

# Pedal Press



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

[www.angelfire.com/mi/kbc/](http://www.angelfire.com/mi/kbc/)

## President's Letter

In March and April the Club had two great meetings. In March, Dr. Jim Souers told us of his trip across the country a few years ago. It was a first rate presentation with lots of great pictures, commentary, and stories. Then in April we were at the Portage Library as part of their Wanderlust lecture series. We had fine speakers representing the Club. I want to thank Dave Sluyter and Jill Stewart, Doug Kirk, Renny and Donna Oas, and Dr. Souers. The talk at the library presented the club to the public in a very good way. I am disappointed though that these talks weren't better received by Club members. At the March meeting there were about 8 members present and in April only 5 members showed up (there were 20 other people from outside the Club). Several of us worked hard to put these meetings together and it is disappointing that it didn't go over better with our fellow club members.

The Club needs volunteers and spirited participation on a weekly basis to grow. We can survive as a group of people who just get together to ride but wouldn't it be more fun to promote bicycling and help out the community? We have three more public service commitments coming up soon (see articles elsewhere in the Pedal Press). We are having a difficult time finding volunteers and generating enthusiasm for these events and the Flowerfest Tour in July. We have already turned down a number of other events just because we can't handle the number of requests we get for support.

For the Club to grow and prosper we need your help. What can we do to get you interested? What sort of events would you like to see the Club promote or support? There are a number of community events that we could do if we had the people and a number of different rides we can do so everyone gets a chance to ride. If we have a large group of volunteers for the Celery Flats event we could do something wonderful for the community and ourselves. If you have any ideas please give me a call. My phone number is on the back page. We can make the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club something special if we try.

- Richard Walter

## Coming Events

**May 2: Safe Kids Coalition Bike Rodeo** at Home Depot (See page 3.)

**May 2: Blossomtime Metric Century**, Berrien Springs. 25, 37, & 62 mile routes through Berrien County's fruit trees. Call 616-684-4621 [www.blossomtime.com](http://www.blossomtime.com)

**May 6: Grattan Race Series** begins, Thursdays through August 26. Bicycle racing on a closed race track northeast of Grand Rapids. Call 616-241-1969.

**May 6: Bicycle Maintenance Class**. Portage Public Library, 7:00 p.m. Free for KBC members. See page 7.

**May 8: Kal-Haven Trail Blazer XV**. Kalamazoo Central High School. Ride the trail or the roads to South Haven and back. Routes from 25 to 100 miles. 616-657-3232.

**May 20: Women's Rides** begin Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. at the KVCC parking lot, west end. See page 8.

**June 5: 100 Grand** 30 to 100 mile routes between Grand Rapids and Grand Haven. A popular, relatively flat tour. 616-752-8123.

## KBC on the World Wide Web

KBC is now on the World Wide Web at [www.angelfire.com/mi/kbc/](http://www.angelfire.com/mi/kbc/). We hope to develop the site to provide more and more useful information about KBC and bicycling, and to provide links to other bicycling resources. The web pages have been established in conjunction with KBC's e-mail address, which is:

[kalamazoo.b.c@juno.com](mailto:kalamazoo.b.c@juno.com). I will be the KBC WebMaster. So, head to <http://www.angelfire.com/mi/kbc/> and mark it as a favorite. If you have KBC information or comments regarding the KBC web site, please send them to me at [kalamazoo.b.c@juno.com](mailto:kalamazoo.b.c@juno.com).

- Larry D. Kissinger

## 1999 Flowerfest Tour, May Update

The spring riding season is in full bloom, which means that Flowerfest is only *two and a half* months away, Sunday July 18. You should have received your 99 Flowerfest Tour registration form. If not, please contact any of the committee members or call the KBC info line, 343-2288, for details. For all new members, the Flowerfest Tour is your Club's annual fund raiser, a terrific time, super prizes to boot.

