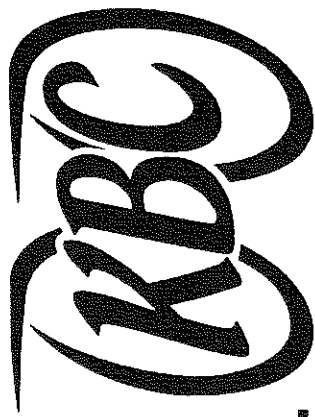


Pedal Press



The Newsletter of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, Inc., December, 1999

www.angelfire.com/mi/kbc/

President's Letter

This is my last "President's Letter" column. I should be saying good luck to our next president here but as I write this we don't have a president for 2000. Several good people stepped forward and are on the board of directors and will do a great job in supporting roles. I am also staying on as the Board's Flowerfest Committee representative. What we really need though is a leader.

When I took the job last year I had in mind all sorts of big plans. Some got done, most didn't. I would guess that is pretty normal when you serve for only one year. I thought, and still do, that the Club should have more community involvement. It does seem though that the majority of Club members just want to ride bicycles. Both goals are good, I just think the Club needs to make a conscious decision on which way it is going to go. The Flowerfest tour is a good money raising event, bringing in a significant amount of money that can be reinvested in the community. Our new program of refurbishing used bicycles and donating them to needy people and organizations is one way of reinvesting that money.

The next president will decide the fate of our bicycle program and how much more or less community involvement we have. I think the future of the Flowerfest tour will also be decided in 2000. Will it continue to grow, will it get scaled back, or eliminated all together?

Let me mention some of the plans I had in mind a year ago. I wanted to see the Pedal Press grow with fitness articles, bike maintenance tips, race results of Club members, and personal stories. I also wanted to see more weekend rides. Small group rides to neighboring towns would make for great Saturday morning rides. How about more after-ride socialization? More after-ride drinks like we had on some Friday nights would tend to invite socializing and maybe make people ride more as a group, rather than as part of a race.

I pass these ideas and comments along as way to prod the Club in the direction I would like to see it go. The next president will be to give the Club a push in the direction he wants it to go. Always remember though that you, the Club members, decide the Club's direction by participating. Tell the President what you would like to see. Start a ride, or volunteer to bring snacks to a ride (the Club will pay). Do something, just don't let the Club coast along like it is.

- Richard Walter

Coming Events

December 14: KBC General Membership Meeting, 6:30 pm at the United Way Building, 709 S. Westnedge. **Christmas Goodies Provided!!**

Party Party Party

The Annual KBC Winter Recovery Party is Saturday, January 22, 2000 at 6:00 pm at the University Roadhouse, 1332 W. Michigan Ave.

KBC provides refreshments, and some dandy goodies we give away. We'll give out annual awards, some vaguely humorous. Besides, you can visit with all your biking buddies you haven't seen since winter showed up.

This is a great time to meet and talk with the KBC Board members, float ideas for the Y2K riding season, and generally have a great time. It's FREE, so mark your calendar!!!

Flowerfest Sponsors Wanted

The Flowerfest committee is looking for new sponsors. Do you work for a company that has ties to sports in general, or has sponsored other community events? Do you know of a company that might make a good sponsor? All ideas are welcome. Please contact a board member or Flowerfest committee member. Our phone numbers are on the back page of this and every issue of *Pedal Press*.

KBC Member Mike Jones Learns to Read *Pedal Press*—Or Else

KBC Elects New President, Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer

Those of you who regularly read the Pedal Press might recall that last month's issue warned of a by-law in the KBC Constitution that authorized the election of KBC members who are not present at the annual election meeting to positions on the KBC Board.

Mike Jones, that happy, smooth-talking fellow many of you know who is equally adept (and fast) on road and mountain bikes, failed, refused, and/or neglected to appear at the November 16th election meeting—which was trumpeted across these pages for months previously—and had the good luck to be nominated and voted in as the new KBC President.

When asked for a victory speech, or at least a comment on his good fortune, Mike apparently forgot that this is a family-oriented club, so sorry, Mike, but we cannot possibly publish words like that here. It's sufficient to say that Mike will be making a far greater effort to attend future KBC meetings, which is a good thing because the President ought to be present if at all possible.

