

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER — JOHN KNOWLTON**

KBC's theme for 2022 is reconnecting. And the next two months offer some great events to do just that! First, we offer 4 regular weekly rides where you can meet with other people who ride at a pace you like. Monday and Wednesday offer rides out of Texas Drive Park and the 10th street Kal Haven trailhead, respectively. In May, rides start at 6:15 PM. On Tuesday evening, the Pedal Women's ride leaves from the Pedal bike shop location on Romence road. And the Friday morning ladies ride starts in May, also leaving from Texas drive park. All of these details are in the rides menu on the [KalamazooBicycleClub.org](http://KalamazooBicycleClub.org) website. Thank you to all of the volunteer ride leaders and our Ride Captain, Gordy Vader.

May also brings us bike camp. Bike camp is a powerful service we offer to the community. It is an opportunity for new and renewed riders to develop and hone their cycling skills. Many KBC members have volunteered to help with instruction and leading rides. Bike campers will join us for MNR on May 9 and 16. Paul Wells and the Education Committee lead bike camp.

Kalamazoo Bike Week runs May 7 to 14 this year. It is sponsored by Bike Friendly Kalamazoo and many events are listed on the KBW website. Several of those events are hosted by KBC members, and all of the events offer a great chance to meet other bicyclists. See [KalamazooBikeWeek.org](http://KalamazooBikeWeek.org).

KBC's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be celebrated May 21. Social Director Paul Sotherland and an ad hoc team of other KBC members have built a great agenda for the day! I am looking forward to the rides in the morning, and then putting on my tuxedo for the evening soiree. Just kidding-formal wear is optional. And probably over-kill! Bike Campers will be welcomed as new members to the club that evening.



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**Please send stories and photos of your rides to:**

[editor@kalamazooBicycle](mailto:editor@kalamazooBicycle)

There are three events I need to mention in June, as well: Dirty Donut is a gravel race in Martin. Many of the Race team will be there, in addition to many KBC members who aren't part of the race team. I want to encourage everyone to come to Martin High School June 4, even if you don't ride. Let's bring the cow bells, wear our KBC jerseys or t-shirts, and support everyone who participates. There is a great atmosphere and food is available to purchase.

Many of us remember the terrible news on June 7 when a truck ran into a Chain Gang ride on North Westnedge. KBC will participate in a tribute ride June 7<sup>th</sup> co-sponsored by the Chain Gang and Bike Friendly Kalamazoo.

Finally, Kal Tour is the annual event hosted by the club. Typically, 300 or so people come from around the region to ride our county roads. Mike Krischer leads this team and would love to have you volunteer to help or ride the event.

Wow, we have a lot of cool stuff going on! Be sure to engage in as many events as you can to reconnect with cycling and bicyclists in Kalamazoo.

## KBC Business

The next KBC meeting will be **Tuesday, 10 May** at 7:00 p.m. at Shakespeare's Pub, 241 E Kalamazoo Ave. Up the steps, to the back and left.

### Kalamazoo Bicycle Club

April 12, 2022

Shakespeare's Pub

#### ATTENDANCE

John Knowlton	Rick Whaley	Gordy Vader
Clark Bennett	Terry O'Connor	Marc A. Irwin
Mike Boersma	Bill Surna	Paul Wells
Jillian Howland	Paul Selden	Charlie Grdina
Teri Olbrot		

**President:** John Knowlton

Our Spring calendar has lots of opportunities to get together and reconnect! Club rides have begun; Bike Camp and our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations are coming up. Everyone is encouraged to come out and support our race team at the Dirty Donut gravel race on June 4<sup>th</sup>. KalTour is coming up on June 26<sup>th</sup>. This is an exciting time to reconnect!

#### DIRECTORS REPORTS:

**Communications:** Jillian Howland

Jillian reached out to the TCBA to see if they could promote KalTour to their members, but they responded that they cannot support other clubs' rides. She will continue to reach out to other clubs. She asks that all members share KBC events on your personal social media pages to spread the word. As always, please pass on your cool bike bicycle pictures to be promoted by KBC. **If members have vintage KBC pictures for a slideshow at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, please send them on by May 14th.**

**Membership:** Rick Whaley

Rick is starting to upload the history page for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. The annual W Ride is scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup> and will start and finish in Vicksburg. Rick will contact ride leaders to coordinate.

