

KBC PedalPress

The Newsletter of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club for October, 2017

www.kalamazoobicycleclub.org



THE NEXT KBC MONTHLY MEETING IS October 10, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. at the Kalamazoo YMCA on Maple Street, 1st floor. All KBC members are welcome to attend.

Have you done a tour, race, club or family ride that you'd like to tell us about? Something unique or interesting? Send your story to editor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org Mr. Editor would be THRILLED to hear from you!

President's Letter

We sure have been experiencing some warm, wonderful Fall weather! With the leaves turning soon, it'll make for some great riding. Be sure to make time in your busy schedule to take advantage of this great weather and enjoy the beautiful state of Michigan on your bike!

Great Anniversary Ride & Picnic!

On behalf of all those who attended KBC's Anniversary Picnic, I'd like to extend a huge THANK YOU to John Idema for coordinating a wonderful ride and picnic! Not only did he deliver on beautiful weather, but the pizza from Bilbo's was very tasty and hit the spot after the ride. Also, many thanks to John's collaborator, Terry O'Connor, for helping him and making sure everyone's plates were well stocked and little food was left over. There were about 50 members who attended with groups riding on the trail and road. A great time was had by all!

KBC Elections are Just Around the Corner

Elections of KBC's Executive Committee (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) are held annually at KBC's November membership meeting. To be placed on the ballot, nominations for these positions are accepted at the October membership meeting and published in the November PedalPress. Descriptions of these positions can be found in KBC's Constitution by [clicking here](#). If you'd like to run for any of these positions or are just interested in the process, please be sure to attend our next membership meeting on Tuesday, October 10th, at 7:00pm at the YMCA on Maple Street. Look forward to seeing you there!

Ride Start Time changes in October

Just a reminder that in October weekday rides start at 5:30p. With less daylight each day through October and cooling temperatures, it's important to be prepared as you head out for a ride. Remember to dress in layers, wear bright cloths, and use strong headlights and taillights with fresh batteries. The sun can blind motorists at sunrise and sunset so be aware of your surroundings while cycling east or west during those times. Be on the lookout for

potholes, fallen limbs, slippery leaves and other road hazards. Most important, remember to follow the rules of the road, carry/wear personal identification and be safe cycling out there!

‘Helmets are the new Cool!’

‘Helmets are the new Cool!’ is a slogan that Safe Kids of Kalamazoo uses to help encourage kids to wear helmets. Safe Kids held a Bike Rodeo in early September where over 80 kids showed up to learn about bike safety and receive a new helmet that was properly fitted. As avid cyclists and those who diligently wear helmets, I feel KBC members have a responsibility to make sure those in our sphere of influence, children and adults, also feel that ‘helmets are the new cool!’.

I was reminded of the importance of helmets when I heard the story of a woman, who typically would wear a helmet, went out for a leisurely ride in her neighborhood and chose this time not to wear her helmet. A couple miles from home a dog ran into her causing her to crash hard. She was knocked unconscious but somehow awoke and rode home, not remembering the ride home. She was taken to emergency and had a concussion and amnesia amongst other minor injuries. Once recovered, she will be fine and will never ride without her helmet again. A lesson learned the hard way.

So please encourage everyone that you know - family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, children, adults, etc. – to wear properly fitted helmets each time they ride their bikes, no matter the distance and location. Information on properly fitting a helmet can be found at the NHTSA links below. If you know children that need helmets, Safe Kids of Kalamazoo provide helmets for a low cost, check out <http://www.safekidskalamazoo.org/> for more information.

NHTSA Bike Helmet Fit Instructions: <http://www.helmets.org/nhtsafit.pdf>

NHTSA Bike Helmet Fitting Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yzSwxWIJTk>

In Closing...

The KBC Board of Directors would like to encourage all members to get involved with the activities that KBC oversees and sponsors. Riding season winding down for most is no indication of KBC slowing down. Committees work hard over the winter months to complete as much planning as possible so when spring rolls around we can spend more time riding instead of in meetings coordinating spring and summer events. All our committees invite new ideas and appreciate it when members help to implement those new ideas. Please consider joining us at our monthly meetings to find out how you can become more involved with KBC as we fulfill our mission, which, simply put, is to ‘... promote bicycling...’.

Thank you and safe cycling!

