

KALAMAZOO E-BIKE CLUB? —DOUG KIRK

Have you ridden an e-bike? I have, and what fun! The technology is completely seamless and totally quiet. It's sort of like the bike suddenly will go as fast as it you WISH it would go under your own power—roughly twice as fast. Do not, I repeat, do NOT pass up the opportunity to try one. I promise you'll walk away smiling! And if you're like me, you'll walk away thinking, "Wow, I could keep up with Peter Sagan"—at least as long as the battery holds out (which is further than you might think).

I admit that at first I was dubious of the whole e-bike idea—I figured anybody putting a motor on their bike there is just cheating—like those jerks they've caught with motors in real races. I always figured one of the great things about bicycling is that you get out of it exactly what you put into it.

E-bikes completely alter the equation because riding an e-bike gives you a bunch more—speed, endurance, and—at least from my point of view—fun—than you put into it. How much more depends on the bike, and especially how much extra power you dial in. Sure, e-bikes weigh 15 or so pounds more, but it the extra power more than compensates. E-bikes will not pedal the bike for you, but once you start pedaling, the harder you pedal, the more power the bike adds to your effort.

And there's just no denying that anything that gets more people out on bikes is a good thing. E-bikes are doing exactly that.

So I was totally onboard until a friend asked me how KBC is going to deal with e-bikes on club rides. Once I got to thinking about folks riding e-bikes in packs of riders, I realized this raises issues we as a club need to think about. As of now I don't have the answer and REALLY would like to hear from our members about this.

Here's why: an e-bike will allow a complete neophyte—someone who has no group riding experience at all, who crosses wheels, doesn't call out obstacles, doesn't know how to maintain a bike, and has no idea how to ride in a group—to ride at a Hammerfest pace. No kidding! If you don't believe me, go try one out and see how easily you can go 25 mph!

In short, e-bikes (actually e-bike riders, not the bikes themselves) have the potential to make group rides less safe because the bike allows the rider to ride at a level he or she otherwise lacks the skills to do. How should we deal with this? Do nothing? Create a policy? Wait and see what happens? I'd like to hear from you. Email me at president@kalamazoobicycleclub.org

—Doug Kirk President@kalamazoobicycleclub.org



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Just read it all! It's great!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Do you take pictures? Send some cycling pics for inclusion in future PedalPress issues!

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Club.org

KBC STATISTICS (THERE WAS NO AUGUST MEETING)

Total Memberships: 317

Total Individuals: 521

September Expiring Members: [Jeanine Michael](#); [Jason Sparks](#); [Joseph Stoltz](#)

New or Renewed Members: Jeff Daniels; Carolyn Douglass; Carl Fried; Gary Greenop; Henrik Holm; Mike Hughes; Daniel Lam; Jeffrey Phillips; Daniel Sample; Bill Smyser; Matthew VanMiddlesworth; Ric Wiessner

NEXT KBC MEETING

KBC's regular meeting takes place on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be **September 10, 2019 at 7 p.m.** Enter Shakespeares and go to the back left.

The Kalamazoo Bicycle Club is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and donations are tax deductible. You may donate by holding Ctrl and clicking [here](#).

You may also designate how you wish your donation be used: general KBC activities, 5 foot passing education, or the Tuesday Night Time Trial series. You may also donate by check by sending your donation to Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, P.O. Box 50527, Kalamazoo, MI 49005. Please write "Donation" in the memo line.

Thank you, Mike Boersma
KBC Treasurer

KBC ANNIVERSARY RIDE SEPT 14!

Join the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club (KBC) celebrate its annual Anniversary Ride Saturday, September 14, 2019 at the Kal-Haven Trailhead at 10:00 am. You will have four rides to choose from, varying in length from 17.5 to 35.5 miles. Ride maps will be available at the start for each route, but the routes can also be accessed on the Bike Club's Ride with GPS site as well.

Enjoy your ride with fellow KBC folks, but be back at the Trailhead by noon where an ample lunch consisting of pizza and side dishes awaits you. We'll do the pizza and beverages, but need your help in providing a side dish or a dessert. If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail me at bludom98@charter.net. See you there! Last year's attendees below:



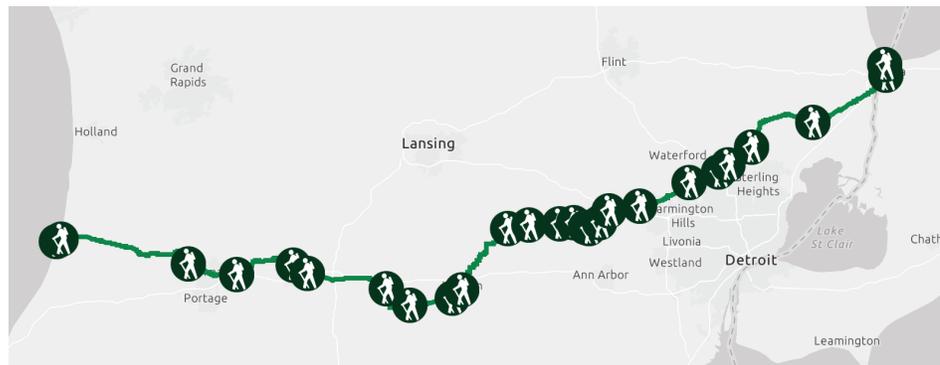
FALL FOLIAGE FEST RIDE OCTOBER 19

The 2019 FFF ride will be held on Saturday October 19th at 10:30. Maps for the 31, 50 and 61 mile routes are (more or less) contiguous and posted on Ride with GPS. We will start at the Gun Lake Park parking lot located at 124th and Patterson. The easy way to find it is; take 131 north to exit 59, east until it ends. The parking lot is on the left behind the bank. I predict the weather to be beautiful and by then we will have lots of color, if we still have leaves. -Marc Irwin

