

Pedal Press



www.angelfire.com/mi/kbc/

The Newsletter of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, Inc., May, 2001

President's Letter

All right everyone. Don't have too much fun on your bike rides yet. You have to wait to have some fun with me. I hope to be joining you in the next few weeks. I am almost done with commitments at work. I can not wait to get out and ride with you all.

If anyone wants to do a century in the next few weeks on a weekend, let me know. I have to get ready for Ironman California which is only 4 weeks away! Yikes!!!

I hope everyone had a blessed Easter and happy spring. And if anyone is in the neighborhood of the Gull Road Meijer riding or running, stop in and see me at 4294 Gull Prairie Drive 2B. Love to have you stop by!

Just so you know, your board has been very busy getting ready for our spring membership drive and Flowerfest. Things are going very well. We have been having some great meetings. Getting a lot accomplished. Hope to have more of you come out and offer your input! KBC needs you!

- Karen Sue Ouellette

We Need More Ride Leaders

Please volunteer to be a ride leader. Why? Because there are plenty of people out there who would like to ride the pace and distance you want to ride, and the time you want to do it. We need more leaders for the rides we have, and we can always use more rides—slower groups, different times and locations, you name it.

It's all just a matter of communication, and once a ride gets going, it just keeps growing. For proof, just look at KBC's regular Monday, Wednesday and Friday rides. They've been going for a few years now, the word is out, the turnouts are tremendous.

Please contact the Ride Captain, Randy Putt (he's listed on the back page). He's a great guy, and he'd be pleased to talk to you about it.

- Doug Kirk

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KBC's Wish List

1) **Volunteers** to work a shift at Flowerfest on Sunday, July 21—Call David Newman at 375-8105.

2) Someone involved with area bike racing (mountain, road, or both) to get information about upcoming events AND race results by KBC members to the *PedalPress* Editor so we have racing information included in the newsletter.

Monday Night Ride Start Moves A Little

KBC has moved the start of the Monday Night Ride about 200 yards northeast on Texas Drive, back towards Kalamazoo, to the small parking lot at the northeast end of Texas Drive Park.

Those present voted at the April meeting to do so in order to reduce congestion and promote good feelings among soccer and football moms and dads (who tend to monopolize the main parking lot in the spring and fall).

So please try to remember to use the other lot when you drive out. Thanks!

Road Improvements Coming

The harsh winter was really hard on the roads around here, as I imagine you've noticed. But in addition to filling the potholes, cracks, fissures, craters, and other wheel-destroyers that erupted over the winter, the powers that be have some improvements headed our way this year.

Dee Morton, from the Kalamazoo County Road Commission says we'll be seeing new shoulders on Ravine Road from C Ave. north to the county line, and MN Ave (Kilgore) east from 35th St to the county line. Portage Road will also get new shoulders from U Ave. to Mandigo. Of course, 9th St is in the process of being completely rebuilt, with nice new shoulders, from M-43 to H Ave.

In the City of Kalamazoo, we've noted previously that Parkview Ave. is being completely rebuilt this year. Part of it will be a boulevard, as will Drake Road from Parkview to Stadium. This is all in conjunction with the WMU Research Park.

- Doug Kirk

KBC Group Email

KBC now has group email. **Members can e-mail all other members of the group. Members can receive the e-mail messages with a Yahoo ID or select an other e-mail address.** It's a fast way to communicate and set up rides. It's free and available for all KBC members. Join by selecting the electronic communication link from KBC's website www.angelfire.com/mi/kbc and follow the registration steps. Please edit your profile to indicate your real name and KBC membership.

Any problems with the KBC-general electronic communication should be e-mailed to **Larry Kissinger** at kalamazoo.b.c@juno.com.

Browse the KBC Website

KBC's website is at www.angelfire.com/mi/kbc. Angelfire provides free service for websites so we save club funds. The KBC website averages 8 hits per day. Some of the primary KBC website pages (hits) are regarding KBC rides (495), KBC Flowerfest Tour (315), photos (277), other KBC information (107), joining KBC (78), nearby tours (251), local bicycle shops, and bicycling links.

