

Pedal Press

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



President's Letter

For the past three months my President's Letter has taken on a particular theme: volunteering. I'm sure you are getting tired of hearing my requests, but let me give you a little insight into the status of the KBC.

We felt the need to add two at-large positions to the Executive Board. These two positions were an Advocacy Director and a Membership Director. For three months we tried to fill these positions. We addressed it in the newsletter, at general membership meetings and made personal phone calls, all with no response.

Apparently, these positions simply will not be filled. As a result, the KBC's support of critical bicycling issues has waned. What's more, our membership has dropped to barely over 100 members.

Our vice-President, Rose McKenna, has officially resigned. Her hard work, dedication and leadership were great assets to the club. She also actively searched for three months for a suitable replacement. Although she had some members consider it, she had no takers.

We are now without a vice-president, as well as the two Board positions which have not been filled.

Another long-time volunteer, Ann Johnson, who has done the ride line for six years has expressed her wishes to move on. Thanks, Ann, for your extended tour of duty. It has been greatly appreciated through the years.

As you can see the KBC is getting shorthanded with no one to fill these positions. It makes it very difficult to run the KBC effectively. The remaining Board will continue to run the club as best as we can but we need your help. We cannot do it alone.

You can make a difference.

- Gerry Blohm

Upcoming Events...

July

- 5 Saturday Family Fun Ride, Schoolcraft, 2:00 PM.
- 12 Bike to Build Tour, Centerville. See Bike to Build article on this page for more information.
- 19 Holland Hundred Bicycle Tour, Holland Cristian High School, starting between 7:00 AM and 11:00 AM. Call 616-738-3163 for more information.
- 20 Flowerfest Bicycle Tour, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, starting between 7:30 AM and 11:30 AM. Call 327-7767 for more information.

Bike to Build

Check out Bike to Build in Centerville on Saturday July 12, 1997. The ride is a fund raiser for St Joseph County Habitat for Humanity with a entry fee of \$20. Day of ride registrations are accepted.

The ride offers routes of 10, 25, 40, and 62 miles with rest stops and refreshments, and lunch at the end of the ride. Call 278-7305 for additional information or check your local bike shop for an entry form.

I am planning to ride from Vicksburg to make this ride into a full century. Centerville is about 20 miles from Vicksburg. If you are interested in riding the century, meet me 7:30 AM at Vicksburg High School on Highway Street ("W" Ave) in Vicksburg.

To reach the high school, take Portage Road south, turn east on "W" Avenue. The high school is one block east of Silver Street on Highway Street ("W" Avenue). For further details call me at 649-1814.

- Randy Putt

Saturday Family Fun Ride with Phil and Jini Caruso

KBC invites you to attend the Saturday Family Fun Ride in July. This ride will be led by Phil and Jini Caruso on Saturday July 5 at 2 PM from Schoolcraft High School.

There will be three loops ranging from 5 to 12 miles. Phil and Jini will ride at about 10 mph and would especially like to invite families and kids to ride. Phil and Jini are experienced riders and great ride leaders. If you have not ridden with a group before, this ride is a great way to start. Mark July 5 on your calendars for the Saturday Family Fun Ride.

- Randy Putt

May KBC Club Meeting Up to Parr

On Thursday, May 15th, the KBC had their general membership meeting at the United Way building. Dave Goldenberg updated us on the status of our annual Flowerfest bicycle tour (which is now combined with the Holland Hundred) and asked for some volunteers for assistance in the planning of this event.

After the business portion was over, many of us (approximately 18 members) were entertained by Scott Parr (who has written a book that will be published soon by VeloNews), a former mechanic for the defunct Motorola racing team and the Coors Light racing team. He gave us some valuable insight in the professional racing circuit and had quite a few experiences to relate. He was there when it happened! He has dealt with the great ones, Andy Hampsten, Davis Phinney, to name a couple.

After his wonderful experiences were told, a raffle was held. Oakley hats were won by Charlie Fuentes, Chris Glass and Dave Goldenberg and a pair of Oakley glasses were won by Mary Rass. You can retire the seventeen year old Oakleys now, Mary!!!

After the raffle, we celebrated Doug Kirk's anniversary of his fortieth birthday. Unfortunately, we don't know which anniversary it is! Overall, it was a great meeting, great birthday party and for those of you who didn't attend, you missed out on a great time.

- Bill Watt

New Members

Lee Anne Atkinson
 Kay Barker
 Sandy Barker
 Jeff Barker
 Adrienne Barker
 Brent Barker
 Lauren Brady
 Jose Luiz Ferraz de Camargo
 Vinicius Camargo
 Maria Rita Camargo
 Ligia Camargo
 Chris Johnson
 Sue King
 Amy Mack
 Angela Schultz
 Christina Thomas
 John Thomas
 Joanne Yancon

July Birthdays

Sandy Barker
 Steve Branch
 Steven Caudill
 Colt Cunningham
 Pat Fuentes
 Tom Gushurst
 Colette Gushurst
 Joan Kramlich
 Justin Machnik
 Roma Mott
 Jonathan Mott
 Josh Muinix
 Don Povendo
 Gary Richardson
 Gary Schlender
 Bill Strome
 Janet Teel
 Steve Vonderfecht
 Kris Walters
 Michelle Wells
 Paul Wells
 Marty Witt

Classified

For Sale: Look Clipless Peddles, model pp75, \$15; New Balance bike shoes size 9, \$5. Call 349-9940 or 552-1040.

