

Pedal Press

The Newsletter of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, Inc., Jan/Feb, 2000

www.angelfire.com/mi/kbc/

Editor's Letter

We reported last month that the members present at the November election meeting had voted Mike Jones to be the new KBC President *in absentia*.

Although we tried to cast the entire proceeding in a humorous vein, Mike was not amused. We electors can only be grateful that Mike had the good graces not to use the power of his other official position to make our lives miserable. We were doubtless guilty of some crime or another acting as precipitously as we did, and are lucky we've not been given our *Miranda* rights.

Mike is officially off the hook, which is why you are perusing the Editor's Letter, not the President's Letter.

At this writing we find ourselves President-free, a condition which might be a better thing for our fair country than for our little group of Celery City cyclists. Although it is sad that no one has stepped up, the fact is that we have TWO Vice-presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer. More importantly, we have a strong core group of 12 to 15 people who want to make KBC work.

But we have ten or fifteen times that number of members from whom we would like to get input or involvement beyond just showing up for rides other members organize and publicize.

While you are welcome to simply pay your dues and show up at the rides, there is a great deal of satisfaction to be had in giving something back to this sport, even if it is nothing more than having people thank you for organizing a ride.

If you'll forgive a seasonal analogy, think about Christmas. When you're little, getting presents is the biggest part of the whole holiday season. When we get older, we often find that there's more joy to be had in giving someone a great present than in receiving one,

Well, gifts are like group rides. Great fun, and all the riders get to enjoy the experience. Putting together a nice ride is like giving the people who show up a present. People really appreciate it.

So please think about what you could give your fellow riders this year—what special roads, destinations, or experiences you'd like to share. KBC exists to help you share what you have to give, and you don't even have to gift-wrap it!

Stay tuned for more details!

- Doug Kirk

Because it's winter and there isn't much to say about biking anyway, please note that there will be

No February Pedal Press

Coming Events

January 22: KBC Annual Winter Recovery Party, 6:00 pm at the University Roadhouse, 1332 W. Michigan Ave. FOOD!! DRINK!! PRIZES!! AWARDS!!

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 we give away some dandy goodies. 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.

KVCC Y2K Cross-Country Bike Trip Meeting February 3.

A meeting is set for Feb 3, 2000 at 6:30pm. at KVCC room #4380 (corner of the cafeteria) about the bike trip across the United States sponsored by KVCC (see page 4).

The meeting will be a photo tour and discussion of the upcoming coast to coast bike trip May 26-July 4, 2000. Darrell Davies, who is the force behind the trip, will do the presentation using pictures he took when he routed the trip last summer.



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*.

Report From the Front

On December 9, I attended my first meeting as the KBC nonvoting representative to the Technical Committee of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS). There did not seem to be any issues discussed at this meeting that directly affected bicyclists.

However, after reviewing the minutes from the November meeting, I was surprised at the number of projects involving separate, nonmotorized, multiuser pathways that were given support by the Technical Committee. The pathways to be constructed on only one side of the roadway are a special concern. During the "Citizens' Comments" portion of the agenda, I commented that despite the perception of safety, multiuser pathways are often not as safe for bicyclists as well constructed, wide shoulders on the roadway.

A primary reason for this is the potential for conflicts between automobiles and bicycles at intersections with other roadways and driveways is much higher when the bicyclist is on a separate pathway than when the bicyclist is on the roadway. Several studies have shown this. The problem is especially severe when the pathway is on only one side of the road. Anyone who has tried to negotiate the intersection of Romence Road and Westnedge can testify to the confusion that exists when pathways are built in this manner. We need to continually keep these and other points in front of the people making the decisions.

All I can suggest at this point is to write to city/township officials and attend appropriate meetings. Let them know we have legitimate points that deserve consideration. We are riding a long uphill road here, but have to get involved if we want some input. The next KATS Technical Committee Meeting is 9:30 AM, Thursday, January 13, at the Road Commission Building, 3801 East Kilgore Road. If you have comments or questions, call or write me at, 329-0540,slv1952@netscape.net.

- Steve Vonderfecht

KBC Ponders Merger Options???

The KBC Board recently learned that the Borgess Health Alliance is starting a bike club (it's noted in their 2000 catalogue of Fitness activities). Remembering that mergers have been the rage in corporate America for years, we wondered if this group would be willing to associate with KBC, or vice versa. Randy Putt says he's going to look into it. As of now, no lay-offs are envisioned, and a stock-split is a remote possibility at best...stay tuned.

