

PRESIDENT'S LETTER—DOUG KIRK

Miscellaneous Stuff

I've been riding since 1982 and can't recall a Christmas with weather like we had over the holidays this year. I suppose most normal folks around here would like to see a white Christmas, but if it ain't happening I'll take a week of beautiful days for sure. Strange times we live in.

Climate Change is truly serious business—probably the most serious problem facing mankind. And I'm old enough to remember that winter was a whole lot winterier 50 or 60 years ago. So I felt a bit like a schnook basking in sunny, 55-degree weather and reveling in riding almost 60 miles to Three Rivers and back on Christmas Day with four great friends and riders. 60 miles on Christmas! No booties! No jacket! No numb toes! Plenty of sweat! What a gift! Hope you were able to get out and soak up some sunshine and vitamin D yourself.

Still, I suspect real winter will settle in by mid-January, so you'll probably want to drive something with a functioning heater to KBC's 2020 Recovery Party Saturday, January 11th from 7:00 to 10:00. Same location as last year, Wind & James, the event center located at 555 E. Eliza St. in Schoolcraft (better known to cyclists as W. Ave.), about 5 blocks east of US-131. It's always the best KBC party of the year with lots of great food (bring a little something to share if you can). There's lots of room inside and plenty of parking right in front. KBC supplies beer, wine, soft drinks and some of the food.

You might recall last year we had a bike-powered blender set up for mixing your own margaritas. Come take it for a spin again this year—and have a drink. It was such a hit we figure on one-upping it this time! We'll have prizes, awards, schwag, lots of your favorite bike-buddies and a whole lot of fun.

Other stuff in the KBC pipeline: We plan to expand our education efforts this spring—working on spreading the word about giving cyclists 5 feet. We would truly love to get YOU involved in this. Please come to one of our regular monthly

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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

editor@kalamazooBicycle
Club.org

KBC MEETING NOTES—DECEMBER10, 2019

Treasurer: Pam Sotherland

PNC Checking Account Balance: \$12,220.96

PayPal Account Balance: \$2831.96

PNC CD: \$6,182.84

Designated funds:

Jeremy Smith Fund: \$560

Education: \$7,206

HAVE YOU VISITED THE NEW MONTHLY CLUB MEETING LOCATION?

Free popcorn, huge piles of nachos, beer, wine, and fellow cyclists and KBC members! Where will YOU be April 9 at 7:00 pm? Shakespeare's!

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,
KBC Treasurer

KBC MEETING MINUTES

DIRECTORS REPORTS:

Education: Paul Wells

League Cycling Instructor (LCI) Training is in progress, nothing has been decided but the process has started.

CPR Training for ride leaders is a possibility for next year. Paul has begun making phone calls to the American Red Cross and groups of up to 8 participants could go to their venue for the training at \$97 per person. Mike Jones and Dan Goldberger were contacted about an emergency response training in the spring.

The *All Bike Meeting* planning is underway but a new venue is needed. This event occurred during Kalamazoo Bike Week last year and was held at Boatyard Brewing Company. Paul is looking into venues in which Shakespeare's Pub, Jac's Cekola's, Bronson Auditorium, and Borgess Auditorium were all mentioned.

5 feet Yard Signs are still being stocked in all bike shops and will be in Gazelle Sports as well. If anyone is interested in yard signs or has other ideas please reach out to Paul Wells. Paul Guimond asked the club what perceptions everyone had about the enforcement of the 5 foot ordinance. Suggestions were made to make an appointment with the Chief of Public Safety to discuss the ordinance, focus on educating the public, continued advertisements and promotion about the ordinance, smaller riding groups, if riding alone put a blinking light on the helmet, brighter flashing taillights, and how it is helpful to cyclists when lanes are adjusted to slow down traffic (reducing the number of lanes to add bike lanes), etc. Paul Runnels noticed a different bike club distributing pool noodles to show the example of space necessary to traffic and an example in which this could be utilized is for the Ride of Silence.

