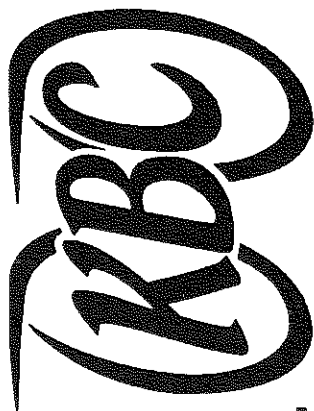


Pedal Press

www.angelfire.com/mi/kbc/

The Newsletter of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, Inc., May, 2000



Ride Captain's Letter

Spring weather is here and the year 2000 KBC ride season is off to a great start. Attendance at the Monday, Wednesday, and Friday rides the first three weeks of April was excellent. It was 40 degrees and cloudy Monday April 10 and there were still about 15 riders in two groups. The same was true on Wednesday, although inclement weather canceled the first Friday ride.

April 14 was a different story, however, with temperatures in the 70s with sunny skies and 30 riders including 4 riders in the 16 mph group led last week by Jim Wyrick and his tasty new hand-made recumbent.

Riders, if you have not tried a KBC ride yet this year, bring you bike and let's go. Once again KBC needs your help leading rides. Currently, we are short on ride leaders for the 10-15 mph groups for Wed and Fri. Don't be shy, it's easy, and you ride with people of similar ability.

KBC had a great group of ride leaders last year and the 1999 ride season was as good or better than 1998. Attendance at the rides continues to increase. With increased ride attendance we need more rider leaders for the 2000 season to accommodate the larger groups. Please volunteer to lead some rides. It's fun. The routes are well established for the Monday, Wednesday, and Friday rides. Try it. The club will be happy to help get you started.

During the 1999 riding season there was a large rider participation the 16+ mph ride groups and these groups are well established for the three weekly ride nights. Although there was a good 10-15 mph ride group on Monday evenings, participation on other nights has been limited for riders at this pace. In the past KBC has offered a Wednesday night fitness ride on the Kal-Haven trail, but this ride was poorly attended. In order make additional 10-15 mph ride groups a part of the KBC ride calendar KBC needs you 10-15 mph riders to participate and to help lead the rides. Once a group gets started it feeds on itself.

Some members of the Portage Pedalers, a seniors riding group from Portage, led the 10-12 mph group on Monday evenings for most of the 1999 ride season. We hope to continue this group this season, and have more info about this group in future newsletters.

Call Randy Putt at 649-1814 to be a ride leader
- Randy Putt

Coming Events

May 4 (Thursday) Grattan Race Series begins. Bicycle road racing for beginners and experts on a 2 mile automobile racetrack, closed to motor vehicles, Thursday evenings all summer. Northeast of Grand Rapids. If you have any interest in road racing, this is for you. Call 616-241-1969, or email mss321@aol.com

May 7 (Sunday) 20th Annual Blossomtime Metric Century. Berrien Springs. One of our favorite tours, especially the trademark potato soup. Very scenic, thousands of fruit trees. Call 616-471-8445 or point your computer to www.blossomtime.com

May 9 (Tuesday) Flowerfest Committee Meeting. Portage Public Library, 6:30 PM, downstairs (in a conference room). Everyone and anyone is welcome to attend.

May 13 (Saturday) Kal-Haven Trail Blazer XVI. 20, 40, 62, and 100 mile routes from Kalamazoo to South Haven and back on roads or on the trail itself. Shuttle service available. Kalamazoo registration at Central High School on N. Drake Rd, by "H" Ave. begins at 7:00 am.

June 10 (Saturday) Vicksburg Old Car Ride. Vicksburg High School, 9:00 AM. A 60 mile ride on flat and smooth, empty roads that coincides with the annual Old Car sSow.

July 16 (Sunday)
9th Annual Flowerfest Bicycle Tour. KBC's own annual fund raiser. Registration starts at 7:00 AM at KVCC. Free post-ride massage! Lots of good food! Great roads, great people, great club. Call 343-2288 or check the KBC Website:
www.angelfire.com/mi/kbc/

Ride To Saugatuck

(A terrific ride idea. A century-plus with a nice break in the middle in a very cool town.)

Jill and I like boats just about as much as bicycles so once a year we ride our tandem to Saugatuck to have lunch and walk the docks. This year we thought we would invite the members of the bike club to join us.