**Pedal Press Editor:** Charlie Grdina

As part of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, Charlie will be procuring oral histories from long time club members about what KBC was like back in the early days. Gordy might provide an article about what it was like to be a club member in the 1980's.

**Fundraising:** Mike Boersma

Mike reports that the Road Commission has applied for a grant to use some of the COVID relief funds awarded to the Road Commission to support the non-motorized portion of the infrastructure plan. John Knowlton has written a letter on behalf of KBC to support this grant. Individual members can help by contacting the Kalamazoo County Commissioners and asking them to support the application.

**Ride Captain:** Gordy Vader

Gordy is encouraged by the numbers showing up at the MNR and is working to get ride leaders for a variety of paces and terrain. We have 39 sanctioned ride leaders so far. Gordy will post KBC's weather policy on FB soon, which states that we ride no matter what unless there's a tornado, thunderstorm, or lightning. However, ride leaders may not be available if the weather is bad. Gordy would like to get more paces involved at the Wednesday night ride.

**Education Chair:** Paul Wells

Bike Camp is May 5<sup>th</sup> – we have flyers in bike shops, city halls, and elsewhere. Registration numbers are low due to the cold weather, but we have plenty of volunteers. The Bike Camp Committee is updating their presentations and adding cool stuff. Zolton is making videos on bike cleaning and fixing a flat and Gordy will do a video about shifting. Give them Five yard signs are available. Please take them home and display them wherever allowed and practicable in the community. The yard signs build awareness and make a difference.

**Social Director:** Paul Sotherland

John Knowlton has Paul's report in his absence. KBC will be joining BFK in a tribute ride on June 7<sup>th</sup>, to commemorate the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chain Gang crash. Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration highlights include group rides in the morning, which will begin and end at Wind +James, where the party will be held at 5:30 PM that evening. The Club will provide Jimmy Johns sandwiches and members are asked to bring a dish to pass. The committee is preparing a fifty year time line, organizing a gear swap, and planning great time. "It's going to be awesome!"

**Secretary:** Teri Olbrot will be putting together a format to describe the responsibilities, procedures and resources for all EC and Board positions, to clarify our roles and provide guidelines for the next person who volunteers. She will reach out to EC and Board members before we meet next month for their input.

**Member Input:**

Paul Selden thanks KBC and John Knowlton for participating in WKZO live radio interviews and encourages everyone to get yard signs out posted wherever allowed and practicable. BFK has funding for one large public mural that will depict the joys of bicycling and will be displayed in a high traffic area. He may ask KBC for funds for additional murals. The All Kids Bike initiative for kindergarteners now has funding for two schools. These initiatives are in the spirit of promoting Kalamazoo as the "bike capital" of southwest Michigan.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM

Teri Olbrot, Secretary



## Ride Captain Guidance



Thus far this hasn't exactly been the greatest spring for cycling. We have had a few good Monday nights for our Monday Night ride, and not so many good nights for our Wednesday Night Ride. At this time, with hopefully better riding weather ahead, I'd like to point out the KBC policy on weather for our weekly club rides: **We will ride regardless of the weather, with the following exceptions: thunder and/or lightning in the vicinity, thunderstorm warning, tornado watch, or tornado warning.**

I will try to post a cancellation on FaceBook, if there is time to do so before the ride. I, or someone representing the club, will also try to go to the ride location to announce the cancellation. Other than that, we will ride, with the following disclaimer: if it is raining in torrents, or the wind is blowing 30 mph, or the temperature is in the lower 30's, for example, it cannot be guaranteed that there will be ride leaders, as we all have different ideas about what constitutes a fun bicycle ride!

Although, we seem to have some pretty "hard core" cyclists in our club... On a night of high winds and especially with gusty crosswinds, riders should remember to ride single file or spread out somewhat, to avoid a rider from being blown into another rider alongside, by a gusty crosswind.

Use common sense in adverse weather conditions, ride safe, and have a good ride!

Gordy Vader, Lead Ride Captain



## KBC Bike Camp

KBC bike Camp is really happening this year! After two years of pandemic, we are back better than ever.