Speaking of prizes, don't forget about our sponsors mentioned in the April Pedal Press update. We have a full page logo collage for all the Flowerfest sponsors on page 6. Remember, the **Prize Drawings For Pre-registered Riders**, include a Grand Prize of TWO Airline Tickets. Thanks to United Express in Kalamazoo & United Airlines in Chicago for teaming up to provide a lucky winner with tickets to fly. So register before July 1 to qualify.

Hats off to KBC members who have helped with Tour publicity. A special thanks to Zolton Cohen, for the great photograph and poster design that you see around town. Also to Jeanette Holm, for keeping our mailing data base current. A special note of thanks to the fine folks at Megee Printing, on South Edwards Street, for printing the registration form.

We could also use your help getting the word out about the Flowerfest Tour. If you plan to visit any of the upcoming area rides or races, simply drop off 15 or 20 Flowerfest Tour registration forms at the event registration area. Remember, Flowerfest is the annual fund raiser for KBC, its proceeds help fund KBC activities and events. Call any KBC officers or Flowerfest Committee members for registration forms. We will have other news to pass along as we move closer to the Flowerfest Tour on July 18, including the names of the Saturn Cyclists who will be participating this year. In the meantime, mark July 18 on your calendar.

-KBC Flowerfest Tour Coordinators,  
Rick Whaley - 329-1285, Terry O'Connor, Al Cergol - 375-3786

## Did You Know?

I don't follow the bike racing scene too closely since my racing successes take place exclusively in my dreams. But I was perusing the Spring, 1999 issue of *Michigan Cyclist* magazine (which is distributed free and can generally be found in bike shops) the other day and found proof that we have a truly elite bicyclist in our midst.

You may know, or have heard of, **John Meyers**. He's been a kingpin in the fast training (road) rides around here for several years now. And though many of us know that John is fast as can be, he's proved it in the crucible of competition by being the Michigan Cup Point Series Cross-Country Winner in the Elite Division for 1998. Not only is Elite the highest level without going professional, I understand John has won this Series two of the last three years. I have at least a vague idea of how hard this must be, and my legs get weak just thinking of it! On behalf of us at KBC, John, I tip my helmet to you.

- Doug Kirk

## May Birthdays

Brent Barker  
Jennifer Bouwman  
Ron Bush  
Laurie Doering  
Clayton Gallup  
Doug Kirk  
Michael Louisell  
Mary Meagher  
Patrizia Machnik  
Renny Oas  
Terry O'Connor  
Randy Putt  
Rick Whaley

## New Members

Sally Niermann  
Terry Rogers

## Expiring Members HEY! PLEASE SEND KBC MONEY

Kellie & Jeff Binczyk Family  
Jay Campbell  
Ken Cogswell Family  
Michelle Cudahy  
Charles Fuentes Family  
Janice Herrick  
Terry and Kathy Hutchins  
Joe Jewett  
Ann Johnson  
Mike and Sheri Jones Family  
Patricia Morales  
Jon and Kathy Orr  
Don Povendo  
Andrew Price  
Jim Wilson

## Membership questions?

Jeanette Holm, KBC's membership database manager, reminds us that anyone with questions about members, membership status, expiration dates, etc. should feel free to contact her at the phone number or e-mail address on the back page.

## KBC Kids/Family Ride

I am planning and scheduling this year's KBC rides for kids. I have discussed this idea with the City of Portage, and have their full support for the use of the Portage Bicentennial Park Trail. We'll use the section that connects Milham Road and the Celery Flats on Garden Lane. Initial dates for the Ride, on the Portage Bicentennial to Celery Flats paved trail, are set as follows:

May 15, 9:00 am

June 5, 9:00 am

July 10, 9:00 am

This will be an excellent opportunity for families with or without kids to ride together while eliminating the risks of being on the road. The paved trail runs along some great sights such as the Portage Creek, some wooded areas, and possibly some wild life. My plan is that this ride would occur several Saturdays during the Spring and Summer. The starting times would be in the morning around 9:00 a.m. and run for a couple of hours. Parents will be responsible for their kids during the ride and KBC members will assist also. The ride will be open to the public. Rides will be free of charge. KBC will provide beverages for all the participants.

