

# Pedal Press

The Newsletter of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, Inc.  
November, 1998



## President's Letter

I write this column on the eve of something not seen around here in a while, a KBC sponsored bike race. It's the first ever KBC cyclocross event. Even more exciting than the event itself is that it exists at all. For this thank Chris Barnes. Chris proves what I have been saying since taking office. KBC is what its members make it. Chris wanted to do a cyclocross race, so with some help from club volunteers, Chris is about to pull it off.

Chris wanted the club to be USCF licensed so he did all the work to make the event a USCF event. This earns KBC back its license. Thank you Chris. All you racer types, take note and take a minute to thank him yourself.

I have never done or even thought I wanted to do a cyclocross event until tonight when I was helping set up the course. If I had not volunteered to help with the event I would not have gotten the bug to try it. I once again encourage you as a member to get involved. Pick a club event and volunteer. I'll bet you a Power Bar you'll have fun.

While I'm thinking about it, I wish to thank all the club volunteers for their efforts in making this a great year. I want to thank all the businesses who sponsored KBC and its events. Thanks to El Nino for the great weather. And I would like to thank Geffen records for re-releasing the Tommy Keene CD *Songs From the Film*.

I'm off to my driveway now so I can go practice running dismounts and hurdling obstacles with my bike before tomorrow morning.

- Tom Cross

## November Events

**7th ICEMAN.** The biggest race of the year, Kalkaska to Traverse City, **off-road**. People go back year after year. 616-922-5926

**19th KBC Election/Board Meeting 6:00 pm** at FOA in Oshtemo. Exit I-94 at 9th street. North 1 block, turn left on Beatrice (at McDonalds). Go till it ends, make a right turn into the FOA complex. Turn left at the stop sign. Go in the main entrance there at the top of the hill and we should be in the lobby.

## KBC Ponders Changing Members' renewal Dates

At the October 15 Board meeting, the KBC Board considered changing members' renewal dates so that all memberships expire on the same date each year, tentatively May 31.

By far the biggest problem with the current system is that we have no means to notify members as their memberships run out throughout the year, so we lose members without having the chance to remind them to renew.

The Board noted that a single expiration date would cause some confusion because current members' dues have been paid annually at all different times of year, so some adjustments to the dues price will be necessary on a case-by-case basis, depending on when each membership presently expires. A similar problem arises for new members—who join at all different times of year.

If all memberships expire at the same time, the expiration can be publicized much more effectively for all members—in large print—in the newsletter, which is the best means we have to communicate with all KBC members. The Board is interested in hearing from anyone with any input on this subject.

- Doug Kirk

## Cyclocross Race a Hoot

The Saturday, October 17, 1998 Cyclocross at the Cathedral was acclaimed by all involved to be a big success and a lot of fun. The weather cooperated with a warm, humid day, a little early rain (there **MUST** be mud at a cyclocross, we are informed) and the course was plenty challenging. Much talk was heard about more such events in the future. For race results, see page 3.

- Doug Kirk

## New Pedalpress Editor

Kathy Barrett has reluctantly handed the cleats to the *Pedalpress* to me. It takes a fair amount of time to put the newsletter together each month, and Kathy's been doing a great job for about four years now. She's earned a break.

Kathy's standards for the *Pedalpress*, especially for its format, layout, and proof-reading will be tough to match, so it's a good thing I'll have her looking over my shoulder. As always, the editorial "we" welcome all submissions, the deadline for which remains the 15th each month (this means you too, Al).

The phone number's the same, only the e-mail address has changed: Kirkdoug@aol.com. Comments, input, articles, cartoons, letters, or anything else are always welcome.

- Doug Kirk

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## Cyclocross Race Results

**Men's 35+ USCF Race:** 1st: Nick Durrie; 2nd: Toth; 3rd: Marty Minka; 4th: Phil Cannon; 5th: Paul Pasanen.

**Men's 18 - 34 USCF Race:** 1st: John Meyers; 2nd: Anthony Bruley; 3rd: Adam Watts; 4th: Scott Quiring; 5th: Dan Gillespie.