Registrations have been slow coming, I assume due to really cold, wet, dreary weather, and maybe remaining pandemic reluctance. If you know of anyone who might benefit from learning the basics, and a bit more, send them to Bike Camp. We have lots of volunteers who have committed to helping, so we are in great shape there. Thank you volunteers!

Pedal Bicycles in Portage and Kalamazoo, and Zoo City Cycles on Westnedge have lots of 5' passing yard signs, just waiting for you to pick them up and put them on every street. Please help spread the word.

Thanks for reading and volunteering for these programs!

**Paul Wells**, Bike Camp & Education Chair

## May 2022 KBC Membership

Total Memberships: 286

Total Individuals: 454

**New or Renewed Members:** Keegan Adriance; Clark Bennett; Julie Bradford; Rudy & Fawn Callen; Tom Cochran; Mike Connelly; Dennis Derhammer; Andrea & Don Fore; John & Barb Hart; Phillip Kline; Joe Kucharski & Family; Josh Lacey; Katie Little; Ed Micalizzi; Michael Miller; Barry Roelofs; John Ryder; Mark Schauer; Pam Stinchcomb; Alan Sylvester; Nancy Vendeville; Richard Voorman & Mary Lagerwey; Jason Young; Kathy & Ben Zimont

**May Expired Members:** Max Bailis; Jennifer Braga; Geoffrey Mallett; Daniel & Jeannette Marshall; Ben Miron; Courtney Moser; Doug Peot; Thom Peters; Paul Rehkopf; Steven Town; Brian Vanderberg & Family

Many thanks to **Rich Whaley** for managing the membership !



## **An early KBC ride, back in the day !**

This year, we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club. I wasn't there right at the beginning, but I remember attending the "Four Lakes Century Tour" in 1973, and I started going to meetings in the summer of 1974, and pretty much stayed with it until marriage and three children crowded my schedule... I was president of the KBC in 1980 and 1981.

So, what was it like, riding with the KBC in 1980? We had just one weekly ride, every Thursday night, starting at what was then a public elementary school at East Milham and Sprinkle, it is now Kalamazoo Country Day School... Usually I was there to start the ride, and I led the longest/fastest ride. Since there was no Strava, GPS, MapMyRide, etc., I would make a paper map, with routes of around 16-17 miles, 20-22 miles, and 28-30 miles. All three routes were on the same map, and all intersections were shown, and the direction of travel. You had to either memorize your route, or pull it out of your jersey pocket to check your route every so often! One enterprising member, Dave Hageman, built miniature clipboards for anyone that wanted one, maybe 6"X8", that clamped on to the handlebars, looking much like our current smart phone mounts, that would hold a strategically folded map.

So, what was the pace like? I don't know! We did not have any kind of speedometer or cyclocomputer, so no one really bothered to do the math. I think the fast group that I led averaged around 16-17mph, and the slowest group averaged around 12 or 13 mph. There were no groups like we have now, going out and riding 30+ miles in the hills and averaging over 20mph! And what about the demographics?

I was 24 years old in 1980, and most of the regular riders were 20 to 28 years old. There were a few couples and singles that were in the mid 30's to around (gasp!) 40. I don't remember but maybe 4 or 5 dedicated KBC riders that were between 50 and 60, and I can't remember anyone over 60 that rode with us on a regular basis. What a difference now, when the median age on a typical Monday Night Ride is probably at least 55! Occasionally, I, or another member, would lead a longer ride on the weekend; since we didn't have email or FaceBook, I would announce it at the Thursday Night Ride, and invite other folks by phone. Same format, the person who organized the ride would either make a map, or pull a map out of the club file box, and lead the ride, always a no-drop ride.

Remember, too, we were wearing wool or wool/polyester shorts, and wool/polyester jerseys, spandex was just starting to make an appearance in the early 80's. And we wore cleated cycling shoes with rat-trap pedals, with toe clips and straps, there were no clipless pedals! Things have changed so much, but all for the better...

**Gordy Vader, KBC Ride Captain**

Editors Note: Gordy is the longest serving member of the KBC and continues to serve as the lead ride captain. He has helped numerous cyclist become better cyclist over his long career with the club. We all very much appreciation your many contributions in making the club as strong as it is today — Helmets off to you Gordy !