Links include the Kalamazoo County Road Commission, where you can learn about the schedule for which roads they'll be temporarily ruining with tar & gravel, and when you might want to avoid them. You can also download a dandy map of Kalamazoo County roads.

Larry Kissinger is the webmaster. Direct suggestions or questions to Larry at kalamazoo.b.c@juno.com.

May Birthdays

Jack Baldwin
Diane Bishop
Jennifer Bouwman
Patricia Frye
Austin Gippert
Douglas Grevenstuk
Doug Kirk
John Meyers
Andrew Mitchell
Renny Oas
Terry O'Connor
Randy Putt
Janice Selby
Carol Stafford
Rick Whaley

New Members

Cathy DeRidder
Doug DeRidder
Angie Donovan
Floyd Hindbaugh
Joe Torre

Expiring Memberships

If you know any of these people, please ask them to renew their memberships!

Scott and Mary Aldrich
Michael & Kate Beauchamp
George, Louise & Wiley Boulding
Zolton & Mary Cohen
Stephen Dunyak
Peter Gaff
Clarissa Gaff
John Hahn
Anjanette Jonas
Doug Jonas
Robert & Stephanie Kennedy Family
Joan Orman
Dan Van Sweden
Steve & Carolyn Vonderfecht Family
Sandra Zegerius

Non-Motorized Transportation Planning

by Steve Vonderfecht

Steve Vonderfecht is KBC's representative to area governmental agencies that plan and execute road planning and construction. This means Steve often has to take time out of his work day to attend various meetings. Steve, on behalf of the club, I thank you for your efforts -Ed.)

As noted in the April *PedalPress*, MDOT recently held a series of workshops in SW Michigan to obtain public input to assist in the development of a non-motorized plan for this region. The meeting announcement specifically requested input from advocates for bicyclists and pedestrians.

I attended the meeting in Kalamazoo on March 21, which was also attended by 5 or 6 other bicycle/pedestrians advocates that I know (including the newsletter editor) and hopefully a few others that I didn't know. Although our turnout wasn't great, it was sufficient to allow us to have some input. There seemed to be a good exchange of ideas at the workshop and it will be interesting to see the summary presentations sometime in June.

It seems to me that the process of road project development is nearly opaque to the average citizen or cyclist. Trying to understand which governmental organization is responsible for which road or street, when this organization meets, and what exactly it has to do with the project is difficult and patience-taxing to say the least.

Additionally, there has to be a genuine expansion of planners' attitudes from viewing alternative modes of travel as forms of recreation to viewing these as legitimate modes of transportation. I don't think that shift has been truly accomplished in many areas despite words to the contrary. Nevertheless, it is encouraging that these agencies are acknowledging our presence and that some know they need to do more. It is imperative that we become involved in this process if we are to avoid being literally and figuratively run over by the automobile-bound segment of our society.

A few days before the MDOT workshops began, I was contacted by the event organizer who was disappointed with the response from the advocate community. I decided to contact representatives for local bicycle clubs to encourage their participation in this process, and was surprised and disappointed to learn that several of these clubs are either inactive or have folded. Especially eye-opening was the comment from one representative who felt that the club group rides were a major reason for the disintegration of the club. I think you can guess the course of events...several times group rides formed, as the ride continued the group

broke-up, some people got dropped, a few got lost, anger and bad feelings followed, and soon all cooperation was gone.

Hearing of these club failures added to my appreciation for KBC and the people who have been involved in keeping the club active and in expanding its outreach. In particular, KBC has made and continues to make improvements in organization of group rides. Having spent several years as a ride leader or as a member of the group, some of that time being upset with either the leader or members of the group, I will admit that the system is not perfect.

However, there is genuine interest in providing a positive environment for bicycling at all levels. If you have a bad experience on a ride, don't get angry and quit. Contact someone in KBC. There may be a legitimate reason for the problem. If not, you can make suggestions for improvement. Better yet, if you want to see immediate response to your complaints, volunteer to get involved as a ride leader.

Bike Pooling, Anyone?

