

Pedal Press



The Newsletter of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, Inc.
October 1997

President's Letter

Well, we're into the month of October. The riding season is just about behind us. The turnout for the rides has been fantastic. I would like to thank all the ride leaders and the individuals who subbed through the season.

It is now time to turn our attention to the off-months. At this time I'm currently working on a spinning class. It will probably take place on Tuesday & Thursday nights starting at 6:45 for approximately 45 minutes. Hopefully it will be from November thru February.

I figure you can still ride outside from March to October. Spinning should be a good program for the off months. The classes will be limited to twelve people, so if you're interested give me a call and reserve your spot. Price is unknown at this time. Details will follow, but call me if you're interested.

I still have my work cut out for me. We need to elect new officers to the Executive Board. President, Vice President, Race Team Director, Ride Line and Flowerfest Director are positions that need to be filled.

So far I've had no luck in anyone showing any interest in filling these positions. What will we do as a club if these positions are not filled? The club will be hard pressed to exist without the proper leadership. If any of these positions appeal to you give me a call. Elections are in November.

- Gerry Blohm

Upcoming Events...

October

- 9 Executive Board Meeting, United Way Building on South Westnedge, conference room A, 6:30 pm.
- 12 Portage Parks and Recreation Ride. For more information, call John Mathieson at 329-0692.

Parks & Recreation Ride

There will be a ride again this year held in conjunction with the Portage Parks and Recreation. It will be held on October 12. This was a well attended function last year with approximately 185 riders. We will need some volunteers to ride the course, work registration and stand watch at some of the corners. If you are interested in helping out call me or John Mathieson at 329-0692.

- Gerry Blohm

Executive Board Meeting

There will be an Executive Board Meeting on Thursday, October 9, 1997 at 6:30 PM in conference room A, United Way Building on South Westnedge. There will also be a Flowerfest Planning meeting afterwards. Anyone interested in helping out please plan on attending. Your ideas will help to make next year's event successful.

- Gerry Blohm

Ride Info

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; Paul Guimond, Mike Higgins, Randy Putt, Steve Vonderfecht, Chris Walters, and Richard Walter. I would also like to thank Zolten Cohen, Nancy DeBoer, Bruce DeDee, Anne Guimond, Charlie Fuentes, Harold Gleaves, Larry Kissinger, Rose McKenna, Paul Stevens, Bill Strome, and Jim Wyrick for leading rides several times during the season. Without you the rides would not be successful.

Interest in riding on all three nights remained strong into September. The attendance at the rides this year has been outstanding. Even the number of riders attending the Tour de Gull Lake has increased from 4-6 last year to an average of 8-10 riders this year. In fact, a record 14 riders started and finished as group on September 12. Thanks to all the KBC members for making 1997 a great riding season.

The ride calendar will continue into October. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE START TIMES FOR ALL RIDES WILL BE 5:30 unless noted otherwise. Club president Gerry Blohm plans to continue the Sunday afternoon ride from Texas Drive Park at 1:00 PM. The distance for this ride will vary between 30 and 40 miles at a pace of about 17 mph.

There will be three 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.

The Wednesday ride meets at Kalamazoo Central HS and will continue this month. Bill Strome and Paul Stevens plan to lead the 16-18 mph group for 25 to 30 miles. This ride can be quite hilly in the northwestern part of Kalamazoo county.

Come join us on Fridays in the parking lot behind Billy's Bike Shop in Galesburg at 5:30 PM for the Tour deGull Lake. The pace (20-22 mph) will vary depending on who shows up. This ride will continue until the weather or light gives out.

Check out the Hilly Hundred in Bloomington, IN at Bloomington North HS on October 18 and 19. It's a great way to close out the riding season. I've ridden this ride several times and highly recommend it. There are several KBC members planning to ride it this year.

- Randy Putt

October Birthdays

Lee Anne Atkinson
Jack Bauer
Melanie Cunningham
Don Degen
Brian Germain
David Goldenberg
Penny Hanks
Nick Harbour
Mike Higgins
Chris Johnson
Sue King
Mark Krook
David Mulnix
Ben Patton
James Peter
Mark Prairie
John Thome
Sam Watt
Glen Young
Keith Young

New Members

Arthur Albin
Lee Anderson
Judith Beattie
Robert Beil
James & Jacquie Bradford
Dwyn DeSilver
Joe & Julie Dill
Paul Grabowski
Carol Hogan
Stephanie & Robert Kennedy
James Magnuson
Julie May
David May
Kathryn May
Daniel May
Susan Peterson
Barb Reynolds
Jeff Robertson
Arnie Sabatelli
Diana Seevers
David Sluyter
Jill Stewart
Phyllis Vlietstra
Wendy Williams

Classified

For Sale: Miyata aluminum road bike; 54cm, 14-sp, Sante' components, Mavic 04CD rims, clipless pedals. mint condition, \$425. Call 327-7739 & leave message.

October

1997

<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 5:30 10-15mph 5:30 16-18mph	2	3 Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 5:30 18-21mph	4
5 Sunday Ride Texas Drive Park 1:00 17mph	6 Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park 5:30 10-15mph 5:30 16-18mph 5:30 19+mph	7	8 Wed Night Ride Kazoo Central HS 6:00 20++mph 5:30 10-15mph 5:30 16-18mph	9	10 Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 5:30 18-21mph	11
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Bike Routes

It has taken a good deal of effort, but by the time this issue of the *Newsletter* is in your hands, the finishing touches should be all that remain to complete the first five bike routes in the City of Kalamazoo.

