

KBC PedalPress

The Newsletter of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club for August, 2017

www.kalamazoobicycleclub.org

**THE NEXT KBC MONTHLY MEETING IS AUGUST 8th, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.
at the Kalamazoo YMCA, 1001 W. Maple St. All KBC members are welcome to attend.**

Editor's Letter: Texas Township says "NO" to 5 Feet

Why is the Editor's Letter at the top this month? Because it's more important than usual. And because we're asking you to set aside some time—at your convenience—to promote bike safety.

For the last year we've been working to get 5-foot bike-passing laws passed by local governments while we wait...and wait...for the state legislature to act. Every local government we approached between August of 2016 and April of 2017 (City of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Township, City of Portage and Oshtemo Township) all passed 5-foot ordinances—along with several other local governments around Michigan. We are also optimistic that Parchment will do so soon.

But as you may know from the Gazette, Mlive, or the KBC Facebook page, Texas Township Trustees recently decided NOT to enact the same 5-foot ordinance. After the vote, we met with John Hinkle, the Texas Township Supervisor, who said the commissioners were concerned that the proposed ordinance, *which allows motor vehicles to cross a solid center line to pass bikes if it is safe*, conflicted with Michigan state law which forbids crossing a solid center stripe. Mr. Hinkle also said that he and the Trustees strongly support bike safety and are working to put up signs promoting bike/motor vehicle safety throughout the township.

We suggested to Mr. Hinkle that since his Trustees support bike safety, we remove the offending language from the proposed ordinance—with the result that motor vehicles might have to wait for a passing zone to overtake a bike, depending on road width. Mr. Hinkle was receptive to this idea and agreed to discuss it with the Trustees. However, he called two days later to say that even with this change the Trustees declined to move forward with the ordinance.

So it appears their stated reason for refusing the ordinance—possible conflict with state law, which has not stopped other local governments from moving forward—is not what is keeping the Township from enacting this ordinance.

Why Texas Township Trustees oppose this ordinance is unclear. We did not get any logical answer from Mr. Hinkle, particularly since the Trustees support bike safety. But it seems like it would be a good idea to find out. Elected officials ought to be responsive to their constituents and KBC has several members who live in Texas Township. No doubt many other KBC members have friends who live there as well.

Here's hoping that ALL of you who live in Texas Township will take the time to meet personally with your trustees, express your concerns, learn why they weren't in favor of the ordinance, and see if you—someone they were elected to represent—can show them the error of their ways.

Here's a link to the township webpage page with the contact information for the trustees and other officials:
<http://www.texastownship.org/officialsdepartments/boards-committees/>

And here's a link to the ordinance as enacted in the other townships (click the link then scroll down to number 36-99(C)): <https://ecode360.com/9698444 - 9698447>

--Doug Kirk, Editor@Kalamazoobicycleclub.org

This Cartoon Cuts Really Close to Home

Ed. Note: Follow the link below to read a cartoon by local artist **Simon Kalil Borst** touching on several areas relating to bicycling around Kalamazoo. While the opinions therein are his and do not necessarily coincide with those of your Editor or KBC, the subjects and people therein are timely and local. It takes a few minutes to read so set aside 5 or 10 minutes and point your browser to: <https://medium.com/@simonborst/many-thanks-to-those-who-appear-in-this-comic-4412c33bf9a5>

--Doug Kirk, Editor@Kalamazoobicycleclub.org

KBC Distributing Signs Promoting 5-Foot Passing Law

The KBC Education Committee has printed and distributed 100 yard signs promoting the 5' passing laws in Kalamazoo, Portage, Oshtemo Township, and Kalamazoo Township. We have had very positive response to these signs, so we have ordered 100 more. We hope they will be available by the monthly KBC meeting, August 8th.

If not, they will be available at all the local bike shops, Pedal North and South, Zoo City, Kazoo Swift, and Village Cyclery in Schoolcraft, while they last! We ask that you give a donation to support KBC's education efforts when you pick up signs. This new batch of signs will have "Share The Road" at the bottom, replacing "It's The Law" so that they can be placed anywhere there is not yet a 5' passing law.