We plan to leave from the Fetzer Institute parking lot at 9:00 a.m. on June 11th. This is the Fetzer Institute 9292 W. KL Ave. not the Fetzer Center on WMU's campus. Our route will skirt the Allegan Forest, take us through a number of small towns, and include some nice long straight flat stretches where we can get a good pace line going.

We plan an hour or so to walk around Saugauatuck and have lunch and then take the ferry across the river and climb Mt. Baldy for a fine view of Kalamazoo Lake and Lake Michigan. Then we will head for home. Can't pack much more into a day.

We expect the trip to take most of the day as it is a bit longer than most--about 110 miles altogether. Depending on who is riding with us, we would expect a pace of 17 to 19 miles per hour. Reserve the date now and give us a call at 375-1505 if you have questions. We will provide maps for everyone.

-Dave Sluyter and Jill Stewart

Find A Ride On The Web

Not everyone out there has easy access to the internet, but many (most?) riders do. And the internet is a great place to communicate about rides.

First, the KBC ride calendar is posted on the KBC website by our webmeister, Larry Kissinger. Just go online and point your computer to www.angelfire.com/mi/kbc and you'll have no trouble finding the right pages.

Second, Ride Captain Randy Putt has his own long list of email addresses for local riders. Email is actually the best way I can think of to line up riders on short notice. If someone tells Randy about a ride (other than rides already listed here in the PedalPress and the KBC website), he just forwards the information to everyone on his list. Call Randy at 649-1814, or send email to him at SRBike@aol.com

This is especially useful in the early spring or late fall, when the weather makes all the difference. We don't get too many days' notice of those 60 or 70 degree sunny days, and when one comes up, this is the easiest and fastest way to line up some riding buddies.

There's nothing to stop the rest of us from creating lists of our own, either. Once you get the email addresses, sending out one email is lots easier than calling everyone individually, leaving messages, and wondering if they got the word.

- Doug Kirk

May Birthdays

Jack Baldwin
Jennifer Bouwman
Ron Bush
Lee Davis
Laurie Doering
Patricia Frye
Clayton Gallup
Doug Kirk
Bob McCulfor
John Meyers
Charles Miller
Terry O'Connor
Renny Oas
Terry Ouellette
Randy Putt
Paul Raynes
Kurt Sherwood
Rick Whaley
Keith Wilkinson
Griffin Williams

New Members

Jarrett Wetters
Raymond Kennedy
(Age 1 mo!)
Sandra Zegerius

April Birthdays We Managed To Forget

Ed Mazurkiewicz
Tyler Wetters

Classified Ads

Cannondale R-800 road racing bike, 56cm, 8yrs old, full Ultegra groupo, 2.8 lb frame, Mavic rims, Look pedals, silver metallic fades to white rear triangle, good condition. Nice light bike for the price! \$600 firm. Call Mike at 385-0196.

Cannondale Tandem dark green color, like new, very clean, lots of great components, size large front and medium rear. Must see and ride. \$1499. Call John & Jody Meyers at 344-8186 or 337-8212.

WANTED: A child bicycle trailer in good shape **AND** a rear-mounted child seat. Call Tim Harris at 657-3908.

Safe Kids Bike Rodeo May 20

The Safe Kids Coalition is sponsoring a bike rodeo for children again this year. Last year's event was a big success, with dozens of helmets given to children, and volunteers teaching kids proper riding techniques and demonstrating proper helmet fit and adjustment. Helmet adjustment/fit is extremely important, and about half the kids I see have the helmet tipped way, way too far back, providing no forehead protection at all.

The event is May 20, 2000 at Schrier Park (on Osterhout, between Oakland and Westnedge in Portage) between 11:00 am and 3:00 pm, and is sponsored by Life EMS Ambulance Service. Volunteers are certainly needed, so if you can, ride on over and give a hand. Call Brian Scribner at 373-3101 or Officer Steve Lang from the Portage Police, 324-9255.

KBC Donates Another Bike

KBC would like to thank Jo Cornell for the donation of a small girl's bicycle. The bike was given to the Boys and Girls Club of Kalamazoo. I am sure many girls will get a lot of pleasure out of riding the bike around the neighborhood.

KBC is looking for more bikes to donate in the future. If you have a used bike in good condition or one that can be repaired for a small amount of money give us a call. Any size or type of bike is acceptable. We will see that it gets to someone that will appreciate it.