-- **Renee Mitchell** ☺ President@kalamazooicycleclub.org

3rd Annual Tweed Ride – Saturday, October 7th

The 3rd annual Tweed Ride, a fund-raiser for Open Roads, is coming up soon, next Saturday, October 7th. As described on the Open Roads website (<http://www.openroadsbike.org/tweed-ride.html>), there will be two routes this year. A cyclist-friendly pre-event route of **25 miles** will start at **12:30** from Open Roads and head to Plainwell and back. This long route will meet back up at Open Roads to join the rest of our riders for the classic Tweed Ride. The classic route of **4 miles** starts at **3:00** from Open Roads and tours the city. The ride will end at Old Dog Tavern in Kalamazoo. Tweed Riders *typically* style themselves in dapper, vintage clothing. But, you may don cycling clothing and gear (especially if you plan to participate in the pre-event 25 mile ride). If those options don't sound like your thing, purchase the official Tweed Ride shirt as an add-on with your ticket. All proceeds fund the Open Roads year-round work to teach youth bike mechanic and social skills to better prepare them for their future.

KBC Fall Color Tour – Saturday, October 7th

Marc Irwin reminds everyone that the KBC Fall Color Tour will be held October 7, 2017 at 9 AM at Gun Lake Park. Routes will be 30/50/62 miles. Cider and donuts will be provided.

KRVT Fall Color Cruise – Sunday, October 15th

The 9th annual KRVT Fall Color Cruise will take place from noon to 3:30 on Sunday, October 15th. The out-and-back route for this family-friendly “cruise” travels on the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail from Markin Glen Park, turning around at the Riverview Launch where there will be fall refreshments to enjoy. You can begin the ride anytime between noon and 2:30 p.m. KBC will be a “Silver Level” sponsor for this event, so get involved if you’re looking for a fun way to enjoy the fall colors. See <http://www.kalcounty.com/parks/krvt/fall2017krvt.pdf> for more information.

KBC Monthly Meeting Notes for September 12, 2017

(Recorded by Mike Boersma)

In Attendance:

John Olbrot, Marc Irwin, Rick Whaley, John Idema, Terry O’Connor, Michael Krischer, Thom Brennan, Scott Barron, Tyson Gilmore, Ted Robinson, Paul Sotherland, Pam Sotherland, Paul Wells, Renee Mitchell, Terry Butcher, Robin Sides, Mike Boersma

- 1) Welcome and Introductions
- 2) Officer Reports
 - a. President (**Renee Mitchell**)
 - i. Thank you to Terry O’Connor for representing KBC at the Markin Glen Mountain Bike Course grand opening
 - ii. Thank you to Kathy Kirk, Terry Butcher, and Robin Sides for their work with the Jeremy Smith Ghost Bike memorial
 - iii. Thank you to David Jones and Pam Sotherland for their work with the Safe Kids Bike Rodeo
 - iv. Announced the Open Roads Tweed Ride October 7, 2017
 - v. Reminder that nominations for the Executive Committee are due at the October KBC meeting
 - b. Vice President (**John Olbrot**)
 - i. Announced that KBC will be going live with Ride with GPS as a member benefit.
 - ii. Soliciting maps for the Ride with GPS map library
 - c. Treasurer (**Mike Boersma**)
 - i. \$8978.44 in PNC Checking
 - ii. \$6168.93 in PNC CD
 - iii. \$5299.67 in PayPal
 - d. Secretary (**Mike Boersma on behalf of Val Litznerski**)
 - i. Thank you notes sent out to individuals who assisted with the Jeremy Smith memorial ride
 - ii. KBC cover letter, 5 foot passing resolution, and news clipping of bicyclist killed or seriously injured sent out to regional State Representatives and State Senators.
- 3) Committee Reports
 - a. Ride Captain (**Terry Butcher**)
 - i. The KBC Ride Around Kalamazoo County had 16 riders and that all went well
 - ii. The Jeremy Smith memorial ride had dozens of participants.