Although I am not the "hard core" bicycle commuter that Richard Neumann is (see February KBC newsletter), for the past several years I have commuted from Portage to downtown Kalamazoo in non-snowy months. During that time, individuals have occasionally indicated that they would be interested in bicycle commuting, but feel unsafe dealing with the traffic while riding on city streets.

This feeling can be overcome with a little experience, and group commuting could be a way to start. I have been wondering if the approaching warmer months coupled with a likely rather large increase in gas prices will intensify the willingness of a few individuals to give bicycle commuting a try. Riding in a group could add to a feeling of safety, and increasing the number of bicycle commuters would be a great way to increase awareness of non-motorized transportation.

How about it? Is there anyone out there interested in giving bicycle commuting a try? I am willing to lead a commuting group from Portage to downtown Kalamazoo if there is interest. Let me know.

- Steve Vonderfecht 329-0540

Lots of Great Riding And Tours Coming Up

You may have noticed that spring has truly sprung. Which means that in addition to KBC's ride calendar, there are all sorts of one day rides coming up soon. The spring tours and events are generally great, though the weather can be a tad unpredictable.

Virtually every non-racing tour or event in Michigan is listed in the LMB Ride Calendar that KBC sent out with the newsletter for March. You DID save it, didn't you? Anyway, here's a sampling of several great events coming up in the near future on this side of the state.

None of these rides are free, but entry is nominal—usually about \$15. The money almost always benefits bicycling one way or another.

My personal favorite tour to start the season is the **Blossomtime Century**. Always the first Sunday in May (this year May 6th), the tour starts and ends at Andrews University in Berrien Springs. A metric century in the past, this year they've added a full century route to the shorter routes.

This tour has great food, generally a good turnout, and very deserted roads. You'll ride past thousands of acres of fruit trees, and Mother Nature usually has most of them in full bloom. The hour's drive to the beautiful campus is definitely worth it, and the food's good, especially the potato soup.

Take I-94 west to exit 28, then south 8 miles to the Andrews University campus, then follow the signs. Call **616-471-2622** or email blossomtime@hotmail.com, or point your browser to www.blossomtime.com

The Kal-Haven Trail Blazer is unusual because it's held on a Saturday, always the Saturday after the Blossomtime. As always, the Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail have routes from 25 miles up to a full century (Kalamazoo to South Haven and back—or visa versa). You also get a choice of riding on roads or on the 34 mile converted railroad bed (crushed limestone surface).

The last few years they've served vegetarian sloppy joes that are unbelievably tasty, along with great cookies, etc.

The ride starts at Kalamazoo Central High School on North Drake Road. You can also start in South Haven. Call **616-657-3232** for more info. Turned out cold and rainy last year, so expect a lovely day this year.

June 2 is the **100 Grand** from Grand Rapids to Grand Haven and back. 15, 30, 62, and 100 mile routes. Routes have far fewer cars than you might expect. Dandy food, and you get a great view of the Lake, not to mention some good riding along the Grand River. Sponsored by the Rapid Wheelmen. Call **616-752-8123**.

For those of you who just can't get enough, once again the Rapid Wheelmen in Grand Rapids are sponsoring the **National 24-hour Challenge** June 16 - 17. This event gains stature every year, and some very famous ultra-marathon cyclists have competed here over the years. The highest mileage that I know of by a KBC member is 396 miles, by Paul Guimond. If anyone knows someone in the club (past or present) who has done better, please let me know.

There are all sorts of categories—age, sex, father/son, mother/daughter, tandems, recumbents, etc. This is not an event for the faint of heart or leg, but it is a big-time event. **You must register by June 9th.**

Call **616-241-1969**, fax **616-452-2453**, email N24HC@aol.com, or browse www.N24HC.org.

In an entirely different vein, the Rapid Wheelmen also sponsor the **Grattan Race Series** Thursday nights May through August. Register at 6:00 pm. Races begin at 6:45.

The wonderful thing about this road race series is that the races are held on a closed course—an actual, for-real race track where cars and motorcycles zoom around unimpeded. But on Thursday evenings, it's just for bikes. What a gas!! They even have "A" and "B" categories.