KBC Ride Information Form

Planning a ride? Send us the facts. Deadline is 15th of the month before publication.
Mail to: Pedal Press Editor, 1525 Merrill Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Date:	Location:
Time:	Distance:
Pace:	
A few words about your ride:	
Ride Leader/Contact:	
Phone:	Email:

Lots of Great Tours Coming Up

The riding season is truly here at last, and many of the best rides of the season are coming up in the next few weeks.

One of my all-time favorites is the Blossomtime Metric Century, Sunday May 7. This year is the 20th edition, and I've probably done the last 15. The ride starts/ends at Andrews University, about an hour southwest of Kalamazoo in Berrien Springs.

The tour is well named, because the apple, peach, and pear orchards that take up most of Berrien County are in full bloom. Unless there's some nasty glitch in the weather, expect to see literally thousands of fruit trees in full bloom.

Besides, Andrews University's campus is very pretty, and the potato soup they have at the rest stops is just great. The turn out is similar to Flowerfest. Plenty of riders, but nowhere near enough to clog the roads, which are pretty deserted anyway. You can register the day of the event for \$17. Call 616-471-8445, or point your computer to www.blossomtime.com

The following Saturday, May 13th, is the 16th Annual Kal-Haven Trail Blazer, sponsored by the Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail. The Kalamazoo end of the ride starts at Central High School on Drake Road, but there are lots of options for other places to start, and they generally have buses if you only want to go one direction.

You can ride the trail itself any portion of its 36 miles all the way from Kalamazoo to South Haven (crushed limestone on an old railroad right-of-way), then another mile or two to Lake Michigan.

Or you can ride marked roads, with routes up to a full century, and visit rest stops set up where the trail passes through such thriving communities as Kendall, Bloomingdale, and Gobles.

We've ridden this tour many, many times, and the weather is usually memorable for being either unseasonably cool—make that cold!—and rainy, or unbelievably hot.

But again the food is always great (sloppy Joes), and it's

tough to come up with a more worthy bicycling-related cause. Call 657-3232 or email dasdas@net-link-net

Two tours compete for your legs Saturday June 3. The 100 Grand in Grand Rapids features pretty flat roads and routes up to 100 miles that take you to Lake Michigan and a lunch in the State Park pavillion on the beach. Sponsored by the Rapid Wheelmen Bicycle Club, 616-752-8123, or point your browser to rpdwhlmn@yahoo.com

The Tri-County Bicycle association (maybe the best all-around club in Michigan) sponsors the 100,000 Metre T-shirt ride June 3 in Laingsburg, which is about 15 miles northeast of Lansing. 31 or 62 mile routes, relatively flat. Call 517-882-3700 or email tshirt@biketcba.org

Of course, KBC's own Flowerfest is coming up Sunday July 16th. We'll have much more information next month, but in the meantime, call the KBC Rideline at 343-2288, or visit www.angelfire.com/mi/kbc to learn more.

- Doug Kirk

Memberships Expiring in May

Know any of these folks? Give 'em a call and ask them to send in their dues.

Kathy Aulds

Christopher, Stephen, Marian and Betsy Barnes

Roger and Melissa Behnke

Aimee Brooks

Darrell Davies

Patricia Frye

Sherry Gordon

Mike & Sherry Higgins

John Howson

Marcia LaFleur

Sally Niemann

Jeff and Lily Robertson

Terry Rogers

Ann Thomas

Kristin Wasche

May Ride Calendar

ALL WEEKDAY EVENING RIDES START AT 6:15 PM IN MAY

The Monday Ride at Texas Drive Park will consist of five ride groups in May which should provide a pace to suit riders of all abilities:

- 15-20 mile group at 10-12 mph (we need leaders);
- 15-20 mile group at 12-15 mph led by Mike and Sherri Higgins, and Cliff Muller;
- 25-30 mile group at 16-18 mph led by Terry OConnor and Dale Krueger,
- 25-30 mile group at 19-20 mph led by Randy Putt and Larry Kissinger **starting in June**;
- 25-30 mile group at 20+ mph no regular leader.