Thank you for supporting this important campaign. Please be part of our education team by spreading the word about 5' passing and bicycle traffic law. We will all be safer.

--Paul Wells educationchair@kalamazoobicycleclub.org

KBC Monthly Meeting Notes for July, 2017

In Attendance: Valerie Litznerski, Andrew Kyser, Doug Kirk, Renee Mitchell, Mike Boersma, Terry O'Connor, Thom Brennan, Pam Sotherland, Paul Sotherland, Scott F Powers, Marc A Irwin, Tomme Maile, Dale Abbott, Rich Voorman, Paul Wells, Jon & Tempest Ballema, Tory Cane, Paul Pancella, Paul Selden, Doug Wales, Scott Baron, Terry Butcher, Mike Krischer, Rick Whaley

After introductions, President **Renee Mitchell** reported she made a presentation to the Kiwanis Club on Wednesday, using Powerpoint to summarize the activities of the club.

Vice President **John Olbrot** was not in attendance as he was on vacation.

Secretary **Valerie Litznerski** reported she'll be writing thank-you notes to the sponsors of KalTour and also to the Kalamazoo County Road Commission and Alamo Township for the paving of AB Avenue. **Paul Sotherland** will provide pictures.

Treasurer **Mike Boersma** reported KBC renewed as a platinum sponsor of the BTR race as in previous years. The club also needs to pay its insurance premium. There were some donations collected at BTR and from Mariann and Bob “Mom and Dad” Litznerski. The cash in the club still represents the \$3,000 from Dalmac which has been allocated towards the external educational campaign.

Awards Committee Chairperson **Pam Sotherland** reported she met with Paul Selden to discuss taking over the role as awards committee chair. Look for communication soon about future nominations for the Friend of Bicycling Award.

Education Committee Chairperson **Paul Wells** reported the “Give ’em 5 Feet” signs have been very popular. Thank you, Scott Powers, for giving us a great deal. They are being distributed to the cities, municipalities, club members and bike shops. If you help to distribute the signs, please make sure that they are going to a good home, one that will be very visible. We will be ordering more signs. Scott Baron suggested putting some signs out on Oakland and made some other suggestions for distributing them. We would like to limit attrition, but understand that it is unavoidable. Jon Ballema asked if it is clear on the signs that they are available through the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club and Paul Wells said “yes.” The signs cost a little less than \$5 each, we are requesting donations for the signs, at a level that is comfortable for recipients of the signs. Terry Butcher asked if there are any plans for a public service announcement. Paul Wells has not had time yet to pursue this. Thom Brennen has a connection at Channel 3 that he might be able to reach out to. Paul Selden stated that cyclists should center themselves in the lane and take the full lane of a roundabout according to MDOT rules. There is a brochure describing proper usage of roundabouts. There are 5 exceptions to the rule of riding as far right as practicably possible in the State of Michigan.

Director of Road Safety **Paul Selden** reported a resident of Cooper Township called him to complain about cyclists, taxes, bike paths, etc. Paul is working on a detailed response. Renee thanked Paul for his time in handling the call. The call with the resident was productive and ended well.

Ride Captain **Terry Butcher** thanked **Pam Sotherland** and **Teri Olbrot** for organizing the ride leader summit. About 20 people attended and the meeting was very productive. Some of the ideas that were discussed during the meeting have been implemented. People have been bringing signs to help organize the rides. **John and Julie Molton** have stepped up as ride leaders and have been very helpful. Having slower rides has been helpful to more novice cyclists, who feel more welcomed by the club. Paul Selden asked if there were any rides on trails, as there are some requests for those rides. **Terry O’Connor** stated there is some question whether mountain bike rides are covered under the club’s insurance. Terry knows of an accident on a paved trail that was covered but is not sure if an organized trail ride would be covered. Terry asked if a regular Pedal Bike Shop mountain bike ride could be covered. Terry will report back with more detail. Jon Ballema wonders if the club can support a MTB ride, with the caveat that the ride would not be covered by the gap insurance. Mike Boersma stated that gravel rides would be covered because those are on public roads.

