


Pedal Press



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

President's Letter

I need some guidance from club members regarding some issues. Number one is the Race Team.

There has been discussion that it may be beneficial to them to act as their own entity. To pursue their own sponsorship, plan their own events, work their own schedule, their own jersey's, etc. I see the benefit in this course of action.

My vision for a race team was any KBC member who wanted to race any type of cycling event and wanted to represent the club was welcome to do so. Anybody wearing our jersey or T-shirt would qualify for a monthly drawing to maybe get the equivalent of the entry fee back.

I would like to see the experienced racers help the newer racers. But I realize training time is at a premium for most competitors so this is not likely to happen. Any ideas?

The second item is jerseys. I spoke with some members and they mentioned \$30 was about the max they could spend on a jersey. I priced jerseys and they are not cheap. Anywhere from \$55 to \$80 each depending on design & volume. The Race Team mentioned they may pursue their own jersey and make them available to the members of the club. Any other suggestions?

The last item is my day job. I have had changes in duties that have put me on the road weeks at a time. I appreciate all patience & independence the club volunteers and committees have displayed.

Call me at home or e-mail me at kbc@kalamazoo.net

- Tom Cross

Upcoming Events...

March

28th Climb Kalamazoo, private climbing-party for KBC members. 6:00 p.m. \$15/person. See article on page 3 for more information.

A Deflating Dilemma

I must be one of the few riders left that ride on sew-ups. One of the reasons that I like to ride on sew-ups is that I ride on road bikes with aluminum frames. You see, aluminum frames tend to be very stiff and unless you have a good fork a lot of road vibration gets sent through to your arms and upper body.

I've read in magazines that clinchers have come a long way and ride as good as sew-ups. Well I ride clinchers on one of my road bikes and sew-ups on the other and the difference is like night and day. Those sew-ups are like the Michelin's in steel belted radials. I can feel the difference in the ride and have less body fatigue on the sew-ups.

All of this brings me to one particular problem that I haven't been able to solve with any great deal of success. Fixing a flat on a sew-up. This requires a lot of time and, I'm convinced, luck in finding and then repairing the leak.

If there is anyone out there that has mastered this technique and can lend a helping hand, my growing pile of sew-ups and I would greatly appreciate a hands-on training exercise in the art of Sew-up Repair 101. Give me a call, but let the phone ring a couple of times. It may take me awhile to answer. I've got to fight through all those blasted sew-ups! 375-8121.

- Gerry Blohm

1998 Flowerfest Ride Update

With winter a non-event (so far), the new riding season coldly beginning and spring just over the next snow pile, your Flowerfest committee wishes to acknowledge the following corporations who have generously agreed to support your Club's 1998 Flowerfest Tour: Bronson Hospital, Flowserve, Meijer, Physicians' Health Plan, and Saturn of Kalamazoo.

Continuing sponsorship will be provided by the following good folks, we all know so well: The Bryer Patch, Mackenzies Bakery, Subway, Kalamazoo Radio Club, Alfred E. Bike, Breakaway Bicycle, Cycle Works, Prosport, Schwinn Stores, and Village Cyclery. Please remember these fine people the next time that you are shopping for a product or service.

We have some news to pass along this year about one of our new sponsors. Please keep it to yourself, but word has it, from a reliable source that Saturn Race Team Riders will be joining us at the Flowerfest Ride. Remember to keep this news among club members, we wouldn't want this info to get out in the community, would we! More details will follow.

Speaking of sponsors, we have a sponsorship challenge of sorts from the Eaton Corporation in Galesburg. Eaton has agreed to help with ride sponsorship, based on the level of participation by their employees in your club events, like Flowerfest. So, if you know Eaton employees who have always wanted to join KBC and ride Flowerfest, NOW's the time to have them call our ride info line, 343-2288. Or better yet recruit them yourself.

Our graphics designers are hard at work on the ride poster and registration forms mentioned in the last update. Completion is scheduled for the end of March with distribution beginning in April. To make Flowerfest 1998 the quality ride we have all come to expect, we need your help with poster distribution around the community. Please give any of the Flowerfest committee members a call or leave a message on the club info line; 343-2288. Please help out, it's fun, plus you will have plenty of time to ride your bike when the weather breaks and all the work is finished. Remember to mark July 19 on your calendar for the KBC's Flowerfest Ride. Stay tuned for news about Flowerfest activities.

