

KBC PedalPress

www.angelfire.com/mi/kbc/

The Newsletter of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club

November 2003

President's Letter:

November 2003

Kathy & I just returned from the World Professional Road Cycling Championships, which were the second week of October. **Axel Kleat** and I had urged KBC members for months to make plans to go, and believe me, we had it right. The entire event was simply terrific. See Axel's story on page 7.

Quite a few KBC folks did make the trip, including **Ken Fouts, Rob Nicey, Karl Kappenman, Tom and Celine Keizer, Al Cergol & Deb Gray**. I suspect all would confirm that the event was truly spectacular and extremely well organized. We saw a few other West Michigan riders, too, including James, a WMU student and Hammerhead whose last name escapes me, who had snagged a job as a course marshal. Believe me, folks, big-time European-style bike racing is like nothing you've ever seen.

Turning to KBC business, the end of the weekday rides due to the dreaded return of "daylight losing time" at the end of October also heralds KBC's annual elections, which will take place at the November 11 regular monthly meeting at 7:00 pm at the YMCA on Maple St.

Notwithstanding the fact that, to the unending chagrin of the Board and Officers, the vast majority of you ignore our meetings like the plague, I personally encourage all members to turn out and vote. Actually, "encourage" is too weak a word. I **beg** you to show up, listen to what's going on, and vote.

We'll also be talking about new KBC jerseys, planning for which is in the early stages, start firming up plans for the annual Recovery Party, and talk more about possible changes to our website and this newsletter.

Besides, we can commiserate about the end of riding season and tell lies about what we're going to do over the winter to assure that we'll be faster than ever—next year. I hope to see you.

Doug Kirk

KBC Wish List

As KBC President Doug Kirk points out in his President's letter, there's an important election coming up at the next club meeting.

It is during the November meeting that we all have the opportunity to vote for the Executive Committee members (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) who in part make up the Board of Directors. These members will serve on KBC's Board of Directors for the next year.

So please come and exercise your constitutional privilege (KBC constitution) to vote in this important election.

You also might wish to come to the meeting for other reasons.

Mike Lahaie, a relatively new KBC member, is spearheading an effort to design and order new KBC jerseys. If you want to have some input into this process, you need to come to KBC meetings.

Similarly, **Victor Van Fleet**, concerned with the general out-of-fitness condition of many of our fellow Americans, would like to get more people involved in bicycling to combat this trend. The vehicle for this effort, if you will, might very well be the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club. Can you spare some time to assist Victor in this endeavor? Is this issue – and other bike related issues as well - important to you? Would you like to help in the planning of the annual KBC Recovery Party?

If so, then please join us at the **next KBC meeting on November 11th, 2003, 7 PM, at the YMCA on Maple Street.**

October, 2003, KBC Minutes

KBC's regular monthly meeting was held Tuesday, October 14th, 2003 at 7:00 pm at the Kalamazoo YMCA located on Maple Street. KBC president Doug Kirk led this monthly meeting. Present were Doug Kirk, Kathy Kirk, Jeff Newman, Larry Kissinger, Tom Collins, Victor Van Fleet, Mike Boersma, Brad Fry, Chris Howard, Paul Bruneau, Zolton Cohen, Mike Lahaie, Tom Keizer, and Mike Miles.

Elections:

The October meeting began with nominations for 2004 KBC elected Executive Committee officers. **Doug Kirk** and **Brad Fry** agreed to run again for their current positions of President and Secretary, respectively. **Terry O'Connor** confirmed by proxy his interest in remaining club Treasurer. **Jeff Newman** indicated that he would not seek re-election as Vice-President. **Mike Boersma** volunteered to run for Vice-President. Nominations for all these positions will continue to be solicited, and volunteers interested in any of these KBC officer positions, or other Board of Directors positions, are asked to attend the November meeting, when elections will be held.

