in Galesburg at 5:30 PM until the weather or light gives out. The pace (18-21 mph) will vary depending on who shows up. The route for this ride is well established, but maps are available. Richard Walter and Randy Putt will share ride leader duties with assistance of Jeff Wetters. Even though this ride can split into more than one group the ride leaders will make sure that all riders finish the ride.

Call Randy at 649-1814 for more information about any of the rides described above.

## Fall Tours

Check out the Turning Leaves Century on Sunday October 6 starting at Southwestern Michigan College in Dowagiac, MI and the Hilly 100 in Bloomington, IN at Bloomington North High School on October 19 and 20. I've ridden both rides and recommend them.

- Randy Putt

# October Calendar

1996

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Wed Night Ride Kazoo Central HS 5:30 20++mph 5:30 10-15mph 5:30 16-18mph	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 6:00 18-21mph	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park 6:00 10-15mph 6:00 16-18mph 6:00 19+mph	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Wed Night Ride Kazoo Central HS 5:30 20++mph 5:30 10-15mph 5:30 16-18mph	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 5:30 18-21mph	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park 5:30 10-15mph 5:30 16-18mph 5:30 19+mph	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Wed Night Ride Kazoo Central HS 5:30 20++mph 5:30 10-15mph 5:30 16-18mph	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 5:30 18-21mph	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park 5:30 10-15mph 5:30 16-18mph 5:30 19+mph	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Wed Night Ride Kazoo Central HS 5:30 20++mph 5:30 10-15mph 5:30 16-18mph	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 5:30 18-21mph	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park 5:30 10-15mph 5:30 16-18mph 5:30 19+mph	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Wed Night Ride Kazoo Central HS 5:30 20++mph 5:30 10-15mph 5:30 16-18mph	<b>31</b>		

## Yipes, Stripes

I have been working with the City of Kalamazoo Engineering Department to get bicycle lanes and signs on through streets which are most useful to cyclists. My efforts so far have been entirely with the City of Kalamazoo, not Portage or the Kalamazoo County Road Commission.

I am happy to report that we should get started on a few streets yet this year. To start with, I focused on getting bicycle lanes on roads most useful for getting in and out of town.

To begin with, the plan is to mark Oakland Drive, Parkview Avenue, Mt. Olivet Road, Miller Road and Drake Road (between Parkview and Stadium.)

This sort of thing is not as easy as it might seem. Existing parking areas and narrow right-of-ways complicate matters, as does poor pavement at the edge of some roads. However, I must say that I have found the people at the City to be receptive and open once they realized I was serious about this.

We are planning further bike lanes for next year, and I welcome input from KBC members and friends on the most useful and necessary roads, as long as it relates to City streets.

If anyone wants to get involved with any other local governments about bike lanes, I'd be happy to talk to you.

Here's the catch: by pleading poverty, the City has talked me into rounding up some cyclists to place bike-lane signs (something similar to what Portage has) along the edge of these roads.

This won't be a lot of work, but it will take a few volunteers. Just imagine: bike lanes in Kalamazoo!!! So if you can please spare a few hours (probably around November 1<sup>st</sup>), PLEASE CALL ME at 388-5045.

- Doug Kirk

## Mandatory Helmet Bill Introduced and Tabled

Under increasing pressure to reduce injuries, a bill to make helmets mandatory for bike riders under 14 years of age was introduced in the Michigan Senate on Sept 10th. Senate Bill 1142 quickly had its first hearing on September 19th with LMB legislative liaison Don Reed and LAB Board President June Thaden testifying on our behalf. Not surprisingly, as there have been lesser bills introduced, several committee members raised the same issues as our representatives, and those issues are not likely to be resolved until after the November election. Bill text is available in e-mail from Dave DeRight or from Senator's Geake's office at: (517) 373-1707.

While no serious objections were raised by the LMB, yet, we'd prefer that more emphasis be placed on good education programs to reduce injuries instead of mandating helmets, which discourages cycling. Plenty of evidence backs that prudence.

While the LMB continues to evaluate and look for solutions on the proposed legislation, the following viewpoint from John Forrester's post on the "LAB Members" e-mail list are reflective of some of the concerns which were raised.

Regardless of whether or not one approves of MHLs, this is bad legislation.

1) It does not provide legal protection for the helmetless cyclist. The bill must prohibit using the lack of a helmet as evidence of negligence by the cyclist.

2) The bill allows local authorities to have different requirements. If it is to have any semblance of legitimacy, (the bill) must have statewide uniformity.

3) The bill is completely unrealistic regarding infants in trailers. Infants, when carried in trailers, are strapped in lying down and are therefore protected if the trailer rolls over. The protection provided by helmets is not designed to protect against the direct force of car-bike collisions, only to protect against the consequences of car-bike collisions (falls, glancing blows on sheet metal, in the case of trailers, rolling over, etc.).

