

Paris-Brest-Paris ala Dave DeBack

KBC will hold a general meeting Tuesday, May 21st in the Portage West Middle School choir room featuring our own Dave DeBack. Dave has agreed to present us with his experience in this 750 mile ride which takes place in France every four years. Dave participated in this ride last summer and if you caught Axel Kleat's article in the March newsletter, you know this is not a ride for the faint of heart—or any other part. Come and join us for a fun and informative evening starting at 7:00 pm.

**Ride your
bike today!**

Upcoming Events...

May

- 5 Blossomtime Metric Century, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI, starting time 7:00 am - 12:00 pm, call 616/684-4621 for information.
- 7 KBC Meeting, Portage Public Library public meeting room, 7:00 pm.
- 14 KBC Executive Board Meeting, Brian Clissold's home, 6:00 pm.
- 21 Paris-Brest-Paris presentation by Dave DeBack, Portage West Middle School, 7:00 pm.

July

- 21 FlowerFest Tour, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, 7:00 am.

Hammering the Fest by Doug Kirk

At the request of our President, Rose, I am writing to let the membership know that the KBC Executive Board has voted, after much gnashing of teeth, no longer to sponsor the infamous Wednesday Night Ride, also known over the years as The Hammerfest and Roberta's Ramble.

Regardless, I'm sure the ride will go on just as before. Those who do the ride, including yours truly, really enjoy it. The *KBC Newsletter* will continue to list the ride as a service to the cycling community, just as we would any area ride of which we get notice by our cut-off date, which is generally the 15th of the month before each issue.

Exactly why the Board is acting in this fashion is not clear as we go to press, but a little surmise and conjecture suggests that it has to do with the banzai nature of the ride necessarily resulting in no one being strong enough to act as ride leader, with a certain resulting disorder.

Further information about this and the other KBC rides can be found on these pages in Randy Putt's ride listings and also in this month's piece by our elusive staff curmudgeon, Axel Kleat.

So, you hammerheads, be warned: KBC has officially washed its hands of you. Further, if any of you are caught or captured, the Secretary (and indeed the Club) will disavow any knowledge of your actions.

This column will self-destruct in five seconds.

May Rides

The days are finally getting longer and they will hopefully get warmer in the coming weeks. It is time to start the full ride calendar in May. All evening rides will begin at 6:30 PM unless otherwise noted.

Saturday/Sunday

The impromptu Saturday and Sunday afternoon rides will continue in May. These rides begin at KVCC at 1 PM on Saturdays and Sundays in May when the weather cooperates. The riders who show up can decide the route to take since there will be no official ride leader or map. If these rides prove successful, we will continue the rides throughout the riding season. Please feel free to call the ride line or me with any feedback concerning these rides.

Monday

There will be three ride leaders at the Monday Recovery Ride at Texas Drive Park. There should be a pace to suit all riding abilities, so come out and give it a try at 6:30 PM. Maps will be available and the ride leaders will make sure that the groups stay together. The riders in each group will start and finish the ride together. Mike Higgins will lead a group for about 20 miles at 10-15 mph (the riders present will decide the pace each week), Steve Vonderfecht plans to lead the 16-18 mph group 20 to 25 miles, and a ride leader to be named will lead the 19+ mph group for 25 to 30 miles. Mike and Steve have agreed to lead this ride all season but will need substitutes once in awhile. We still need some volunteers to sub for Mike and Steve. We also need ride leader volunteers for the 19+ mph group.

Wednesday

The Wednesday ride meets at Kalamazoo Central HS and will start this month. This ride consists of two groups. Rose McKenna plans to lead a fitness ride at 10-15 mph (the riders present will decide the pace each week) for 15 to 20 miles. Next month will be the first time this ride has been offered. Come on out and give it a try. The 16-18 mph group will ride for 25 to 30 miles and the ride leading duties will be shared by Jim Wyrick, Charlie Fuentes, and Don Povendo. 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 north western part of Kalamazoo county.

A fast group also rides from Kalamazoo Central on Wednesday evenings beginning at 6:00 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

Come join us on Fridays in the parking lot behind Billy's Bike Shop in Galesburg at 6:30 PM in May for the Tour de Gull Lake. 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 in May. 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.

Hey you mountain bikers, I know there are a lot of you out there!!! Are any of you interested in weekly mountain big rides? Give me a call and establish a ride. If anyone is interested in establishing another regular ride or a one day ride at another time, please contact me. The club would welcome any suggestions on types of rides, locations, and times that would interest KBC members.

Think about being a ride leader for a week, a month, the season, or any combination of the above. We need more help. No previous experience is necessary to become a ride leader. Please give Randy Putt a call at 649-1814 to volunteer or to get more information on being a ride leader. Hope to see you on the road this month.

May Ride Calendar

1996

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

Politics

by Axel Kleat

Up to now, I had thought that KBC and bicycling in general was a refuge from the squabbles and bickering that on occasion detract from the quality of life one generally would prefer to enjoy. No more.

It seems that KBC's infamous Wednesday Night Ride, also known as The Hammerfest, is embroiled in controversy, and today I've learned that the KBC Executive Board has voted to remove the KBC Seal of Approval for the ride.

