

KBC PedalPress

www.kalamazoobicycleclub.org

The Newsletter of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club

June 2004

President's Letter:

June 2004

I want to thank **Sherry Gordon** and **Pete Skellenger** for reminding me of the simple joy of bicycling this past month. For the past several years Sherry has been the lynchpin in arranging tandem bicycle riding experiences for blind teenagers attending sports and activity camps at Western Michigan University. This year Sherry had us riding around the new WMU Research and Technology Park at the corner of Parkview and Drake—by far the best venue of the several spots we've tried over the years.

Even though I've ridden with blind kids several times over the years, I somehow manage to forget what a rewarding experience it is, how different each kid is, and how I take my eyesight for granted. I forget how the totally sightless kids have to feel their way around the bike and sometimes have to be helped just to climb aboard. And each year I forget to get my legs out of the way and one of the kids spins the cranks backwards and whacks me in the shin with my own pedal before we even get moving.

And I still manage to forget from year to year how much fun the kids have. I get to have a wonderful time riding my bike nearly every day, but the novelty is long gone. These kids giggle and laugh, and some of them aren't exactly smooth back there—which often produces surprise lane changes and an all around exciting ride.

Pete Skellenger, a truly strong rider but a first-time captain for the blind, decided that some of his stokers were up to some extra fun and took them mountain biking in the humps and bowls resulting from the landscaping in the middle of the Research Park—producing the biggest smiles I saw the whole time. Afterwards, Pete, my wife Kathy and I must have been quite a sight riding our half-empty, eight foot-long bicycles home along Parkview and Oakland Drive.

Pete was clearly amazed by the experience, and commented that having these youngsters on the back reminded him how he takes keeping a bike balanced and upright for granted. I know I take keeping the bike vertical for granted, and have ever since I learned to do without training wheels. I've never fallen with these kids, but I sure do have to pay attention.

And each year, I'm especially thankful on my next few single-bike rides for what skills, ability or talent I'm lucky enough to have. Next ride, take a minute to consider your amazing good fortune before you head out.

Doug Kirk

Announcements:

Vicksburg Old Car Festival Ride

On the heels of May's successful W Ride (amazingly, about 20 riders showed up on a miserably cold day) comes the **Old Car Festival Ride on Saturday, June 12th, led by Randy Putt.**

This ride will start at **8:30 a.m. at the Vicksburg High School** parking lot in downtown Vicksburg, and the approximately 60 mile route takes riders along bucolic country roads and through some small southern Michigan towns. There will be several food stops along the way at stores or gas stations, and for a few minutes out of the saddle.

The usual pace of this ride is in the 17-19 average mph range, but feel free to form your own group at a pace you'd like to ride. Maps will be provided, so navigating shouldn't be a problem.

If you're interested in a longer "tour" type ride, this is a good one to start the season with. See you there!

Crassified Ads

For Sale, 18.5 in. Trek Mountain Bike, purple, like new, \$100, Bill Watt. 349-9562.

Free! To interested party, one digital cell phone. Nokia 8260, very compact and light, with battery, car charger, home charger, instruction booklet, hands-free earbud and microphone set.

This phone used to belong to Dave Newman, who used to carry it in his jersey pocket for emergency use. But his new service in Colorado didn't use this particular model of phone so he sent it back to Kalamazoo. It should work with AllTel or perhaps some other local service. Email zcohen@ameritech.net if you could use it.

Tuesday Night Time Trial Set to Kick Off

The Chris and Marian Barnes family announce the start of time trialing season with the season opener on **June 1st**. Subsequent TNTT's will occur on the **first and third Tuesdays** of the month through August.

The location is the Pavilion Township hall on the corner of Q Avenue and 29th Street, south and east of Kalamazoo. **Starting time will be 6:15 p.m. sharp.** The TNTT course has been elongated to yield exactly ten miles.

A new feature this year is that TNTT results will be posted on the KBC website and also in local bike shops.