KBC Flowerfest Ride Coordinators,

Rick Whaley - 329-1285
Paul Stevens - 324-9024
Al Cergol - 375-3786

March Birthdays

Adrienne Barker

John Brady

Mike Claffey

Chad Cunningham

Chris Cunningham

Dan Degen

Alfred Gemrich

Brian Gronert

Eve Gronert

Jeanette Holm

Laurie Holmes

Terry Jackson

Kathy Johnson

Susan Kissinger

Rose McKenna

Juliette Mott

Christina Thomas

John Thomas

Heather Whitcomb

Jim Wilson

Go Climbing

By special arrangement, KBC has reserved Climb Kalamazoo for KBC members only on Saturday night, March 28th, 1998 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The cost will be \$15.00 per person including instruction.

We need a minimum of 17 people to make it happen, so please contact me as soon as possible. This ought to really be fun, so if you're at all interested in climbing, give me a call. My phone number is 375-0530.

- Tom Cross

KBC in Cyberspace

Yes, KBC now has an e-mail address to stick it in your address book so you can contact the Prez, or whoever else is checking the mail that day: kbc@kalamazoo.net

Even more exciting, the KBC *webpage* is nearly up and running. We hope to be able to give you all the details next month. If you are at all familiar with the internet and the idea of webpages, the increased communication a webpage should provide will be a fantastic benefit to the club.

Posting rides, dates, results, needs, etc. will be great. Imagine getting up some sunny morning, wanting to go for a ride, and being able to check your computer to see who you might hook up with!! Stay tuned...

- Doug Kirk

Wind

*Wind,
Blows a certain way.
When head on,
Can make for a long day.*

*Wind,
Sweeps through the street.
If at your back,
Oh, what a treat.*

*Wind,
Blows the willows from the tree.
Into my eye,
Great, now I can't see.*

*Wind,
Feels good when its hot.
On a still day,
Then good it's not.*

*Wind,
Makes it hard to hear.
Upcoming cars,
You want to beware!*

*Smelly Wind,
Is what one might pass.
This, you may want to avoid,
But don't ride up on the grass!*

- The Pedaling Poet

Fast Rides

Not mentioned in our trusty Ride Captain's article are the fast Sunday rides (20 + mph) that have already begun this year. In fact, the weather has been so cooperative that we've had great turn outs—over a dozen riders—each of the first three weeks in February. Each ride has been at least 60 miles! Not too shabby for February!

The rides have been departing the D & W grocery store at the corner of Parkview and Oakland at noon and are populated by a loosely knit group I call The Usual Suspects. In general, these are the same people who show up for the Wednesday Night Hammerfest (which will commence with daylight savings time at 5:30 or 6:00 at Central High School on Drake Road.) Times and locations may change, so you just have to call up some riders (like me at 388-5045) to see.

This Sunday ride and the Hammerfest are *not* sponsored by KBC, a result of a perception by the KBC Board that these rides aren't all that safe. Twenty or thirty of this area's strongest riders strongly disagree. These rides are hard, and you may get dropped maybe a long way from home. Still, they're great fun and a tremendous workout, and the strongest riders in the area are happy to let you sit in as long as you can. **Decent pack-riding skills are a must.**

- Doug Kirk

March Rides

It's early February and the roads are mostly dry, so, of course, my thoughts have been on riding. I have been out riding a few times this month and it felt great to be on the road again. Could Spring be just around the corner? The Club hopes to offer at least a partial weekly ride schedule in April as the weather permits. Look for details in the April Newsletter. We plan to continue the Monday, Wednesday, and Friday rides for the 1998 season.

The Monday Recovery Ride at Texas Drive Park will provide three ride leaders which should provide a pace (15-20 mile group at 10-15 mph, 20-25 mile group at 16-18 mph, and the 25-30 mile group at 19+ mph) to suit riders of all abilities.

The Wednesday ride meets at Kalamazoo Central HS. This ride consists of a fitness ride at 10-15 mph and a 16-18 mph group.

The Friday ride meets at Billy's Bike Shop in Galesburg for the Tour deGull Lake and the pace varies depending on who shows up. The route for this ride is well established so the ride leader job is easy.

Even if Mother Nature is only teasing, think Spring and cycling. If the weather is cooperative, plan to meet at Texas Drive Park at 11 a.m. on Saturdays and at 1 p.m. on Sundays in March for impromptu rides. If anyone is interested in helping lead these weekend rides in March, please give me a call.

We need additional ride leaders for all of the weekly rides, so please consider being a ride leader for a week, a month, the season, or any combination of the above. No experience is necessary, just the willingness to ride with a great group of people who enjoy riding their bikes. Please give me a call at 649-1814 to volunteer or to get more information about being a ride leader. Hope to see you on the road this month.

- Randy Putt

Accupuncturist nixes KBC

Your faithful editor has been informed by the Prez, Tom Cross, that a local accupuncturist declined the opportunity to speak to our club, possibly fearful that Axel Kleat would show up.

