

# Pedal Press



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

## President's Letter

Thanks to all our volunteers who made Flowerfest and Spring Valley Circuit Race successful events this summer. Flowerfest did put us in the black once again even though skies were threatening for most of the day. Thanks to Dave and Sue Goldenberg for directing this year's tour and also thanks to the tour sponsors.

Spring Valley had over 300 riders this year and once again was a successful event as part of the Rapid Wheelmen Italian Fest weekend.

Little Big Race will be held September 8 at the Fort Custer Recreation Area. To volunteer call Brian Clissold at 324-1153.

Several events are coming up this fall and are mentioned in this newsletter. **Remember that weekly rides will change from 6:30 to 6:00 after Labor Day.** Hope to see you on one of those rides.

- Rose McKenna

## Upcoming Events...

### September

- 8 The Little Big Race, Fort Custer Recreation Area. Contact Brian Clissold at 324-1153.
- 10 KBC Board Meeting, United Way Building 709 S. Westnedge.
- 21 Health Fair, Bronson Park. Contact Joan Kramlich at 323-5343.

### October

- 5 Borgess Bike Rodeo, Borgess Out-patient facility on Angling Road. Contact John Mathieson at 329-0692.
- 20 League of Michigan Bicyclist's Annual Meeting, KVCC Arcadia Commons Campus. Contact Dave De-Right at 381-2678.

## KBC Jerseys

Several members of the KBC are interested in getting a new club jersey. We've been working with Lisa Dalton of Dalton Designs to come up with a great design with a local theme. It would be a sublimated jersey (meaning the design is part of the fabric just like the quality jerseys in the catalogs and stores) on a cool-max type material. The price will be in the \$60 range.

We'd like to know how many members are interested in ordering/purchasing a club jersey. Contact Kathy Barrett at 388-5045 with your thoughts, ideas and input.

## KBC Board Meeting

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10 at 7:00 PM at the United Way Building 709 South Westnedge across from the old Central High School. To put issues on the agenda contact John Mathieson (329-0692) no later than 24 hours before the meeting and a brief time frame will be set.

This meeting will cover event results, brief description of Flowerfest review, upcoming events and club jersey update.

# September Rides

Wow, it's September, so summer is almost over. It has been a great summer for riding and I would like to thank the ride leaders 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. I hope I did not miss anyone who lead rides.

The full road ride calendar will continue into September. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THE START TIMES FOR ALL RIDES WILL BE 6:00 PM** unless otherwise indicated. 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.

## Sunday

The race team training ride will meet Sundays at 9:30 AM at the Water Street Coffee Joint. Race team members are encouraged to attend wearing their race team jerseys.

## 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 6:00 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, and Jeff Wetters and Randy Putt will lead the 19+ mph group for 25 to 30 miles.

## Wednesday

The Wednesday ride meets at Kalamazoo Central High School and will continue this month. This ride consists of two groups. Rose McKenna is continuing to lead a fitness ride at 10-15 mph (the riders present will decide the pace each week) for

15 to 20 miles starting at K-Central HS. This ride is on the Kal-Haven Trial. Riders can also meet at the Kal-Haven Trialhead and wait for the group starting from K-Central. Come on out and give it a try.

Also on Wed. night The 16-18 mph group will ride for 25 to 30 miles and Charlie Fuentes is leading this ride with assistance from Jim Wyrick 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 northwestern 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. So 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 6:00 PM for the Tour de Gull Lake. The route for this 18-21 mph ride is well established, but maps are available. Richard Walter, Randy Putt, and Jeff Wetters will share ride leader duties. Even though this ride can split into more than one group the ride leaders will make sure that all riders finish the ride.

