

PRESIDENT’S LETTER — JOHN KNOWLTON

July 2022 President’s Letter

After a cold and wet Spring, we are now enjoying (maybe?) a very hot June! Summer is our season as cyclists. I have really enjoyed seeing people on club rides and events. Some of us haven’t been together for more than two years. New people have come out for rides at almost every Monday night gathering. If you haven’t been there, please join us at 6:15 in the parking lot at Texas Drive Park. There are as many as six different groups riding various routes and paces. Surely you can find a group that suits you.

Connection is the club’s theme for 2022. I want you to know about some of the ways we have been connecting within the club, and with the broader community.

The high temperatures prompted a yearning for ice cream in my tummy. On June 20 I announced an ice cream ride on the KBC Discussion Group page on Facebook. **Julie Knowlton** and I rode from Texas Drive Park to Ritters with a total of 14 people for a fun ride and fellowship. Later that week **Bill Surna** organized a coffee and ice cream ride from Oakland Drive Park at 9:00 a.m. He insists that it is perfectly fine to eat ice cream in the morning! That Facebook page is a great way for you to invite people to a ride that **you** want to do. Please post rides to gather a group to ride with you.

Kal Tour took place June 26, a great event which serves the club as well as riders from around the region. **Mike Krischer** puts in a lot of time as the leader of Kal Tour and there are many volunteers who make things work.

The Club’s ride captain, **Gordy Vader** visited the start of the 9:00 a.m. Friday Morning Ladies’ Ride to make a connection with the club and invite bicyclists to the club’s other group rides, including Kal Tour. FMLR starts at Texas Drive Park. That morning’s leader was **Pam Stinchcomb** who gave a great safety talk and pre-ride encouragement. **Kitty Vader** leads a 12-14 mph pace in addition to the 15-16 mph pace on Friday mornings. I paid a similar visit to the PWR ride under **Katie Little’s** leadership. PWR (sounds like “Power!” but is Pedal Womens Ride) meets at 6:15 p.m. at the Celery Flats parking lot on Garden Lane in Portage and offers three different paces.



HIGHLIGHTS

President’s letter1
 Meeting Minutes.....2
 Finance Report.....4
 Tailors & Membership...5
 ChainGang Thanks.....6
 Officer Sparks.....7
 KalTour.....8
 Editors letter.....9
 Calendar of Events.....10

Please send stories and photos of your rides to:

editor@kalamazooBicycle Club.org

This month we have two opportunities to connect to the broader community as well. **All Kids Bike** is a national program which introduces bicycle skills and safety to kindergarteners. Schools can apply to receive a grant of bicycles and helmets which are used in the Physical Education curriculum as a unit just like football and basketball. The bikes stay with the school so that the next semester or class can learn to ride as well. Vicksburg has a program in place. Washington Writer's Academy in Kalamazoo is one of the local schools currently raising funds to implement an AKB program. KBC made a \$500 donation to support AKB in the Kalamazoo region.

The last item I will mention is a visit from the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County. **Joanna Johnson**, Managing Director of the RCKC or her delegate will join us at the July 12 KBC member meeting to discuss the Commission's non-motorized transportation infrastructure plans. Please join us at Shakespeare's Pub at 7 p.m. to engage in the conversa-

KBC Business

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

Kalamazoo Bicycle Club

14 June 2022

Shakespeare's Pub

ATTENDANCE

Rick Whaley	Pam Sotherland	Paul Sotherland
Paul Wells	Paul Rehkopf	Mike Boersma
Gordon Vader	Marc Irwin	Clark Bennett
Michael Krischer	John Knowlton	Jillian Howland
Paul Selden	Charlie Grdina	Teri Olbrot

President: John Knowlton

Building connections and reconnections continues to be KBC's focus this year and our successful Anniversary Party is an example of that. Joanna Johnson or her delegate from the KCRC has offered to speak at our next meeting about their nonmotorized transportation plan. Both the Road Commission and Parks Commission have asked for and received written support for their projects from KBC. Dan Fraser sends his thanks for supporting the Dirty Donut race this month, the best representation from KBC to date. KalTour is coming up on June 26th and is another opportunity for us to connect with cyclists in the region. All are encouraged to participate and/or volunteer.