There are several goals and reasons for these rides. 1) It fits the KBC's mission in promoting the activity and safety of the sport. 2) KBC has many families with kids for which scheduled rides should be planned. 3) This is a stepping stone for teaching the skills and safety of bicycle riding. 4) It extends KBC rides to a broader range of bicyclists, thereby encouraging club growth. 5) I plan on being out there anyway with my son, to teach him the skills necessary to ride his bike. Who will be the next generation of bicyclists if we don't pass on our knowledge to our children?

What is needed for these rides? Volunteers! We will need volunteers to help with signing in participants at the beginning of the ride, on bikes to act as ride leaders to monitor the trail and to help out, to supply beverages at the Celery Flats (during the rides) and at the Bicentennial Park for the end of the rides. If you are interested in volunteering, to make these rides successful for our kids, please give me, Paul Stevens, a call, or e-mail me. My number and e-mail address are on the back of this newsletter. If there is an interest for additional rides, let me know so I can add those dates to the schedule as well. The schedule will be supplied to the City of Portage and possibly be published in the Portager Newsletter and/or Portage Gazette.

- Paul Stevens

## HELP WANTED!

The Kalamazoo Bicycle Club needs your help. We need volunteers for the following events.

**May 2** – SAFE Kids Coalition event at Home Depot on Westnedge. KBC will be fitting helmets and sizing bicycles for kids. We need 3 people to help out. The hours are 11 to 3:30.

**June 5** – Bicycle Safety at Celery Flats. We will be working with the Portage Community Outreach Center doing a bicycle rodeo and a safety demonstration. There will also be some trail rides to help with. We could use 6 volunteers to help set up, monitor kids and just help out.

**July 18** – We need people to help in all areas for the Flowerfest Tour. Any help would be appreciated. We need volunteers at registration, at the rest stop, driving the sag wagon, getting food, cleaning up, and everything else. We also need some help before hand buying food, picking up supplies, lining up the port-potties, getting brochures distributed and the like. We also need to paint roads, sweep corners, make maps, etc.

We also need someone to lead a mountain bike ride one evening during the week. It wouldn't take much planning ahead of time and very little effort the day of the ride. Plus it would be a good excuse to get out and ride. Two leaders would be even better.

If anyone wants to help give any board member a call. Our numbers are on the back page.

- Richard Walter

## Tip of the Month

Cycling coach extraordinaire Eddie Borsiewicz rightly says that the biggest problem with American cyclists is that they go too fast on their slow days and too slow on their fast days. Think about it.

After a hard ride, go out the next day and really ride easily. If you can, arrange to ride with kids, family or friends who are normally "too slow."

- Doug Kirk

## May Ride Calendar

By Ride Captain Randy Putt

**H**ey, the weather is shaping up. The first full week in April has been great. The first Monday night ride of the year had a good turnout with about 20 riders. The May ride schedule is listed below. All rides begin at 6:00 PM unless otherwise noted.

A full Monday schedule begins in May at 6:00 PM with three ride leaders which should provide a pace to suit riders of all abilities. Mike Higgins will lead a group for 15-20 miles at 10-15 mph. Steve Vonderfecht, Jerry Blohm, Terry O'Connor, and Dale Krueger will share ride leading duties for the 16-18 mph. Larry Kissinger plans to lead the 18-20 mph group. We hope to have some 10-12 mph rides lead by members of the Portage Pedalers, a seniors group, this month. Stay tuned, or better yet, keep an eye on the KBC website: [www.angelfire.com/mi/kbc/](http://www.angelfire.com/mi/kbc/)

For the second year in row Paul Wells plans to lead a ride on Tuesday 6:00 PM from Breakaway Bicycles on Romence Rd near S. Westnedge in Portage. Paul's group will ride 25-30 miles at about 17-19 mph. I encourage you to check out this ride.