South Haven to Port Huron Trail Announced!

Mlive recently reported on a new route to walk or ride from the shores of Lake Michigan to Lake Huron, mostly on non-motorized trails. The 275 mile trail will open with an inaugural ride starting September 13.

The trail is the result of work led by the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance and “culminates the unification of 9 counties, 34 municipalities and 42 townships in the state’s first fully-marked destination trail and will help to feature continued national attention on the nation’s leading trail state,” according to their [website](#).



[Click here](#) for a link to the article.

Fall Bike Celebration Turns Into a Fundraiser For KBC by Paul Selden *Raise Funds for KBC By Riding Into the Equinox & Honoring Civic Leaders*

The enthusiastic work of local riding clubs, charities and civic volunteers on the inaugural **Fall Bike Celebration** (third weekend in September) has inspired a donor to help turn both its **Ride and Awards & Recognition Dinner** into a great fundraising opportunity for KBC (and others), on Saturday 21, 2019.

The donation was outlined at FBC’s August planning meeting. Information here applies to members of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club. The pledge to KBC is simple:

Five dollars will be donated to KBC for every KBC member who registers online for the Fall Bike Celebration **Ride** and/or the **Awards & Recognition Dinner** before online registration closes on September 17 AND who declares their KBC affiliation online by providing that information during [FBC’s online registration](#) process*. It’s easy to do the math: 100 KBC riders = \$500; 100 KBC dinner-goers = \$500, or \$1,000 for KBC.

To help raise funds for KBC, head over to www.fallbikecelebration.org and don’t forget to acknowledge your membership with KBC when you register before the Sept. 17 deadline.

*Important note: Known KCB members who have registered online without typing in their KBC membership information (before the release date of this Pedal Press issue) will ALSO count toward the \$5 donation, or, they may declare it in writing through September 17 by emailing fbcc@bikefriendlykalamazoo.org.

Ride to South Haven Ride Leader's Report: Ride of the Ricks!

On August 17, 17 riders began the Ride to South Haven, which leads to the conclusion that if the ride had been held on August 31 that this would have increased the number of participants. This group included former Ride to South Haven Ride Leader, Randy Putt, who came up from Indiana for the ride for the second straight year and Joe Stephansky riding a recumbent bike, as well as Flint Wiles riding from his home in Decatur. The riders began their journey to the Lake Michigan at 8:08 A.M. under pleasant, but potentially foggy conditions.



From Left to Right: Dan Goldberger, Tim Stewart, Ric Wiessner, Andrea Fore, Shawn Kloha, Rick Huyser, Steve Stapleton, Joe Stephansky, Marshall Beachler, Rick Rumsey, Rick Whaley, Erin Fouts, Dan Kallewaard, Ryan Heidenfeld, Flint Wiles, and Randy Putt. (Not Shown: Photographer John Olbrot.)

The RL quickly settled into a leading from behind mode, letting the faster riders set the pace. The riders passed just north of Lawton and a few miles west of the village, the riders encountered heavy fog for a couple of miles. The RL is happy to report that no one disappeared, never to be seen again. After 21 miles, Tim and Steve turned back, as they had planned to do a shorter ride, which also meant that they were also lucky enough to miss the fresh chip seal set down sometime earlier in the week on County Road 365 heading into Lawrence.

After 26.5 miles, the riders stopped for snacks and drinks at the Lawrence Citgo, the semi-official stop on the Ride to South Haven. It was also at this point where John's artistic vision came to fruition, commemorating The Invasion of the Bicycles, as shown below.



Just who are these otherworldly creatures emerging from the mist? Photographer John Olbrot.

Flint left the other riders to head back to Decatur and the remaining 14 riders continued to South Haven, albeit at a faster pace. This became apparent to the RL while riding on another segment of fresh chip seal on County Road 681, watching the other riders slowly fade into the distance and it was not due to fog. Eventually, the RL and a couple other stragglers "caught" the rest of the pack, after a regrouping at County Road 378. From here, the pace picked up some more, but the riders more or less stayed together and rode into South Haven as one, figuratively speaking, since the riders weren't on a 14-seat tandem.

At South Haven, most of the riders replenished their nutrients with the traditional Subs & More subs. The RL had ridden 52.9 miles, averaging 16.2 mph. It was pointed out to the previously oblivious RL that there were four riders on the ride named “Rick” or “Ric.” So, the RL immediately declared that all the of those not-so-named riders were henceforth either honorary “Ricks/Rics” or honorary “Rickitas” for the duration of the ride.