DIRECTORS REPORTS:

Communications: Jillian Howland

The group discussed whether our monthly meeting needs any additional notification or promotion to the membership, i.e., additional FB posts or events. We determined that the meeting is always the second Tuesday of the month, is noted in the communication with the Pedal Press, and is on the website calendar of events, which should be sufficient. John Knowlton proposed the possibility of a YouTube channel or other social media for KBC to promote and post on. Jillian notes that she has had zero success in creating advertisements connected to our KBC Face Book account and is exploring alternatives.

Pedal Press Editor: Charlie Grdina

Charlie praised the successful Anniversary Party and noted that a good time was had by all.

Fundraising: Mike Boersma

Mike suggested that membership take advantage of KCRC Connect for updates about county road conditions. Paul Sotherland noted that signing up for Push notifications will give you important road messages.

Ride Captain: Gordy Vader

Rides are going smoothly; there are plenty of rides and ride leaders. Last night, despite thunderstorms, there were twenty-five riders and six pace groups at the Monday Night Ride. Attendance at the Wednesday night ride is starting to grow as well.

Kal Tour: Mike Krischer

Road painting is scheduled for this Thursday, and Mike has plenty of paint and volunteers. Registration is at 80-100 people, if you include bike campers. Tim Stewart is recruiting volunteers from the race team. More help is needed at rest stops and registration. Mike is having some challenges getting all we need to serve lunch, due to supply chain issues. Ride groups are still needed, including a leader for the family ride. All routes are on Ride with GPS, as they were last year. Gordy asked if there will be paper copies of the routes. Jillian offered to create QR codes so participants can download the routes with their phones at the start of the ride. Confirmation is needed as to whether Pedal Bicycle can be at the event. Pam Sotherland will connect with Kathy Kirk to update the website.

Education Chair: Paul Wells

Paul thanked the volunteers for Bike Camp. The format might change next year, based on what was learned at this year's event. It worked out well to incorporate the MNR with Bike Camp. It's uncertain if the same venue will be available next year.

Social Director: Paul Sotherland

The Anniversary Party was a success, with a raffle, gift certificates, awards, etc. The venue was perfect. A new award, The Old Crank Award for enduring service to the club, was introduced and presented to Doug and Kathy Kirk and Mike Krischer. Paul suggested that the Grants and Awards Committee determine future recipients and that the club should consider moving the Recovery Party to the Spring Anniversary Party going forward. Paul has other recommendations for KBC's annual calendar.

Treasurer: Pam Sotherland

Pam reminded us that we can make \$1.00 donations to KBC by using Amazon Smile when we shop with Amazon. The Club earned \$10.15 from Amazon last month.

Member Input:

Paul Selden asked if there had been any follow-up on Mike Boersma's idea to contact political candidates about their support for bike related issues. John Knowlton will follow up. Also, everyone is invited to attend the community wide bike program steering committee on June 22nd on WebEx. KPS will present the results of their 5' safe passing enforcement effort. WMU will report on their study of wrong-way bike crash analysis. The date for Bike with a Hero is Thursday June 30th at 10:00 AM. BFK is still looking for sites for public murals, as well as additional elementary schools for the All Kids Bike program.

Paul Sotherland noted that the graphic on the Ride Our Routes t-shirts came from a map that the KCRC developed from several Club members. "Kalamazoo County has many good riding routes and miles of roads that connect with other counties. We are at a tipping point of having an incredibly well-developed bicycling/non-motorized network."

John Knowlton and Pam Sotherland reported on an incident that occurred last week on the Friday morning women's ride. An irate motorist put the group in danger by honking and cutting off the cyclists on the road. A police report was made with the driver's license plate information. Officer Sparks of the Sheriff's department responded by going to the motorists' house and speaking to her about her poor behavior. Coincidentally, Officer Sparks saw the group of cyclists earlier on the ride and noted their excellent road skills. The cyclists and KBC are grateful to Officer Sparks for his prompt attention to this dangerous incident. Mike Boersma suggests that Sheriff Richard Fuller be included in any thank you to Officer Sparks. Secretary Teri Olbrot will follow up on this.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM

Teri Olbrot, Secretary



Finance Report (MAR-JUN 2022)