## TNTT (The Race of Truth) 1st & 3rd Tuesday - May to August

The Tuesday Night Time Trial (TNTT) is back for the summer of 2022, hosted by Kalamazoo's Team Clark Logic Racing.

### What on earth is a time trial?

The individual time trial (or iTT) event is a **race against the clock**. All participants ride the same designated course, each being released at different intervals onto the course, in a solo attempt of achieving the fast time without interference from other competitors. This is a non-drafting event. If you are overtaken by a rider, it is your responsibility to race fairly and avoid drafting the rider who is now in front of you. If you overtake a rider, please give them space as your pass by on course, while still abiding by traffic laws.

### What does this event cost?

The KBC TNTT is free for all KBC members!

### Here are some details for you:

**Location:** Pavilion Township Hall -- corner of 29th St and Q Ave

7510 E Q Ave, Scotts, MI 49088

**Time:** Sign up starts at 6pm, and the first rider is released onto course at 6:30pm sharp! Look for the TCL team member with a sign up sheet to be assigned a start time. TCL and KBC members Angie Veneklase & Kevin Oostema are the event coordinators and will cheer you on to greatness.

**When:** The 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, May - Aug. A reminder will be posted in the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club Discussion Group 1-2 days prior to the event.

Mark your calendars with the following dates:

**May 3 & 17, June 7 & 21, July 5 & 19, August 2 & 16**

Cheers to time trialing your way to a personal best this summer

# MAKE GREATER KALAMAZOO YOUR CYCLING DESTINATION!

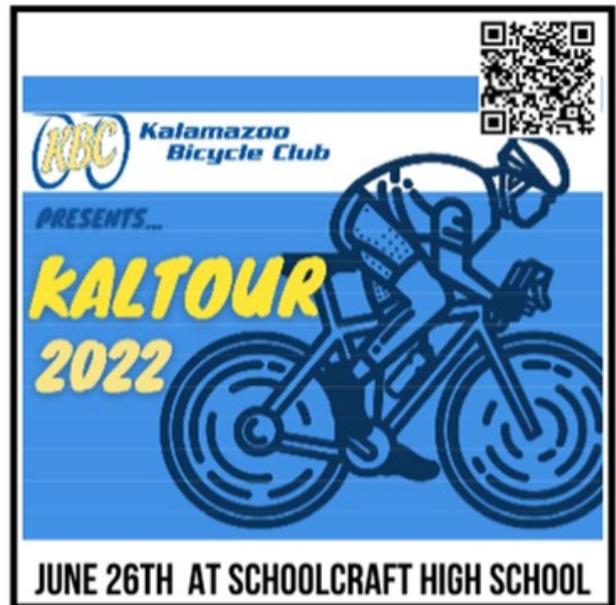
BROUGHT TO THE CYCLING COMMUNITY FOR THE SUMMER OF 2022



FRIENDS OF  
Kalamazoo  
River Valley  
TRAILWAY



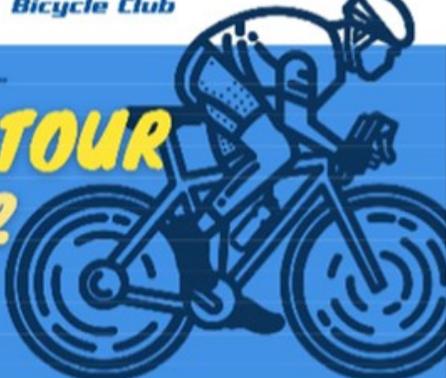
**TRAILBLAZER**  
KALAMAZOO RIVER VALLEY TRAIL  
KAL-HAVEN TRAIL  
MAY 7TH AT THE KALHAVEN TRAIL



KBC Kalamazoo  
Bicycle Club

PRESENTS...

**KALTOUR  
2022**



JUNE 26TH AT SCHOOLCRAFT HIGH SCHOOL

WHETHER YOU START STRONG, OR YOU BUILD YOUR FITNESS UP TO THE DISTANCE...

**KALAMAZOO HAS A RIDE FOR YOU!**

SCAN EACH QR CODE FOR REGISTRATION LINK AND EVENT DETAILS!



Fall Bike Celebration Ride - Vicksburg  
Century to Shipshewana - Covered Bridge -  
Barn Quilt Trail & More!