The two Wednesday rides begin in May at 6:00 PM at Kalamazoo Central HS. The 16-18 mph group is lead by Bill Strome and the 19+ mph group is lead by Zolton Cohen. Bill and Zolton could use some help, so volunteer to be a ride leader.

A fast group also rides from Kalamazoo Central on Wednesday evenings beginning at 6:00 PM. The pace of "The Hammerfest" 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 and this ride seems to pride itself on a lack of any real organization, no maps are available. This group is typically large (more than 15 riders) and consists of racers and other experienced riders. There is no designated ride leader. The group typically fragments into smaller groups and as a rule the riders often do not finish together. This ride is hard. Some riders can be expected to be dropped from the main group.

Kathy Barrett is leading a **WOMEN'S RIDE** on Thursdays at 6:00 from the west end of the KVCC parking lot (by the gym) starting May 20, 1999. Please see article on page 8 of this *Pedal Press*.

The Friday ride meets at Billy's Bike Shop in Galesburg at 6:00 PM in May for the Tour de Gull Lake. The route for this ride is well established (about 27 miles). Randy Putt and Richard Walter plan to share ride leader duties for the 19+ group. We plan to have a 16-18 mph group also, but we have no ride leader yet. Please volunteer. This is a great route.

Plan on a 60 mile ride from Vicksburg on June 13 at about an 18-19 mph pace. Riders at other paces are welcome, but we need leaders.

Watch for a 100 miler to South Haven and back on July 10 at about an 18-19 mph pace. Riders at other paces are welcome, but we need leaders.

Watch for the Ride Around Kalamazoo County on August 21. The ride will be 100 miles at about an 18-19 mph pace. Riders at other paces are welcome, but we need leaders.

These last three rides are examples of rides that individual KBC members have invented. There's no reason YOU can't come up with a ride date and route, and have it published here and listed on the KBC website too. Either get your information to me or send it to Doug Kirk, the *Pedal Press* Editor. We're listed on the back page of this newsletter.

KBC would like to establish some regular weekend rides and would welcome any suggestions on types of rides, locations, and times that would interest KBC members.

If anyone is interested in establishing a regular ride, road or mountain, or a one day ride at another time, please contact me.

We still need ride leaders for the regular club rides. Think about being a ride leader for a week, a month, the season, or any combination of the above. Please give Randy Putt a call at 649-1814 to volunteer or to get more information on being a ride leader. Hope to see you on the road this month.

# May

1999

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<b>May 30</b>	<b>May 31</b> Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park  6:00 10-15mph 6:00 16-18mph 6:00 19+mph					<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park  6:00 10-15mph 6:00 16-18mph 6:00 19+mph	<b>4</b> Breakaway Ride Breakaway Bicycles 6:00 17-19mph	<b>5</b> Wed Night Ride Kazoo Central HS 6:00 20+mph 6:00 10-15mph 6:00 16-18mph	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 6:00 18-21mph	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park  6:00 10-15mph 6:00 16-18mph 6:00 19+mph	<b>11</b> Breakaway Ride Breakaway Bicycles 6:00 17-19mph	<b>12</b> Wed Night Ride Kazoo Central HS 6:00 20+mph 6:00 10-15mph 6:00 16-18mph	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 6:00 18-21mph	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park  6:00 10-15mph 6:00 16-18mph 6:00 19+mph	<b>18</b> Breakaway Ride Breakaway Bicycles 6:00 17-19mph	<b>19</b> Wed Night Ride Kazoo Central HS 6:00 20+mph 6:00 10-15mph 6:00 16-18mph	<b>20</b> Women's Ride KVCC Parking Lot Moderate Pace 6:00 pm	<b>21</b> Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 6:00 18-21mph	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park  6:00 10-15mph 6:00 16-18mph 6:00 19+mph	<b>25</b> Breakaway Ride Breakaway Bicycles 6:00 17-19mph	<b>26</b> Wed Night Ride Kazoo Central HS 6:00 20+mph 6:00 10-15mph 6:00 16-18mph	<b>27</b> Women's Ride KVCC Parking Lot Moderate Pace 6:00 pm	<b>28</b> Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 6:00 18-21mph	<b>29</b>