January Birthdays

Sara Aardema
Paul Banner
Jack Bley
Jini Caruso
Alex Clevenson
Brad Cosgrove
Mike Cutler
Jerry Flowers
Doug Gaff
Doug Jonas
Marcia LaFleur
John Mathieson
Leigh Miller
Preston Miller
Jon Orr
Brian Scribner
Michael Walsh
Bill Watt

New Members

Sara Aardema
Curtis Aardema
Bill Aardema
Cameron Albin
Pamela Albin
Jonathan Evans
Jody Meyers
John Meyers
Monica Tory

Expiring Members

Jeannette Greselin
Daniel B. Smith

Congratulations!

On behalf of KBC, I would like to personally congratulate Kalamazoo's own Kelly Emmett and John Meyers.

Many of you rode KBC rides with Kelly last summer (She rides a Lemond). Kelly's a WMU student who (I discovered reading *VeloNews*) scored an impressive third place at the NATIONAL Collegiate Mountain Bike Race in the women's cross-country race.

I'm sure most of you know or know of John Meyers, who has won many, many mountain bike races throughout Michigan. John is a past expert statewide cross-country champion at least two years that I know of. Recently, John added the Michigan Cyclocross Championship, Masters Division, to his list of accomplishments—for the second year in a row.

To the both of you, I'd like to say that your bicycling accomplishments are the stuff of my dreams. More power to you!

- Doug Kirk

Flowerfest Meeting!

The Flowerfest organizing committee will be meeting Thursday, January 13. We will meet at our usual place and time, the Portage Library, downstairs, at 6:30 pm. Everyone interested in helping out on the 2000 Flowerfest is invited.

For Sale: 56cm Fuji Team

Road Bike-\$1000. Bike is in NEW condition and only has 130 miles on it. Includes 9 speed Ultegra group, Mavic rims, Profile Stem, and wireless Gary Fischer Cyclocomputer. Reason for sale is that I want to focus on mountain biking. More information can be obtained by contacting Chris Kline at either 616-382-6276 or astrochris@prodigy.net

Where Would You Like To Ride Next Year?

There are NO, repeat, NO limits on the kinds of rides we'll help publicize here at KBC. One time rides, kids' rides, mountain bike rides, ice cream rides, urban assaults, time trials, rides for the hell of it, you name it. If it's legal, we'll spread the word.

We want to know what rides YOU—yes YOU—are organizing this season. So think about where you'd like to ride, grab your calendar, pencil it in, and get us the word.

Tell us what you've got in mind—speed, size, distance, whatever, so people know what to expect. The further in advance you plan it, the more people can plan their time accordingly. WE HOPE TO BE LISTING SPECIAL RIDES—NOT JUST THE REGULAR KBC RIDES—BEGINNING IN THE APRIL *PEDAL PRESS*.

Even if you decide to put something together on short notice, we can get the word out quickly via email to lots of KBC people. Contact Randy Putt (see last page) or get the information to the Pedal Press Editor (see back page) by the 15th of the month before you want it published.

Ride Leaders Needed For Y2K

I encourage all 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. And while most KBC rides are group rides that occur at the same time and place every week, we have LOTS of individual or irregular rides too.

No previous experience is necessary to put on a ride or to become a ride leader on one of the regular KBC rides. 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

West coast to east coast, west coast to Estes Park, CO., or the Mississippi to the East Coast by 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.

We are reviving an old KVCC bike trip tradition begun in 1973. Since that time Paul Millikan and I have logged many miles both inside and outside U.S. borders. 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.

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). This includes transportation to and from California and Virginia and Kalamazoo. This is a bargain when compared to commercially available trips costing up to \$3,700.00, a price 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.

As noted on page 1 of this Pedal Press, there is an informational meeting February 3, 1999 at 6:30 pm in room 4380 (just off the cafeteria) at Kalamazoo Valley Community College in Oshtemo.

- Darrell Davies

KBC General Meeting Minutes, December 14, 1999 By Zolton Cohen

The meeting took place at the United Way Building at 6:30 pm. Mike Jones has declined to assume the presidency of the Bike Club. There was discussion about the possibility of enlisting other possible candidates, with no final resolution.