Race Team Delegate **Tory Cane** thanked the club for supporting BTR and thanked the race directors for their hard work. Tory mentioned that it has been very difficult to find someone to take on the responsibility for the TNTT and is concerned that the Excel program used to run the TNTT has been offputting. Tory stated that she will do one more TNTT, but won’t commit beyond that. Valerie asked which of the TNTTs have been run. Tory and Jon asked if anyone in the room was interested in stepping up to run the TNTT in August. We have had about 12-15 participants for the TNTT.

KalTour Director **Mike Krischer** reported participation was similar to what we had in 2015 and about 29 different club members helped out during the event. Mike was very thankful for the returning and new volunteers. Mike is happy with the net income for the event. AMBUCs receives half of the net profit. AMBUCs is a service organization devoted to mobility impaired adults and children. We should highlight this more in Facebook and add it to the website. Mike said we have several potential changes that are being considered for the event next year: location, route, and format are being discussed. The family ride was not well attended. Mike thinks that

families are choosing to ride on the paved trails in the area. Trails have not been included in KalTour, as the current start/finish isn't located close to trails. Mike would like input from club members and might send out a survey.

BTR Race Update from **Jon Ballema**, who reported the 12th annual race was another success, with a three-year commitment from CyclingLawyer.com as a title sponsor. Jon expressed his thanks to KBC for its financial support and volunteer support and community engagement. This was not the state championship criterium this year, which caused a drop in registrations, and overall race participation has decreased in this state. We are hopeful that there were be positive changes, as there is new leadership in the Michigan Bicycle Race Association. **Ben Clark** was very helpful during race weekend, and responsive to club communication. Valerie thanked BTR for allowing us to have a tent there and also for the free entries that club members were able to use. Jon apologized that the sponsorship with KBC was handled last minute. Discover Kalamazoo is very engaged in the race and Margarette, Bob Miller's assistant was instrumental in promoting the event.

Bike Route Sharing Online: **Dale Abbott** reported that maps for the South Haven Ride, the Anniversary Ride, the W Ride (among other rides) might be very helpful for individuals interested in joining club rides. **Rick Whaley** mentioned that he had maps available for the South Haven Ride. Dale stated that the maps are helpful, but sometimes are too small. Map My Ride (costs money to print) and Ride with GPS might be options.

John Olbrot stated that TCBA uses Ride with GPS for their rides and has a club membership on ride with GPS so different individuals can step up to create the ride maps. The club membership is \$250 and there are some extra steps to manage club users and the library. Ride with GPS is easy to synchronize with GPS devices as well. Paul, Dale, and Terry will work on this together.

Jon Ballema was sanctioned as a new ride leader.

New Business: **Paul Selden** received lots of positive feedback from Silent Observer as a result of their presence at KalTour. Paul mentioned that most tips are not rewarded financially, but people are motivated by the anonymity of their tips.

Old Business: none, so the meeting adjourned.

–**Val Litznerski**, Secretary@kalamazoobicycleclub.org

Kaltour Results

KalTour is a ride not a race, so who won? There were 283 participants and they all came out ahead. The weather was beautiful (even cool at the start), the sandwiches from Erbelli's were well-received and the ride was wonderfully supported by numerous members of KBC and the Kalamazoo Valley chapter of AMBUCS.

It is hard to say than an event as large as KalTour can go perfectly, but we certainly came close. There were no road-service calls (only one slightly lost rider) and plenty of food in all the right places (except for a slight shortage of potato chips at the lunch stop).

KalTour 2017 was special because it was not special; it was a return to the ordinary after the traumatic events of June 2016. We will always remain grateful for the outpouring of community support that marked KalTour 2016 just days after the tragedy on North Westnedge, but in some ways it is more difficult to return to everyday patterns in the aftermath of a tragedy.