Jerseys:

Next, **Mike Lahaie** presented an update on potential designs for new club jerseys. Mike provided a sample jersey received from *Voler*, constructed of ProSensor fabric. For a minimum order of 100, 3-color jerseys were quoted at \$46.50 per jersey, and 4-color jerseys were priced at \$52.00 per jersey. Samples and pricing information had also been requested from *Verge*, but not yet received. Mike also shared preliminary artwork for the jersey, designed by a graphic designer. A decision was reached at the meeting to proceed with a 3-color jersey from *Voler*, assuming the designer could work with three colors. Additional discussion focused on including advertising from local businesses on the jersey, and the amount to be charged for advertising spots. This dialogue will be continued at a future club meeting. Mike will continue to work with the artist designing the artwork for the jersey, and samples will be provided at a later date.

Newsletter:

Zolton Cohen, KBC *PedalPress* editor, presented a proposal to publish the newsletter on the KBC website instead of mailing out hard copies to KBC members. Zolton provided several key reasons for possibly making this change, including the ability to provide instant updates on club activities, increase visibility of the club to out-of-town riders, and the capability of using color photographs. In addition, recurring *PedalPress* content could be permanently posted on the website, the volunteer time associated with editing and mailing the newsletter could be substantially reduced, and costs associated with mailing hard copies of the newsletter would be eliminated. KBC Treasurer **Terry O'Connor** had earlier estimated newsletter mailing costs at \$2400 per year. Zolton reported that yearly costs for publishing the newsletter online would be less than \$75. Zolton noted that the area's triathlon club, the Trikats, have successfully published their newsletter on their club web site for the last three years.

Several KBC members in attendance remarked that not all club members have access to the internet, and without a hard copy of the newsletter there may not be an incentive for members to join the club and to pay for membership. **Larry Kissinger**, KBC webmaster, supported the proposal to publish the newsletter on the club's web site. This issue will be discussed in detail at future club meetings.

Following the *PedalPress* dialogue, various items related to the club's website were discussed. Several KBC members in attendance noted that the current web site address is difficult to remember, and an appropriate domain name should be registered for the club. KBC members have also reported difficulty in accessing the club website due to *Angelfire* restrictions on website bandwidth. These restrictions become most apparent when pictures are frequently downloaded from the website. **Zolton Cohen**, **Paul Bruneau**, **Jeff Newman**, and **Larry Kissinger** were asked by **Doug Kirk** to formulate a proposal for the future of the club's website and present the options at an upcoming meeting.

Recovery Party:

Zolton reported that plans for the 2004 KBC Recovery Party are progressing, and that a party site in a private home has been secured. The KBC Social directors, **Mary Cohen** and **Michele Intermont**, are working out plans for the party, and will be provide details in a future *PedalPress*.

Social Activities:

Finally, **Victor Van Fleet** and **Tom Collins** expressed concern that the club needs to provide additional social activities and riding opportunities for less-experienced cyclists. Victor's suggestions included family rides, poker rides, touring groups, and possible alliances with local healthcare organizations. Victor will investigate these options further and bring any proposals to a future meeting. **Doug Kirk** noted that the club is open to cyclists of all abilities, and all members are strongly encouraged to become active in their club and bring ideas and suggestions to the regular monthly meeting.

With no further business to attend to, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Brad Fry, KBC Secretary

Racing Update

A fantastic year is wrapping up for bike racing. Check out **Joan Orman** making her "off-tandem" debut at Fort Custer, placing second!! Great job Joan, maybe the Expert class for next year?!! **Mike Miles**, despite illness, still placed great at the races this month as well. I'm sure everyone has noticed his stellar advance in fitness this summer on the group rides. We'll see Mike racing Elite next season. Finally, **Mark Olson** made a great showing for West Michigan at the Green Mountain Stage race in Vermont. Despite a mechanical in the mountain stage he placed 31st in the GC in a very tough field. The announcers couldn't stop talking about the "Big Orbea Guy" as he took sprint after sprint in the Burlington criterium.

If I've missed your race results this year, please email me at caolson@mei.net and I'll be sure to add your results in the future. If you are racing Iceman and you are not generally in the monthly results, please let me know so that I can look for your name in the long list of racers.