The two shorter rides will generally ride the same route and are recommended for new riders. For more experienced riders who are new to the club the 16-18 mph groups is recommended. The ride leaders make every attempt at keeping each group together although the 20+ mph group may not stay together. Since the three faster groups ride the same route, if riders drop off the back of a faster ride, they should be picked up by a slower group.

The Tuesday Ride starts at 6:15 PM Breakaway Bicycles on Romence Rd in Portage. The ride is led by Paul Wells and consists of one group that rides 25-30 miles at 16-18 mph. Check this ride out. It is a friendly group.

The Wednesday ride meets at the Kal-Haven Trail parking lot. KBC plans to offer three ride groups:

- 25-35 mile group at 16-18 mph led by Bill Strome and John and Bev Thome on their tandem,
- 25-35 mile group at 20+ mph led by Zolton Cohen.
- A fitness ride at 10-15 mph on the Kal-Haven Trail is a new ride and will start next month **if a leader is found**.
- Also, 10-15 mile **family group ride** at 10-15 mph on the Kal-Haven Trail led by Gerry Bloehm. This is a ride for kids and their parents to ride as much as they want. Each parent will be responsible for their own children. **Note special start time - 6:30 PM for this ride only.**

The Wednesday night Hammerfest will start at Kal-Haven Trail parking lot at 6 PM. The pace of the ride 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 regular riders, no maps are available for this ride. This group is typically large (more than 15 riders) and consists of racers and other muscular, anerobic freaks of nature and/or masochists and sadists. There is no desig-

ated ride leader. The group typically fragments into smaller groups and the riders rarely finish together. This ride is hard and is not suitable for anyone unwilling to force their heartrate over 170 bpm.

Thursday night is the **Women's Ride** at Texas Drive Park at 6:16 PM lead by Kathy Barrett and Rose McKenna. Women of all riding abilities are welcome. The pace and distance depends on the riders who show up.

Check out the Thursday morning ride starting at the Borgess Fitness Center parking lot (the old Nazareth College rec center). The ride starts at 8 AM and the group will ride for 1 hour. This is a ride for riders of all abilities. The ride is led by Bryon Bierema.

The Friday Tour de Gull meets at Billy's Bike Shop in Galesburg for a ride around Gull Lake (27 miles). This ride typically consists of two groups:

- 16-18 mph group (need ride leaders)
- 19+ mph group led by Randy Putt and Richard Walter.

We need additional ride leaders. The route for this ride is well established so the ride leader job is easy. Give it a try. There has been some interest from club members in establishing a 13-15 mph group for this ride. If you are interested, please contact me.

Meet at the KVCC parking lot on Saturdays at 9 AM and Sundays at 12 PM for 30-60 mile rides. There will be no designated ride leaders. Those riders who show up will determine the route, distance, and pace. Come on out to ride with old friends and meet new friends.

Bryon Bieresma from the Borgess Fitness Center plans to lead some mountain bike rides this year at Fort Custer. Stay tuned for further details. Mark your long range calendars for some special weekend rides this summer. Several rides are being planned for the summer months:

- The 2nd annual Old Car Festival Ride (about 60 miles) starting from Vicksburg HS on June 10,
- The Ride to South Haven with a stop for lunch and some time at the beach (100 miles) on July 8
- The Ride around Kalamazoo County (100 miles) on August 12.

Check out the KBC web page (www.angelfire.com/mi/)