Communication: Charlie Eaton

Learning about duties and responsibilities from previous Communication Director, Dale Abbott. Plans to assist the education committee with utilization of social media platforms.

Ride Captain: Gordy Vader

There was a *Ride Leader Summit* that took place on December 3, 2019 in which many ride leaders were able to attend and have discussions about lane usage (2 abreast or single file). After much discussion it was

KBC MEETING NOTES CONTINUED —DECEMBER 10, 2019

decided each Ride Leader will use discretion and communicate the plan to the group of riders. Other topics discussed consisted of: communication from the front to back of the group and vice versa, splitting up groups if larger than 15 riders and other ride leaders are present, and more socializing after group rides. There will be another summit in early spring for ride leaders to attend.

Fundraising: Mike Boersma (not present):

Doug shared Mike's message with the group stating, it's that time of the year when many are considering making donations to various organizations. KBC is always appreciative of any donations, and will be sure to put any donations to good use locally.

NEW BUSINESS

Fundraising Campaign for Kalamazoo River Valley Trail (KRVT)

Guest Speaker: Chris Lampen-Crowell

Fundraising is happening for the final portion of the paved trail, a 4.5 mile segment from the edge of Galesburg through Augusta to Fort Custer, and will also be a part of the Lake to Lake route totaling 271 miles from South Haven to Port Huron. Chris, a co-chair for this project, is planning to go public in spring with fundraising and would like to have \$600,000 of the \$1 million pledged by this point. The goal is for all cycling clubs, running clubs, bike shops, etc. to support this effort which invites people to be active in a safe environment. The total campaign is \$2.8 million in which \$1.8 million is provided by the State of Michigan. Doug asked about money being set aside to maintain the trail. Chris stated the Kalamazoo Parks Foundation has created an endowment with the Kalamazoo Community Foundation and they have funds for maintenance of the trail. Terry O'Connor asked what dollar amount KBC would be willing to provide, Doug stated anything over \$500 needs to be approved by the EC, but would take suggestions. There was not a suggested amount. Anyone interested in donating and planning to write a check can make payments payable to:

Campaign Connect

Parks Foundation of Kalamazoo County

PO Box 50467

Kalamazoo, MI 49008-0467

Helmet Name Stickers: Paul Sotherland and John Hart

Paul will send out a form for anyone in the club who wants a name sticker on each side of their helmet. This was a suggestion at the previous Ride Leader Summit as it can help to promote camaraderie on group rides. Anyone who is a club member and is interested can get a sticker with their first name for the side of their helmet. KBC will reimburse John for the cost of the stickers. Bill Surna asked if the KBC logo could appear on the stickers, and John stated he had issues when he tried that for the samples, but could look into it if that's what everyone wanted.



Friend of Bicycling Award: Pam Sotherland

Nominations were reviewed and voting occurred with all members present at the meeting. It was voted on by the club to reward 2 winners in which **Larry Shaffer and Ministry with Community and Zoo City Cycle & Sport Bicycle Donation Program** will be the two recipients for the award. Each winner will receive a plaque.

Ride Leader Sanctioning: Paul Sotherland and Doug Kirk

ATTENDEES:

Stacie Ballard
Clark Bennett
Sue Bourget
Peter Coles
Charlie Eaton
Steve Groetsema
Paul Guimond
Barb Hart
John Hart
Kathy Kirk
Doug Kirk
John Knowlton
Julie Knowlton
Chris Lampen-Crowell (visitor)
Renee Mitchell
Terry O'Connor
Paul Runnels
Pam Sotherland
Paul Sotherland
Bill Surna
Gordy Vader
Paul Wells
Rick Whaley
Mark Zettel (visitor)

Your name could be here, too, if you attended the KBC monthly meeting!

KBC MEETING NOTES CONTINUED

Anyone interested in being a Sanctioned Ride Leader for the 2020 season should fill out the form on the KBC website and attend a club meeting to be sanctioned. Doug sanctioned ride leaders who previously completed the form before the end of the meeting.