The Grattan Race Track is located about 20 miles northeast of Grand Rapids, and there is a nightly fee to race. Some genuine pros—Kirk O'Bea comes immediately to mind—who honed their skills at Grattan.

There are usually a few Kalamazoo people going to these races. Call **616-241-1969** or email MSS321@aol.com to learn more. Or call me and I'll put you in touch with local people who make the trip.

- Doug Kirk

May Ride Calendar

ALL WEEKDAY RIDES START AT 6:15 IN MAY

Want to lead a weekend ride in this summer? Give me a call or send me a description of the ride via e-mail or KBC-general eGroups.com (See April Newsletter article). If the roads are dry, there will be riders ready to ride. I have a lengthy e-mail list of riders, so the ride information can be transferred quickly and on short notice. If any of you would like to be added to the e-mail list, send your e-mail address to me (sterling.r.putt@am.pnu.com).

We plan to continue the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday rides for the 2001 season as well as four special weekend rides. KBC is open to other ideas for rides as well. Send your ideas to any KBC officer or to me.

The Monday Ride at Texas Drive Park will consist of three ride groups in April:

- 15-20 mile group at 10-12 mph (**need ride leaders**),
- 15-20 mile group at 12-15 mph led by Mike & Sherry Higgins and Cliff Muller,
- 25-30 mile group at 16-18 mph led by Terry O'Cinnor & Fred James,
- 25-30 mile group at 19-20 mph led by Tom Corss, Rick Whaley, Larry Kissinger and myself,
- 25-30 mile group at 20+ mph, (**need ride leaders**).

The 10-15 miles groups will generally ride the same route as will the 25-30 mile groups. The 10-15 mph groups are recommended to new riders. For more experienced riders who are new to the club the 16-18 mph groups is recommended. The ride leaders try to keep each group together although the 20+ mph group may not stay together.

The Tuesday Ride starts at 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. This is a nice, friendly group ride.

The Wednesday ride meets at the Kal-Haven Trail Parking lot. We plan three rides:

- 10-15 mile group at 10-15 mph on the Kal-Haven Trail,
- 25-35 mile group at 16-18 mph led by Bill Strome,
- 30-35 mile group at 20+ mph led by Zolton Cohen.

The fitness ride at 10-15 mph on the Kal-Haven Trail is a new ride, we need participants AND leaders.

In addition, the Hammerfest will also start at Kal-Haven Trail Parking lot Wednesdays at 6 or 6:15 PM. This ride

by Ride Captain Randy Putt

and Zolton's ride generally leave together, and then split at the 1/2 way point for Zolton's ride. The pace of the ride is greater than 20++ mph and the route goes to Bloomingdale and back (46 miles). Since the route is well known to most of the regular riders, no maps are available for this ride. This group consists of racers and other strong, experienced riders. There is no designated ride leader. The group typically fragments into smaller groups and the riders usually do not finish together. This ride is hard and is not suitable for inexperienced riders.

Thursday night at 6:15 PM is Ladies' night at Texas Drive Park led by Kathy Barrett. Kathy would love to hear from women interested in riding or in being substitute leaders. Women of all riding abilities are welcome. The pace and distance depends on the riders who show up.

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:

- 15-16 mph led by Beth Davis and Ed Wilson,
- 17-19 mph group (**need ride leaders**)
- 20+ mph group led by Lary Kissinger, Rick Whaley & myself.

Meet at the KVCC parking lot on Saturdays at 11 AM and Sundays at noon 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.

Mark your long range calendars for some special weekend rides this summer. Several rides are being planned for the summer months:

June 9th or 10th is the 3rd annual Old Car Festival Ride (about 60 miles) from Vicksburg HS.

Mid July is the 4th annual ride to South Haven with a stop at the beach (100 miles).

Mid-August is the 4th annual Ride Around Kalamazoo County (100 miles).

The dates and pace for the summer rides are not firmly established. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for further details. If you have comments about these rides or have suggestions for other rides, contact Randy Putt at 649-1814 or e-mail sterling.r.putt@am.pnu.com.

