

## President's Letter

It's time to turn our attention to the upcoming elections. We've had a number of KBC members express an interest in running for the Executive Board. In the President's position we currently have Tom Cross who has shown a desire to fill the head spot of the KBC. Tom was a KBC member for about two years, then due to other circumstances kind of put his involvement on the back burner. He is now back and ready to go with a number of good ideas to help the club. He's enthusiastic and excited and should prove to be an asset to the KBC.

In the Vice President's position we have two KBC members in the running. This position is just as important to the club as the President. The VP works closely on the Flowerfest with the other volunteers and will oversee the entire planning. The first of the two candidates is Richard Walters. Richard has been a KBC member for about four years. He has volunteered his time on Spring Valley and the Flowerfest. He was a ride leader this year on the Tour deGull, which took place on Friday nights.

The second KBC member is Al Cergol. Al has been a KBC member for about six years. Al also has volunteered his time on the Flowerfest. He handled the volunteering and scheduling of the area bike shops that provided SAG support on the Flowerfest. He was also an active participant in the weekly rides throughout the year.

Each one of these KBC members should make their contributions to the Club. We now need a good turnout of the Club members for the elections. The elections will take place on Wednesday November 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the United Way Building on South Westnedge. The United Way Building is located across from the old Central High School. Come on out and show your support for the club and the incoming executive board members.

- Gerry Blohm

## Upcoming Events...

### November

- 12 KBC Meeting, 1998 Elections, United Way Building, 709 South Westnedge, 6:30 p.m.

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## Portage Bikeway Tour

On Sunday Oct 12th, The City of Portage held its second Bikeway Tour starting from the Borgess Woodbridge Facility. Approximately 175 riders enjoyed beautiful weather and a scenic route along Angling Dr. ending with cider, doughnuts & apples. Attended by parents and children, most reported having a good time and thanked the KBC and the City for putting it on again this year.

Several KBC members lent their time. A special thanks to Gerry Blohm, Randy Putt, Al Cergol, Paul Stevens, Zolton Cohen, and Pat Fleck who patrolled the course and helped with registration. Special thanks also to Cycle Works & Sports as well as Breakaway Bicycles for providing SAG service and pumping a gazillion tires.

The event came off without major injuries and was vastly enjoyed. Hopefully we will be able to continue with the Tour next year. Noted was the increased use of helmets by everyone. Very few were seen riding without one. The tour not only gets families out riding but gets some recognition for our club and supports cycling in Portage. Thanks again to all who helped out.

- John Mathieson

## Thanks, Ride Leaders!

Wow, it's November and the road riding season has come to an end. There are no club rides scheduled during the evening until next Spring. It has been a great summer for riding. The three weekly club rides are strong and well attended which is at least in part due to the great job the ride leaders have done.

I would like to thank the ride leaders once again for the great job they have done this year. The following individual led 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 ride leaders the rides would not be successful. If you have any ideas on how the club could improve the ride calendar for the 1998 ride season, please contact me. I will, of course, accept volunteers for leading rides next year at any time.

If anyone would like to lead a weekend ride in November, give me a call or send a description of the ride via e-mail. If the roads are dry, there will be riders ready to ride. I have a lengthy e-mail list of riders, so that ride information can be transferred quickly on short notice. If any of you would like to be added to the e-mail list, send your e-mail address to me (s.randy.putt@am.pnu.com).

- Randy Putt

## Diamonds and Long Stripes

The afternoon of October 23 was cloudy and forty-five degrees when I rode off for an easy ride. As I headed south on Oakland, approaching Howard St., I came up behind a pavement-stripping truck. It smelled of diesel and wet paint and sounded like an air compressor. Oddly, none of the stripes around me were new.

When the light turned green, the truck led me across the intersection and, to my utter amazement, commenced spray-painting a previously non-existent bike lane in Oakland Drive. I was dumbfounded! I followed it south to Chevy Chase, where Oakland crosses the bike route which was signed last month, and the striping stopped.

An hour later, these same folks were painting big white diamonds in the bike lanes on each side. What's more, the City has also put up "Bike Route" signs along this same stretch of Oakland.

I hope you are as happy about these routes as I am.