The election meeting also produced the first tandem in memory on the Board, as Richard Walter and Doug Kirk agreed to split the Vice-President's duties, much to the relief of the voters in attendance, who were thereby deprived of having to make a difficult choice (that is, who else to vote in since neither Richard nor Doug (who were there to defend themselves) would agree to do it on their own.

Zoltan Cohen ran a fine, issue-oriented campaign, scrupulously avoiding the mud-slinging and character-assassination rhetoric which has all too often marred previous KBC elections, and now finds himself in the enviable position of Secretary. Zoltan, get those minutes to the Editor around the 15th each month, please.

Finally, Paul Stevens convinced those in attendance that the money-laundering, illegal campaign contribution, and tax-vasion charges levied against him by certain KBC rabble rousers and mal-contents are wholly without merit. Paul's eloquent defense, combined with the fact no one else would admit to any accounting accumen whatsoever, garnered yet another term for him as KBC treasurer.

Those present also agreed to have the annual Recovery Party January 22, 2000 at the University Roadhouse (See page 1). We figured that most of the Y2K problems with beer kegs and taps ought to be sorted out by then, and anyway, the VASA ski race (of interest to quite a few KBC members) is the previous Saturday.

Finally, it does appear that KBC is acquiring somewhere between 6 and 10 bicycles in need of some TLC, which the club will arrange and/or pay for. The bikes will then be donated to one or more charitable local causes such as Lakeside Boys and Girls Home, Boy/Girl Scouts, or Big Brothers/Big sisters. If you have other suggestions, contact Richard Walter at 649-1944.

- Doug Kirk

December Birthdays

George Boulding

Wiley Boulding

Al Cergol

Charles Crawford

Beatriz Gronert

Paul Guimond

Sherry Higgins

Mike Jones

Dan Kallewaard

Dale Krueger

Amy Lehman

Jeff Miller

Barbara Miller

Greg Petty

Nancy Reynhout

Lindsey Scribner

Holly Scribner

Paul Family

Beverly Thome

Karen Williams

New Members

Charles Miller

Jeff Miller

Kerry Miller

Nancy Summers

Fort Markin Followup

After last month's article about a mountain bike trail being developed at Markin Glen Park, we've heard some positive stuff.

From Dave DeBack, I learned that Bob Gregerson, Director of Parks for Kalamazoo County, is definitely interested, but is concerned that hikers/walkers still have good trails also. Mr. Gregerson feels that a mountain bike trail could get a lot more people into the park, which is, after all the main idea from the County's point of view.

Deback and Joan Orman both point out that numbers from Fort Custer apparently show a dramatic increase in use of that park after the mountain bike trails were developed and I THINK Joan is trying to get numbers about this to present to the County.

Joan also knows some important folks at MMBA (Michigan Mountain Bike Association) who have lots of experience laying out trails, and who we might get involved. All I know is that there's a dandy, big hillside there and a fine short-to-medium length trail sure looks doable to me, and I think it would be great for KBC and biking in general if Fort Markin happens.

- Doug Kirk

Expiring Members

Ex KBC secretary Barb Saula pointed out that these people aren't actually expiring—no funerals are planned! But a bit of their life energy might disappear if they don't renew. Remember, friends don't let friends expire! Remind them to send in their dues instead!

Greg and Jennifer Bouwman
Kim Cameron
Chuck Jaqua
Sandy Kimbrough
Mary White Family

December Rides...Maybe

Now and then a suitable riding day comes along, even in December. 30 to 60 mile rides have been leaving KVCC in Oshtemo at noon on Sundays in November, and will continue when weather permits. Even though we have no scheduled rides, if the roads are dry, there will be riders ready to ride. There are several ways to notify KBC members of an impromptu ride:

1. call me or send me a description of the ride via e-mail and I will send an e-mail to my list and will get the ride description on the ride line,
2. leave a message on the ride line, 343-2288,
3. call all your riding buddies and have them call their riding buddies,
4. call the ride line to check on upcoming rides.

Be sure to provide your name, location of the ride, time to meet, and brief ride description in your phone or e-mail message. If you have other means of ride notification let me know.

I have a lengthy e-mail list of riders and the ride line is available, so the ride information can be transferred quickly and on short notice (a couple of days is preferred). If any of you would like to be added to my e-mail list, send your e-mail address to me (sterling.r.putt@am.pnu.com).