Check out the KBC web page (www.angelfire.com/mi/kbc) for the ride calendar and for any last minute changes.

May

ALL WEEKDAY RIDES START AT 6:15. Note the Sunday ride time is now NOON. The Editor thinks perhaps we ought to have more than one time to meet for rides on Saturdays and Sundays. Please call or email me with your thoughts. My number is on the back page.

2001

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

April Flowerfest Meeting Minutes

With only three months left before the big Sunday July 22, 2001 Flowerfest event, Terry congratulated the leadership on the successful progress thus far. Facilities, Sponsorship and Brochure activities are complete with only Route Management, Food/Water, and the Day of Event requirement yet to be accomplished.

1. Cliff Muller, after creating an excellent brochure, coordinated with Megee Printing, 139 S. Edwards, 344-3226 for printing, folding, tabbing and mailing of brochures. The approximate cost was \$1,000 for 10,000 brochures.

Leadership member divided up distribution responsibilities as follows: Rick-BreakAway Bicycles, Portage Schwinn, Play-It-Again, MC Sports and ZCohen; Cliff-AEBike, Milwood Schwinn, YMCA, and Gazelle Sports; Tom-Saturn, Lee's, SWAT, Team Active, and Karen Sue; Greg-Village Cyclery, Instant Replay, and PowerHouse; David-Freedom, S.Haven, Velocity Cycles (Holland), WMU, and CABDA; Terry- Alger Bike Shop, Grand Rapids Schwinn, Davenport University, Three Oaks and Nancy Martin's Cycling Group.

Cliff is to contact Larry Kissinger to insure the Flowerfest brochure application is available on our KBC website.

2. Cliff reported Serigraphics Plus 645 W.Michigan, 373-1883 is preparing 200+ four-color ash t-shirts at a cost of approximately \$8 each. We will be providing sponsors, 2002 promo and worker shirts free. Advance registration and day of event shirts are \$11. Cathy Ancliff at Serigraphics is working with Cliff for the brightest colors, proper placement of KBC's email address, and other details.

Database requirements are now extremely important. Cliff is to coordinate with Jinny for weekly updates on registration, labels for pre-registration packages, etc.

4. Rick reported that stencils, paint supplies, map shortcuts, CB Radio Club contact are all under control. Rick is also checking the Kalamazoo and Van Buren County Road Commission Road Project Schedules for any chip & seal or road construction Flowerfest conflicts. The agreed upon road paint day is Tuesday July 17th 6:00 p.m. @ KVCC.

5. David reported that volunteers had not contacted him. Therefore, he will be phoning club member that indicated

on their registration cards that they would help on special projects. Several volunteers are needed for the following jobs: Set up Saturday July 21st 6:00 p.m. @ KVCC; Briar Patch and Alamo Rest Stop shift coverage; Pre-registration package stuffer session Thursday July 12th 6:00 p.m. @ Rick Whaley's home 1436 Jennifer in Portage 329-1285, and Clean-Up July 22nd 4:30 p.m. @ KVCC. Nextel phones from David Mix in Grand Rapids will be available for day of event communications, according to David. Terry will pick up the phone in Grand Rapids if required.

6. Tom and Dale are in charge of Registration activities. Lining up any volunteers, cash, cash box, tables, pre-registration hand-outs, etc. To be discussed next month. Terry commented that Canopeum expressed an interest in sponsorship 2002 and he will follow up with Craig Baker.

7. Greg reported that certificates from Meijers, water from Gordon's and cookies from Mackenzie's would be coordinated closer to the day of event. The Leadership reminded group that garbage bags, toilet paper and paper towels were in high demand last year and adequate supply should be available this year.

8. The Flowerfest Ad in the Kalamazoo Gazette Saturday March 31, 2001 was reviewed. A new cyclist photograph with narrative might be more effective than the small child pix currently used. Zolton's Flowerfest photos might be a good source for action shot for 2002's advertisement.

10. David is working on a press release for radio, newspaper and TV use. An update will be provided next month.

The next Flowerfest Meeting is Thursday May 17th 7:00 p.m. at the Portage Public Library Heritage Room. Agenda items will be Family Ride Leaders, First Aid, Course Route, Review of last year's recommendations, Registration Update, and committee updates.

