

PRESIDENT'S LETTER – DOUG KIRK

Holy \$%&*#@!

It's about 5:15 in the afternoon on September 15th. A beautiful, bright sunny day, and I'm totally stoked riding out to hook up with the usual subjects for the Wednesday Night Ride. I ride north on Oakland, down the big hill by the stadium, dodge traffic on Stadium Drive for a block or two, then cross Michigan Ave. by Walgreen's and continue north on Elm St.

I turn left onto North Ave. and find myself several yards behind another bicyclist. We're both headed west with the late afternoon sun in our eyes. He's riding in the middle of the bike lane. I'm catching him so I'm riding to his left on the white line.

That's when a small, electric, completely silent moped pops out of the glaring sunlight directly in front of us. It's coming at us head-on, with a bareheaded 8 or 10-year-old girl at the controls. Holy \$%&*#! Before anyone can react, she motors straight between the two of us at maybe 15 miles an hour.

I was stunned. The impact speed would have been over 30 miles an hour. I can still hardly believe it happened, but it did.

There's lots of different little motorized gadgets now. Skateboards, big, single-wheel boards, and all sorts of scooters. They ride wherever they want. They do not have driver's licenses. They do not care about the rules of the road. You have been warned!

On a much happier note, it's early October and that means the vineyards around Mattawan, Paw Paw, and Lawton are loaded with ripe concord grapes. Hurry out just for that intoxicating smell. They are usually harvested by October 10th.

The closest area to sweeten your nostrils is 8th St. south of Texas Corners about 1/2 a mile. Keep your eyes and nose looking west. But the biggest and best vineyards are south and east of Lawton. Just ride to the high school on the east side of town and enjoy!

Email: president@kalamazooBicycleClub.org



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Please send photos of your rides to:

editor@kalamazooBicycleClub.org

KBC Business

The next KBC meeting will be Tuesday, October 12 at 7:00 p.m. at Shakespeare's Pub, 241 E Kalamazoo Ave. Up the steps, to the back and left.

Finance report as of 09/13/21, Pam Sotherland

PREVIOUS BALANCE CASH (PNC Checking + PayPal) ACCOUNTS: \$16,310

Monthly RECEIPTS (Cash In): \$135

Monthly EXPENSES: \$29

CURRENT BALANCE CASH ACCOUNTS: \$16,416

TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS: \$5,353

Discretionary Expenses: \$500

Education Fund: \$3,808

ROR21: \$1,045

ENCUMBERED EXPENSES: \$0

AVAILABLE Balance for Remaining Budgeted Expenses: \$10,956

Current Cash minus Designated Funds minus Encumbered Expenses

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT: \$6,189

Minutes of KBC Meeting - September 14, 2021

ATTENDANCE	Marc Irwin	Paul Selden
Shaun Ballard	Doug Kirk	Pam Sotherland
Stacie Ballard	Kathy Kirk	Bill Surna
Clark Bennett	John Knowlton	Gordy Vader
Mike Boersma	Terry O'Connor	Paul Wells
Jillian Howland	Paul Runnels	Rick Whaley

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) REPORTS:

President: Doug Kirk

At next month's meeting (October), nominations will be taken for 2022 for President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The social director position is vacant, but there is still a **KBC Anniversary Ride** happening on Saturday, September 25, 2021 at 10am. Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish to share. Jillian will promote the event on Facebook. Everyone spread the word!

It is encouraged to email president@kalamazoobicycleclub.org regarding any ideas that benefits the bicycling community.

Treasurer: Pam Sotherland presented the treasurers report.

DIRECTORS REPORTS:

Education Chair: Paul Wells

Congratulations to Bill Surna, Jennifer Johnson, and Paul Wells who are now certified **League Certified Instructors (LCIs)** as they completed the training on August 13-15, 2021 in Portage, Michigan.

Thank you to the Chain Gang Memorial donation, we were able to order **250 5-foot yard signs**. They should be in soon and the club will work on distribution.

'Round the Towns have concluded for the year. Kudos to the club and thanks to all the volunteers!

NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fall Foliage Ride: Marc Irwin

Saturday, October 16, 2021 at Gun Lake Park on Patterson Road at 10:30am. Donuts and cider at the end of the ride! There will be 30, 50, and 62 mile route options and can be found on Ride with GPS.

Ride to South Haven: Rick Whaley

The Ride to South Haven has been rescheduled to Saturday, October 2 at 8am. Meet at KVCC if you want to join!

Letter to Road Commission from KBC: Mike Boersma

Thank you for sending a letter to the road commission. The road commission discussed the letter at their September meeting and have forwarded the letter to the lobbying group so this group will know the position of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club.

Fall Bike Celebration: Paul Selden

Thank you to the participation from KBC members who have helped with planning of this event. There are events happening all weekend September 17 - 19.

Meeting adjourned 7:45PM

It's Election Season

Per the KBC Constitution, nominations for President, Vice-President, Secretary & Treasurer will be open at the October 12th regular monthly meeting. Any KBC member in good standing may be nominated for these positions. The election is at the November 9th club meeting.