For those who have never done a TT before, it is a race against the clock. Riders are sent off at 30 second intervals on a measured course and their time is recorded as they finish. All KBC members are invited to participate in this fun event.

KBC's TNTT will award prizes to the top male and female finishers of the night, and other prizes through a random drawing.

Some upcoming TT's to look forward to will be a random-selection two-person TT, and the Super World Cup Championship in September, with handicapping provided for individuals who have completed more than three previous TTs.

Another prize awarded at the World Cup Championship will be the "Promoters" award for the best performance by an unusual/most improved/best-attitude individual.

Sound like fun? Well get out your aerobars and teardrop helmet and give the TT a go!

Meeting Minutes:**MAY, 2004, KBC MINUTES**

KBC's regular monthly meeting was held Tuesday, May 11th, 2004 at 7:00 pm at the Kalamazoo YMCA located on Maple Street. KBC president Doug Kirk led this monthly meeting. Present were Doug Kirk, Victor Van Fleet, Charlie Devries, Mike Boersma, Chris Barnes, Brad Fry, Jeff Newman, Ann McDonald, Doug McDonald, Larry Kissinger, Mike Miles, Paul Bruneau, Dale Krueger, Terry O'Connor, Randy Putt, Mike Barry, Sean Messenger, and Zolton Cohen.

The May meeting began with an update by **Zolton Cohen** on the sale and distribution of the new club jerseys. Zolton reported that jerseys are currently being distributed by **Mike Lahaie** at the weekday club rides. To assist with the distribution, **Jeff Newman** volunteered to distribute jerseys from his home. Zolton will send an email to the KBC listserve detailing plans for distribution of the remaining jerseys. Club members who did not preorder a jersey can purchase any remaining jerseys for \$55 each.

Next, **Doug Kirk** called for a vote on the proposal presented last month by **The Communications Committee** to publish the *PedalPress* online and discontinue the printed version. This proposal was unanimously approved by those in attendance. Publishing the *PedalPress* online will begin early next year.

Paul Bruneau presented a motion to include the club webmaster as an appointed position on the KBC board. **Doug Kirk** noted that the constitution would require an update to reflect this proposal. The motion was approved by the KBC Board of Directors, and must now be ratified by a two-thirds majority of club members in attendance at the next monthly meeting. **Zolton Cohen** will draft the changes to the club constitution for voting next month.

Next, the ongoing activities to update the club's website were presented. **Larry Kissinger** reported that the old website hosted by *Angelfire* is now redirecting traffic to the new website domain name. **Jeff Newman** displayed designs for the club website, including new menus, submenus, and sections for ride maps, photos, and relevant community information. **Doug Kirk** strongly urged those responsible to launch the new website as soon as it is ready.

Chris Barnes reported on plans for the Tuesday Night Time Trial series. Time trials will be held on the first and third Tuesdays this summer, beginning on June 1st. The starting location will again be the Pavillion Township Hall located at the corner of 29th Street and Q Avenue. The time trial distance will be 10 miles and prizes from local bike shops will be awarded. Chris will compose an article to be included in the *PedalPress* communicating details on the time trials, including proposals for team time trials and a handicap system for ranking riders.

Jeff Newman reported that new KBC brochures are scheduled to be printed before the end of the month, and will be distributed to local bike shops this summer.

Dale Krueger again inquired about the availability of club membership lists to facilitate making contact with other members for rides and social events. Members in attendance supported the concept, but were concerned with maintaining the privacy of club members, and choosing the appropriate method for assembling and distributing this information. The feasibility of a club directory, and the means to collect and disseminate this information, will be addressed at future club meetings.

Chris Barnes reported that Lakeside Treatment Center again has bicycles requiring maintenance. In the past, KBC members have volunteered to fix and maintain the bicycles. Chris will schedule a date for club members to assist with the bicycle repairs.

With no further business to attend to, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 8, 7:00 PM, YMCA on Maple Street in Kalamazoo.