- Terry O'Connor

Please consider offering some time to help with the event, either ahead of time, or on July 22. It's not hard to ride early and help out later, or even vice-versa. Call David Newman. at 375-8105 or email David.Newman@wmich.edu

KBC Board Meeting Minutes for April 10, 2001

Location: Chuck Jaqua Realtor building, 414 West Milham Road, Portage Time: 7:00 PM.

Present: Zolton Cohen, Doug Kirk, Paul Stevens, Karen Sue Oulette, Randy Putt, Rick Whaley, Kathy Barrett, David Newman, Tom Keizer, Terry O'Connor, Cliff Muller, Fred James, Luann Calley, Floyd Heimbaugh.

The first order of business was Flowerfest. Cliff Muller provided an update on the Flowerfest brochures, which are being printed, and passed out several to those present. He said the tee shirt design is also complete.

Dave Newman reported that Nextel will provide phones and phone service for Flowerfest and Tom Keizer confirmed that a Saturn team rider will participate in the tour.

Karen Sue suggested that volunteers at Flowerfest be given tee shirts to show the club's appreciation for helping out at the event. There was discussion about the cost of providing the shirts to all the people who help out with Flowerfest, and the difficulty of deciding who should receive a shirt.

Karen Sue asked for volunteers to help staff a booth at the Borgess Run for the Health of It on April 27th at the Borgess Health Center. KBC also needs volunteers to staff an aid station for the run for approximately 2 hours in the morning on the 28th.

Karen Sue noted she received a complaint in the past week concerning the parking situation at Texas Drive Park on Mondays before the Recovery Ride. Apparently, many parents of school age soccer children drop their children off at the park at almost the same time as the ride takes off, and there was congestion in the parking lot on a recent Monday. Kathy Barrett noted there is another parking lot located approximately 200 yards to the northeast on Texas Drive that is not being used.

After noting the difficulty of spreading the word to so many different riders, the Board decided that **KBC will start the Monday Night Ride from the parking lot at the northeast corner of Texas Drive Park park this spring.** Kathy Barrett said she will use this new lot for the Thursday Women's ride also.

Randy Putt agreed to e-mail this information around to his list of riders in order to get the word out, and Zolton will post it on the Yahoo website.

In other new business and suggestions, Karen Sue suggested organizing a KBC summer picnic.

Zolton noted that KBC received in the mail an application for entry in the annual Do-Dah Parade downtown, but there didn't seem to be too much interest evidenced by those present.

Doug Kirk suggested posting maps of the various KBC rides online for out-of-towners and other interested parties to view. He also brought up the possibility of painting arrows on the streets where the rides occur. Randy Putt agreed to contact Larry Kissinger, KBC webmaster, about getting the maps online. *(In fact, I believe this has already begun -Ed)*

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

- Zolton B. Cohen, KBC Secretary

Bikefest 2001

Looking for something different (and really big) to do with bicycling this summer? KBC is a member of the League of American Bicyclists, so we received a flyer for their annual national rally.

The rally is in Altoona, PA, which is a hotbed of bicycling activity, in conjunction with a well-known stage race, the Tour de 'Toona. *In fact, the race is going on during the rally, so you could watch a stage, meet some honchos, then go for a ride led by any one of a number of pro cyclists or industry honchos.*

It's a long drive, but you can also take the train directly to Altoona, where you can reserve rooms in University lodgings, or camp. There are all sorts of rides, from kids' rides to women's rides to rides led by celebrities and pro cyclists. The flyer says Lance Armstrong and his coach, Chris Carmichael, will be there among all sorts of other cycling celebrities.

There are package deals that include food/lodging, etc., or you can plan your own accommodations.

The rally is August 3 - 5, 2001. Call 202-822-1333 or browse www.bikeleague.org

- Doug Kirk

Ian & James

by Axel Kleat

March was worse than usual this year. So was Cabin Fever. Winter was unusually long, and what passes for late fall riding weather disappeared for good in early November. Snow fell nearly every day in December, and by New Year's it was as deep as anyone could remember. January and February were downright cold. As for March...well.