The number of riders this year was lower than in 2016, but very similar to prior years. The proceeds from KalTour 2017 will remain with the club and will be used to support local cycling activities. The attendance will also allow

the KBC to make a significant contribution to AMBUCS, which provides adaptive tricycles to mobility-impaired children and adults. Final financial results including the AMBUCS contribution will be released at the August KBC meeting.

The volunteer list that follows this article shows the depth of support for KalTour from the KBC membership. Many volunteers are listed for the first time; many tasks performed by volunteers represented new ways to divide the work of putting on KalTour. Hopefully these trends will continue. Special mention must go to Tom Keizer who arrived —by bicycle—promptly at 6 am to help with setup.

What is the future of KalTour? The start and lunch locations determine what routes are possible. Moving these locations to a different part of the county or into the city are options for the future. KBC members and KalTour participants will soon be asked their opinion on location and routes. Would you like to see new routes or should KalTour remain primarily west of 131? Should the shorter routes use trails? Would you like more hills or fewer hills? Please think about what you want to see from the future of KalTour.

KalTour 2017 Volunteer List

1. Mike Boersma -- road painting, registration & sag driver
2. Tom Brennan -- registration
3. Zolton Cohen -- registration & Briar Patch lunch stop
4. Joe Dill -- Swan Park Sag
5. Barb Hart -- Alamo SAG
6. John Hart -- Alamo SAG
7. Marc Irwin, -- road painting, registration & 31 mile ride leader
8. Mark Jensen -- road painting, grape purchase & Briar Patch lunch stop
9. David Jones -- registration
10. Angie Kautzer -- watermelon purchase
11. Tom Keizer -- Sunday setup & registration
12. Julie Knowlton -- watermelon cutting & cleanup
13. Val Litznerski -- social media coordinator and thank-you notes
14. Renee Mitchell -- registration
15. Terry O'Connor -- registration & 31 mile ride leader
16. Kevin Oostema -- ice purchase
17. Dave Riggs -- road painting
18. Paul Selden -- road painting, registration & family ride
19. Pam Sotherland -- Swan Park SAG
20. Paul Sotherland -- Swan Park SAG
21. Tim Stewart -- registration
22. Gordy Vader -- Saturday night setup
23. Doug Wales -- banana purchase & registration
24. Paul Wells -- registration & sag driver
25. Rick Whaley -- road painting
26. Donna Whitcomb and members of AMBUCS -- Briar Patch lunch stop
27. Jim Wyrick -- family ride
28. Anja Yoshikawa -- road painting
29. Mitchell Yoshikawa -- road painting
30. Molly Yoshikawa -- road painting

--Mike Krischer, KalTour Director, kaltour@kalamazooobicycleclub.org

KBC/Team Clark Logic Women Dominate Podium at Lawton & BTR Races

(Ed. Note: KBC & Team Clark Logic member Tory Cane offers these summaries for two of the biggest local races of the year.)

6/4/17: Race for Wishes, Women's Cat 4/5 Omnium & Road Race

This year's Race for Wishes in Lawton was June 4th. It was just Angie Kautzer and me from TCL. We had no idea what situations we would encounter during the race but made plans anyway. The day began with a super short 4-mile time trial, part of the omnium—which is combines scoring the TT and the road race to find the overall winner. Angie and I both rode strong, staying at the top of the results.

The TT was a pretty good warm up for the road race. There were 6 of us that quickly dropped to 5. Another strong woman made a few attacks, I made a few attacks, but the headwinds were brutal and it quickly became apparent that an attack was futile. So the plan became patience and pacing. A mile from the finish the pace picked up considerably and my aim became not letting the main attack woman get ahead. I stayed on her wheel until the final turn. Angie and I turned up the heat and no one really challenged. I started my sprint a bit too early but was happy when my teammate Angie crossed the line for 1st and I took 2nd.