- Randy Putt

Ride Leaders Needed For Y2K

We have had great turnouts for the rides this year. Since the groups have been so large, up to 40 riders at times, it is difficult for one ride leader to handle the entire group. We often could use more than one ride leader per ride group.

I encourage riders who have participated in the rides this year to volunteer to lead rides next year. This can be either regular rides, or special/occasional rides you decide to do, like the tandem-only rides, the ride around Kalamazoo County, or anything else you want to put together. We could use some additional leaders. Many of the 1999 season ride leaders have been leading for several years and often lead the rides all season. A few KBC members end up doing all the ride leading, but there's just no reason for this. Ride leading is easy and fun.

Although we all enjoy leading rides, it is nice to show up and just ride sometimes. If people would take turns leading, it would be a big improvement. Routes for most of the ride nights are well established, so making up maps is a snap. If you want to have a ride of your own, just get us the information and we'll publish the information.

We do need your help. No previous experience is necessary to become a ride leader. Please give Randy Putt a call at 649-1814 or send an e-mail to sterling.r.putt@am.pnu.com to volunteer or to get more information on being a ride leader.

Coast to Coast 2000

By Darrell Davies

West coast to east coast, west coast to Estes Park, CO., or the Mississippi to the East Coast on your bike. Which one appeals to you? KVCC is having a bike trip that is three trips in one!

For those of us who have always wanted to do the real thing, a 35 day itinerary is routed from Solana beach, CA. To Virginia Beach, VA. May 29 through July 7, 2000. If it is a shorter (16 days) mountainous challenge you want, the trip from Solana Beach to Estes Park will get your quads pumped. If it is the heritage of the colonial east coast you seek, then Keokuk, IA. to Virginia Beach will be your preference.

Paul Millikan and I are reviving an old KVCC bike trip tradition begun in 1973 with the college's first trip to and from KVCC and Beaver Island, MI. Since that time Paul and I have logged many miles both inside and outside U.S. borders. Most recently we biked from Nashville, TN to KVCC in June 1999. We both went coast to coast in 1976. The college decided that another coast to coast bicycle trip would be a good millennium project celebrating the college experience in a non-traditional manner.

The cross country route will be 3,170 miles averaging about 90 miles per day with full sag wagon support. Cyclists can choose our chartered, sleeper bus transportation to California and back from Virginia or find their own way out and back at their own expense. Geographical highlights of the trip include eleven Rocky Mountain passes, Grand Canyon, Rocky Mountain National Park, Prescott National Forest, Anzo-Borrega California Desert State Park, Colonial Williamsburg, Fredericksburg, and

the sand hills of Nebraska. The western option is the "high" part part of the trip reaching 13,000 feet at Rocky Mountain National Park. The eastern option will interest those history buffs who also like the lower and shorter 13% grade hill country in Maryland and Virginia.

All food except for 5 days is provided as are overnight accommodations in our sleeping vehicles. Motels will be used once each week along the way. The cost for the coast to coast trip will be approximately \$1,200.00 plus 8 hours of college tuition (at in-district rates that would be an additional \$336.00). That includes transportation to and from California and Virginia and Kalamazoo. This is a bargain when compared to commercially available trips (i.e. Adventure Cycling) costing up to \$3,700.00 which doesn't include the transportation. Costs and travel arrangements will vary for the partial trip options.

I can speak from experience, if you think you want to do this kind of thing or if you have ever thought you wanted to do it, you should. I vowed after my first coast to coast trip that if I ever had the opportunity again I would not pass it up. I can tell you it is an experience of a lifetime. This is a legitimate challenge, that when completed, will give you a tremendous sense of pride of accomplishment that is hard to find elsewhere. We are taking reservations now. Please call me, Darrell Davies at 616-372-5355 or email me: ddavies@kvcc.edu. I look forward to being with you at the top of "our world" in Rocky Mountain National Park. Look for a presentation about the trip at a future KBC meeting. See you there.

Classified Ads

McClain rollers for sale in very good condition. You even get an extra belt. Asking \$65. Contact John Mathieson (jspokes@net-link.net) or call 320-0692 in the evening.

Cannondale Road Bike for sale.- 60cm, 3.0 frame with Ultegra components. Very good condition. \$ 570 or make an offer. John Thome, 668-2409.

Portage Bikeway Ride Report

Thanks to all who came out on Oct 10th to support the Portage Bikeway Ride. We had a beautiful day, but rider turnout was down this year to 96 people. We have rationalized that clouds early in the day discouraged many other riders. The folks that did show up though had a good time in spite of some construction obstacles along the way.