Borgess Hospital is forming a bike club. There was discussion about possibly forming some sort of linkage with this new club, or at least inviting them to join some of the KBC's organized rides. Randy Putt & Zolton Cohen will work on this.

Victor Van Fleet mentioned a general perception that KBC is for fast riders only. We discussed how the club can encourage riders who do not wish to or cannot ride at a fast pace to join and enjoy the club. Many possible rides were discussed, as well as the problem finding ride leaders for

slower rides. Please contact any KBC member on the back page of this newsletter if interested.

Victor also brought up the lack of advertising about the club in general, and mentioned the *Kalamazoo Gazette*, *Flashes*, *Western Herald*, and *KVCC Tower Times* as good places to get public relations releases and KBC ride information published. Zolton suggested we come up with a comprehensive year-long public relations plan that would include getting the ride calendar (and other KBC activities) into the media. We need to be thinking about this for the next meeting.

Doug Kirk suggested not publishing the *Pedal Press* one month in the winter since he's lazy and there's not much going on and we'd save some printing and publishing money. We agreed not to publish a February issue.

We decided not to schedule our next meeting until the Recovery party on January 22 (see page 1), so we'll publicize the time and date then.

Going Dutch

by Axel Kleat

My inspiration level is low this month, so I'm condensing an article from the January, 2000 issue of Outside magazine written by Mark Jenkins. —Axel

When I was 13, my family departed Wyoming's high plains for a small town in Holland. We learned about Rembrandt, Van Gogh, playing chess, and riding bicycles. Not physically, of course—we all knew how to ride—but philosophically.

Everybody rode bikes. The factory workers, the cops, the carpenters, the plumbers, tools protruding from voluminous panniers. The accountants, the attorneys, the bankers, they all pedaled to work. Teachers biked to school, and so did the kids.

We returned to Wyoming after a year, existentially altered. We saw our hometown with a foreigner's eyes. Why were all these people driving such big cars such short distances? We couldn't believe how many kids were being chauffeured to school by their parents.

We kept riding our bikes, which made us very uncool. Some kids even saw cycling as un-American. Which it is. Americans drive. The average American household makes 2,321 trips by car each year, 40% of which are within two miles of home.

Having learned in Holland that things could be different, I bicycled all through college. It was cheap—free, really. On a bicycle you are immersed in the landscape instead of passing it by. On a bicycle the world touches you instead of touching the windshield.

But let's be honest. We live in a car culture. The car is here to stay. Prohibition didn't work for drinking and it would never work for driving. It's driving too much, just like drinking too much, that's the real issue.

There should be a better balance between driving and bicycling. The bicycle will never replace the minivan for family vacations or the pickup for hauling firewood, or the SUV for weekend road trips. On the other hand, the bicycle should be seen as an inspired means of transportation for short urban trips and should be the preferred method for commuting to work.

The bicycle is one of the most efficient machines ever

devised. Converting calories to gasoline, a bicycle gets 1000 miles per gallon.

Why do the Dutch ride their bikes everywhere? It's not the weather, that's for sure—it's cold, windy and rainy. And the Dutch are prosperous, too. They bike because there are bike paths and bike lanes—lots and lots of them. The government spends millions annually on bike facilities.

But would Americans ride bikes if the facilities existed? A study by New York City in 1990 found that, depending on the distance, between 20 and 54 % of people said they would bike to work if bike lanes, indoor bike parking and shower facilities were available.

I can hear the cynics saying it will never happen. But before anti-tobacco legislation, 54 % of Americans smoked. Today, it's half that number. Social engineering can work.

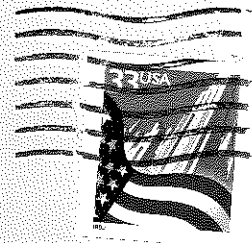
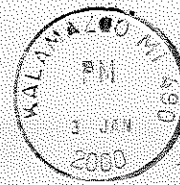
The key to developing these facilities is funding, and we have a start with ISTEA and TEA 21, which are federal laws that mandate federal money for non-motorized transportation. There is three to four billion dollars available over the next six years, according to Jim Oberstar, a Minnesota Congressman who should be the hero of every bicyclist out there. Oberstar, who is probably the man most responsible for ISTEA and TEA 21 adds, "(The money is) there. Communities just have to come together—bicycle manufacturers, bicycle retailers, city planners, cyclists, and everybody—and make a plan and ask for it. Bicycles can become a permanent part of the American transportation culture." Now that we're on the brink of a new millennium, doomsday preachers, political pundits and magazine columnists are all laying our monumental New Year's resolutions for mankind. Not me. I say all you have to do it ride your bike.