Sunday Sept. 18



SEPTEMBER 18TH IN VICKSBURG, MI



Vineyard Classic Bicycle Tour



The Sunday of  
Paw Paw Wine & Harvest Festival

SEPTEMBER 11TH IN PAW PAW, MI

Editors Note: Many great cycling events on the calendar this year here in Kalamazoo spanning summer to fall. Hats off our very talented Communication Director, **Jillian Howland**, for her outstanding design work pulling this all together.

## Kalamazoo Bike Week Kicks Off Saturday, May 7, 2022

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Kalamazoo (Area) Bike Week starts Saturday May 7 and wraps up on Saturday, May 14. Warming weather and the urge to bust a move as COVID restrictions ease up may encourage more bicycling than usual--including families and children. Cyclists are riding the roads as a way to maintain fitness and stay healthy. Training for races and longer ride is also picking up. This year special "Pre-Bike Week" activities such as the start of KBC's Bike Camp and a Bike Art Hop sponsored by Pedal will also be featured.

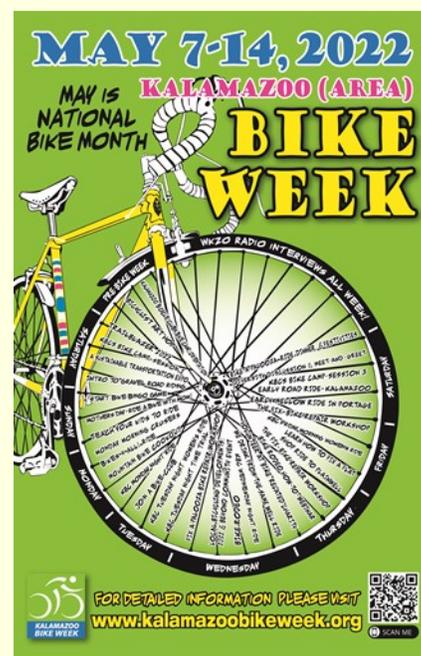
We're excited that Bike Week activities are back to a "careful normal" in 2022. As in years past Bike Week also focuses the community's attention on the need for motorists and bicyclists alike to drive and bike safely. As promoted by KBC, this means for everyone to follow the rules of the road, asking motorists to give us at least five feet (half a lane) of safe passing distance, reminding cyclists to stay visible (more of us are using daytime running lights) and for motorists and cyclists to use extra caution at intersections. *KBC members can post their 5-foot safe passing yard signs to show their support, regardless of how many event they intend to attend.*

Bike Week Events and Announcements are listed at [www.kalamazoobikeweek.org](http://www.kalamazoobikeweek.org) to make the community aware of **many of the cycling opportunities our greater community offers throughout the entire year**. The Announcements page lists where to get free safe passing yard signs and places to pick up bike safety tips and maps while supplies last at a number of municipalities as they open their doors to the public. It also suggests a way to participate in the spirit of the Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive and take advantage of Morris Rose Auto Parts' offer to accept -- at no charge -- those beat up bike tires and inner tubes filled with holes piling up in the garage. Check the KBW event links to the organizer's links for last-minute updates, as well.

Kalamazoo Bike Week is one of the most event filled week-long celebrations of bicycling in the United States. It promotes more than 30 featured activities, and offers a nifty updated downloadable (some call it prize-worthy) Bike Week poster.

### Bike Week 2022 spotlights:

- Locally available bicycle clubs, riding groups and shops
- Group riding on the roads
- Organized trail riding opportunities
- Lessons on how to get bikes ready to ride and fix a flat
- Teaching kids to ride safely
- Local bicycling developments
- Special webinars
- Dirt & gravel road riding
- Public safety messaging
- Diversity & bicycling leaders meet & greet
- Bike-related nonprofits.



Bike Week would not be possible without many wonderful independent organizers and their sponsors -- KBC and its members among them. We are emerging from very challenging times, but there will never be a better time than during Bike Week for everyone to be enjoying their bikes while following the rules of the road--and by practicing the Golden Rule, respecting each other while on the road.