From South Haven, 13 riders headed back to KVCC; Rick R. completing his ride at South Haven. As they headed south on 76th Street, ominous clouds appeared in the distance and it began to sprinkle as the riders turned east on 48th Avenue. The light rain didn’t last long, however, which was a good thing. What wasn’t a good thing was that the rain came back and harder just west of Lawrence. But the soaking rain only lasted a few minutes and at the Citgo after 78 miles of riding, the riders set off on their last leg of the journey in somewhat sunny conditions.

The riders had been separating into groups and then regrouping during the ride, but after reaching Mattawan, the RL knew that the riders wouldn’t regroup again until the finish. So, the RL assumed his usual position as one of the stragglers and began to worry that the faster riders might break into his car in order to feast on the traditional post-ride pretzels and Gatorade. Then he began to worry that the faster riders might resort to cannibalism and start drinking each other’s blood. But he realized that the latter scenario wasn’t really his problem and he continued on his relatively leisurely way. (Editor’s note: the KBC does not officially promote or condone cannibalism.)

The RL arrived at KVCC at 4:08 P.M., averaging 16.2 mph for 103.6 miles according to his cyclometer. Here, the RL noted with relief that his car was intact. (And it was also the case that everyone was still alive.) Two more riders arrived at KVCC a couple of minutes after the RL and then the riders celebrated their accomplishments with the aforementioned Gatorade and pretzels and peanuts, too. The RL personally celebrated his first Century ride in 14 months by drinking his 3rd Gatorade of the day and envisioned having a Lost Weekend; waking up on the couch Monday morning, Gatorade bottles scattered across the floor. Fortunately, this did not come to pass. John rode back to his house, while the other riders drove back to their homes. The RL managed to avoid dreaming of bicycles that night. By Rick Whaley, Ride to South Haven Ride Leader.



Invasion of the bicycles. Photo credit John Olbrot.



In South Haven: “Rickita” Fouts, “Rick” Stephansky, “Rick” Kallewaard, “Ric” Beachler, “Rickita” Fore, “Rick” Kloha, “Rick” Putt, Rick Huyser, and Rick Whaley in South Haven. (“Ric” Olbrot photo.)

ABOUT KBC

Recognizing that Southwestern Michigan offers a rare combination of good bicycling roads and great scenery, several cycling enthusiasts got together in 1971 to form the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club.

They wanted to support and encourage other riders in the area, to promote the sport of bicycling, and to have fun. As shown in the Club Mission, that tradition continues today in the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club.

Club Mission

The purpose of the Club shall be to promote bicycling; to encourage and facilitate touring, races, bicycle outings, and all forms of recreational bicycling activities; to defend and protect the rights of bicyclists; to secure a better understanding and recognition of the need for safer riding conditions; to encourage the allocation of facilities for bicycling on public lands; to cooperate with the public authorities in the observance of all traffic regulations; to provide an opportunity for members to socialize with others who have an interest in bicycling; and to recognize bicycles as vehicles used for pleasure, fitness and transportation. The Club will cooperate with other organizations with a similar goal and purpose. Hold Ctrl and click [here](#) to view the constitution.

What has cycling done for me? How about for us?

A recent cycling podcast prompted me to think about how my life is different due to cycling than it might be otherwise. Some impacts are trivial, others profound:

- I get to smell the ripe grapes near Lawton on Monday night rides
- My blood pressure, lipid profile and body mass index are holding steady or improving despite the daily effects of age
- A number of people I call friends have come into my life as a result of cycling
- I no longer have excess cash cluttering up the bank account

After considering these and other effects of riding bikes, I realized the train of thought is pretty self-centered. So I expanded the mental exercise to include the question: “What has cycling done for us?”

- One real benefit is the opportunity to do healthy activities with my wife and family. I am often saddened when I hear married people assert that they have no common interests with their spouse. He likes sports, she sews. He roasts BBQ, she is a vegetarian. Julie and I feel blessed to share the love of riding. We spent the Labor Day weekend at the Midwest Tandem Rally. Riding all day on a tandem is very close company and we even rode home in the same car! And our kids are coming around, too. Our 21 year old scoffs at our goofy jerseys, but has been riding her bike to work and has done two trips on the Kal Haven trail this summer.
- Another thing cycling has done for a broader “us” is to preserve and promote access to wild areas. A great example is the new Warnaar Trail at Meyer-Broadway park in Three Rivers. This park is a beautiful piece of wooded, rolling countryside. Prior to the mountain bike trail being built, the land was accessible mostly to disc golfers. Disc golf is still being played there, but now scores of cyclists also have access to this natural area.
- One more “us” is the bicycle industry. Cycling supports manufacturing of bikes, parts, clothes and accessories. There are thousands of bike shops which sell bikes and accessories and repair bikes. There is even a website dedicated to helping people find jobs in the bike industry: www.bicycleindustryjobs.com. Who knew!

Enjoy the fall riding season (probably my favorite time to ride) and perhaps you can think of other things that cycling has done for you!

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