7/8/17 BTR Cycling Lawyers Criterium Women's Cat 4/5

This is one of my favorite races as it's close and I know the course. The plan was for Angie and I to work together but this time we had the benefit of 2 additional teammates, Colleen and Robin. There were some other strong women in the field, mainly Elaine from team Athletic Mentors and we knew we'd have our work cut out. Elaine made some attacks that were answered swiftly by Colleen or Angie. My main objective was to hang on as I knew my sprint was solid. I tested it a bit on one of the primes, winning the Pedal gift certificate that I coveted. The last lap was pretty controlled. When we made the last turn I was probably 3 or 4 back, pretty calm, just looking for my line. Colleen had to move a bit to let me past but once I started I felt good. I didn't go through all the gears but my pace was fast enough to win by a few inches with Angie close behind. In the Omnium scoring, it was Angie and I taking first and second places.

Kudos

Kudos to **Malachi Barrett** of *MLive/Kalamazoo Gazette* for his reporting on matters of great importance to bicyclists and other non-motorized users of the road. His work performs an important function: keeping bicycling-related issues in the public eye. Most recently, "Kalamazoo River Valley Trail to Finish Construction This Year," was published in July 16, 2017. Other articles include "Bike, Pedestrian Safety Focus of changing Kalamazoo street paradigm", "14 Dangerous Roads to Bike and Walk in Kalamazoo County" and "Safety and Security Top concerns for Kalamazoo bicyclists, pedestrians" (posted to MLive on April 24, 2017).

There has been a lot of coverage in Pedal Press about the recent resurfacing project on west AB Avenue in Alamo Township, so Kudos to the people who made this happen—the leadership of Alamo Township: Supervisor Tony Hyet, Treasurer Mary Stoneburner, Clerk Laura Endres, and Trustee John Kennedy Jr. and Gail VanderWeele. Mark Worden, Project Superintendent for the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County also deserves credit for working with the Township relative to the costs and lifespan of various resurfacing options. Supervisor Hyet let me know that this stretch of road had been the source of many township resident complaints over the years, and cited the letter KBC sent the Township last fall as a catalyst in bring about this much needed improvement.

--Paul Selden

Submit Your Own Kudos

Do you appreciate something that an individual or organization has done for bicycling? Submit a “Kudos” to the PedalPress and to the Awards Committee!

KBC members are encouraged to give a shout out to an individual (non-KBC member) or organization that has promoted bicycling within the community. Kudos submissions should be sent to the Newsletter Editor for possible inclusion in an upcoming Pedal Press and to the Awards Committee as a possible nominee for KBC's Friend of Bicycling Award. Your submission should include the name of the individual/organization, what work was done, and how that work promotes bicycling within the community. Indicate in your submission if you would like to be acknowledged for the submission. Submissions can also be submitted from the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club website under the Kudos section, found at – ABOUT KBC – Community. Here's the link <http://www.kalamazoobicycleclub.org/about/community/>

Because KBC has its own awards for members, Kudos submitted here are intended for organizations and individuals who do not belong to KBC.

--Pam Sotherland, awardscommittee@kalamazoobicycleclub.org

Kalamazoo Strong/KBC Jerseys STILL Available to Order Online

Last chance!!! These awesome, one of a kind, jerseys will only be available until the end of June so order yours before it's too late!

20% Of Your Purchase Price Goes to Kalamazoo Strong

Sales of these jerseys sold through April 30, have netted an additional \$1,493.36 for Kalamazoo Strong



Kalamazoo Strong inspired KBC jerseys are available to order direct from Voler, the jersey company that produced KBC's 2010 jerseys. The design is the club's most recent jersey design with the red Kalamazoo Strong bicycle chain heart replacing the star where Kalamazoo is located on the jersey.

Cost is \$70 plus shipping (or order with a bike buddy and save shipping costs, orders over \$75 ship for free). 20% of the cost of each jersey will be donated to Kalamazoo Strong to benefit families of the June 7, 2016 cycling tragedy.

Jerseys are custom made and ship about 7 days after your order is placed and payment is verified. Here's a link to the online store where you can order the jersey:

<http://www.volere.com/browse/collections/details/li/KalamazooStrong/>

Editor's Letter: Time's Wasting Away

The main Editor's Letter is at the top of this month's issue, but here's a shorter one on an even more important subject.