May

2000

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1 Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park 6:15 10-15mph 6:15 16-18mph 6:15 20+mph	2 Breakaway Ride Breakaway Bicycles 6:15 17-19mph	3 Wed Night Ride Kal-Haven Trail-head 6:15 20+++mph 6:15 10-15mph 6:15 16-18mph 6:30 kids' ride	4 Borgess Fitness Ride, Gull Rd (Nazareth) 8:00 am. Riders set pace AND Women's Ride 6:15 PM at Texas Drive Park. Riders set pace	5 Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 6:15 18-21mph	6 KVCC 9:00 am. Riders present determine pace and distance.
7 KVCC-12:00 noon Riders present decide pace and distance. Multiple groups likely.	8 Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park 6:15 10-15mph 6:15 16-18mph 6:15 20+mph	9 Breakaway Ride Breakaway Bicycles 6:15 17-19mph	10 Wed Night Ride Kal-Haven Trail-head 6:15 20+++mph 6:15 10-15mph 6:15 16-18mph 6:30 kids' ride	11 Borgess Fitness Ride, Gull Rd (Nazareth) 8:00 am. Riders set pace AND Women's Ride 6:15 PM at Texas Drive Park. Riders set pace	12 Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 6:15 18-21mph	13 KVCC 9:00 am. Riders present determine pace and distance.
14 KVCC-12:00 noon Riders present decide pace and distance. Multiple groups likely.	15 Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park 6:15 10-15mph 6:15 16-18mph 6:15 20+mph	16 Breakaway Ride Breakaway Bicycles 6:15 17-19mph	17 Wed Night Ride Kal-Haven Trail-head 6:15 20+++mph 6:15 10-15mph 6:15 16-18mph 6:30 kid's ride	18 Borgess Fitness Ride, Gull Rd (Nazareth) 8:00 am. Riders set pace AND Women's Ride 6:15 PM at Texas Drive Park. Riders set pace	19 Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 6:15 18-21mph	20 KVCC 9:00 am. Riders present determine pace and distance.
21 KVCC-12:00 noon Riders present decide pace and distance. Multiple groups likely.	22 Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park 6:15 10-15mph 6:15 16-18mph 6:15 20+mph	23 Breakaway Ride Breakaway Bicycles 6:15 17-19mph	24 Wed Night Ride Kal-Haven Trail-head 6:15 20+++mph 6:15 10-15mph 6:15 16-18mph 6:30 kid's ride	25 Borgess Fitness Ride, Gull Rd (Nazareth) 8:00 am. Riders set pace AND Women's Ride 6:15 PM at Texas Drive Park. Riders set pace	26 Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 6:15 18-21mph	27 KVCC 9:00 am. Riders present determine pace and distance.
28 KVCC-12:00 noon Riders present decide pace and distance. Multiple groups likely.	29 Recovery Ride Texas Drive Park 6:15 10-15mph 6:15 16-18mph 6:15 20+mph	30 Breakaway Ride Breakaway Bicycles 6:15 17-19mph	31 Wed Night Ride Kal-Haven Trail-head 6:15 20++ mph 6:15 10-15mph 6:15 16-18mph 6:30 kid's ride	1 Borgess Fitness Ride, Gull Rd (Nazareth) 8:00 am. Riders set pace AND Women's Ride 6:15 PM at Texas Drive Park. Riders set pace	2 Tour de Gull Lake Billy's Bike Shop 6:15 18-21mph	3 KVCC 9:00 am. Riders present determine pace and distance.

Genuine Down Home-Southern Hospitality

When Kathy & I decided we needed to go south for a weeks' vacation of R & R (riding and rest) late this winter, we decided to drive as far as we could endure in one day, 700 miles. So we looked on the map, and 'lo and behold, there was Alabama.

I was clueless about riding down there, though. So I surfed the web just to see what I could learn, and within 15 minutes discovered the homepage for Huntsville Alabama's Spring City Cycling Club. A few more clicks, and I had their ride leader's phone number. I dialed.

On the line was Morgan Andriulli, who, until moments before, I'd never heard of (Great name for a bicyclist; conjurs up visions of cobblestone sprint finishes lined by cheering *tifosi*). Next thing I knew, we had ourselves an invitation to their regular 45 mile Sunday ride (then breakfast at Mullins, Yum!) the morning after we arrived.

So we loaded up the car, and pointed it south, knowing we'd hook up with a couple of ex-racers who knew their way around. What a break!

Barely twelve hours after we arrived, Morgan and his wife, Jamie Miernik were showing us the local haunts and their favorite hills, telling us where to ride, and planning time off work during the week to take us riding.

Next thing we knew, we were at their home, their cats purring in our laps, and holed up in their spare bedroom. We knew we'd hit the motherlode with we saw the garage: seven bikes, a workstand, and all sorts of used wheels, helmets, hats gloves, pumps, and tools. Obviously, no car had squeezed in for years. I felt immediate kinship. Morgan even edits their newsletter.

Although riding in suburban Huntsville is akin to riding in Grand Rapids (but steeper), once out of town, riding in northern Alabama turned out just great. Want flat roads? Head west of town. Seriously rolling hills with a few flats thrown in abound north of town and continue into Tennessee and Kentucky. To the east lurk small but seriously steep mountains—up to 900 vertical feet—

some notably more vertical than anything we've ridden in the Rockies. Didn't take us long to remember there's a real trick to big-time climbing. You've got to get into a rythm, a cadence and a gear you can hold, then learn what it takes to keep that rythm going. Didn't take long to regret those winter pounds, either.