Road Kill

by Axel Kleat

Every spring I notice a lot of roadkill out there. Oh sure, it's there all year. But it's worst in the spring.

In the car, I just do my best not to look at it too directly and don't think about it much. Or if I do think about it, I'm glad I'm not the killer.

But on the bike, that stinking, ugly death is a lot more up close and personal. Why, if I roll over that fresh-looking lump in the road up ahead, I might get some rank, foul-smelling possum parts on my downtube, or even worse, my leg!

But I admit that some morbid corner of my psyche makes me take a good look when I pedal past a critter that's been rudely smashed. It's really kind of interesting the thoughts it conjures up.

Frankly, it's surprising there are any possums left. They must breed at an amazing rate. Think they'll ever evolve a better defense mechanism? Playing possum has been a notable failure as far as the automobile is concerned. Skunks don't fare any better.

But besides a certain ugliness that gets worse upon closer inspection, I have noticed that possums generally have fine sets of teeth, often quite visible. I know it wouldn't work on a car, but if a possum switched gears and chased me on my bike, I'd be shifting into the big ring pretty promptly. Same for skunks.

Judging by the numbers, raccoons' plans for dealing with traffic could stand a little work too. Their masks are a nice touch, I admit, but like skunks they need to work on their speed.

No question that coons and possums share the

award for most frequently flattened fauna, but you really see all kinds of critters giving up their lives to internal combustion—chipmunks, squirrels, deer, snakes, dogs, cats, and birds, lots of birds.

The saddest part about all this killing is that, having done the deed, as a driver I just motor on, leaving the victim (maybe not even dead quite yet) behind for further flattening and the inevitable rotting.

It cheapens the value of life. I don't even stop. Never know—might cause a traffic jam or an accident.

Can't really blame me, can you? In the first place, it was just a mistake. Besides, it's really messy, and might not be entirely dead. Then what would I do? Anyway, I'm probably in a hurry, maybe to get to something important, and what would I do with a smashed rabbit anyway?

But the main thing here is that I'm removed from it just because I'm in the car. The glass and metal and engine and tires all combine to make the fact that I just killed an animal for no decent reason at all somehow happen a half-step away from reality.

And there's nothing to be done about it. People will keep driving at any cost. Listening to the radio, talking on cell-phones, or thinking about their love lives, they feel safe because they know that as long as they miss the other cars and keep it between the pavement stripes, God help anything that gets in their way.

Which is why, despite our defense mechanisms, cyclists have got too much in common with possums. To those drivers out there, as bicyclists our lives aren't quite real.

July Rides

by Randy Putt

The weather has finally warmed up. Hopefully the summer weather is here to stay. All evening rides will begin at 6:30 PM in July unless noted otherwise. The Monday night ride has been well attended the last couple of weeks with about 25-30 riders divided among the three groups. The attendance at the Wednesday night ride has been building. The Friday night group has been smaller but no less enthusiastic.

Sunday

The Sunday afternoon ride will continue in July at 1 PM starting at Texas Drive Park as long as the weather cooperates. KBC president Jerry Blohm plans to lead this ride in July, so this is a great chance to come out and meet Jerry. The route is typically 30 to 40 miles at about 17 mph. The length and speed of the ride will depend on the riders that show up. There will be no Sunday ride on July 20 due to the Flowerfest Tour.

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.

1. Mike Higgins will lead a group for about 20 miles at 10-15 mph (the riders present will decide the pace each week).
2. Steve Vonderfecht plans to lead the 16-18 mph group 20 to 25 miles.
3. Paul and Anne Guimond will lead the 19+ mph group for 25 to 30 miles.

Larry Kissinger and John Thome are available to sub for Paul and Anne. We still need some volunteers to sub for Mike, and Steve.

Wednesday

The Wednesday ride meets at Kalamazoo Central HS and consists of two rides. 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.

1. A fitness ride for 10-15 miles on the Kal-Haven Trail

will be lead by Chris Walters. The fitness group has been growing in size. Great job, Chris.

2. In addition to the fitness ride, enjoy the rolling hills of northwest Kalamazoo County for a ride of about 20 to 30 miles at 16-18 mph lead by Charlie Fuentes and Jim Wyrick in July. Bill Watt is available to sub on occasion. We do need additional ride leaders for both group.

Also, 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. This ride is hard and is not suitable for inexperienced riders. There is no designated ride leader and the group typically fragments into smaller groups. 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 for the Tour deGull 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 with assistance of John Thome. Even though this ride can split into more than one group the ride leaders will make sure that all riders finish the ride.

There is a group of Mountain bikers from Battle Creek who meet at 6:30 PM on Thursdays at the trailhead in Fort Custer. This ride is not sponsored by KBC, but I've been told that riders of all abilities are welcome. Call 962-7688 or 1-800-841-9494 for more details.

There is also a group of road riders which usually includes several tandems that meet at Team Active in downtown Battle Creek at 8:30 AM on Sundays. This ride is not sponsored by the KBC, but I've told that it is a fast paced hard ride and is not for beginning riders. Call 962-7688 or 1-800-841-9494 for more details.

- Randy Putt

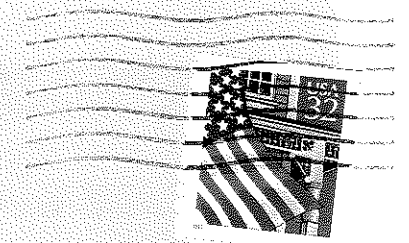
JULY

1997

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



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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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 BOX 50527, KALAMAZOO MI 49005