Many of you know that Kathy & I did a month-long supported bike tour in Europe in June, pedaling 2200 miles from London to Rome. We rode over the Alps, Dolomites, Appenines and Jura mountains on incredibly beautiful roads. We rode some of the most hallowed (and flat) roads in the world including the Roubaix velodrome and the Arenburg "trench" pave section of Paris – Roubaix, the most famous one-day bike race in the world.

Our trip included stretches in England, France, Belgium, Switzerland and Italy. It was a dream ride for us and we'll never forget dozens of fabulous bike-related memories from it (especially the beyond-category climbs)! We aren't getting any younger and who knows how much longer we'll be able to do something so challenging and rewarding.

Why bring this up? Because life is short. And the older we get, the shorter life gets—not just how much longer we'll be around or how much longer we'll be able to ride, but also how long life lasts in the overall scheme of things. This point was poignantly and sadly driven home July 30 when a longtime club member sent me the obituary for a past KBC member many of you may recall. Bill Figeley was a great guy, a really happy guy, a fine rider, and an important part of KBC until around 10 years ago when he moved to a country home he built north of Battle Creek. Here's a link to Bill's obituary: <http://farleyestesdowdle.tributes.com/obituary/show/William-Jon-Bill-Figeley-105036305>

Bill was only 51. Way too young to die. Regardless of your age, the lesson is clear but bears repeating—life is short and fragile. Better start getting around to all those things you want to do, because one of these tomorrows it's going to be too late.

--Doug Kirk Editor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org

AUGUST KBC STATISTICS

Active subscriptions: 347 Active Members: 582(Includes family members)

New members:

Brian Begeman • James Blankenship • Ryan Blankenship • Hunter Cress • James Cress • Sally Cress • Tammy Cress • Jim Dendel • Kelley Dendel • Madilyn Dendel • Kelley Hampton • Nick Hampton • Daryl Horton • Sarah Horton • Jeanine Michael • Billie Jo Mundy • Michele Nemedi • Charles Ofstein • Elliot Parcels • Bella Robbins • Brittany Robbins • Hunter Robbins • John Robbins • Josephine Robbins • Charisse Stewart • Joe Thomas • Betty Trebing •

August Expiring memberships:

Marshall Beachler • Daniel Goldberger • Andrew Graham • Steve Groetsema •

Renewed memberships:

Corrine & Kelly Sallaz • Don Reeves • Leslie & Tim Scheffers Family • Michael Foley & Monica Elfring • Benjamin Clark • Valerie Litznerski • Doug Wales Family • Jake Biernacki • Colleen Myers • David Keyke • Erin Fouts • David Mulnix • Rick Thomas • James Blankenship •

YOUR LOCAL BIKE SHOPS:

They support us so please support them

Billy's Bike Shop, 63 East Battle Creek Street, Galesburg, (269) 665-5202. Sadly, Billy's no longer has a website

Custer Cyclery, 104 North Augusta, Augusta, (269) 731-3492, www.custercyclery.com.

Gazelle Sports, 214 South Kalamazoo Mall, Kalamazoo, (269) 342-5996, www.Gazellesports.com.

Kzoo Swift, 445 Forest St, Kalamazoo, (269) 929-8053, www.kzooswift.com.

Pedal Downtown, 611 W Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, (269) 567-3325,

Pedal South, 185 Romence Road, Portage (269) 324-5555,

info@pedalbicycle.com and www.pedalbicycle.com.

Trek Bicycle Store, Battle Creek 22 West Michigan, Battle Creek, 1-800-841-9494,

www.trekstorebattlecreek.com (Team Active has changed names but not owners).

Village Cyclery, US 131 in Schoolcraft, (269) 679-4242, www.villagecyclery.com.

Zoo City Cycle, 4328 South Westnedge, Kalamazoo, (269) 552-3000, www.zoocitycycle.com.