- Dave DeRight

# For Your Information...

## Portage Community Day and Borgess Bicycle Rodeo Planned

The Kalamazoo Bicycle Club in conjunction with the City of Portage is sponsoring a tour of Portage utilizing the Bikeway System. We hope not only to introduce City residents to the Bikeway system but more importantly to increase driver awareness of cyclists.

The route will travel from the Borgess Health Alliance Facility on Angling Road north to Milham Road and south down Oakland Drive to Vanderbilt. The loop is about 10 miles long and will consist of right turns along the route. We have been assured that the City will help with traffic control at major intersections and do repairs on part of the Bikeway that are in bad shape.

Sag will be provided by Breakaway Bicycles and the tour will run from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM on Sunday October 13<sup>th</sup> (not October 5<sup>th</sup> as stated in last month's newsletter). We are in need of 6 Volunteers to help with course monitoring and registration. If you would be able to help out, please give me (John Mathieson) a call at 329-0692. We will need people to work from about noon to 5:00 PM that day or any part of that time.

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## ??? Little Big Race ???

In last month's *Newsletter*, we lamented having no results from the Spring Valley Road Race to report.

We still haven't received a thing. And to add insult to injury, we have no results for the Little Big Race at Fort Custer either.

We remain hopeful that *someone* connected with the race team will supply us some information about the results of these events, but must unfortunately report that our repeated requests for this information have so far netted nothing.

Racers, won't one of you please let your heart rate drop long enough to let us know what's been going on?

\*\*\*\*\*

## Champion Triathlete Ray Browning to Speak

Champion triathlete, Ray Browning, a 7-time Ironman series race winner will speak in Kalamazoo on October 17th, 1996.

Browning's Kalamazoo appearance at the KVCC Arcadia Commons Campus, 202 N. Rose Street will be at 7:00 PM.

Hosted by Gazelle Sports, Browning will discuss "motivating yourself and setting fitness goals." Browning will focus on mental preparation as opposed to physical training. The use of self-talk, visualization and relaxing techniques to prepare for competition are the key points of Browning's presentation.

"Regardless of your fitness goals, this seminar will teach you ways to become a better athlete," says Browning.

The program is free and open to the public and will feature door prizes.

## KBC to Host Timely LMB Annual Meeting

In a flurry of spirited enthusiasm, inspired League of Michigan Bicyclist's (LMB) leaders currently working closely with local Club Officials, and others, are organizing for the LMB's Annual Meeting to be held in Kalamazoo, October 19th, 20th. With all the activity in the area: recent attendance by City staff at BikeFed's "ProBike/Walk" conference in Maine, continued progress of the River Valley Trailway project, the strong national grassroots support of ISTEAs and bicycling's role in strong communities and their urban renewal; what better time for the LMB to make an appearance and build on these initiatives and, at the same time, introduce to YOU their new Executive Director? YOUR attendance is requested, so, expect a mailing, then join us. The tentative weekend agenda for "Building Bicycle Friendly Communities" follows.

### Saturday, October 19

4:00 pm LMB Board, Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, Others: meet at Bronson Park for a one hour bike tour of Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway demo project, Western Michigan University and parts of Kalamazoo.

6:00 pm Dinner at Cork 'N Cleaver, at Cork and Sprinkle

8:00 pm Core Committee

### Sunday, October 20

8:00 am-12:00 pm LMB Board Meeting KVCC Downtown Campus

12:00 Lunch (Sandwiches brought in) Program "Building Bicycle Friendly Communities: More Livable Communities For Everyone!"

1:00 Welcome: Chair Warren Berthelsen. Introductions, thank you's, accomplishments of year, announcement of new Board; Officers

1:30-40 Welcome/Keynote Monty Piercey, Kalamazoo City Commissioner, or Mayor Larson

1:40-50 Introduction of newly hired LMB Executive Director (a Goal achieved, in part, by the hard work of KBC fundraising.

2:00 - 3:00 Breakout

1-A Making it happen! From Plan to Reality. One or two people: Dante Lanzetta, Jay Hoekstra, Thom Peterson, Mary Underwood.

2-A What's IN the Head is Important!! Promoting Safe Bicycling through Effective Cycling: June Thaden, Don Reed, Reuben Chapman.

3:15-3:45 "Making Kalamazoo Bicycle Friendly" Pat Adams, KVRT, facilitator, brainstorming session about specific actions, projects, priorities.

4:00-4:15 Wrap-up: "Reauthorization of ISTEAs"-- What's the big deal?? Mike Eberlein, Cindy Krupp, Al Sturges, June Thaden.