Axel here, again. ISTEA paid for the bulk of the non-motorized transportation study for Kalamazoo that you may have read about in these pages. Further requests for funding are planned, this time to actually make improvements, not just plans.

Hope springs eternal, but it takes grassroots involvement from enthusiasts like you to make plans and get local government agencies to move on them. Don't tell me you have more important things to do, unless you really don't care about where you'll be riding your bike in a few years.



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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
 Milwood Schwinn 349-6384
 Parchment Bicycle 343-8118
 Portage Schwinn 327-3393
 Team Active Schwinn 962-7688
 Village Cyclery 679-4242
 Vorncamp Bike 344-3599
 Freedom Recreation 381-7233

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

KBC Member List as of January, 2000

Bill Aardema Family	Maureen Gibson	Joan Orman
Arthur Albin Family	Sherry Gordon	Jon and Kathy Orr
Scott & Mary Aldrich	Paul Grabowski	Paul and Anne Pancella
Lee Anderson	Beatriz & Brian Gronert Family	Susan Peterson
Laurie Anderson	Dale Gruber	Greg Petty
Duva Appleman Family	Paul & Annie Guimond	Gerald Phillips
Mark & Marla Atkinson	Tom Gushurst Family	Mark Prairie>
Kathy Aulds	Brad Hackman	Andrew Price
Paul Banner	Allen Halley	Randy Putt
Christopher Barnes Family	Wendy Harvey	Paul Raynes
Kathy Barrett and Doug Kirk	Janice Herrick	Anne Reineck
Cathryn Bastien	Rene' Hess	Phil Reynhout & Family
Roger and Melissa Behnke	Mike & Sherry Higgins	Jeff Robertson and Family
Robert Bell	Scott Hite & Sandy Stevens	Terry Rogers
Jack Bley	Jeanette Holm	Gary Schlender
Gerald Blohm	John Howson	Brian Scribner Family
Keith Boneburg	Terry and Kathy Hutchins	Janice Selby
Wiley C. Boulding Family	Doug and Anjanette Jonas	Kurt Sherwood
John & Alyce Brady	Mike and Sheri Jones Family	David Sluyter and Jill Stewart
Ron Bush	Dan Kallewaard	Tom Small
Jay Campbell	Tom & Celine Keizer	Daniel B. Smith
Debra Carlson	Larry Kissinger	John Sorenson
Phil & Jini Caruso	Chris Kline	Paul Stevens Family
Al Cergol	Mark Krook	Bill Strome
Todd Clevenson & Family	Dale & Ruth Krueger	Nancy Summers
Zolton Cohen Family	Marcia LaFleur	Harriet Swanson
Thom Collins	Amy & Gary Lehman	Ann Thomas
Jo and Peter Cornell	John Looman	John Thome
Brad Cosgrove	Michael Louisell	Laura Tyler
Charles Crawford	Frank Machnik Family	Elaine Van Belleghem Family
Michelle Cudahy	Ed Maring	Jim and Sally Van Buren
Mike Cutler	John Mathieson	Victor Van Fleet
Elaine Daniel	John and Jody Meyers Family	Dan Van Sweden
Charles Daudert & Family	Bob McCulfor	Steve Vonderfecht Family
Darrell Davies	Rose McKenna	Michael Walsh
Lee Davis	Mary Ellen Mc Nerney	Richard Walter
Beth & Jeff Davis	James McNett	Robin Warden
Dave DeBack	J. S. McNutt	Kristin Wasche
Bruce DeDee	Will McWhorter	David & Karen Watt
Carl Degen and Family	Jeff and Kerry Miller	Bill Watt
Mark DiJulio Family	Charles Miller	Rick Whaley
Laurie and Ron Doering	Barbara Miller Family	Keith & Kristine Wilkinson
Stephen Duniak	John Mott Family	Doug Williams & Family
Jonathan Evans and Monica Tory	Cliff Muller	Jim Wilson
Jerry Flowers	Sally Niemann	James Wyrick
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Patricia Frye	Renny & Donna Oas Family	
Doug Gaff Family	Jason Ochoada	
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