Race Results

Date	Race	Name	Class	Placement
8/24	Fl. Custer TT	Mike Birmann	Sport 40-44	7 th
		Joan Orman	Sport Women 30+	2 nd
		Kevin Vichinsky	Sport 30-34	1 st
		Taylor Birmann	Beginner 11-14	8 th
		Jenni Martin	Expert Women	5 th
		Mike Miles	Expert 30-39	2 nd
		Scott Steurer	Expert 40-49	4 th
		Richard Neumann	Expert Singlespeed	5 th
9/21	Aspen Park	Scott Steurer	Expert 40-49	4 th
9/7	Stoney Creek XC	Scott Steurer	Expert 40-49	2 nd
		Mike Miles	Expert 30-39	19 th
9/28	Pando	Mike Birmann	Sport 40-44	3 rd
		Joe Kucharski	Sport 35-39	7 th
		Mike Miles	Expert 30-39	9 th
		Scott Steurer	Expert 40-49	4 th
		Richard Neumann	Expert Singlespeed	2 nd
		Taylor Birmann	Beginner 11-14	4 th
		Debbie Woehrmyer	Beginner 30+	6 th
8/24	Showdown at Sugar AMBC	Mark Olson	Semipro	13 th
		Cheryl Olson	Exp Women Overall	2 nd
8/31	Green Mtn Stage Race	Mark Olson	Cat 3	P/Circuit/ Mtn/ Crit
9/27	Dunes Duathlon	Mark Olson	Overall	4 th
		Cheryl Olson	Overall Women	2 nd
10/12	Boyne XC	Richard Nuemann	Expert Singlespeed	3 rd
		Mike Miles	Expert 30-39	8 th
		Scott Steurer	Expert 40-49	8 th
		Mike Birmann	Sport 40-44	4 th
		Joe Kucharski	Sport 35-39	6 th
		Debbie Woehrmyer	Beginner 30+	5 th
		Taylor Birmann	Beginner 11-14	2 nd
10/12	Stoney Creek Duathlon	Mark Olson	Men 30-34	2 nd
		Cheryl Olson	Women Overall	2 nd

Upcoming Local Events

Date	Event	Website
Nov 2 nd	Manhattan Park Cyclo Cross (CX)	www.kisscross.com
Nov 16 th	Bloomer Park CX	www.tailwind.net
Nov 23 rd	Cascade Park CX	www.kisscross.com
Nov 30	Hudson Mills CX	www.tailwind.net

November Birthdays

Candy Auten
 Betsy Barnes
 Carl Clatterbuck
 Sheila Clothier
 Tom Cochran
 Beth Davis
 Bruce DeDee
 Maddie Fouts
 Jeff Harrison
 Kathy Hutchins
 Sheri Jones
 Michael Krischer
 Julie Lawford
 Frank Machnik
 Tom Nehil
 Jeff Newman
 Cindy Noverr
 Jim Patton
 Mike Peterson
 Ann Richmond
 Suzan Spaulding
 Victor Van Fleet
 Dan Van Sweden
 Kevin Vonderfecht

New Members

Susan Florian
 Andrew Florian

Expiring Memberships

Christopher Barnes Family
 Jack Bley
 Wiley C. Boulding
 Bruce DeDee
 Rick Gippert Family
 Dan Kallewaard
 John Mathieson
 Jeff Newman Family
 Jim O'Connell Family
 Susan Peterson
 Paul Stevens Family
 Victor Van Fleet

Editor's Letter:

As you'll read in KBC Secretary **Brad Fry's** meeting minutes on page three, a proposal came up at the October KBC monthly meeting concerning the possibility of mounting the *PedalPress* onto a KBC website.

Oh heck, I'll confess it right now. It was my proposal. And, as could and should be expected from a proposal of such potential cataclysmic change, it got reaction both for and against. I'd also like to hear from those (many) of you who weren't at the meeting your thoughts on this subject. Remember, this is a proposal, not a done deal. It needs discussion and refinement, and that's what I'm hoping to elicit. In the end it may not even prove feasible; but until we explore it fully we'll never know.

The Proposal: The world is changing rapidly, and in my opinion we need to change with it or we'll be left behind doing things the way we've always done them – which in some cases is slow, inefficient, costly, and labor intense. The World Wide Web is an incredibly efficient tool for communication, and it seems we could use it to our advantage better perhaps than we've been using it in the past.