A little background is in order for those of you unfamiliar with this ride. The Hammerfest is without a doubt the toughest training ride in the area, going from Central High on Drake Road to Bloomingdale and back at 6:00 p.m. every remotely rideable Wednesday from the first of April until daylight runs out in October. It's about 46 miles.

The average speed is generally in excess of 22 m.p.h. and challenges all but the strongest riders. Even strong riders drop off the back of the pack regularly, and testosterone levels run high. If you flat, there's a chance that no one will stop, though sometimes they will. Oftentimes the pack takes up an entire lane.

In nice weather, as many as thirty riders show up, making it the most popular weekly ride around, and the quality of the ride brings riders from Battle Creek, St. Joseph and Grand Rapids. The mood is generally happy, but competitive.

With the exception of the races and the FlowerFest Tour, no KBC event is more widely known.

But over the winter, The Hammerfest fell into disfavor. Why? Although various rationales have been trotted out (liability and safety issues usually), it all boils down to people and personalities. The Executive Committee knows perfectly well that this ride is no more dangerous than any other for either injuries or lawsuits.

The Board's action reminds me of the little boy who took his ball home so no one else could play. But we cyclists have our own bicycles, and the road is our playing field. Although the game broke up when the boy went home with the ball, The Hammerfest most certainly will not disappear because KBC has washed its hands of the ride.

The Hammerfest will continue, and I suspect that the participants could care less whether they have KBC's blessing when they're charging the "D" Ave. hill with their quads burning.

KBC sponsors races, tours and all the other rides, but not the dreaded Hammerfest. Will someone please explain the logic here?

My own two cents' worth is that cyclists have enough battles to fight without fighting among ourselves. Who is behind this? And exactly what was accomplished here?

New Members

J. Allen Barber
 Mike Claffey
 Larry Fleischmann
 Brian, Nancy, Kelli
 and Joshua Huntsman
 Jeff Kokmeyer
 Jim Luther
 Ed Mazurkiewicz
 Donald McWethy
 Jackie Pallister
 Connie & Doug Pardee
 Rebecca Pearce
 Debra Singer
 Carol Yager

May Birthdays

Larry Badger
 Patricia Frye
 Larry Higgins
 Bill Hubbard
 Doug Kirk
 Donald McWethy
 Renny Oas
 Randy Putt
 Dee Sandt
 Daniel Stewart
 Lee Witt
 Tom Zehner
 Gene Zelmansk

CLASSIFIED

Yakima bike carrier for a midsize car with rain gutters, \$100.00; Giro Aero head helmet, medium, never worn, best offer. Call Mike at 327-0387.

**Time to Renew?
 Check Your Label!**

Executive Board Meeting

The next meeting of the KBC executive board will be Tuesday, May 14th. We are planning to meet at Brian Clissold's home at 6:00 pm and get in a ride before we officially meet. Anyone wishing to join us can call a board member for directions and please bring your wheels! An agenda has not been set at this time.

KBC Bicycle Case Available for Rent

Planning to do the Ironman this year? How about the Olympic trials? If so, or even if taking your bike to some other destination, fear of baggage handling gorillas can be minimized by renting the KBC Bicycle Case, which holds virtually any single bicycle.

Cost for the case is \$30 per week plus a \$200 deposit. Call Bill Watt at 349-9562 for details.

KBC genuinely thanks our Race Team sponsors and encourages our members to thank these fine businesses personally.



FlowerFest Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet

FlowerFest is scheduled for Sunday, July 21. These are some of the tasks we will need help with. Please help us out by circling one (or more, we won't hold you back) and send this form to the KBC post office box. Thanks for your support! Let us know when you are available. We have tasks for the day of the event and on the days leading up to the event if you would rather not schedule on the day of the event.

Registration - 6 people needed, set up at 6:30 am, finish by 12:30 pm, Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Sag Stops - 2 people per shift per sag stop needed

Kalamazoo Valley Community College Sag

7:00 am - 9:00 am

9:00 am - 11:00 am

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Breyer Patch Sag

8:30 am - 10:30 am

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

12:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Course Painters - 8 people needed, evenings the week of July 14

Course Sweepers - 8 people needed, Saturday, July 20 in the evening

Rider Pack Stuffers - 5 people needed, week prior to event

Miscellaneous/Cleanup



KALAMAZOO BICYCLE CLUB
 P.O. Box 50527
 Kalamazoo, MI 49005

BULK RATE
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 KALAMAZOO, MI
 Permit No. 105

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

*****expires 97/01
 Phil & Jini Caruso
 2301 Fairfield Ave.
 Parchment MI 49004

KBC OFFICERS

President: Rose McKenna 382-4318
 Vice President: John Mathieson 329-0692
 Treasurer: Mike Higgins 327-0387
 Secretary: Teri Waldron 673-9375
 Race Team Representative: Brian Clissold 324-1153

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Membership Coordinator: Phil Caruso 381-0135
 Newsletter Distribution: Clayton Gallap 375-0265
 Newsletter Editor: Kathy Barrett 388-5045
 E-Mail barrettkl@aol.com
 Race Team Director: Jim Wyrick 349-1744
 Ride Captain: Randy Putt 649-1814
 Ride Line: Ann Johnson 327-7767
 Weather Line: 382-8585 x3333

KALAMAZOO AREA BIKE SHOPS

Alfred E. Bike 349-9423
 Billy's Bike Shop 665-5202
 Breakaway Bicycles 324-5555
 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

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