Annual Recovery Party: Doug Kirk

A reminder the Annual Recovery Party will take place on January 11 at 7pm at Wind + James. Bring a dish to pass. We hope to see everyone there!

Doug motioned to adjourn and Paul Sotherland seconded the motion at 8:09pm

NEXT KBC CLUB MEETING IS FEBRUARY, 11 7:00 P.M. AT SHAKESPEARE'S PUB; TOP FLOOR, BACK LEFT. FREE POPCORN AT THE BAR. JANUARY 11 JOIN US AT THE RECOVERY PARTY (SEE P. 8)!

KBC STATISTICS

Total Memberships: 335

Total Individuals: 546

January Expiring Members: John Idema; Mark Jensen; Larry Kissinger; Christina Thomas

New or Renewed Members: Adam Bradley; Bruce DeDee; Gary Hammock; Tim Krone; Rob McDougall; Renee & Don Mitchell; Richard Morse; Jeff Newman & Family; John & Maureen Shubnell

Help the Club in Your Own Time!

The Pedal Press could be even better with your help! There are stories we don't have time to write, features we don't have time to report, and member profiles that need to be written. If you are willing to do a bit of writing, please contact the editor to express your willingness to help keep the club strong through even better communication. I'll be glad to give you suggestions and constructive editing! Thanks, John. [edi-tor@kalamazobicycleclub.org](mailto:editor@kalamazobicycleclub.org)

PRESIDENT’S LETTER CONTINUED

meetings or contact Paul Wells directly. I want to extend special shout-out to Paul, who is doing a fantastic job heading up the Education Committee. He’ll be happy to give you yard signs and magnetic car signs—for you, and also for you to give to friends or to post wherever YOU think they ought to be.

We also hope to have two different early season safety-oriented meetings. One will be a presentation about how to handle the situation when a rider falls or suddenly feels ill—basic first aid and also how to manage traffic, etc. The other will be to (re) teach group riding skills.

We are also partnering with Texas Township and the City of Portage to install two outdoor bike workstations. One will be at Texas Drive Park. The other will be part of a memorial for Jeremy Smith, the young bicyclist who was struck and killed on Portage road a couple of years ago, near the corner of Portage and Romence Roads. In case you didn’t know, there are at least 3 of these outdoor repair stations around town already—at the Kal-Haven Trailhead on 10th St., at the WMU Sustainability building at the corner of Howard and W. Michigan Ave., and on West Vine St. across from Old Central High School.

Finally, it’s the beginning of a new year. Time to take a look at setting some goals for your riding this season. I truly hope that next December you look back on your 2020 riding as the best ever.

—Doug Kirk President@kalamazoobicycleclub.org



A Christmas Bike pic!

Front Row: Paul Sotherland, Andy Blackburn, Kathy Kirk, Kris Kringle, Kevin Oostema

Back Row: The abominable snowman.

Photo Credit: Kathy Kirk

KBC PHOTO GALLERY!



Pedal Press would love to print your cycling photos! Send them to editor@kalamazooobicycleclub.org



Top Left: Four Flahutes — Kathy Kirk
Top Right and Bottom Left: Tuesday Pedal Women's ride — Dawn Gross
Bottom Right: Steve Cox on Wetherbee — John Knowlton

Dirty Donut Race – Discounted KBC Registration!

Based on our 2019 popularity, the Dirty Donut is expected to sell out in 2020! The race will be on **Sunday May 31, 2020** and will start and finish at our new “Donut Headquarters”, the Martin High School in Martin, Michigan. But that is not all, the new venue offers access to bathrooms, PLUS we’ll have access to locker rooms for pre- and post-race wardrobe changes, all located closer to parking! In addition, we will again offer a post-race lunch as part of your entry, but this year we will also have VEGAN foods available.