- Doug Kirk

## November Birthdays

Connie Branch  
Bruce DeDee  
Diana Degen  
Liam Gapp  
Bryan Hageman  
Amiee Hageman  
Sheri Jones  
Nick Kissinger  
Chris Knerr  
Barbara Kreuzer  
Donna McNorton  
Donna Oas  
Amanda O'Leary  
Chris O'Leary  
Jackie Pallister  
Kevin Vonderfecht  
Libbie Wetters  
Ken Whitcomb

## New Members

Kathryn Breese  
Thomas Cross  
Rhonda Cross  
Mathew Gershon  
Casey Gershon  
Richard Gershon  
Brian Gronert  
Eve Gronert  
Mona Gronert  
Beatriz Gronert  
Tom Holmes  
Laurie Holmes  
David Jarl  
John Jones  
Chris Jones  
Tammy Koehler  
Jim Koehler  
Helen O'Leary  
Rick Standish  
Isaac Standish

## Classified

**For Sale:** McLain training rollers, excellent condition, \$100. Call 342-0763.

# Good and Tired

by Axel Kleat

It's October, and all the organized road rides in this part of the world are finished for the year. Heck, the only organized mountain bike ride yet to come is the infamous and sometimes aptly-named Iceman in early November, way up in the north woods between Kalkaska and Traverse City.

I've ridden a lot this year. Oh I know some hardcore type "A" characters make my ride calendar look pretty feeble, but I've done my share of hammering, recovering, drafting, and bonking. I've had a couple of great rides, several really good rides, lots of plain old ordinary rides, and even some awful rides.

I rode through this year's cold, nasty spring, trying to believe that I wouldn't be shaking like a leaf by the end, and telling myself every day that at least it was warmer than last week.

I did my early season miles in the small chainring, working on the spin I'd need my muscles to remember on fast summer rides and fall centuries. Okay, okay, I admit I cheated, and somehow the bike shifted into the big ring a few times when there was a big tailwind on the way home. It wasn't *my* fault. Really! All of a sudden, things felt different, and when I looked down, the chain had mysteriously shifted. Some things just can't be explained.

I did long, slow distance, just like the magazines told me to—six or seven hours in the saddle—imagining last winter's fat melting off my waistline. I have to admit—these were great rides. Just get up early, check the weather to see where the wind's coming up, and ride into it for three or four hours. Eat a couple of *meals* on the way, and everything in sight afterwards.

I hammered all summer with the usual (and some very unusual) suspects on Wednesday nights, taking a turn at the front on occasion when I was strong, getting dropped when I wasn't, and generally marveling at the vague, ill-defined and testosterone-charged rules of the Hammerfest.

I rode in plenty of rain, at least one thunderstorm, and up one wall. I rode over seven sisters, and walked away from a high-speed blow-out. I rode five miles in one hour—on the road—and was proud of my effort. I've had no real injuries, but I've sure felt beaten up a lot—especially on Thursday and Monday mornings!

But now the leaves are well into their fall pastels. Despite the dire warnings, I don't think global warming will keep the snow at bay this year either. Lately the talk is all about *El Nino*, but I'm still not betting on a wet and rainy winter around here. Decent riding days are nearly all used up.

Lately I've actually cut a few rides short. I've been taking more days off, and the recovery rides are getting even slower. I've got to admit it—I'm tired, at least I think I'm tired. But I'm still getting out there, doing what my legs feel like doing, for as long as ever shorter days allow. I'll get a rest soon enough.

But, after all these years, I wonder. Do I truly get tired of riding this time of year? Or does my body sense the changing of the seasons and intuitively know it's time to wind down? Am I turning my leaves—like the birches and maples—*because* the days are getting shorter and colder?

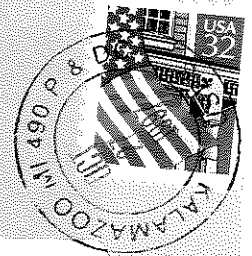
Do I really need the break the changing seasons force on me? Would I keep riding lots of miles if the weather—and daylight--permitted?

I don't know. I figure the best plan to test all this would be to spend the winter someplace like Phoenix, or maybe even Aruba. I talked to Gerry Blohm, but the Prez says KBC can't afford to send me, not even for empirical scientific data collection. Oh well. It seemed a good idea at the time.

One thing I *do* know—it feels great when I've *earned* a rest.



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



**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

Expires 98/02  
 Phil & Jini Caruso  
 2301 Fairfield Ave.  
 Parchment, MI 49004

**KBC OFFICERS**

President: Gerry Blohm.....375-8121  
 Vice President: Open  
 Treasurer: Mike Higgins .....327-0387  
 Secretary: Joan Root.....323-5343  
 Race Team Representative: John Brady.....668-3878

**OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

Database Manager: Jeanette Holm.....385-5052  
 Newsletter Distribution: Open  
 Newsletter Editor: Kathy Barrett .....388-5045  
 E-Mail.....kbarrett@kvcc.edu  
 Ride Captain: Randy Putt.....649-1814  
 Resident Curmudgeon: Axel Kleat .....Unlisted  
 Ride Line: Open  
 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 Active 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