Respectfully submitted, Brad Fry, KBC Secretary

Ride Schedule:

BE A RIDE LEADER

We are in need of more ride leaders. If anyone is interested in leading rides this year, please give me a call at 649-1814 or send me an email at sterling.r.putt@pfizer.com. 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. You do not have to wait to be asked. No experience is necessary, just the willingness to ride with a great group of people who enjoy riding their bikes. See the March Newsletter for info about how to lead a ride.

JUNE RIDE SCHEDULE

In between the rain showers there are been some great riding days in May. I hope you have been able to do some riding. The attendance at the 2004 KBC rides continues at a record breaking pace.

The W Ride was a success with about 20 riders of varying abilities. The weather was cool and overcast, but dry. Rick Whaley, the ride founder, was back as leader all the way from Ann Arbor. The ride "maps" for this straight line route were delicious; black or red licorice.

As always we are short on ride leaders. We especially need help greeting new riders and making sure they get started with the appropriate ride group. It would be helpful if all members participated with this activity. Introduce yourself to someone you do not know, especially in other ride groups. Riders, if you have not tried a KBC ride yet this year, bring your bike and let's ride. Riders, and especially ride leaders, please bring your cell phones for emergency use. It is desirable to have at least one cell phone per group.

We plan to continue the Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday rides for the 2004 season as well as six special weekend rides and the Tuesday Night Time Trial Series (starting June 1). KBC is open to other ideas for weekend rides as well. Send your ideas to any KBC officer or to me, the Ride Captain.

The Tuesday Night Time Trial Series starts in June! June 1st to be exact, and will be held on the first and third Tuesdays throughout the summer. Location is the Pavilion Township Hall on the corner of Q Avenue and 29th Street, south and east of Kalamazoo. Starting time is —You must be a KBC member and must wear a helmet to participate in the TNTT.

ALL WEEKDAY RIDES START AT 6:15 PM THROUGH AUGUST.

The Monday Ride at Texas Drive Park will consist of 3 - 5 ride groups:

- 15-20 mile group at 10-12 mph leaders TBD
- 15-20 mile group at 13-15 mph leaders led by Mike and Sherry Higgins
- 25-30 mile group at 16-17 mph (nice and easy) led by Randy Putt and Zolton Cohen
- 25-30 mile group at 18-19 mph leader Terry OConnor
- 25-30 mile group at 20+ mph leaders TBD.

The 10-15 miles groups will generally ride the same route. The 10-15 mph groups are recommended to new riders who are not certain where they fit in. These groups typically ride to Schoolcraft and take a break for ice cream.

For more experienced riders who are new to the club the 16-17 mph group is recommended.

- The 16-17 mph group is for riders who are interested in a steady pace with lots of conversation. Riders may be new to group riding or may be a bit nervous about riding in a group, or experienced rider looking for a "recovery ride." The leaders hope to help teach some group riding techniques and help riders feel more comfortable riding in a group. No one will be left behind in this group.
- The 18 - 19 mph group is for riders who interested in improving their skills and speed to move into a faster group. The leaders plan to promote pace line skills and improving bike-handling skills.
- The 20+ mph group is for more experienced riders. This group typically can splinter into smaller groups. >

The Wednesday ride meets at the Kal-Haven Trail Parking lot. KBC plans to offer 3 ride groups:

- 10-15 mile fitness group at 10-15 mph on the Kal-Haven Trail led by TBD
 - **The fitness ride at 10-15 mph on the Kal-Haven Trail was a new ride last year and needs a leader to make it a go. However, it appears as though people are again showing up for this ride this season.**
 - 25-30 mile group at 16-18 mph led by Tim Stewart and Ron Gauthier
 - 30 mile group at 21+ mph led by Zolton Cohen (the Half-Fast Ride)
 - 46 mile Hammerfest at 23++ led by Doug Kirk.
- Zolton's Half-Fast Ride is back by popular demand. It is one of KBC's most popular rides. Zolton does a great job keeping this group together. Its success is due to his efforts in making this a fun and fast ride.
- The Hammerfest riders leave the parking lot at 6 PM for the rest of the season until. The pace of the ride is typically greater than 23++ 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 experienced riders. The group can fragment into smaller groups and the riders often times do not finish together. This ride is hard and is not suitable for inexperienced riders. Some riders may be dropped from the main group.