**Men's Citizen's Race:** 1st: Mark Hendershot; 2nd: Michael Hickner; 3rd Randall Schoberg.

**Women's Citizens and USCF Race:** 1st: Clara Scholl.

**Kids Race:** All entrants are hereby officially declared winners: Julia Bragininni, Lauren Brady, Ally Minka, Steven Barnes, and Betsy Barnes.

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## Portage Bikeway Tour Popular

Sunday October 11, KBC and the City of Portage held the third Bikeway Tour. About 125 adults and children enjoyed near perfect weather to ride one of two routes. There were many repeat riders from previous years, and the tour is gaining some standing in the community

Thanks go out to Al Cergol, Gerry Blohm and Rick Whaley for helping with set up and registration. We hope to continue the event next year using new pathways that are being completed as we go to press.

Serious discussion was overheard about the development and use of bike paths in Portage as well as intersection problems that currently exist. KBC has been offered the opportunity to submit cycling needs in Portage. This seems like a great chance to advocate for cycling facilities in Portage

- John Mathieson.

## November Birthdays

Betsy Barnes  
Sean Bauer  
Kate Beauchamp  
Bruce DeDee  
Diana Degen  
Liam Gapp  
Janice Herrick  
Kathy Hutchins  
Sheri Jones  
Nick Kissinger  
David Lowery  
J. S. McNutt  
James Miller  
Chris O'Leary  
Amanda O'Leary  
Donna Oas  
Victor VanFleet  
Kevin Vonderfecht  
Libbie Wetters

## New Members

Mike Goodrich  
Mary Goodsett  
Roscoe Kennedy  
BeverlyThome

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## Classified

**For Sale: Look pedals** and cleats with Vittoria size 43 1/2 road shoes-(about 10 or 10 1/2). Used one season. Asking \$30.00 Call John Mathieson 329-0692 evenings.

## KBC Election This Month

The KBC Executive Board met on October 15, 1998. The primary purpose of the meeting was to receive nominations for key Board positions—President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Nominated for President was Richard Walter. For Vice President, the nominee was Gerry Blohm, and for Treasurer the incumbent, Mike Higgins, was nominated once again.

The Board—and the entire club—would happily entertain additional nominees for any position.

Only Mike Higgins is an incumbent, although Gerry Blohm has previously served most ably as President.

All KBC members are encouraged to come vote at the next meeting (see Coming Events elsewhere on this page).

We have no nominee for Secretary, and could certainly use one. Is anyone out there willing to take on this position? The record keeping is pretty minimal, and really the main part of the job is attending Board meetings and taking notes.

Anyone who is interested in serving KBC in any of these positions please give me (or any Board member) a call. Our phone numbers are on the back page.

And PLEASE mark your calendar for November 19 at 6:00 pm to come and vote. Make your voice heard. The Board members would be happy to hear from all of you.

- Doug Kirk

## Pregnant Pedal Pusher

Flowerfest participants will recall Karen Kurreck and Julie Hanson, the Saturn racers who took part in the festivities, and also rode the wheels off (and legs and lungs) off several of our fastest riders.

These two accomplished racers also went to dinner with several of us after the Flowerfest ride, and we all felt afterwards that we'd made a couple of friends in the world of serious cyclists.

So a couple of us sent the *Pedalpress* write-up and copies of some pictures of the day to Karen and Julie, who live and train thousands of miles apart (Julie in Colorado and Karen in California).

We recently received a letter from Julie in which, besides thanking us, she admitted that she was three and a half months pregnant when she was here working us over. Julie said she didn't want to mention it because "I didn't want to make a big deal out of it." The baby is due in January.

Julie wants to continue racing, is looking for a sponsor interested in promoting athletes who are mothers, and hopes to rejoin Saturn mid-season.

Meanwhile, Karen Kurreck rode in the Tour de France Feminine for Saturn. I checked the *Velonews* website ([www.velonews.com](http://www.velonews.com)) to see how she did, but could only find the top ten final placings, which, sad to say, included no Saturn or American riders.

Still, just to be there...

I'm still tickled that we had them here.