Kalamazoo Bicycle Club Members can take advantage of our cheapest price of the year and use the following coupon code for an additional 10% off:

kalamazoobc20

You can register at - <https://www.bikereg.com/dirty-donut>



Thanks to our friends at VIE13, our 2020 Dirty Donut event jersey is a must. It is based on a “horse jockey” uniform. It has a #2 on the right shoulder for the jockey’s race number, but it also signifies the second year of the Dirty Donut. We are calling it our “bike jockey” jersey. Check it out on our merchandise page at the www.dirtydonutrace.com

You will have to decide before the race if your going to race in the Sprint or the Donut Eating Division. We have revamped the team competition so that only 5 people can sign up for a team and we have added more Awards and more options for Fat Tire, Single Speed, and tandem racers. We will have GLUTEN FREE DONUTS available for those that need them, which is BIG NEWS as we are the first race to offer this option. They are the same size and weight as our regular donuts, so nobody will be at a competitive advantage or disadvantage. The wait for Sprint race awards has been cut in half for 2020 and our AWARDS STAGE will be even bigger than last year. We also are planning a huge KIDS RACE (where they also will get to eat a donut). Our Raffle will offer a new Trek gravel bike and be just as big as last year. You will have the chance to again become part of Taylor’s Dirty Dozen Club and we will help raise money for Make-A-Wish of Michigan and The League of Michigan Bicyclists.

Recovery Party January 11!

The Kalamazoo Bicycle Club cordially invites all members to its annual Recovery Party Saturday, January 11, 2020 from 7 pm-10:00 PM.

It is being held at the Wind + James event facility at 555 Eliza Street in Schoolcraft, 5 blocks east of US 131. (W Avenue becomes Eliza Street east of US 131) There is ample on sight parking.

We will provide beer, wine, soft drinks and bottled water, along with a limited supply of small sandwiches. We depend on you to help us by bringing a dish to pass, please!

We'll have awards to hand out, raffle giveaways from area bicycle shops, and the opportunity to mingle.

See you there!

Editor's note: The January recovery party takes the place of the January KBC Club meeting.



El Presidente Doug Kirk riding the human powered margarita mixer at Recovery Party 2019!

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.

Editor's Letter: New Bike Day

“Why do you need another bike? How many bikes can you ride at one time anyway? By the way, how many bikes do you have?”

If you're like me you might have heard these questions before. They recently started up in my world as I prepared to take delivery of a new gravel bike in mid-December. That was the culmination of a 16 month process to decide which frame, wheels, tires and component group I would select for the finished product. Testing involved riding a number of bikes, different wheels and tires as well as various drivetrains including 1X (one by). The process was delayed, happily, when Shimano announced the introduction of a gravel-specific drivetrain, GRX, in May 2019. This drivetrain is built around my favorite group set, Shimano Ultegra. I had previously thought it could not be improved, but the addition of

a rear derailleur clutch to prevent chain slap, wider chain line to allow for larger volume tires and ability to run a chain ring as small as 31 teeth proved me wrong. But new bikes are



not about the bike. That was the one thing Lance got right.

I don't need another bike. All of my physical needs are met. I haven't missed any meals, I live in a lovely house and have a fulfilling, meaningful job. I can only ride one bike at a time. And “How many bikes do you have,” when asked by a non-cyclist, is a question too personal to answer.

But a new bike is a whole lot more than the sum of a frame and some parts. A new bike is about possibilities. It means I will go new places, see new things, and face new challenges. A new bike means there are new people to ride with, and existing friendships to deepen. It represents, in a single package: future, potential, possibility, accomplishment, relationships, success, challenge, achievement and victory. It stands for new, exciting, healthy, vigorous, lively, vital and strong. It is the symbolic embodiment of human yearning and longing for more. In short, a new bike is hope. I don't need more bikes. But do I need more hope? You're damn right I do.

Bring on the bike.

John Knowlton, editor (ctrl+click) editor@kalamazooicycleclub.org