Thursday night is Coed night at Texas Drive Park. This is a nice and easy social ride and generally has a pace of 15 – 16 mph. There were several dedicated riders who made this ride successful over the past couple of years. Amy Lehman and Dave Jones plan to share leadership responsibilities this year.

The Friday Tour de Gull (TDG) meets at Billy's Bike Shop in Galesburg for a ride around Gull Lake (27 miles) or a ride south out of Galesburg at steady pace (30 miles). These rides typically consist of 3 groups. Additional ride groups are welcome. The TDG is a great route of rolling hills and curvy roads and fast and furious finish for the 20+mph group. The southern route is flatter and has minimal traffic.

- 16 – 18 mph group needs a ride leader (TDG or south route)
- 19 – 20 mph group lead by Doug Kirk (south route)
- 20+ mph group led by Randy Putt and others TBD (TDG)

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 the Ride Captain. We would love to have you.

Special June Ride – Saturday, June 12

- The 6th annual Old Car Festival Ride (60 - 70 miles) from Vicksburg HS on Saturday June 12 starting at 8:30 AM led by Randy Putt. The pace will be 17 – 19 mph. Riders of all abilities are welcome. Additional leaders are needed for a ride pace other the one posted. Maps will be provided with short cuts included if riders would like a shorter ride.

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

- The 7th annual ride to South Haven with a stop at the beach (100 miles) on July 10
- Flowerfest! Not a race, but a tour for everyone, July 18th. Sponsored by the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club
- The Barnes' 2nd annual family ride in July
- The 7th annual Ride Around Kalamazoo County (100 miles) August 21
- The 33rd KBC Anniversary Ride, distance and route TBD.

The dates and pace for some of these rides are not firmly established. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for further details. If you have comments about the above-mentioned rides or have suggestions for other rides, contact Randy Putt by phone or e-mail.

Check out the KBC web page (www.kalamazoobicycleclub.org) for the ride calendar and for any last minute changes

***PedalPress* to Go Online in 2005**

It's official: A unanimous vote of the KBC Board of Directors and members attending the May 11th, 2004 monthly meeting ushered in a new era in communications for the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club. The proposal by the Communications Committee (printed in last month's *PedalPress*) pertaining to eliminating the mailed hard copy of the *PedalPress* was adopted in full.

What does this change mean to you?

The primary difference is that, starting in February 2005, you'll be receiving your monthly *PedalPress* electronically instead of by mail. Each month, on or around the first of the month, members will receive a short e-mail notice announcing that the latest issue of the *PedalPress* is online and available for viewing.

You'll be able to click on a link in the message and your browser will connect you to the main KBC website, on which will be found the electronic version of the *PedalPress*. *This notification service – and access to the current copy of the PedalPress – will only be available to members of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club.*

When you arrive at the electronic *PedalPress* you'll find the same information you've been accustomed to reading, and some other features that could only be delivered electronically. As always, you'll be able to view race and Tuesday Night Time Trial results, meeting minutes, articles about bicycling and KBC, announcements, and other features. There could even be photographs imbedded or linked to stories to better illustrate the biking news.

In short, the electronic *PedalPress* will for the most part be the same *PedalPress* you're used to – and more. For the many of you concerned about the *PedalPress*'s main attraction, worry no more. **Axel Kleat** has agreed to make the switch to electronic communication.

On the *PedalPress* web page you'll be able to view the newsletter in several different ways. If you're a cover-to-cover reader you'll be able to click on the "full view" version and read one article after the next, just as though you were actually holding the *PedalPress* in your hands.