- iii. Jeremy Smith's family contributed \$560 in Jeremy Smith's memory to the KBC.
- iv. Pfizer and the City of Portage have committed to building a trail on the west side of Portage Road between Milham and Centre and that KBC was invited to the grand opening in 2018.
- b. Road Safety (**Paul Selden**)
 - i. Accepted a report from Bike Friendly Kalamazoo's Bicycle-Motorist meeting.
- 4) Board of Directors Meeting update
 - a. The KBC Board of Directors adopted an annual budget
 - b. The KBC Board of Directors adopted a membership price increase: individual membership will be \$25 year/ \$60 three year; family membership will be \$35 year/ \$75 three year. Membership fees will increase January 1, 2017.
 - c. The KBC Board of Directors discussed 501(c)(3) status and determined that more discussion is necessary.
- 5) KBC Anniversary Ride – Saturday, September 16, 2017
- 6) KalTour 2018 (**Mike Krischer**)
 - a. Mike Krischer reported survey results
 - b. KalTour meeting on September 26, 2017 at 6:00 PM at Arienne Associates.
- 7) Education Committee (**Paul Wells**)
 - a. Remaining 5 foot signs have been redistributed to local bike shops.
 - b. KBC received \$131.87 in donations for the 5 foot signs at local bike shops.
 - c. The Young Professionals Network Golf outing, which will donate money to support the Education Committee, will be held Thursday, September 21, 2017 at the Gull Lake View West Golf Course.
- 8) Ride Leader Sanctioning
 - a. Thom Brennan was sanctioned as a KBC ride leader.

New Business

- Marc Irwin reported that the KBC Fall Color Tour will be held October 7, 2017 at 9 AM at Gun Lake Park. Routes will be 30/50/62 miles. Cider and donuts will be provided.
- KBC received a Thank You letter from the LMB for the KalTour \$1 per rider donation
- KBC received safety information from the Kalamazoo County Road Commission

Adjourn at 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted

-- **Mike Boersma** treasurer@kalamazoobicycleclub.org

Kudos

Kudos to the Department of Streets and Transportation, City of Portage, for marking the first "buffered bike lane" in our area (to my knowledge) during the week of September 25. As defined by MDOT, a buffered bike lane is a "bicycle lane accompanied by a designated buffer space, separating the bicycle lane from the adjacent travel lane." Bicyclists familiar with riding the stretch of Portage Road immediately north of E. Osterhout Ave. will immediately see the distinctive lane striping and feel the difference made by the increased separation from the motorist travel lane. Another improvement in this stretch along Portage Road is a vastly more obvious south-bound through-(bike) lane designated for bicyclists at the intersection of Portage and Osterhout, and noticeably wider bike lanes on both sides of the road along Gourdneck Lake.

Kudos also to the City of Portage for installing a "Bikes May Use Full Lane" sign at the roundabout at the intersection of Milham Road and 12th Street in September. This may be one of (if not the first) Bikes May Use Full Lane sign in southwest Michigan, if not the state. It is my understanding that the decision to install the sign was a team effort reached after a full and thorough review of MDOT recommendations related to where bicyclists should ride in a roundabout, discussions with MDOT, and review of applicable state law.

-- **Paul Selden**, DirectorRoadSafety@kalamazoobicycleclub.org

Bike Safety Rodeo

“Ready to Roll!” Those were the words that greeted the KBC volunteers who staffed the ride course at the Bicycle Safety Rodeo sponsored by Safe Kids, Kalamazoo County and led by Bronson Children’s Hospital. On Saturday,



September 9 a several dozen kids, parents, and friends showed up at Woodward School for Technology & Research in downtown Kalamazoo to participate in this year’s event. Throughout the morning, kids registered their bicycles with Kalamazoo Public Safety, got their bikes fit and safety checked by volunteers from Open Roads, learned the rules of the road from Kalamazoo City police officers, and received a free helmet! The highlight though, as the KBC volunteers can attest to,



was riding the bike course, set up with two-way traffic, Stop and Yield signs, and a riding path marked on the track. A trip around the track gave kids the opportunity to practice their hand signals and bike handling skills. However, many of the kids didn’t stop at once or even twice around, but kept on going, smiles on their faces as they enjoyed the ride. Many thanks to Sue Bourget and Peter Coles, Heather Byrd (whose daughters participated), David Jones, Renee Mitchell, Pam Sotherland, and Paul Wells, all of whom enjoyed the morning at least as much as the kids themselves!

--Pam Sotherland, awardscommittee@kalamazoobicycleclub.org

Young Professionals Network Golf Scramble

On Thursday, September 21st, four KBC volunteers – Robin Sides, Thom Brennan, Terry Florian, and Paul Wells – joined a fun group of folks from YPN (Young Professionals Network) at Gull Lake View West Golf Course to support their third annual golf outing, a scramble with several teams of YPNers. KBC and YPN member Val Litznerski suggested that KBC might be the beneficiary of the event, and Eric Krupiarz, YPN golf outing organizer agreed. Our KBC volunteers held a chipping contest on the 3rd hole and an on-the-green-in-one contest on the 11th hole. YPN also included a 50/50 raffle. All totaled, we helped raise about \$500 for our KBC education fund. A Big Thanks to Val and Eric for believing in and supporting our educational efforts. And thanks to Robin, Thom, and Terry for joining me for a fun day.