- Randy Putt

# September

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> Race Team Ride Water Street Coffee 9:30 20++mph	<b>2</b> Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park 6:00 10-15mph 6:00 16-18mph 6:00 19+mph	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Wed Night Ride Kazoo Central HS 6:00 20++mph 6:00 10-15mph 6:00 16-18mph  Mtn Ride-Ft Custer 6:00 All abilities	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 6:00 18-21mph	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Race Team Ride Water Street Coffee 9:30 20++mph	<b>9</b> Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park 6:00 10-15mph 6:00 16-18mph 6:00 19+mph	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Wed Night Ride Kazoo Central HS 6:00 20++mph 6:00 10-15mph 6:00 16-18mph  Mtn Ride-Ft Custer 6:00 All abilities	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 6:00 18-21mph	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Race Team Ride Water Street Coffee 9:30 20++mph	<b>16</b> Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park 6:00 10-15mph 6:00 16-18mph 6:00 19+mph	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Wed Night Ride Kazoo Central HS 6:00 20++mph 6:00 10-15mph 6:00 16-18mph  Mtn Ride-Ft Custer 6:00 All abilities	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 6:00 18-21mph	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Race Team Ride Water Street Coffee 9:30 20++mph	<b>23</b> Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park 6:00 10-15mph 6:00 16-18mph 6:00 19+mph	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Wed Night Ride Kazoo Central HS 6:00 20++mph 6:00 10-15mph 6:00 16-18mph  Mtn Ride-Ft Custer 6:00 All abilities	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 6:00 18-21mph	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Race Team Ride Water Street Coffee 9:30 20++mph	<b>30</b> Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park 6:00 10-15mph 6:00 16-18mph 6:00 19+mph					

## Flowerfest Review

A meeting was held on Tuesday, August 6 to talk over the tour results. The focus of our discussion revolved around increasing ridership in the coming year and organizing a committee of volunteers several months in advance of the tour to make better use of our resources. A representative of Flowerfest Inc. was contacted and advised us of several strategies available within their organization. They have offered to meet with us and present their approach for publicity and help us as little or as much as we ask.

Five committees will be formed to oversee tour organization. These committees will consist of Publicity, sponsorship, volunteer coordinator, tour route and day of event activities.

These committees will have a specific time frame to work within i.e. Publicity, sponsorships and volunteer coordinator (months before, in most cases completed months before) and route and day of event volunteers several weeks before. You can get your volunteer obligation out of the way early!!!

Our first committee will involve Publicity and have the following areas to cover: logo and brochure preparation. These areas will be finalized by November 1. The tour director and club board members will oversee and help direct these jobs but hands are needed. Inquiries 382-4318.

To volunteer please fill out and send the accompanying form to the KBC P.O. box or call to get date of next meeting:

<b>Flowerfest Volunteer</b>	
Name	_____
Address	_____ _____
Phone	_____
Convenient Time to be Reached	_____
Mark area you would like to help on:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Logo (2 people needed)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brochure (3-5 people needed)
<input type="checkbox"/>	T-shirts (1 person needed)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water Bottle (1 person needed)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Posters (2-3 people needed)
<input type="checkbox"/>	News Media Contacts (1-2 people needed)

## New Members

Elizabeth Code  
 Bob Code  
 Will Code  
 Alex Code  
 Douglas Code  
 Jeannette Greselin  
 Janice Herrick  
 Terron Smith

## September Birthdays

Gerald Blohm  
 Dan Branstetter  
 Steve Brown  
 Douglas Code  
 Carl Degen  
 Dave Hauschild  
 Jennifer Glover  
 Larry Kissinger  
 Julie Knop  
 Rich McNorton  
 Will Panich  
 Josie Patton  
 Mary Rass  
 Debra Sykes  
 Jared Sykes  
 Wilma Tays  
 Richard Walter  
 Alex Walters  
 Vicki Weichlein  
 Aubree Wilson  
 Carol Yager

# For Your Information...

## KBC Will Host The League of Michigan Bicyclist Annual Meeting

On October 20th the LMB will hold its' annual meeting here along with several workshops designed to address safety issues of local cyclists. We will be looking at how other communities have addressed these issues and inviting guest speakers to educate our audience. Specifically, we will be looking for ways to implement the recently approved ISTE grant (Thanks to Dave DeRight) and gain the interest of our community.

The meeting will be held at the downtown campus of KVCC. A complete agenda will be published in the next newsletter. If you have questions please contact Dave DeRight 381-2678.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Portage Community Day and Borgess Bike Rodeo Planned

A family bike tour featuring parts of the Portage bikeway with a bicycle rodeo planned at the new Borgess facility on Angling road is planned for October 5th. The tour is scheduled to start from the Portage Band Shell area. For more information contact John Matheison at 329-0692.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Health Fair September 21

Joan Kramlich (323-5343) will be heading up this year's Health Fair held at Bronson Park. She will be calling for volunteers for this Saturday event.