## New Member

Dick Phillips

## October Birthdays

Jack Bauer

Michelle Cudahy

Don Degen

Mark DiJulio

David Goldenberg

Anne Guimond

Carol Higgins

Mike Higgins

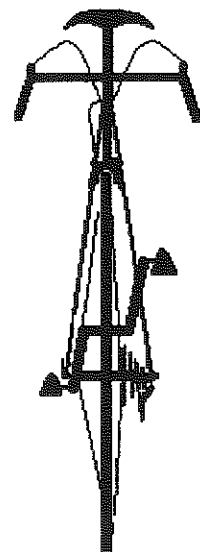
Bob Kennedy

Barbara Kesler

Ben Patton

Tom Small

Sam Watt



# Paradise

by Axel Kleat

**P**aradise isn't impossible to find, as long as you know where to look. But a little luck is involved when it's bicycling paradise.

Maybe you've heard that 906 is the area code for God's country, and though theology is hardly my strong suit, it seems reasonable that the notion of paradise ought to be hooked up to religion one way or another.

Paradise shouldn't be too easy to find. Effort, planning, and foresight ought to be involved, or you might not recognize it for what it is once you actually find paradise.

But today's your lucky day—I'm here to give you the inside scoop. You'll still have to want it bad enough to make the effort, but paradise, bicycling paradise, is located about an hour and a half north of the Mackinaw Bridge on M-123.

No fooling. It's on the map. You can look it up. That the map fails to mention that Paradise is bicycling paradise should not put you off, and only goes to show that the cartographer hasn't gone for a ride up there.

Paradise is half-way up the west shore of Whitefish Bay and ten miles east of Tahquamenon Falls. Somewhat apocryphally, Paradise turns out to be just a few miles from the resting place of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*.

Paradise, Michigan is one of those small, upper peninsula towns that exist primarily to service tourists. I doubt the winter population is much more than a hundred hardy souls. There's practically nothing up there but vast—and I mean really huge—forests and the world's biggest lake.

But the roads—what few there are—simply cannot be beat. Few people means few cars and few trucks. Aside from this obvious benefit for cycling, less traffic also means less wear and tear on the road surface. Bowling alleys should be so smooth.

Plus, Lake Superior means fabulous scenery; and huge forests means trails, logging roads, and two tracks galore. You are likely to see a bear or two, deer, herons, hawks, and all sorts of other wildlife.

For my money, the I. L. ("Curley") Lewis Memorial Drive, which runs along the south shore of Whitefish Bay (starting about ten miles south of Paradise,) is the best cycling in Michigan. It's twenty-five miles of seamless pavement with just one stop sign, several very private beaches, beautiful wildflowers, and nothing but forest national forest for miles on the south side of the road.

The ten miles going north out of Paradise lead to a dead end at a beautiful, old, operating lighthouse. Dead end roads do not generate high traffic loads, and the road's soooooo smooth. What's more, the entire ten miles is flat as can be.

Virtually the only other paved road around is M-123. In general I despise biking on state trunklines, and I suppose this one might be busy once in a while too. But not in the middle of the tourist season. Yes, the traffic does fly by pretty quickly, but the shoulder's really wide, and (heard this before?) smooth as a baby's behind.

A ride out M-123 to Tahquamenon Falls State Park (where bikes get in free) or beyond is just divine, and you can ride right up to the lower falls. Or take a longer ride, about 30 miles one way, to Newberry, a quaint old U.P. town.

It seems all wrong that Paradise has a catch, but it does. Big enough to make Paradise a paradox. You've probably guessed already—the weather.

So plan your trip to paradise for the summertime, and even then, keep your fingers crossed.





**KALAMAZOO BICYCLE CLUB**  
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 Weather Line: ..... 385-2121

**KALAMAZOO AREA BIKE SHOPS**

Alfred E. Bike ..... 349-9423  
 Billy's Bike Shop ..... 665-5202  
 Breakaway Bicycles ..... 324-5555  
 Cycle Works & Sports ..... 353-7615  
 Milwood Schwinn ..... 349-6384  
 Parchment Bicycle ..... 343-8118  
 Portage Schwinn ..... 327-3393  
 Pro Sport ..... 381-7233  
 Team III Schwinn ..... 962-7688  
 Village Cyclery ..... 679-4242  
 Vorncamp Bike ..... 344-3599

**KALAMAZOO BICYCLE CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**Dues (Check One)**

( ) Adult Membership ..... \$15.00  
 ( ) Family ..... \$17.00  
 ( ) Senior (60+) ..... \$13.00  
 ( ) Youth (17 or younger) ..... \$13.00

**Please Print**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Member Names**

**Birthdates**


Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent's Signature (if under 18) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in working on KBC Events? ( ) Yes ( ) No  
 Registered Racer: ( ) USCF ( ) NORBA

SEND TO: KALAMAZOO BICYCLE CLUB, PO BOX 50527, KALAMAZOO MI 49005