It might seem odd that a newsletter editor would propose eliminating a newsletter. But that's not what this proposal is about. It's about, essentially, moving the information you currently get in a hard copy of the *PedalPress* over to a Kalamazoo Bicycle Club website.

There are many advantages to doing this, not the least of which would be a huge cost savings. KBC Secretary **Terry O'Connor** reports that mailing the yearly 11 issues of the newsletter to our current 190 members costs about \$2400.00 a year. There's more to this than meets the eye, too. We need to send out at least 200 copies (the extras go to local bike shops for distribution in their stores) in order to get a mailing price break from the USPS. So that means the price will never come down as membership fluctuates – and it is likely to rise as mailing, printing, and handling costs mount. This means, as of now, that approximately \$12.63 of each member's \$15.00 yearly dues goes to printing and mailing the newsletter. Maintaining a website domain name, by comparison, runs about \$75.00 a year - on the high end.

There are other costs to producing and mailing the newsletter that are not seen in dollar terms. For the last year or so **Randy Loga** has been picking up the newsletters from Kinko's, folding and tabbing them, and then delivering them to Lake Michigan Mailers for their

stamping and mailing procedures. Randy puts in quite a few hours every month doing this completely invisible drudge work.

Similarly, database manager **Kathy Kirk** must keep the KBC mailing list up to date, and the newsletter editor (I know this for a fact) puts in 10-12 hours a month putting each issue together. It's a lot of work to put out a monthly paper newsletter the size and quality of the *PedalPress*.

Switching the *PedalPress* content to a KBC website would eliminate a lot of the hours currently being expended by these volunteers. And it would provide what, I think, could be a better, more complete, final product.

For instance, there is information about the club – and riding in general – that would be valuable to include in each issue of the newsletter. But there is no room to print each month a copy of the comprehensive "Ride Classification" index that Vice President **Jeff Newman** put together earlier this year. Having it available online would enable new riders to look up a ride they thought might be suitable for them, and might eliminate some of the "surprises" sometimes experienced by a newcomer to the club.

It would also be helpful to include a copy of the KBC Constitution, a "Beginner's Ride Guide – What To Do and What Not To Do on a Group Ride," and directions and maps to all the ride start locations in each newsletter. Plus maybe some training tips for both experienced and new bikers. There simply is no room for all this in a monthly newsletter. Online there is.

Articles could be of any length, thus dramatically cutting down the design time currently needed to fit everything into a precise printed format.

There would also be room for photographs – of the TNTT riders (I have hundreds), Flowerfest (ditto), and other KBC events. At present they're sitting on my computer's hard drive, doing no one any good.

An online newsletter format would also allow for instant changes to information about KBC rides or other functions – something we had to address once last year by cutting and pasting a slip of paper by hand into 215 already-printed newsletters. Talk about labor-intensive...

The projected version of a new KBC website could have "departments" you could click into and easily access, for instance, an archive of **Axel Kleat** columns, the monthly ride schedule, route maps, articles about gear, classified ads, photographs, message boards, a racing schedule, and race and TNTT results.

A good model for a site of this type is the Kalamazoo Triathlon club's www.trikats.com. KBC member **Kevin Biek**, the Trikat's site administrator, says they've moved entirely away from a paper newsletter in the last three years due to the cost and labor involved - and because their website works so well in distributing information to Trikats members.

The Trikats site has had over 4700 "hits" this year alone, and features weekly updates about races, members, and other information pertinent to their sport. It also has archives of past articles, training tips, and photographs.

The Downside: In anything, where there are advantages, of course there are also disadvantages. Mounting the *PedalPress* online would not be a completely painless operation.

One potential roadblock that came up at the October meeting is that not everyone has online access.

True enough. But the vast majority of KBC members do. Kathy Kirk reports that of the 190 current KBC addresses, 136 members put an email address on their application form. Some of the addresses in the database are for bike shops, county parks, and other entities that have no email account. Some members, and Kathy cited several, have email addresses but might choose not to reveal them.

It is also likely that some people will always prefer to receive a paper newsletter rather than having to visit a website to get information about the club.

And if we "give" the newsletter and club information away free to everyone on the web, aren't we going to lose paying members?