## Club Member Goes Olympic

Sherry Gordon will be attending the ParaOlympic Games in Atlanta this summer as part of the "Goal Ball" National team. Western Michigan University has one of the premier teams in North America for this sport played by legally blind athletes. Three members of WMU's team will represent the United States.

Sherry helps organize our tandem ride for the blind in the fall and also the WMU's sports camp for blind children held in the spring. She rides her tandom on Monday nights with captain Paul Banner.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ???? Spring Valley Race ????

We had expected to be able to provide results of the Spring Valley Race in this issue, since the race was in early August. However, no results have been forwarded to us for publication.

We'd like to be able to provide more than just results, for example, a commentary on the races themselves. This is true for most any area races. We'd like to give you a little information about the KBC race team, but apparently they're too busy training to send anything over.

People have to get us the information in order for us to print it, whether it's about a race, a tour, or something else. We'd love to hear from you, even if it's just to complain about Axel Kleat.

The editor's name, phone number, and e-mail address are listed every month on the back page. If e-mail's not your thing, you can always send articles to the KBC post office box. Or you can call to arrange a diskette drop-off. We're real flexible here. Except when it comes to the deadline for submitting articles. As always, the deadline for a given issue is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

# Luck

by Axel Kleat

I knew a really lucky guy. He lived up north. Skied all winter. Biked all summer. He was having a great time, and he was in love with bicycling. George didn't just ride, he cared about the sport and was instrumental in developing the annual NORBA race at Shanty Creek.

George went for a mountain bike ride after work one day this spring and dropped dead of heart failure, all alone. They found him still clipped in, lying on his side on some Antrim County singletrack.

Shocking. And yet lucky. He died in his prime, doing what he loved to do. Had he known his time was up that day, this might well be how he'd have chosen to go.

For years before George died, a related thought has passed through my mind most every ride I take: What if this were my last ride?

Being mostly a road rider, it often happens when some car invades my personal space. But not always. Sometimes it happens when flying downhill, or when a dog gives chase. Sometimes I think about it for no reason at all.

And sometimes things go a step further. What if I became blind, or paraplegic, or something? How would I adjust?

Riding's a big part of my life. Like George, I truly love it. Cycling gives me strength, and the more I ride, the stronger I get, physically as well as psychologically. Synergy!

Usually. Sometimes I get sick, or hurt, or just run down, worn out and tired. If you ride a lot, you know what I mean. And you know about riding when you're sick, when you shouldn't ride, and about feeling awful at the start and getting better on the ride.

Does any serious rider not occasionally ponder the parallels between riding and life itself?

But this affair with bicycling won't—can't—go on for-

ever. I'm going to pieces a little bit at a time. Bet you are too. Bodies wear out. The odds are that, like it or not, my riding days will end one way or another long before I join George.

Talk about a change of life. And inevitable, too, unless I get lucky one way or another.

So I figure I'd better get my fill of all this active stuff, especially cycling, while I still can. Put off all that lazy stuff for later—much later. Besides, if I quit worrying about this depressing stuff, maybe it'll go away.

Popular philosophy these days has it that the journey is the destination, a thought which is especially appropriate to bicycling since often enough the idea is simply to ride, not to go someplace in particular.

For George, the journey was the destination in the truest sense. If I'm lucky enough to die in my own time on the bike, I know I'd die happy. And lucky, too.

---

## Turning Leaves Tour

In last month's *Newsletter*, we provided information about various fall bike tours in the area. In particular, we sang the praises of The Turning Leaves tour because of the excellent roads, fine scenery, and lack of traffic.

We hunted up the details: The Tour is Sunday, October 6, 1996 at Lake Michigan Community College, which is located just south of Dowagiac.

Driving time is about forty-five minutes. Take I-94 west to exit 54 and follow the signs to Dowagiac, then the signs to LMCC.

The tour starts anytime after 7:30 a.m. and registration closes at noon. The price is \$10.00 before September 27, and \$14.00 thereafter.