--Paul Wells educationchair@kalamazoobicycleclub.org

(Yet another Stand-in) Editor’s Letter: One Never Knows

(Written while Doug and Kathy enjoyed a tour of the Northwest and points in between)

Recently, I stumbled upon a story at KBC’s KalTour Facebook page that elicited thoughts of the many ways in which small gestures of encouragement can inspire, kindle, or even rekindle a love of bicycling. One never knows how a few positive words, a nod of recognition, or an invitation to join in might nudge the trajectory of life’s journey. The following paragraph is a modified version (*i.e.* first-person to third-person conversion) of story told by Rick Bauer on the KalTour Facebook page.

Thirty-six years ago, as Rick Bauer was preparing to leave Kalamazoo and seek his fortune, he gave his team jersey and best wishes to a very young, aspiring bicycle racer. Recently, at the end of his very first organized ride back with KBC, he struck up a conversation with the 19-20 mph group that had dropped him with a bit of a hot start. He mentioned that way back in the “Dream Team” days he had been the KBC race captain. Immediately, one of the guys on the ride that day, Matt Sides, blurted out, “Cycle City?” That knocked Rick back a bit. After



all (he thought), how many people these days remembered the name?! “How do you know that?” Rick asked. Matt replied, “I still have the jersey you gave me. You brought me into the sport.” <Insert Rick’s tears of joy...> Matt was kind enough to return the jersey to Rick (see photo), who has many great memories training and racing in that jersey. Matt told Rick that he didn’t know why he’d kept it so long (now we know, of course), and Rick is grateful for Matt keeping the jersey in such good shape and for returning it to him. Rick’s gesture, way back in the early days of KBC, of encouraging a young and promising rider, and Matt’s reciprocation, nearly four decades later, speaks volumes about the ways KBC members provide support for each other as we grow into the sport of bicycling.

Providing support and encouragement can happen in a variety of ways. Partaking in the camaraderie at weekly club rides and annually at the Anniversary Ride helps cement friendships and bring new riders into the fold. Participating in community events like the Open Roads Tweed Ride and the KRVT Color Tour helps spread the good word about KBC. And, volunteering at occasions like the Bike Safety Rodeo helps young riders, new to bicycling, learn how to ride safely while enjoying the ride. But, it’s not just the big things like these that help make bicycling such a joy. Small gestures like getting an email about a spontaneous ice cream ride, hearing “Thanks for the pull,” or returning a fist-bump at the end of a particularly good ride help us all stay hooked on a healthy habit.

I invite you to think about the people who have touched your life – early on, over the years, or in the past couple of weeks – in ways that get you on your saddle and peddling more miles beneath your tires.

-- Paul Sotherland Webmaster@kalamazoobicycleclub.org

OCTOBER KBC STATISTICS

Active subscriptions: 365

Active Members (includes family members): 606

New members:

Mike Albright • Edward Aurand • Jacqueline Aurand • Jen Aurand •
Christine Bartholmey • Alisha Farber • Chris Hamilton • Brian
Rhinesmith • Phillip Timko • Dean Vuckovich • Gregory Worsnop

July Expiring memberships:

Michael Brus • John Letts • Ken Schnider

Renewed memberships:

Jeff Robertson • Terry O'Connor • Tyson Gilmore • Steve Groetsema •
Kathy Rubino & Dave Dunlap • Andy & Erin Louwaert • Hank Apotheker •
Molly Yoshikawa • Rick Bauer • Phillip Timko

--David Jones, KBC Database Manager and S.W. Michigan LMB District Representative

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

It's Lolë Weekend at Gazelle Sports! Get 20% off all regular-priced Lolë women's apparel October 5-8.

And mark your calendar for Gazelle Sports' super special Sock Sale - October 28-November 26. Buy three, get a fourth pair FREE!

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

Finally...in the They support us so please support them category...

While in the check-out lane of the People's Food Co-Op recently, I noticed the sign shown in the photo to the left.



I asked the cashier about the Bike Benefits program and was told that if I purchase a Bike Benefits sticker (for \$5), affix it to my helmet, and wear my helmet when riding my bike to the Co-Op I can reap the benefits shown on the sign. So, my helmet now sports a Bike Benefits sticker (see photo to the right). This program promotes both bicycling around town and wearing a helmet, so I thought I'd spread the good word about it.

Cheers – Paul Sotherland