Hardly any Alabama roads have a shoulder, partly because the ground never freezes, which means they're generally smoother than ours. You might expect the lack of shoulders to be a problem, but the drivers are far, far more accomodating than what you and I are used to. Most folks pull completely over into the other lane, and virtually everyone else still gave us a wide berth. We noticed the difference immediately, and it remained true all week.

We're sorry to report quite a few dogs found us irresistible, but whether this was because they suspected our Yankee roots we never quite decided. The smart ones living on hills have concluded there's little to be gained from chasing us on the way down. So they just bark, knowing that what goes down must go up. And believe me, on those climbs, we were easy pickins'.

We had a great time in Huntsville, and would certainly go back. The fact that we could drive there in one day without knocking ourselves out was a big bonus. We figure it would be great to pay Morgan and Jamie back sometime, but it's tough figuring out just what time of year they'd want to visit—July or August? Sure it's hot and humid here, but the weather's gotta be better for riding than Alabama in mid-summer.

- Doug Kirk

Kid's Kal-Haven Trail Ride

Gerry Blohm is doing a kid's ride weekly on the Kal-Haven Trail Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. starting in May. The idea is for parents and kids to ride as little or as much as they want.

Because the pace of the kids will likely vary widely, Gerry anticipates that each parent will be responsible for keeping track of his/her kids. We hope to have more on this next month.

Be A Ride Leader

The weather is becoming springier, and the KBC ride calendar is going great guns!. KBC had a great group of ride leaders last year and the 1999 ride season was as good or better than 1998. Attendance at the rides continues to increase. We need new rider leaders for the 2000 season to accommodate more and larger groups. The more ride leaders we have the better. Please consider leading some rides. It's fun. The routes are well established for the Monday, Wednesday, and Friday rides. Give it a shot.

I will be more than happy to discuss how to lead rides with you. In fact, most any experienced KBC rider would be happy to discuss ride leader responsibilities with you. Please don't wait to be asked. No experience is necessary, just the willingness to ride with a great group of people who enjoy riding their bikes.

If anyone is interested in leading rides this year, please give me a call at 649-1814 or email me at SRPutt@aol.com.

- Randy Putt

KBC Ride And Info Line Up And Running

Kathy Barrett, who is in charge of the KBC Ride/Information Line, tells us that this is up and running again the the riding season.

The ride line has recorded information about KBC rides and is a good resource to get the latest information about rides, especially rides we get too late to include in the *Pedalpress*. **Dial 343-2288.**

A Really Long Ride

Robyn and Andy Jerue, who live near Climax, rode their tandem most of the way around the world a couple of years ago. And they've got lots of nice pictures and great stories to prove it. I know because I've seen and heard them.

Andy is also a member of the Toastmasters Club, in which members develop their public speaking skills. Andy and Robyn will be giving a presentation before

Jeanette Holm Resigns As KBC Database Manager

KBC Board Members In A Tizzy

Collective Cry For Help Emanates From "Computer-Challenged" KBC Board Chambers

No doubt about it, we're talking worst case scenario here. Definitely time to call for reinforcements. It's true, Jeanette Holm, KBC's quiet, wonderfully efficient database manager is throwing in the towel (or should we say throwing in *the mouse*).

At least she's got a good reason—she's moved up near Holland, kinda far away. I didn't think it would be politically correct to ask her if she was trading in her bicycling shoes for wooden shoes.

We need someone to take on the job, which Jeanette says isn't too hard for someone reasonably adept at using a computer.

Jeanette keeps the information in Access, a Microsoft database program. She says it takes her about 3 hours a month to keep things current and print out new labels for the *PedalPress* each month, which she gives to Gerry Blohm, who handles the actual mailing.

We really need someone to take this on, and Jeanette would be happy to give you more details. Her phone is 616-751-6178, or email jsholm1@aol.com. Or contact any Board member (see back page).

SWAT (Southwest Advanced Toastmasters) at the Club Car Restaurant on D Ave. one mile west of US-131 on June 6. The public (including you) is invited.

The show starts at 7:00 pm, but get there by 6:30 if you want to order dinner too.

I guarantee you'll have a good time. These two vagabonds have some great stories, and their presentation is really lots of fun.