## KBC Ride Calendar

The Kalamazoo Bicycle Club thanks these sponsors  
for making the 1999 Flowerfest Bicycle Tour possible

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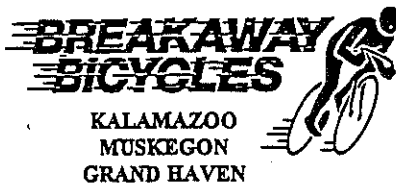


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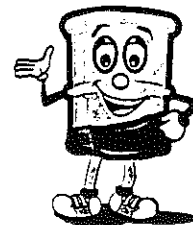
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## Tea is Good For You

The Federal Highway Administration has issued an Action Plan to encourage the use of Federal TEA-21 funding for bicycling, and to increase the safety and use of cycling as a mode of transportation. The Action Plan was sent to League of American Bicyclists' Executive Director Jody Newman (and thereby to KBC) by FHWA Administrator Kenneth R. Wykle.

The Plan details 12 steps that the FHWA has pledged to take, based on suggestions made by the League. "We are delighted with the commitment to bicycling that Mr. Wykle has expressed," said Newman, "and look forward to a strong and meaningful implementation of the Action Plan. TEA-21 makes \$3 - 4 billion potentially available for cycling, and we would like to see every penny spent. Although FHWA and the US Department of Transportation cannot dictate to the states as to how to spend the funds, they can certainly bring a great deal of weight and influence to the process."

In the letter to Newman, Wykle wrote: "we are strong advocates of bicycling and walking as modes of transportation, and look forward to implementing almost all of your suggestions....We are committed to working with States and localities to encourage the use of Federal-aid funding for projects and programs to increase the use and safety of bicycling and walking."

Steps detailed in the Plan include a memorandum that will go out to all FHWA field offices from Wykle, reaffirming strong agency support and guidance language for bicycling projects and programs; a training course on bicycle facility planning and design; reviews of state transportation plans to make sure that bicycle and pedestrian goals are included; and dissemination of "best practices" for implementing bicycle projects and programs to all states and municipalities.

So much for the LAB press release. Your Editor wonders: do **YOU** support the League of American Bicyclists? Are you a member? If not, why not? Every special interest group has people working for their interests in Washington, and we are no different. The League is our voice, our lobbying group. It needs your input and, I'm afraid, your money too. Join up. The address is LAB, 1612 K. St. N.W., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20006-2802. Or you can easily locate them on the web using any search engine like Yahoo or Excite.

## KBC Bike Auction Winner

"Going Once, Going Twice ...SOLD!!!!"

The mountain bike auction was a great success. Zolten Cohen walked away with a fine mountain bike at a great price. You will soon see Zolten making his way through the trails at Fort Custer. Zolten is another roadie to discover the pleasures of riding in the dirt.

The Kalamazoo Bicycle Club would like to extend a great big thank you to Chandler Garrison at Village Cyclery in Schoolcraft for donating the bike. This was a great donation to the Club and the money we raised through the auction will be well spent. Again, thank you Chandler and Village Cyclery.

- Richard Walter

## KBC Kids' Ride Dates

Initial dates for the KBC Kids Ride, on the Portage Bicentennial to Celery Flats paved trail, are set as follows:

May 15, 9:00 am

June 5, 9:00 am

July 10, 9:00 am

Additional dates will be added as we progress with this ride. Volunteers are still needed, so call or email Paul Stevens (phone number and email are on back of this *Pedal Press*) if you can help.

## Basic Bicycle Maintenance Class Offered

KBC is offering a basic bicycle maintenance class for those of you who aren't comfortable looking after your trusty velocipede. If you are interested, mark your calendar for Thursday, May 6 and be at the Portage District Library at 7:00 p.m. Topics covered will include dealing with flat tires, lubrication, chain maintenance, derailleur adjustments, wheel truing, and basic adjustments like seat height, steering bearings, and stem height.