If you're more inclined to read one part of the newsletter only, or section by section, you'll be able to click on individual "departments" like Axel's column or race results, and the website will isolate that particular section of the newsletter for your reading enjoyment.

The Communications Committee took into account the desires of members who indicated they preferred not to read the text on the screen. There is an option to easily print the *PedalPress* on your home printer.

They also listened to those who do not own computers or have no access to one. A small number of hard copies of each issue of the *PedalPress* will be printed up (in the online full view version) and made available at club rides and at the monthly meeting.

Access to previous issues of the *PedalPress* will be available in an archive section of the website, and each new issue will show up in the archives approximately three months after it first appears as the current issue.

So what must you do to take part in the new *PedalPress* delivery system? The most important thing we need is your current email address. Contact KBC database manager Paul Bruneau at: paul@ethicalpaul.com to make sure your email address we have on file is current. That's it; we'll do all the rest. And early next year we'll be contacting you with the first electronic *PedalPress* announcement.

If you're uneasy about giving out your email address, please rest assured that your privacy is of great concern to KBC. We will never sell or give away your email address to another party.

A Letter About the Collegiate Bike Race:

Hi Pres,

Today I received the *PedalPress* and read the article regarding the WMU Collegiate Bike race. I noticed the reference to the "most unusual incident seen during the event," about the U of M racer toppling over the guardrail on the 6th street hill.

Well, I have a little story to share with you regarding the race.

On April 10 I left my home for a nice Saturday ride up 4th street to M-43, over to 5th Street down to H Avenue (my usual route). There was a cop on the corner. I turned down H Avenue to 6th and there was another cop on the corner. I proceeded down H Avenue to 3rd and there was another cop on the corner. So, I thought there must have been a bank robbery. I stopped and asked the cop what was going on.

He told me that it was the big cycle race with the Broncos, Michigan Wolverines, Notre Dame & half the Big Ten involved. It seems that they would be coming up MY route shortly; making a loop up to DE Avenue & up the big hill on 6th Street. So, I decided to hustle around the loop to the 6th Street hill to watch.

As I peddled my butt down the road as fast as I could go, there were people in their front yards blowing horns & cheering. It became apparent that I WAS IN THE LEAD! Can you believe it? I was in the lead over the University of Michigan, the Broncos & the Fighting Irish! And half the Big Ten!!!

And then the unthinkable happened. I had a FLAT TIRE. Just think; the chance of a lifetime, leading the Big Ten and the Broncos and I had a flat tire. I had to walk along the shoulder & watch the racers pass me. Then, I was so humiliated as our own KBC member, **Chris Barnes**, passed me and laughed at my flat tire. Shame on you Chris. I was in the lead when I had that flat tire! Just kidding Chris.

Furthermore, this guy James Whitesides, who organized the race, is not so smart. He took my route! As a beginner KBC member, I figured out that same route with the notion that if I ride that route enough times that I will get tough enough to hang in there with Zolton's Monday night group.

So there!

Actually, I really enjoyed watching those kids race up the big hill. And it was fun to be in the lead! Hope I didn't bore you with my little tidbit.

KBC Future Old Man Racer, Roy Richardson

June Birthdays

Phil Caruso
 Charlie Devries
 Kim Fletter
 Andrew Florian
 Caitlin Freer
 Tahni Gauthier
 David Hageman
 Judy Jones
 John Martin
 Justin Merklung
 Richard Neumann
 Mary O'Connell
 Cheryl Olson
 Joan Orman
 Anne Pancella
 Jenny Putt
 Tyler Smith
 Steve Stapleton
 Sally Van Sweden
 Carolyn Vonderfecht
 Kevin Waterstradt

Expiring Memberships

Paul Banner
 Bill Duggan
 Farrell Family
 Jeff Harrison
 Kirsten Hemmy
 Alta Herman
 Lindsay Honholt
 Chris Howard
 John Howson
 John Johnson
 Rand Loga
 Jim Pankow
 Gary Piwko
 Wayne Ramsey
 Ronald Reoch
 John Schwab
 Mike Wittenberg

New members

Alan Dahl
 Jim Hainen
 David Hiebert
 Doug McDonnell
 Pam McDonnell
 Jeff Miller
 Bob Paksi
 Dave Pierce
 Brian Wachlarz
 Robert Watson

Moving?