These are all issues that would need to be addressed. At present I, personally, have no concrete answers for these concerns. But it is worth noting that the Trikats, as well as many other organizations have worked these issues out to the satisfaction of their members. I feel certain we could do so as well.

What are your thoughts and concerns about moving to a communication service like this instead of a monthly paper newsletter?

Hey, Aren't We Reinventing the Wheel?: Don't we already have a website? Yes we do, and a fine one at

that, created and monitored since its inception by webmaster **Larry Kissinger**. Some of the items proposed for the new website, in fact, already exist on the KBC website. And items like the route maps, especially, do get viewed, downloaded and used.

But when the prospect of new club jerseys came up a few months ago, several of us got to thinking about what sort of KBC contact information we'd like to see printed on the new jerseys. We don't have a phone anymore (anyone miss that?), so the website is all we have left to communicate with the world.

If someone is interested in joining or finding out more about the club after seeing one of these jerseys, a number of us felt the www.angelfire.com/mi/kbc web address might be too unwieldy and hard to memorize. Especially so if the jersey is whipping past at 26 mph.

At the October meeting no one in the room, with the exception of Larry, could recite the current website address correctly. How hard would it be to remember www.kalamazoobicycleclub.org, or something similar?

So the thought went to actually paying for a domain name we could call our own (the site at angelfire.com is free). We'd pay a bit each year, but we'd also get more capacity to store photos and articles online, thus making the website more comprehensive.

In addition, we could make the site more immediate than it is now by adding much of the monthly *PedalPress* content, killing a lot of birds in the process.

To Summarize: There are several things to think about here. One is acquiring and paying for a new website domain. If nothing else, we could transfer what is on the current site over to the new one, probably without much trouble. (Easy for me to say; that's not my department!).

The other has to do with the possibility of adding the content of the *PedalPress* to the website and eliminating paper printing and mail delivery.

As pointed out before, this is a process of exploring this issue, and nothing has been decided yet.

To voice your opinions about the feasibility of these proposals, please contact **Zolton Cohen** at zcohen@ameritech.net. For those of you without email access, please call my business phone at 269 344-0200.

2003 Season Ending Thoughts from Randy Putt, KBC Ride Captain

Weekend at the Hilly

We are in the midst of an extended Indian summer. The weather has been great the last couple of weeks. I just returned from riding the **Hilly 100** in Bloomington, IN over the weekend. The weather was perfect; in the low 70s and sunny. Just right for the end of the 2003-riding season. Thousands of riders from all over the country were gathered in Bloomington to enjoy the hills, beautiful scenery and the joy of riding. There were riders on mountain bikes, road bikes, tandems (3 riders and 4 riders as well) - whatever they are called -, recumbents (singles and tandems), trikes (both hand powered and leg powered). There were kids, families, adults (both young and old) and everyone was having a great time. It was work and it was glorious.

THANKS, RIDE LEADERS and RIDERS

The 2003-ride season is slowing with cooler temperatures and shorter days. Yet there are still many good riding days left. You just have to put on a few more clothes to stay warm. The weather is gorgeous today, maybe the last day of Indian summer. Of course it can change in an instant. The temperatures are scheduled to be in the 50s tomorrow. It could be in the 60's next week, who knows. Keep the bike ready to go. I hope you are able to get out and ride. Take advantage of these glorious fall days.

We had yet another great summer of riding. The attendance at the regular weekly club rides exceeded my expectations once again. There are numerous new riders who have become regulars at the rides. Also, the six special weekend rides were well attended and a lot of fun. There was the **W Ride** in April; the **Old Car Ride** in June; the **Ride to South Haven** and the **1st Annual Blessed Ride** in Richland in July; the **Ride Around Kalamazoo County** in August; and the **32nd Anniversary Ride** in September. Let's plan to continue these rides next year. One person or a small group who wanted to go for a ride started all these rides. The Barnes Family held the 1st Blessed Ride in July and plan to continue next year. Hey, it's more fun to ride with a group, so we now have 6 special weekend rides. Other ideas for weekend rides are always welcome. All it takes is one person to get it started.