Routes are 24, 43, 64, 80, and 100 miles. We recommend the 80 mile route. For further information, contact the Outspokin Bike Club, Granger, IN at 219-272-2453.

# The Boat Bicycle Encounter

by Randy Putt

**I**t has been just over a year now since my accident. On August 11, 1995 it was a typical Tour deGull Friday night ride with a group of about 12 riders. While climbing the hill on the north side of Gull Lake one rider fell off the pace. Since he was a first time Tour deGull rider and was not familiar with the route, as ride leader I fell back to ride with him. The main group was now well ahead of us and out of sight.

We were riding single file south on E. Gull Lake Dr. about one foot in from the right edge of the road at about 20 mph. We heard a vehicle honking its horn several blocks behind us. We held our line and the vehicle passed less than a foot from us on the left. I did not notice any other vehicles driving north on E. Gull Lake Dr. at that time.

As the vehicle passed I noticed that it was a pickup truck pulling a trailer, so I knew we had a problem. I felt a push on my back and I went flying off my bike landing on a grassy area on the right side of the road ending up on my stomach about 4 feet from the roadway and about 10 feet from my bike.

Both of my legs were bruised and both knees were bleeding and I could barely stand up. The other rider ended up in a similar position and sustained similar injuries. I looked back and saw my crumpled bike which was only a year old and a gift from my wife. I was very angry that someone would actually hit us.

At least the driver stopped about 50 yards down the road. With difficulty I stood up and slowly walked toward the pickup truck to get name of the driver and license number of the pickup truck.

The driver got out of his pickup truck and walked towards us. We were obviously hurt and our bikes severely damaged, but he only asked us why we didn't get off the road when he honked at us. I told him that we were as close to the edge of the road as we could safely ride and that by law we had a right to the road. He insisted that we should have moved out of his way. He explained that he had a large vehicle with a large boat and trailer that took a long distance to stop.

He showed no concern for our well being and went to his truck to get a measuring tape to show us that there was not room enough on the road for his boat + trailer and us. He insisted once again that we should have gotten out of his way even though we were traveling about 20 mph in a 30 or 35 mph zone. The roadway was painted with a double yellow line and he indicated that he could not cross the double yellow line, so we were required to get out of his way. I tried to explain to him several times that we had a right to the road, but he would not accept that fact.

A resident near the accident site called the police and an emergency vehicle. The Ross Township Police and an emergency medical vehicle arrived within about 10 minutes took control of the situation and took their time to thoroughly investigate the accident scene.

I was very impressed with the way in which the Ross Township Police Department handled the situation. The officer in charge, Dennis Halloway, indicated that he agreed with our right to be on the ride. He spent considerable time in examining the accident scene and indicated that he would discuss the accident with the County Prosecutor because he felt the driver of the truck should be charged with reckless driving.

Indeed, the Prosecutors office elected to charge the driver with reckless driving. The driver insisted on a jury trial and finally after 9 months and several delays the trial took place. The jury had the good sense to listen to the facts of the case and convicted the driver of reckless driving with gross negligence.

The prosecutor argued that the driver should be sentenced to some jail time. Since the driver had an exemplary record, the judge charged him court costs of \$250 and the Secretary of State will assign six points to his license and his license will be suspended for six months. His insurance company had previously paid for replacement of our damaged equipment. The sentence seemed light to me and the judicial system was slow but it did work. This is good news for cyclists. It shows that our rights as cyclists are respected in the Kalamazoo County judicial system.



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

BULK RATE  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 KALAMAZOO, MI  
 PERMIT #1766

**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  
 D.V. Representative: Joan Kramlich ..... 323-5343  
 Representative: John Brady ..... 382-5272

**OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

Database Manager: Jeanette Holm ..... 385-5052  
 Newsletter Distribution: Clayton Gallup ..... 375-0265  
 Newsletter Editor: Kathy Barrett ..... 388-5045  
 E-Mail ..... barrettkl@aol.com  
 Ride Captain: Randy Putt ..... 649-1814  
 Resident Curmudgeon: Axel Kleat ..... Unlisted  
 Ride Line: Ann Johnson ..... 327-7767  
 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