- Doug Kirk

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**Come to the KBC Meeting October 19th at 6:00 pm to  
nominate and vote for Board members for next year.  
For location and directions, see November Events,  
at the top of page 1.**

## Nowhere

by Axel Kleat

One day last week I had a spare hour to ride in the middle of the day. I live in town, and it takes at least twenty minutes to pedal out where conditions allow distraction-free riding. There wasn't enough time to go for even a decent recovery ride. But it was a nice day, and I knew there wouldn't be many more this year.

So I decided just to ride around the city. Of course, this meant slowing or stopping every few blocks, and since hammering between lots of vehicles and stop signs held no allure whatsoever, I wasn't going to cover too much ground either. Then it occurred to me that there really wasn't any reason to be in a hurry anyway. It's mid-October, the season's almost over. No more tours, criteriums, hammerfests or centurys on my calendar till next year. Just as many unplanned rides as the weather, the daylight and the time allow.

So I just started cruising down side streets, zigging and zagging here and there, taking in the colors and the cool, clear afternoon air. I took a back way through downtown, cruised over by the railroad yard, the bus garage, and the baseball field. I idled past factories, bounced over at least a dozen sets of railroad tracks, and swung up onto sidewalks when it looked like fun.

I rode no-handed just for the fun of it, and I sat up straight and looked all around. I stayed in easy gears, rarely shifted, and coasted whenever possible. Since track-standing still eludes me, I tried to time my approach so I'd hit all the green lights. I'd turn right if I missed a light, just so I wouldn't have to stop.

When I came to side streets, I didn't just look for traffic, I looked to see if there was anything I ought to ride down

and take a look at. I looked at the clouds and thought about how far south in the sky the sun's already gone. I shifted into my biggest gear for a hill, stood, and rocked up it with a cadence of maybe 20, then shifted back to a tiny gear at the top.

When I came to an empty, downhill side street, I swooped back and forth from one curb to the other, over and over, cutting the smoothest, sharpest arcs I could all the way across the road. I put on a jacket because I wasn't working hard enough to stay warm. Good thing I wasn't on my mountain bike, there's no telling what all I might have tried.

I rode past a friend's house, in case he was home, and stopped at the Farmer's Market and bought an apple. I returned without having broken a sweat, having drunk no water at all. I was thoroughly refreshed, felt great, and wondered if I'd burned any calories at all.

Looking back on that ride, I realize it was the sort of ride I'd take when I was 12 years old. Back then, the main idea was just to get out of the house, have some fun, go exploring, or maybe visit a friend or get a bottle of pop. I remember always pedaling with the arches of my feet on the pedals. Us kids knew nothing of pacelines, and ten miles would have seemed absurdly far.

But boy, I loved my \$10 used Schwinn. It was my ticket to freedom. Not that I was going anyplace special, just that I loved being out there. Mom would ask where I was going, I'd tell her nowhere. Youth truly is wasted on the young, but sometimes, when I'm on my bike, I catch a real nice reminder of it.

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## KBC Ride Calendar Kaput 'Till Next Year

By Randy Putt

The 1998 ride season's coming to an end. But it's 9:30 pm and 70 outside. I just returned from the Tour deGull Lake wearing short sleeves and shorts. It must still be summer with lots of riding days left. Realistically, I know the warm days are numbered, so enjoy the nice days as they come. This was the best summer yet for riding. The attendance at the club rides was strong and many new faces have become regulars at the rides.

I want to thank the ride leaders again for the great job they have done this year. Paul Guimond, Mike Higgins, Rose McKenna, Randy Putt, Paul Stevens, Bill Strome, Steve Vonderfecht, Richard Walter, and Mary White led rides all season. Chris Barnes, Kathy Barrett, Gerry Bloem, Al Cergol, Zolton Cohen, Tom Cross, Doug Kirk, Larry Kissinger, Jeff Wetters, and Jim Wyrick also were ride leaders. I'm sure there were others I've forgotten.

They are no regularly schedule rides in November, but the weather will allow some riding. If you would like to lead a ride, give me a call or send me an e-mail (srbike@aol.com) and I'll be happy to send my biking e-mail list. There are always riders ready to go. If you would like to be on the list, send me your e-mail address or call me at 649-1814.