I would like to thank the ride leaders again for the great job they have done this year. The following people led weekday and/or weekend rides during the 2003 ride season: **Marian and Chris Barnes, Zolton Cohen, Ron Gauthier, Mike and Sherry Higgins, Fred James, Steve Johnson, Doug Kirk, Larry Kissinger, Cliff Muller, Terry O'Connor, Randy Putt, Rollin Richman, Tim Stewart, Bill Strome, Nancy Summers, Steve and Carolyn Vonderfecht, Paul Wells, and Rick Whaley.**

Thanks also go to those conscientious riders who filled in at the last minute when no ride leader could make it. Come back next year. Also, give a special thanks to **Mary Cohen and Michele Intermont** for their efforts in organizing the 32nd Anniversary Ride. And let's not forget the hard work by **Nicole Newman** who headed up the Tuesday Night Time Trial this year. It was a great success again this year. There were numerous volunteers who helped with this event, especially **Tom Keizer and Zolton Cohen**. I'm sure I missed a couple of volunteers.

There are no regularly scheduled rides in November. The ride schedule will resume on a limited basis in March 2004. The weather in November will allow some weekend rides though, so for impromptu rides meet at KVCC at noon on Saturdays and Sundays as long as the weather permits. The riders who show up can determine the route and pace of the ride. If you would like to lead an impromptu weekend ride at some other time, give me a call, send me an e-mail (sterling.r.putt@pfizer.com or srbike@aol.com), or send a note via the KBC group email and I would be more than happy to forward information about the ride to my biking e-mail list. There are always riders ready to go. If you would like to be on my ride list, send me your e-mail address.

Thank you to all who made KBC's 2003 biking season a success. If anyone has any ideas on how to improve upon our ride schedule or the rides themselves, please contact me or any KBC officer.

Editor's note: The person who deserves the most thanks for making KBC's rides a success is our own Ride Captain Randy Putt. He has put a lot of thought and energy into this volunteer and somewhat unsung job for many years now. It is due to his diligence that the rides go off as well as they do. Thanks Randy, from all of those in KBC who understand and appreciate what you do.

What a Show!

By Axel Kleat

I had planned for months to attend the 2003 World Professional Road Cycling Championships last month in Hamilton, Ontario. Bought tickets, found a place to stay, packed my bike and lots of clothes and headed over for the full week of racing. Still, my personal introduction to the world of professional road cycling was quite a surprise.

I was staying several miles outside Hamilton, a city of 500,000, on the theory that staying in the city would make for lousy biking for your lowly scribe, who, having been summarily denied a press pass and politely escorted out of the team paddocks, was unlikely to be allowed to share a pint or carouse about the course with the pros.

So there I was in unknown territory, biking down a bucolic Canadian country road on a beautiful, warm, sun-filled October afternoon toward Hamilton on the first day of the event. I'm pumped, enthusiastic, and moving right along, and I barely notice when an SUV whizzes past. Only this particular SUV turns out to have two cyclists in their national team colors practically glued to its bumper, spinning along at maybe 35 or 40 mph. These guys were flat out flying in a darn-near perfect draft, and it was obviously just an easy spin for them.

They'd pedal and coast, pedal and coast, and I could see them looking across at one another, apparently chatting away. I doubt they even saw my chin smack the handlebar. I've never been dropped half as fast.

At the race course, things turned out to be much more awesome. The entire course was within the Hamilton City limits, about 8 miles around. It circled back on itself in two different places, so most of the course was easily and quickly accessible. I walked—or rode—to viewing spots all over the course during each event. With a relatively short amount of road to cover (compared to a stage race), television cameras sprouted at every strategic location around the course. And just like at the Tour, literally dozens of motorcycles loaded with cameramen, police officers and neutral support (spare wheels and bottles) followed the riders, along with thirty or forty team cars and UCI official vehicles. And three helicopters with more cameras buzzed overhead constantly.

Giant-screen TV screens showed live coverage from all around the course to more and more rabid, cheering grandstand fans each day. And while the grandstands were great—and the place to be when it came down to a sprint—more and more people lined the course each day. Imagine over 100,000 cycling enthusiasts lining such a short course! Imagine hanging out with so many cycling fans! What an atmosphere!