Don't forget to update your address with database manager Paul Bruneau if you move. And make sure he has your current email address so we can send you the announcement when the new, online *PedalPress* starts up in February 2005.

Race Results:

Many KBC members are getting involved with road and mountain bike racing this year. Keep an eye on Zach McBride who at the age of 14 is already stomping on the Expert 19 & under field (and he is the youngest athlete in his class!). His fantastic fitness, drive and dedication are sure to take him to the podium in elite events for years to come! Kathy Kirk is focused on the Michigan State Time Trial Championships. As a tough, competitive chick she'll be on the podium for certain this year as well!

KBC also had great performances at the Joe Martin Stage Race. This is a national calendar road race in Fayetteville, Arkansas. It was in stage 3 that Mark Olson finally said a forever farewell to the category 3's when he claimed the last few points he officially needed for a cat 2 upgrade by taking 2nd in the criterium. Mike Miles similarly earned all the points he needs for an upgrade to cat 3 by placing top 5 in 2 stages. Great job guys!!! While the guys were tearing it up, I personally biffed it and found myself at the bottom of a crash pile-up in stage one. I completed the next two stages but had to skip the criterium due to the residual effects of the crash. Matt Siebert was awarded a DQ for motor-pacing in the Pro 1,2 field. He seemed pretty happy to be relieved of the pro class pain. Great job in the feed zone Matt! If I've missed your race results, please email me at caolson@mei.net and I'll be sure to add your results in the future.

Date	Race	Name	Class	Placement
3/28	Chicksaw Trace NORBA XC	Mark Olson	Pro/Semi Pro	25 th
		Cheryl Olson	Pro/Expert	9 th
4/18	Yankee Springs TT	Dan Frayer	Elite	36 th
		Bryon Bierma	Elite	30 th
		Mark Olson	Elite	14 th
		Zack McBride	Expert 19 & under	3 rd
		Mike Miles	Expert 30-39	2 nd
		Bob Paksi	Expert 30-39	23 rd
		Scott Steurer	Expert 40+	12 th
		Mike Birmann	Expert 40+	7 th
		Richard Neumann	Singlespeed	9 th
		Taylor Birmann	Sport 14 & under	8 th
4/25	Cannonsburg XC	John Spaulding	Sport 40+	37 th
		Zack McBride	Expert 19 & under	2 nd
		Scott Steurer	Expert 40-49	3 rd
		Mike Birmann	Expert 40-49	7 th
		Richard Neumann	Singlespeed	6 th
5/2	Ducktown NORBA XC	Taylor Birmann	Sport 14 & under	5 th
		Mark Olson	Pro / Semi Pro	12 th
5/2	Ft. Custer Stampede	Cheryl Olson	Pro/ Expert	6 th
		Zack McBride	Expert 19& under	1 st
5/16	Pando XC	Scott Steurer	Expert 40+	3 rd
		Mike Birmann	Singlespeed	2 nd
		Richard Neumann	Singlespeed	6 th
		Rick Gippert	Sport 35-39	20 th
		Matt Siebert	Expert 20-29	4 th
		Taylor Birmann	Sport 14 & Under	5 th
		Mike Birmann	Expert 40-49	6 th
5/15	TK Lawless	Scott Steurer	Expert 40-49	4 th
		Cindy Gippert	Expert	1 st
5/17	Kensington Road Race	Jeff Hamilton	Cat 1,2	9 th
		Greg Bouwman	Cat 3	34 th
		Zack McBride	Juniors	4 th
5/15-17	Joe Martin Stage Race	Mike Miles	Cat 4	N/A
		Mark Olson	Cat 3	16 th (GC)
		Luke Kujacznski	Cat 3	21 st (GC)
		Cheryl Olson	Pro 1,2,3	50 th (GC)

Fuzzy Logic

By Axel Kleat

Every year it's the same dilemma. To shave or not to shave...my legs...that, is the question. I shave my face year 'round, and quite frankly I'm tired of shaving, and tired of shelling out for and then tossing chunks of molded plastic with sharp little slices of stainless steel into the landfill.