The class is free to KBC members, \$5.00 to the public.

So if you are someone who has fears or questions about maintaining your bike, be sure to attend. The flat you fix all by yourself may be your own!

## Like Long Rides?

If you like long rides, and I do mean loooooong rides, you might want to plan a trip to southern Wisconsin to do one or more Brevets, which are rides to qualify for a seriously long ride, Paris-Brest-Paris (about 750 miles, and you must finish in under 90 hours total time).

I have done a few of these Brevets (the shorter ones), and so have fellow KBC members Kathy Barrett, Dave DeBack (who has done them all, twice), Chris Barnes, and Frank Machnik. These are simply great rides on simply great, very rural, very challenging routes. You will meet some truly impressive riders, most likely including Lon Halderman and his wife, Susan Notorangelo, each multiple winners of the Race Across America. The Brevets start a few blocks from their home in Sharon, WI.

The schedule is for the 1999 Brevets is

200 km - April 24- 7am

300 km - May 8- 7am

400 km - May 22- 6am

600 km - June 5- 6am

You have to do all four rides (and likely some more) and obey a few rules if you want to qualify for Paris-Brest-Paris, an event held only every four years with around 3000 riders, but you need only show up and pay a nominal fee if you want to do the Brevets.

If you are interested in these rides (and they can become true epics) give me a call at 388-5045 and I'll tell you more and hook you up with the group that runs the whole thing, the Great Lakes Randonneurs.

- Doug Kirk

## Women's Rides

Yes, ladies, I have some rides in mind for women, and women only. I will lead rides for women only on Thursday evenings starting May 20. The rides start at KVCC in Oshtemo (9th St. and O Ave) at the west end of the parking lot, near the gym.

We'll generally go south and west, where the terrain is pretty flat, in order to help keep the group together. The idea is to get women riding in a group, working on their group riding skills, and generally foster friendship and solidarity among the women road riders in the area. There really are quite a few of us out there, and I know firsthand that it can be intimidating or discouraging to try to start riding in a group with a bunch of guys.

I figure that women riding together is a good way to get around this problem. We all know that group riding is the easiest and fastest way to ride a road bike, and I think we can benefit from discovering the power of sisterhood on the road. So I hope we can practice riding skills like drafting, spinning, and feeling comfortable riding in close proximity to other skilled riders.

I really hope this ride will be a success, so spread the word. Our pace each week will depend on who is there. The plan is NOT to see who we can drop from the group, but instead to work together. Women need not be KBC members to attend, so tell your friends.

So tell your significant others they are on their own Thursday evenings for a while, or better yet, tell them you need some quiet time and they ought to spend more time with the kids!

Call me if you have any questions at 388-5045, or e-mail me at [KBarrett@kvcc.edu](mailto:KBarrett@kvcc.edu). I look forward to seeing you!

- Kathy Barrett

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## Classified Advertisements

**Too Many Bikes! Must Sell One!** Schwinn Worldsport Tour Bike (Mens), 25 inch frame, 12 speed, very good condition, original owner, asking \$110. Call Paul Stevens 324-9024 or email [73372.1732@compuserve.com](mailto:73372.1732@compuserve.com)

**For Sale: Cannondale R600** racing bicycle; 2.8 aluminum frame; 58cm size; STI shifters; 16 speed; black/gray; sold and serviced by Village Cyclery; excellent condition; \$600 Dale Krueger 375-0114

**For Sale: Trek 1200** road bike, aluminum frame, size 20" (51cm) center-to-top, Shimano RX-100 7 speed, Matrix Iso C-II rims, Look pedals. Excellent condition, low miles. \$280 OBO. Call John or Bev Thome @ 668-2409 and leave message.



## Knock on Wood

by Axel Kleat

**J**ust met Steve last year. He's a member of the Rapid Wheelmen in Grand Rapids, with a particular interest in long, multi-day rides. In fact, he organizes a few. Last year, I heard about his Memorial Day Weekend ride to Cadillac and back. I know from personal experience that it takes a real effort to put rides like this together, so you have to really love riding to organize rides like this every year.