March is brown ground and gray sky. March is damp and cold and soggy. Snow melting fitfully into puddles and rivulets that re-freeze into treacherous, almost invisible rinks in spots that were fine a couple of hours ago. March is frost seeping out of the ground cracking roads and fermenting nasty potholes that ruin wheels—*car* wheels. March is no green and no sun and enormous blue-gray clouds billowing by all day. Should a bit of sunshine sneaks past, a huge March wind blows in with it just to spoil the effect and make sure the riding still stinks. March is twenty pieces of clothing for an hour and a half of riding followed post-haste by a trip to the hot tub. March is definitely time to get out of town. Vamoose. Pronto.

I hopped in the car and pointed it south. Past Indianapolis, Louisville, Nashville, 600 miles straight south. Sure enough, it was warm. Trees had leaves. Lilacs and dogwoods bloomed. Far enough, I decided. But where are the really good biking roads?

I hunted up the only bike shop in town, and that's where I found Ian and James, between the Treks and the Giants, over by the old sectional sofa, coffee table littered with bike mags, and beat-up TV. It looked sort of like my basement but with better furniture and lots more bikes. Turns out Ian owns the place. James is his right-hand man.

Hey, I asked, can you point me on a nice 60 or 70 mile ride? No doubt they saw through my fake southern drawl faster than they spied my Michigan plates. Ian stopped whatever he was doing and started cogitating routes out loud with James. What kind of riding did I like? Did I want to ride hills? Great big maps came out, pros and cons were debated. They spent fifteen or twenty minutes learning about me and making sure I could see exactly where I was going on the map.

They sent me west, just north of the river. The sun was shining. All I needed was shorts and a jersey. A bit of a headwind held promise for the return. Traffic was minimal, and the little store at the halfway spot had fabulous pizza. Best of all, out of 65 miles, at least a third of it was perfectly smooth, brand new pavement. The whole thing was heavenly, couldn't possibly be any finer, and I made a point of stopping back at the bike shop to thank Ian and James.

So Ian tells me that if I come around tomorrow, he'll take some time off and we can go south and do some hills. Just like that. Never laid eyes on the man till that morning, and he's ready to ditch work to go riding. Cool! Awesome! Ian, I said, I'll be there.

Next day I'm there and ready to ride. So's Ian, who checks out the 23 on my rear cluster and says we'll skip the hard hills. I learned some things on that ride. For one thing, there are some 200+ pounders (Ian) who can really climb. And another thing—the hills in the east are definitely steeper than anything I've seen in the Rockies. Not as long, but knee-breaking, out-of-the-saddle, keep-those-pedals-coming-over-the-top-somehow STEEP.

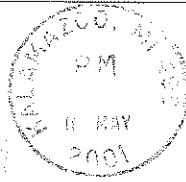
We had so much fun that afterwards Ian told James he ought to take me out the next day. Of course I jumped at the offer and immediately staggered off in search of a good leg massage.

I beat James to the shop in the morning, but by and by he turned up, and once we cleared town, he led me up The Knob, a brute of a climb that he seemed to think was a piece of cake, rather than The Beast, which even he seemed a bit in awe of. Seems they've named all the big climbs. James sure knew his stuff, including which church had a nice, big awning to hide under when a nasty storm featuring marble-sized hail blew in at the top of the climb.

It's this sort of thing that sets our sport apart. All I did was stop in for some advice, and ended up with two friends I'll remember for years, and who I'd love to return the favor to someday. If you find yourself in northern Alabama, be sure to visit Bikes Plus in the Quad-Cities area (Florence, Sheffield, Tusculumbia and Shoals). The store and the people are great. One ride in those Appalachian foothills and you'll likely do one other thing I



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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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 _____
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 Phone _____ Birthdate _____
 E-mail _____

Family Member Names Birthdates

Family Member Names	Birthdates
_____	_____
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_____	_____
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Signature _____
 Parent's Signature (if under 18) _____

Interested in working on KBC Events? Yes No

Rider Category: Fitness Casual Competitive

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