It just doesn't get much better than watching the best cyclists in the world vying for one of cycling's biggest prizes with so many kindred souls. The organizers had arranged for guarded bike parking, but it didn't seem to matter much. People left their bikes most anyplace when the pack rushed by, empty bottles flying out, and riders so close you could touch them, feel their sweat and hear them breathe. The raw energy was simply breathtaking.

Maybe the racers get bored going around and around the same 12.4 kilometers up to twenty-one times, but when the pack comes by every 20 minutes or so, it's simply fantastic for the fans. We saw men and women hammering downhill as hard as they could go on time-trial bikes at over 50 mph and then cranking the big ring smoothly up mile-long climbs that would certainly have me in my smallest gear.

In the women's road race, we saw otherwise petite and doubtless soft-spoken riders elbowing and bumping each other at 35 mph or more in the final sprint. In the men's road race, we saw Igor Astorloa ride away from the best in the world to win in a last lap solo effort—they simply could not reel him in. In the men's time-trial, we saw David Millar climb with such authority and power that it was obvious—even though he was riding alone—that he was annihilating his competition.

Without a doubt, one of the best parts was hanging around the start area the hour or so before each event. There they were—the riders I've seen on television so many times up close and personal and easy to identify because of the race numbers on their jerseys. All I needed was a copy of the start list to identify Bobby Julich, George Hincapie, Paolo Bettini, Eric Zabel, and dozens of others chatting and smiling and waving to their fans.

It's hard to express how fast these riders are. Whether singly or in the pack, they whoosh by so fast it takes a few laps to get used to. Maybe a comparison to our Wednesday Hammerfest will help. The Hammerfest is 46 miles, the men's road race was 156 miles; three and a half times as far. The Hammerfest has at most a thousand feet of climbing; the pros did well over 17,000 vertical feet. The pros still averaged about 2 mph faster than the Hammerheads ever do, even though they have to slow down for the feed zones, and are likely to feel nature's call once or twice in the course of six and a half hours of riding.

To see and be a part of the absolute best cycling has to offer—the best riders, great racing, a tremendous course, fabulously rabid fans, and unbelievable organization making everything come off without a hitch was truly an awe-inspiring experience. And the fact that it would be impossible for me to hang on as pack fodder for even one lap makes not one whit of difference. Wow.

KBC Kalamazoo Bicycle Club

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2003 KBC Officers

President: Doug Kirk-----388-5045
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Vice President: Jeff Newman-----488-2516
e-mail: jeff@newmanit.com
Secretary: Brad Fry-----383-8047
e-mail: bafry@netonecom.net
Treasurer: Terry O'Connor-----342-4608
e-mail: Terry.OConnor@Davenport.edu

Other Important KBC Folks

Database Manager: Kathy Kirk-----
e-mail: kirkk@ameritech.net
Newsletter Editor: Zolton Cohen-----
e-mail: zcohen@ameritech.net
Ride Captain: Randy Putt-----649-1814
e-mail: SRBike@aol.com
Social Director: Emily Mattes-----388-9861
e-mail: jedi_tri_girl@hotmail.com

Kalamazoo Area Bike Shops

- Alfred E. Bike-----349-9423
- Billy's Bike Shop-----665-5202
- Breakaway Bicycles-----324-5555
- Instant Replay Sports-----345-9040
- Parchment Bicycle-----343-8118
- Village Cyclery-----679-4242

Kalamazoo Bicycle Club Membership Application

- Yearly Adult Membership-----\$15.00
- 3 Year Adult Membership-----\$40.00
- Yearly Family Membership-----\$17.00
- 3 Year Family Membership-----\$45.00
- Yearly Senior (60+) Membership-----\$13.00
- 3 Year Senior (60+) Membership-----\$35.00

Renewal? Yes No

Please Print:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Birthdate _____
E-Mail _____

Permission to register your name with the KBC
groupserve list and receive all the group's email messages?
Yes No

Family Member Names

Birthdates

Signature _____

Parent's Signature (If under 18) _____

Interested in working on KBC Events? Yes No

Ride Category: Fitness Casual Competitive

Send to: Kalamazoo Bicycle Club P.O. Box 50527, Kalamazoo MI 49005