I started working on bike routes with the powers that be in the City well over a year ago now, and got some egg on my face when I reported here about a year ago that some routes were nearly a *fait accompli*.

Little did I know of the hassles that remained. But now things really are happening, and well over two hundred big, green "Bike Route" signs have sprouted up on at least three of the first five routes. I have personally bolted up dozens of them.

You may have seen the articles in the *Gazette* complete with route maps. The longest route goes from Milham Park almost to Cork Street on Lovers Lane AND also turns east on Lakeway several blocks to turn north on Moreland, continues north onto Fulford, snakes through Washington Square, and ends at the Annen Sports Complex.

The next longest runs the length of Bronson Boulevard, AND splits west on Edgemoor, Chevy Chase, and a few other side streets before turning onto Parkview at Wellington, and continuing all the way to the City limit at Parkview and Drake.

Shorter routes run out Douglas Avenue to Ravine (to facilitate access to the Kal-haven Trail) out Mt. Olivet St. from Riverview to the City limit, and the length of a large new sidewalk on the north side of Howard St. between Oakland and Stadium (to facilitate getting to the WMU campus).

Many of the roads, especially in the Milwood area, are blessed with lovely new asphalt.

All of these routes are simply marked with signs, generally every block, but no pavement markings at

all. We'll just have to see what the future holds in this regard, although I have been lobbying hard for a striped bike lane on Oakland Drive at the very least.

Obviously, these signs do not provide the protection that a striped lane would, but just as obviously, these signs are a big move in the right direction. They'll be noticed.

With the exception of Douglas Ave., these roads aren't so busy that striping is very important, at least in my humble opinion. One big problem in nearly all older cities like Kalamazoo is simply the width (or more accurately the lack of width) of the roads and available right-of-way.

A second problem with striping has to do with striping in areas where cars can be legally parked on the street. Does one stripe *under* the areas where cars park? If not, and the stripe is painted further toward the center of the lane, the lane becomes too thin for cars.

To tell you the truth, it is tricky to figure out where to put the routes. There is simply no reason to bother with most side streets. After all, bikes are legal on any unlimited access road. On the other hand, we know all too well the problem associated with riding on narrow streets with lots of traffic.

So these first routes are to help cyclists get from one part of town to another, or to help get out of town entirely. In the future, maybe we can get these routes hooked up to other routes under the control of other area governments (Portage, Township of Kalamazoo, County of Kalamazoo, etc.) to have marked bike routes throughout the more heavily populated areas.

Do you have ideas of where more of these routes should be? I'd be glad to hear from you. Call me at 388-5045, or e-mail me at Kirkdoug@aol.com.

- Doug Kirk

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James Peter
Mark Prairie
John Thome
Sam Watt
Glen Young
Keith Young

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Arthur Albin
Lee Anderson
Judith Beattie
Robert Bell
James & Jacquie Bradford
Dwyn DeSilver
Joe & Julie Dill
Paul Grabowski
Carol Hogan
Stephanie & Robert Kennedy
James Magnuson
Julie May
David May
Kathryn May
Daniel May
Susan Peterson
Barb Reynolds
Jeff Robertson
Arnie Sabatelli
Diana SeEVERS
David Sluyter
Jill Stewart

Shower Power

For years, my take on biking in the rain has been that if it isn't actually raining when I leave, I'll ride even if the sky's looking pretty ominous.

But I wouldn't start a ride in the rain unless I had to. One time I did a 125 miler, and stayed dry the first five minutes.

Then I realized that I finish lots of bright, sunny summer rides just as wet as if I'd ridden across Lake Michigan. I need a shower in the worst way after every ride.

Sweat, water, what's the difference? I'm soaked either way. Actually, sweat's more disgusting—especially if it's someone else's.

Seriously, though, three issues about biking in the rain are vision, staying warm, and dirtying up your bike.

Drizzle, showers, cloudbursts, sprinkles, even plain old steady rain. The bike's gonna get dirty—nothing you can do, but so what? It cleans up, same as you do. Might not be a bad idea if you paid a little extra attention to the trusty old steed anyway.

Third, remember that the road is slipperier-sometimes lots slipperier-when it first starts raining. It will stay that way until it rains enough to wash the oils from the surface.

Which bring us to the vision problem. And it is a problem. Glasses muck up, eye lids squint down, things generally get foggy. The big problem is whether anyone sees you. Being seen is THE problem the rain. Wear bright stuff. Use lights. Stay on lightly used roads. Pray to the deity of your choice.

And when you get home? What else...take a shower.

- Axel Kleat

Big Mac Shoreline Tour

Saturday, September 13th was the date of the Big Mac Shoreline Tour. The day was bright and sunny although repeat riders mentioned it rained the previous two years.

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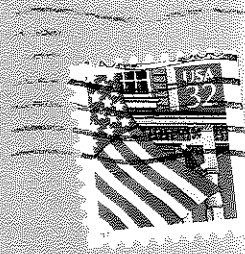
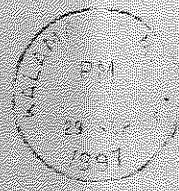
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 Secretary: Joan Root.....323-5343
 Race Team Representative: John Brady.....668-3878

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 Ride Captain: Randy Putt.....649-1814
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 Ride Line: Open
 Weather Line:.....385-2121

KALAMAZOO AREA BIKE SHOPS

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 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 Active Schwinn.....962-7688
 Village Cyclery.....679-4242
 Vorncamp Bike.....344-3599