Why would I even think of adding further depilatory disgust? Not because my leg hair gets caught in the chain, as Dear Abby once printed (Yikes!). I have to admit shaved, muscular legs look really good—even if they belong to another guy. Hair itching its way through road rash is an experience I'd rather not repeat. And most all the really fast guys shave their legs. Most important, leg shaving is a time-honored bike-racing ritual, a tradition, like flat tires and bonking and sore butts.

One spring a few years ago I decided my legs were looking pretty good after a couple of trips to the weight room over the winter, so I decided I'd give 'em a shave. I used an electric beard trimmer to whack off the long stuff and then clogged a couple of disposables scraping off the rest. When I pulled on my pants afterwards, I was shocked. The material actually touching my skin directly felt completely foreign.

But lo and behold, it did seem that I could spin the cranks a bit quicker. Ah, the power of suggestion. Could it be all that fuzz was creating wind resistance? Doesn't take much to slow me down, so it just might be true...I decided right there on my first truly bare-legged ride that those racer boys were on to something.

That first shave was a lot of work, but I figured maintenance would be a snap—just a few zip and zops in the shower every day or two when my skin's already warm and wet. Hah! Turns out chins are a breeze to shave compared to knees and shins, and besides I can't really see how I'm doing in the shower like I can in the nicely lit mirror over the lavatory.

Before long my thighs had a five o'clock shadow, so I began applying more pressure with the razor, which is how I learned fresh blood turns brown when it mixes with water on its way to the bathtub drain. About this time, my respect for trials and tribulations of womanhood took a big leap, since as far as I know they go through this grief all year 'round.

I noticed my skin was flaking too. I thought about the actual process of shaving, and theorized that plain old water isn't the best stuff to have sluicing between my tender hide and the blade. Maybe the blade was hydroplaning—just like a tire on a really wet road. Perhaps a lubricant was called for. Gillette's made millions packing aerosol cans full of tiny white suds, after all. But my legs would need a lot of lather, and the process would involve shutting off the shower. Too tedious.

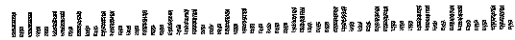
Maybe I should try some oil. But chain lube seemed to bring on a rash and I never remembered the olive oil till I was already in the shower soaking wet. A lady friend suggested using hair conditioner, but what self-respecting guy keeps that around the house? By mid-summer, I'd quit shaving north of my calves, and gave up entirely before Labor Day.

The next spring I retained enough memory of the whole sorry business that I just let the fuzz fester. But oddly, a year later I'd forgotten enough about it that by May I was shaving again with renewed resolve and a discount package of two dozen razors. A big bottle of conditioner helped, but I still had to use my connections to the pro peloton for some EPO to compensate for the blood loss. I lasted 'til July, when a nasty razor burn ending in a bloody gash had me thinking transfusion 'til I finally staunched the flow.

Last year I thought I'd let the scars heal, but this year I'm at it again, with a new strategy. After unclogging the bathtub drain from the April shearing, I'm doing a good job on just one leg every day or two, having figured out that one good job is better than three of four half-hearted attempts.

My goal is to last through August—might as well reach for the stars, right? Now if I could just remember which leg I did last time.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



LAST ISSUE: 2005/02
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- Billy's Bike Shop.....665-5202
- Breakaway Bicycles.....324-5555
- Parchment Bicycle.....343-8118
- Team Active.....962-7688
- 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