# Biking Through England

by Donna & Renny Oas

*(Continued from October Pedalpress)*

Just a few yards from the Tower Bank Arms pub, we found Esthwaite How Farm House B&B. We stopped there in the morning, and left our bags even though the room wasn't ready. We cycled then for 28 miles without all our extra weight. We rode into Hawk's Head, which is the nicest tourist town we've seen.

We rode to Coniston and then down and up the east side of Coniston Waters. We saw Wildcat Island, and we didn't realize until we read the book, *Footsteps*, that we almost booked a room at Holly How. Its name is now Bank Ground Farm. We did find a 16th century B&B further on called Knipe Ground Farm. It's extremely hilly in this area, but we had a lovely day in Ransome country and managed to dodge the rain.

## Sunday, August 1

Our 16th century house, Knipe Ground Farm, seemed warm and cozy when we booked it because two couples from London were friendly and were drinking tea around a fireplace. Our anticipation of warmth did not materialize.

We cycled to Hawks Head and attended the last part of an Anglican service. We bought lunch provisions and rode up hill to Knipe Ground Farm that was very interesting because of its hand hewn floors and doors, and thick walls. We left our bags in an out building, because the hostess, Mary Dutton, was not going to be in till later. She was at a horse and buggy competition. We biked into Coniston and had lunch at the Black Bull. We looked over the whole town and rode the Gondola, which is supposedly Captain Flint's remodeled houseboat, up and down Coniston Waters.

After 5:00, we visited Holly How Youth Hostel, left our bikes, and hiked up the mountain to Copper Mines Youth Hostel. Both wardens were very friendly and helpful.

We returned to Coniston and then to Knipe Farm for an evening lunch and sherry in front of the fire. Mary is a physical therapist whose school, but had to retire because of poor health.

## Monday, August 2

The day dawned with heavy rain. We thought that since we were staying another day, we'd wait out the rain reading books in front of the fire. No way! Mary made us leave in the driving rain at 10:00 a.m. We walked to Coniston. We thought we'd read and write cards in the library, but when we got there, we found the library is only open on Wednesday.

So, we sat in the Black Bull and read and wrote. In the afternoon, after the rain stopped, we hiked up a mountain, Weatherlam, for 6.5 miles. We walked a total of 10-12 miles. We had wanted to climb Kanchenjunga (Old Man Coniston), but all the locals said it was dangerous when the clouds were obscuring the top. We never did have a day clear enough to climb it. The other mountain was fine, but found some challenging areas where the footing was difficult.

We got back to Knipe Farm about 9:00 p.m., and Mary said she'd begun to worry about us. We didn't feel comfortable here any more since she sent us out in the rain. Drying clothes in this humid climate is always a problem. Mary let me hang them in her kitchen on a line which she had suspended from the ceiling and controlled with a pulley. She complained that my clothes had dripped all over her kitchen.

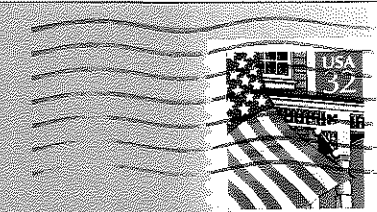
## Tuesday, August 3

We rode 15 miles on the east side of Coniston Waters to Ulverston, as Mary had recommended. It was a fine ride and beautiful country. As we were riding by the Amazon boat house, a woman in her late thirties or early forties ran by in jogging clothes. A row boat with three young people was coming into shore. She ran back to see them, but stopped on her return to say, "They've been camping on the island and I had to see that they were all right." Renny replied, "Better drowned than duffers."

*(To be continued as space allows.)*



**KALAMAZOO BICYCLE CLUB**  
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 Kalamazoo, MI 49005



**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

Expires 99/02  
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 Parchment, MI 49004

**KBC OFFICERS**

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 Vice President: Richard Walter ..... 649-1944  
 Treasurer: Mike Higgins ..... 327-0387  
 Secretary: Angie Jonas ..... 343-1488

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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 Bicycles ..... 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 Phil & Jini Caruso  
 Address 2301 Fairfield Ave  
 City Parchment State MI Zip 49004  
 Phone 381-0135 Birthdate 6-28-39  
 E-mail phillip.caruso@wmich.edu

**Family Member Names**

**Birthdates**

Family Member Names	Birthdates

Signature Phillip Caruso  
 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