Editor's note: Any candidate nominated for an elected position may submit a candidate's statement to Pedal Press. Statements should be 300 words or less and received by e-mail no later than 11:59 p.m. on October 23, 2021 for publication in the November Pedal Press.

KBC Group Ride Start Times Change in October

In the month of October, Monday and Wednesday night rides roll out at 5:30.

If you ride in November, you're a tough guy or gal! No club rides are regularly organized in the winter months.

KBC Statistics (Thanks to Rick Whaley for managing these details!)

[Please check for your name here!](#)

Total Memberships: 296 — Total Individuals: 507

New or Renewed Members: Karl Freye; Mike Hughes; Kerri Langdon; Mike Mock; David & Diane Riggs; Cody White

October Expiring Members: Nick & Kelley Hampton; Elliott Parcels; Jacinda Roedel

Education Committee News

KBC held the final 'Round the Town community ride in Lawton on Thursday, September 9. Renee Mitchell organized this one from Lewis Park through the beautiful farmland and countryside. We had a dozen folks from six years to 70+ years old. Thanks Renee for organizing, and KBCers Clark Bennett, Bill Surna, Kitty and Gordy Vader, for joining and supporting our rides.

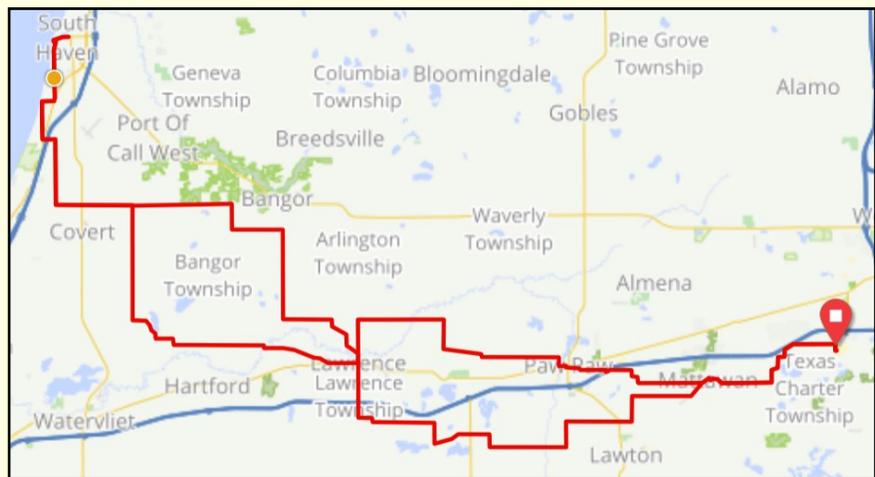
I just picked up 250 more "Give Them 5 To Keep Them Alive" yard signs. We will be restocking existing distribution points and adding some new ones. If you want a sign, just email me at education-chair@kalamazoobicycleclub.org, and I'll contact you to arrange pickup. The local bike shops have signs, and donation jars as well, so you can get signs there. Again, thanks to the Chain Gang Memorial Fund donation for the ability to keep this program rolling along.

Fall is upon us! Time to steel ourselves for cold weather riding. My goal is always to keep riding as long as possible. Keep the bright lights flashing, and bright colors flying.

Paul Wells, KBC Education Chair

The Rescheduled 2021 Ride to South Haven

The rescheduled Ride to South Haven is will be held on Saturday, October 2, 2021, starting at 8:00 A.M. from the southwest corner of the KVCC parking lot on O Avenue. And even though there won't be as many tourists lining the streets of South Haven welcoming our arrival, the ride should still be the adventure of a lifetime. The map is in the KBC Ride with GPS Route Library and is labeled "South Haven Century Fall 2021." The route will be approximately 100 miles, although there is always the option to ride approximately 50 miles to Lawrence and back.



Rick Whaley, Ride to South Haven Ride Leader

Addition by Subtraction

Editor's Letter, John Knowlton

Doug is still new to organized cycling events. He lives in Indiana, and we met when my firm merged with his. He rode the 24-mile Melting Mann and 36-mile Barry Roubaix in 2019. We also drove to Spartanburg, SC for the 74-mile Assault on Mount Marion that year. In 2020 we were going to do an organized ride in the Italian Dolomites, but that was the plague, you know. In 2019 he was riding a cheap, heavy hybrid bike. I told him how much more comfortable and quicker he would be on a higher quality steed. He and his wife set some sales goals with the promise that he could buy a bike once hit the goal. He found a top-of-the-line Specialized Roubaix on sale for about half off at the end of the 2019 season. He hadn't quite hit the quarterly goal yet but was on pace and didn't want to miss this super-duper discount. He bought the bike, but his wife wouldn't let him ride it until he bagged the bonus. So, he kept it, unriden, in their bedroom!