I enjoyed that Cadillac ride, and made plans to repeat it again this year, and also to do his Tour De Pond (ferry ride to Wisconsin, then ride home around the top of Lake Michigan, staying in motels) this July.

E-mail's a mixed blessing. No one would have thought to call or write me since I didn't know Steve very well. The e-mail I saw was one of those that went to everyone on a group list, and was from a friend of Steve's who'd just come from the hospital. Steve was hit by a drunk driver in Allegan County on St. Patrick's Day, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Actually, the drunk managed to hit all four cyclists in the group. Three required hospitalization, one with a head injury, another has fractured vertebra, and Steve has a broken hip which might need replacing. He may never ride again.

The drunk, the computer claimed, had six prior drunk driving convictions and his blood alcohol level was three times the legal limit. He kept right on driving after the carnage, but a witness (bless him!) chased the jerk down, got the plate number, and called the police.

Okay, now stop, take a few deep breaths and relax. Sure makes your blood boil, doesn't it? This inebriated inhuman being has no justification to remain a part of our society, and I would dearly love to have the opportunity to sit in judgment of his besotted soul. It is almost impossible to over-punish drunk drivers who injure innocent people, especially bicyclists. But the incredible danger that drunk drivers represent to our sport is just a part of where I'm headed today.

Likely enough on some ride or another, you've considered that today's ride could possibly be your last. You might be killed in a car accident, or just drop dead

from some insidious disease. More likely, you'll find out you have irreparable heart disease, crack your head open in the shower, or fly over your handlebars, land on your head, and learn the hard way that helmets can't protect against all injuries.

The list of things that have the potential to end your bicycling is endless. The drunk driver stands out for the senselessness of the action and simple act of humanity which would prevent the disaster; but the result is the same as if Steve broke his hip slipping on some ice, which is a good deal more likely. You can't avoid all risks, and worse, virtually everything fun to do presents some sort of danger, whether it's driving, running, skiing or sky-diving.

There are lots of activities I could give up without much trouble, but I want to ride my bike across the country when I'm 60, do Dalmac when I'm 70, and a century when I'm 80. I want to keep riding till I die, but who knows if I'll get the chance? My plans would be seriously altered if I was confronted with the loss of this sport, this two-wheeled way of living, the unadulterated fun of using my body and my mind this way, say twenty or thirty years before my allotted time is up. We're talking real grief counseling here, twelve step programs, and major life alterations.

Just when my bicycling time will expire I can't say, but I'm careful to keep putting quarters in the meter. So many things can happen to spoil the ride. And the fact is that most of them don't happen out there on your bike.

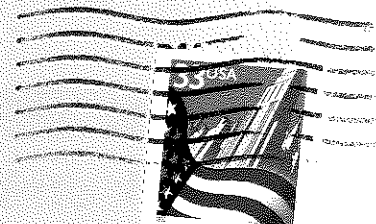
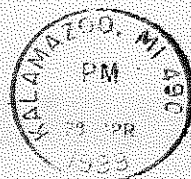
Been out for some nice rides yet this spring? I sure hope so. Did you stop to revel in the incredible good fortune that is nothing more than the fact that you are able to go ride your bike? That you have the coordination to balance, the strength to turn the pedals, the vision to see what's going on, the energy to burn up, the bravery to face the risks?

I recommend it. When you want to feel truly lucky to be who you are,

***go ride your bike and while you're out there, think about the sorry souls who can't.***



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



**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

Expires 2000/02  
**Phil & Jini Caruso**  
**2301 Fairfield Ave.**  
**Parchment, MI 49004**

### KBC OFFICERS

President: Richard Walter ..... 649-1944  
 Treasurer: Paul Stevens ..... 324-9024  
 E-mail: 73372.1732@compuserve.com  
 Secretary: Barb Miller ..... 349-1826

### OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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 Ride Captain: Randy Putt ..... 649-1814  
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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

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

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