Kleat, apparently on needles and pins over the exchange, and never one to mince words, responded sharply, "So, what's the point?"

- Doug Kirk

Kalamazoo Bike Plan Update

Regular readers may recall that the City of Kalamazoo obtained a grant totaling \$120,000 for the purpose of developing a plan for non-motorized transportation in the City and also leading to important destinations outside Kalamazoo.

A committee already exists, and a planning corporation with lots of experience in this area, Bicycles &, from Illinois is already at work.

Steve Vonderfecht, Dave DeRight, Joan Orman and I are representing the interests of serious bicyclists and KBC. The idea here is to foster routes and plans to make Kalamazoo more friendly for bicycling.

So, got suggestions? Places bike routes ought to be? Ideas on how to improve what we have? Give me a call—tell me about it.

At the last meeting we were literally using six foot square maps of the city and drawing where bike routes ought to be, and where biking is hopeless.

The City Fathers are listening to one extent or another, and we are the voice. What would you like me to tell them? Call me at 388-5045.

- Doug Kirk

Testing 1,2,3

by Axel Kleat

A well-known local cycling-oriented party-animal recently suggested that I evaluate bicycling components and report the results in this space. In other words, do road tests! I liked the idea right from the start, and it's been growing on me ever since.

His suggestion was, I'm sure, motivated by his strong belief in my truthfulness, honesty, and journalistic integrity—not to mention my keen perceptiveness and wide-ranging knowledge of all phases of the sport and equipment of bicycling.

So let me begin a new element for my monthly KBC missives by soliciting from all area bike shops—you know who you are—only the finest accessories and equipment for my truthful, and penetrating appraisal here in the KBC *Pedal-Press* in the sprightly prose associated with this column.

But the more I think about it, the more I wonder, why should I limit my self to testing equipment? Why not test whole bikes, too? Certainly this would be an added service to the KBC membership.

You have my word I'll really *use* the stuff. Neither rain or sweat nor hunger nor hills shall deter my efforts to bend, crack, grind up or otherwise wear out the finest products I receive.

It is fortunate, I think, that KBC finances foreclose any possibility of compensation to manufacturers or dealers for the schwag—er, equipment to be evaluated. Eliminating payment for the goodies we'll test insures total lack of bias, not to mention any unseemly appearance of a conflict of interest. It also means I get to ride a

lot using all sorts of cool new stuff that I don't have to pay for.

I vow that I shall faithfully report all the great features and gee-whiz technology in everything I evaluate, not to mention every aggravating, disappointing or dangerous problem or failure. What's more, as an added bonus, the manufacturer (or competitor!) can arrange, for a small honorarium (payable in advance to A. Kleat Enterprises), to use my scintillating prose in their future sales literature.

Think about it: those shiny, full color magazines are full of big, expensive ads paid for by the very manufacturers whose products they test. You don't suppose any of that ad money pays for the tester's job—even his or her wages, do you? Was Tullio Campagnolo Italian????

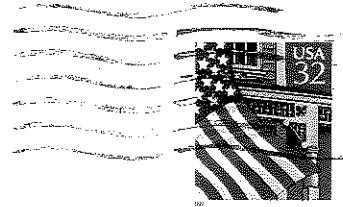
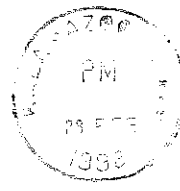
How dumb do they think we are? No wonder practically everything those fancy, dollar-driven magazines test sounds like the best thing since sliced bread! But from now on, you can get the straight poop right here—just as soon as I get some goodies to thrash, er test.

So all you manufacturers, dealers, suppliers and entrepreneurs out there, submit your hottest stuff to me, care of this *Newsletter*. Let's start seeing how good—or bad—your (or your competition's) stuff really is!

Understand that I undertake this massive burden solely for the benefit of you, the loyal reader (you must be loyal if you got this far)! You can only imagine the degree of personal sacrifice this service will require, but I vow to persevere.



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



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Expires 99/02
Phil & Jini Caruso
 2301 Fairfield Ave.
 Parchment, MI 49004

KBC OFFICERS

President: Tom Cross 375-0530
 Vice President: Richard Walter 649-1944
 Treasurer: Mike Higgins 327-0387
 Secretary: Angie Richman..... 353-3752

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Database Manager: Jeanette Holm..... 385-5052
 Flowerfest Co-Directors: Rick Whaley 329-1285
 Paul Stevens..... 324-9024
 Al Cergol..... 375-3786
 Info Line:..... 343-2288
 Newsletter Distribution: Gerry Blohm..... 375-8121
 Newsletter Editor: Kathy Barrett 388-5045
 E-Mail..... kbarrett@kvcc.edu
 Ride Captain: Randy Putt..... 649-1814

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