- Doug Kirk

And Then

By Axel Kleat

A beautiful, calm spring day, April, I think. Just a little cool, in the 60's, which is best for me. Not one of the very first nice days, mind you, because four or five 70 or 80 degree June days got lost and turned up in February. But the magnolias and dogwoods were just starting, and the big trees were sprouting buds. The fuse for the explosion of green that we take for granted each spring was just about to detonate.

It's generally a forty minute ride to the park where the usual suspects were forming up, but I left early and pedaled slow, real slow, pretty much in the easiest gear I had all the way out. I crept up the hills, wobbling, and coasted when I could. On the flats, I'd flick the pedal across the bottom of the of the stroke, and try not to push it down at all.

It took me almost an hour, but these guys never leave on time, so I still had time to eat, drink and stretch a bit as they trickled in. What an unlikely cast of characters, I realized. Entrepreneurs, professionals, students, hippies, even a couple of geezers old enough to be grandparents.

Everyone's just hanging out, most of 'em straddling their bikes, a few leaning on something, while the late arrivals fool around with their shoes and helmets, or fumble with tire pumps and water bottles. Then, with no warning, someone who's been around long enough and rides fast enough to have the necessary clout gets tired of standing around and brays Time To Go! and the group kind of sidles out of the lot nice and easy like as three or four stragglers slam their car doors or teeter on their cleats back to their bikes from last minute visits to the far side of the closest tree.

It's a good sized group, thanks to the weather, and though there's been no talk about it, we turn south, where the roads are flat and open, and after the first few disorganized miles, most of the folks form up into a nice rotating paceline at a speed I'd have thought unobtainable on my easy ride out. But I'm feeling good, there's not much wind, and my spin feels nice and smooth. It's work at the front, but back in the pack it's easy enough.

I admit to an addiction here. I'm hooked on going so

fast, so easy...most of the time. At this pace, my feet no longer feel light when it's time for my pull at the front, but once a couple of riders are in front again, I enjoy my easy, swift spin and I wonder whether the others feel so good turning their bigger gears.

And then some bozo up front starts feeling his oats. Instead of pulling over and easing up when he gets to the front, he just keeps right on going! Luckily, I'm in his row, a few bikes back, and we all just go right along with him while the other row goes all to pieces. Inevitably, the weakest riders fall off if they didn't happen to be in just the right place. But I was fine, my breathing's easy and my feet flick lightly on the pedals.

And then a stop sign looms, one of the great question marks of pack riding. Sometimes the pack sits up and takes it easy while stragglers catch up, but today some youngsters decide to check out their 0-to-30 mph acceleration time, and woe be unto those at the back. I stayed near the front, and was able to catch a backward glance at a few souls at the wrong end of the rubber band when it snapped.

And then a hill turns up. Not a steep one, not a long one, but a hill. One that will be over in fifteen seconds, but it's going to be a long fifteen seconds. Index shifters click, chains snick across to different cogs, and butts rise from saddles, but I shift to an easier gear, my legs blur and I actually creep past a couple of guys near the top.

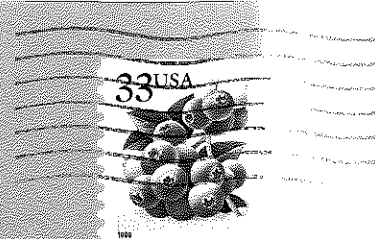
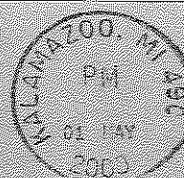
And then just after the crest the hammer really goes down. Right away the pretenders drop off the back and so are last year's fast guys who drank too much beer over the winter. We are flat-out flying, and I'm thrilled by, yet dread, each turn at the front. Only a few of us are taking pulls anymore, and when it's my turn, I can't suck air fast enough. No way my feet have ever spun this fast.

And then we hit a false flat, maybe half a mile long. But I swear it didn't slow us down. Once, when I was at the back, I realized that the slight grade had done in all but five of us. I wanted to drink, but was panting too hard. The pace took all the concentration and every bit of power left. I wondered if I'd be the next to crack. My heart was screaming Enough! but in the thrill of the moment I kept telling my legs More!

And then, and then, my friends, is when I gave in, reached out two fingers...and slipped it into the Big Ring!!



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



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Expires 2001/02

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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