Special thanks go out to Doug & Evan Willams who manned the registration table. Thanks to Al Cergol, Paul Stevens, Gerry Blohm, and Terry O'Connor. Thanks also to Ron & Laurie Doering for manning the Shaver Road chicane. The City of Portage also thanks all of you helping out.

- John Mathieson

I Wonder

by Axel Kleat

I've been pondering some difficult questions this fall. If you think you know the answers, would you please let me know? Call the Editor (his phone number is on the back page), and he'll get you in touch with me.

Everyone I talked to who did The Iceman complained about the sand—lots and lots of it, and apparently more each year. Frankly, this isn't very surprising. The ground's pretty sandy up there, and a few bazillion bikers, hikers, skiers and who knows who else beating the same path is going to have a pretty predictable result. We see the same thing around here at Fort Custer and Yankee Springs, where some of the climbs are covered with rubber mats.

I'm reminded there's a reason why they started paving roads in the late 1800's—the ground just couldn't possibly stand up to the traffic. Now it looks like we have the same problem in areas developed specifically for off-road use. (Did you know the original national bicyclists' organization, the League of American Wheelmen, had as its primary objective getting more roads paved to facilitate bicycling? Riding was nasty on roads dotted with horse droppings and rutted by skinny old wagon wheels. Looks like we've come full circle.)

Is real off-road mountain biking sustainable, or will the strain of so many cyclists on relatively few trails be more than Mother Nature can stand? When all's said and done, are roads and groomed trails (like the Kal-Haven Trail) where the lion's share of our miles will have to be ridden?

I've gotten pretty good at dressing for rides in forty or fifty degree weather. It's basically educated guessing and practice. Two keys are just how hard I'm going to ride, and the "ten minute rule," which is to dress so that you're comfortable after riding ten minutes. You should be chilly at the start. This year, I've found that arm-warmers and a headband are a big help. I can wear the arm warmers down around my wrists, then pull them up if I need to. A headband makes a remarkably big difference, and takes up practically no space in a pocket.

I've also found that it's a great idea to have a windbreaker in my pocket and not on my back at the start of the ride

when I'm full of energy. I just might want some extra warmth in the worst way in a couple of hours, when I've used up a bunch of energy and the sun's competing with the thermometer to see which one can drop faster.

But what I can't figure out is why I get cold *after* the ride. Even if I dress just right and stay comfortable the whole time I'm out there, why do I get cold when I'm back in the nice, warm house, taking a hot shower and drinking hot drinks? Sometimes I'm cold for hours after a ride when I was warm when I first got home. Why?

The lakes are drying out this fall, there's been so little rain. Long Lake has become a pond. The once big ponds on 8th Street look so much like fields it's hard to tell they were ever wet. There's an island on Bankson Lake that never was there before, and Whites Lake is less than half its usual size. The dry weather's been great for end of the season riding, but even I'll have to admit some rain would be a good thing.

What happens to all that water, anyway? Sure it evaporates, but then where does it go? Did it rain into the ocean, or is it floating in some gray November clouds that blew around to the other side of the world? Are the lakes in South America really high to compensate?

Those lakes had fish, too. What happens to the fish? Are they all huddled tightly together in the tiny ponds that remain? Do they get on each other's nerves and whack one another in the face with their fins because they're packed in like—well—sardines? What about the lakes that have dried up entirely—did the fish swim around in smaller and smaller circles till there wasn't enough water for their gills? And did they all then flop around and slowly die so that if we looked we'd find fish skeletons in the dry lake beds? Talk about a rotten end to your summer...

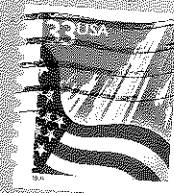
One thing's for sure. If we get the precipitation we're behind from the summer and fall as snow this winter, we're going to have a lot of days off this winter to dig out.

New Bike Shop Opens Here

The Pedal Press received an announcement that a new bike shop has opened in town, **Freedom Recreation**, 6101 W. KL Ave., Kalamazoo, MI. 49009; 616-381-7233. Stop in.



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



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Expires 2000/02

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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

Rider Category: Fitness () Casual () Competitive ()

SEND TO: KALAMAZOO BICYCLE CLUB, PO BOX 50527, KALAMAZOO MI 49005