This sweet new ride came with Dura-Ace electronic shifting, awesome wheels and disc brakes. It is a lovely machine. Since we didn't go to Italy last summer, we did a four-day M-22 trip in northern Michigan. On the new bike he was about 25% faster than on the hybrid. We had a ball climbing hills, tasting wine, and being tourists. We were signed up for the 2020 Melting Mann which was deferred for 17 months until September 2021. Doug drove up and we met in the parking lot. As we started a little warm up ride, he immediately said, "I don't have any gears!" It turns out that if your bike is leaning against the seat of your car and the shift lever is depressed, the battery will drain, leaving you with a single-speed bike.

In 2018 Julie and I ordered a custom tandem bike from Co-Motion. We picked the size, components and most importantly, a cool paint job! One of the parts we picked was an electronic shifting drivetrain. I had heard about and experienced poor shifting on tandems, in part because they are so long and there can be some mushiness in the extended-length cable back to the rear derailleur. Last fall we were excited to join our club's fall foliage ride. It is a beautiful course when trees are at their peak color splendor. The start is about 40 miles from our house, so we loaded

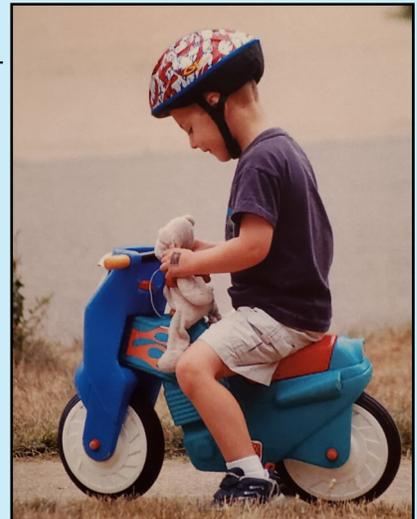


the tandem into the van, making sure the shift levers were not hitting anything! At the start we headed out with our crew, and I went to shift to the big ring . . . but couldn't. A quick check showed that the battery was full, and all of the wires were seated properly. A mechanic at our local bike shop found that the shifting system needed a firmware update! Who knew that our bike has software?

All of this raises a question both mechanical and philosophical: does adding complexity improve a bike? And the bike can stand in for almost any product, system or relationship. Does adding complexity improve democracy? A family? A kitchen appliance? Does my gas range really need to be connected to the internet? Take a look at yahoo.com and then compare google.com. Now I know that all of these tech giants have privacy and monopoly issues but just looking at the user experience, is yahoo better because of all the ads, pictures, videos and animations?

Leidy Klotz has written an insightful book called Subtract: The Untapped Science of Less. He points out that some things are made better by eliminating parts or complexity or features. Think about how kids learn to ride bikes. They need to learn balance and pedaling. Pedaling is quite similar to walking. Your feet go in a circle instead of the elliptical shape that comes with walking or running. Balancing a bike is completely different than balancing on your own two feet. Our first attempt at training kids to balance was training wheels. We took a regular bike and added two more wheels which prevented the bike from leaning. But as anyone who rides a bike knows, they need to lean in order to make turns. In fact, leaning a bike through a corner at speed is one of the great joys of life! Without knowing the physics or describing the process mathematically, we balance the forces of inertia and gravity while allowing the head tube angle, fork rake and front wheel trail of the bike to make magic. Carving a turn on a bike is basically terrestrial flying. So, training wheels are kind of a disaster. They take a regular kid's bike and add parts to eliminate the need to balance.

But consider another solution: the balance bike. My son had an early version of the balance bike. As you can see from the photo it was molded plastic in a shape that suggested a motorcycle. At three years old he called it his "mocerider." Our driveway had a slight slope and after a very short time he was riding that thing down the concrete like greased lightning. He would kick his legs hard and then pick them up and fly around the neighborhood, perfectly balanced. When he outgrew the thing, we put him on a small regular bike, and he added the pedal motion to his existing balance skills. He began riding almost immediately. The balance bike removed the complexity of pedals and improved the experience by an order of magnitude. Klotz's point is that we almost always seek to add when we want to improve something. We should consider the possibility that removing or subtracting might be the winning move. Good editors often cut words, sentences or paragraphs to make a piece of writing better. Sometimes what makes a creation great, is what gets left out.



This kid is now 6'1" tall and rides a large mountain bike!

As someone who gets stuff done, you fix, update and improve things all the time. Keep the mocorider and training wheels in mind. Could you make it better by editing, removing or simplifying? Could subtraction be better than addition?

This piece was originally published on my blog "Thinking for Success" at johnknowlton.substack.com. Every Wednesday I sent out mental models for being more productive, efficient, and better relationships. Weekends are for cycling, travel, song lyrics and other things that fall out of my brain.

E-mail: editor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org.

P.s. Shimano recently released updated versions of Dura-Ace and Ultegra road groups. In addition to being 12-speed, the new components have a "wireless cockpit." This means that there are no cables or wires connecting the shifter to the derailleur. It is wireless electronic shifting only. There is no mechanical (cable actuated) derailleur available.