**Paul Selden, KBW 2022 Chair / KBC Member**



# BIKE-A-PALOOZA

**Saturday, May 14**  
**Riverview Launch**  
**1523 Riverview Dr.**

**BIKE RIDE**  
**SILENT AUCTION**  
**GAMES**  
**DRINKS**  
**HORS D'OEUVRES**  
**AND MORE**

**Tickets and More Info: [openroadsbike.org](https://www.openroadsbike.org)**

**It's more than dollars. It's investing in a child. Your financial support allows Open Roads to keep empowering kids all year long.**

What better way to warm-up for Bike-a-palooza than a fun, relaxing ride?

We will be taking off from The Riverview Launch (1523 Riverview Dr.) and biking through the Kalamazoo Nature Center and will return back promptly before we kick-off our 2022 Bike-a-palooza event. The bike ride is completely free, we just ask that you RSVP so that we have an idea of our number of riders!

We also invite you to buy tickets for Bike-a-palooza. They are now available for purchase at \$40 and will increase to \$45 the week of the event and increase again to \$50 the day of the event, so get them now as there is a limited amount. This ticket will get you access to appetizers, dessert, and a meal from Teresa's Kitchen Food Truck!

The event itself includes a Silent Auction, Live Entertainment, Games, Hors D'oeuvres, and more! Adult beverages will be available for separate purchase at the event!

The link to purchase tickets: <https://www.openroadsbike.org/bike-a-palooza-2022.html>

Paul Runnels, KBC Member



## 2022 DIRTY DONUT RACE KBC DISCOUNT

The Dirty Donut is the first event of its kind held to be held on dirt roads. It offers three different distances of races, 22, 41, and 61 miles, and welcomes a wide variety of cyclists. Everyone from the very serious racer to those that just want a fun riding experience have a place at this event. Serious racers will opt for the “Sprint” race, which is conducted much like any other gravel race and the winners are the first to finish. “Donut” racers will opt for a bit more strategy in a race where the winner is often times not the fastest rider, but the rider who can combine speed with how many donuts they can eat. In the Donut races, each race distance has “donut stops” positioned along the race route. Participants deduct five minutes from their final finish time for each donut they consume at one of our “donut stops” in the race.

The 2022 Dirty Donut Race is **June 4, 2022** at the Martin High School, in Martin, Michigan. For those of you who have not yet entered, we want to offer our awesome fellow KBC members a discount for the race. When you register, use the following **15% OFF** promo code at registration – **kbc22**

We are already half way to a race sell out, so please don't delay if you want to race this year. We are fairly sure we will be sold out before race day.

If you're interested in volunteering for the race, we have a spot for you. We have openings for registration as well as corner workers on the day of the race. If interested please send us an email at [dirtydonutracer@gmail.com](mailto:dirtydonutracer@gmail.com) and we will send you a list of what jobs are available.

Dan Frazier, KBC Member & Dirty Donut Race Coordinator



# 2022 Cycling Events.

Riding season is close at hand and time to look rides & races that keep us all going in this sport. Not an all inclusive list of all rides in the area but certainly the major ones in driving proximity to Kalamazoo. KBC Events, in **RED**, are the only club sponsored events.



the tour de france 1920

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Link</u>
<b>Time Trial</b>	3&17 May, 7 &21 June, 5&19 July, 2&16 August	<a href="#">Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - Life is better on a bike!</a>
<b>Bike Camp 2022</b>	May 5th, from 7-9 pm May 7th &14th, from 8:30-12:00	<a href="#">Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - Life is better on a bike!</a>
<b>Trail Blazer (Kal Haven Trail)</b>	May 07 2022	<a href="#">Kalamazoo Trail Blazer - Home (snapregistration.com)</a>
<b>Kalamazoo Bike Week</b>	7-14 May 2022	<a href="#">Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - Life is better on a bike!</a>
<b>KBC Recovery Party</b>	21 May 2022	<a href="#">Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - Life is better on a bike!</a>
<b>KalTour</b>	26 June 2022	<a href="#">Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - Life is better on a bike!</a>
Dirty Donut	4 June 2022	<a href="#">Dirty Donut</a>
Holland 100	16 July 2022	<a href="#">Holland 100</a>
Vineyard Classic (Paw Paw)	11 September 2022	
BFK's Fall Bike Celebration	18 September 2022	<a href="https://fallbikecelebration.org/registration/">https://fallbikecelebration.org/registration/</a>
Gilmore Gravel	08 October 2022	<a href="#">Gilmore Gravel Grand Prix</a>