Pam Sotherland, Treasurer

KBC FINANCES as of 06/19/2022

PREVIOUS BALANCE CASH (PNC Checking + PayPal) ACCOUNTS: \$14,132

Monthly RECEIPTS (Cash In): \$5,526

Monthly EXPENSES: **\$2,715**

CURRENT BALANCE CASH ACCOUNTS: \$16,943

TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS: \$4,136

Discretionary Expenses: **\$500**

Education Fund: **\$2,749**

ROR21: **\$887**

AVAILABLE BALANCE for REMAINING Budgeted Expenses: \$12,807

Current Cash minus Designated Funds minus Encumbered Expenses

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT: \$6189

ENCUMBERED EXPENSES: \$0

AVAILABLE BALANCE for REMAINING Budgeted Expenses: \$10,154

Current Cash minus Designated Funds minus Encumbered Expenses

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT: \$6189



Custom Tailoring for Jerseys

Do you have any jerseys that don't fit quite the way you want? Maybe it's a men's jersey and you're not a man. Or maybe you've slimmed down a bit since getting your jersey. I've had great results with Kalamazoo Custom Tailoring, 123 S Kalamazoo Mall, right across the street from Gazelle Sports.

They'll have you try on your jersey at the shop, then mark the jersey with pins and chalk for your perfect fit. There is no cutting, they just sew a dart in the side panel and up into the sleeve if necessary. You might lose some of the wording/images on the jersey side panels, but for me it's a worthwhile sacrifice for a good fit without the floppy (non-aero!) fabric. They generally ask for about a week turnaround time, and cost is \$14 per jersey.

Happy Riding & Support Local !

Kathy Kirk, KBC Webmaster

JULY 2022 Membership

Total Memberships: 311

Total Individuals: 489

New or Renewed Members: Heather Boersma; Randy Button; Doug Chapel; Maureen Corts & Family; Cathy & Spencer Cowles; Thomas Dewhirst; Judah Gesmundo; Vince Groppi; Paul Guimond; Jayme Haney; Josh Kling; Val Litznerski-Eicholtz; Jeanine Michael; Barry Olson & Family; Paul Rehkoft; Marisa Royster; Lindsey South & Jim McKim; Judy Swafford; Mitch Wilson

July Expired Members: Paul Bushnell; Rick Freiman; Jim Hemenway; Phil Isom; Molly Lacy; Autumn Monaweck; Paul Raynes; Jeremy Sikkema; Mike & Sharon VanderMuellen; Julie & Dave Weighman; Adam Young

Rick Whaley, Membership Director



A Note of Gratitude

The Chain Gang would like to thank the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, Bike Friendly Kalamazoo, and the greater community for their support of the 6th memorial ride anniversary. As it was from the 1st day of the crash until now, the survivors and victim families greatly appreciate the love and support of the community which remains unsurpassed. This year stood out in terms of ridership- THANK YOU for being there!

As one of the victim's family members shared, "Please don't stop doing this. Thank you for not forgetting!"

Thank you for helping the Chain Gang honor our friends of 6/7/2016!

Forever in our hearts,

The 3 survivor ride leaders: Jen Johnson, Paul Runnels, and Paul Gobble.





A Thank You to Officer Sparks and a Victory for Bicyclists!

A recent Friday morning KBC ride included an unpleasant encounter with a motorist and resulted in a very pleasant interaction with a law enforcement officer. Toward the end of our ride about a dozen of us were riding north on 8th St, between R Ave and Q Ave. We were two abreast, the legal limit, and were positioned in the right-hand portion of the lane, just where we should have been. A motorist came up behind us, began honking, and continued to do so while passing us. Once in front of us the motorist suddenly stopped in the bike lane, forcing us to stop abruptly in the road. As we rode past the car the driver yelled that we should have been riding in single file.

Knowing that we were riding safely and legally, we all agreed that what the motorist did was harassment and should be reported. After returning home from the ride, a member of our group called the Sheriff's Department and reported the incident. During that call she learned that an officer (Officer Sparks) had seen us riding west on R Ave earlier that morning and noticed how safely we were riding. (That's good news!) Because we had the license plate number of the vehicle, Officer Sparks was able to track down the driver. Within several hours of the incident, Officer Sparks followed up to report that he had visited the driver's home, talked to the driver about the rules of the road – for bicyclists and motorists - and emphasized how dangerous the driver's behavior had been. Officer Sparks seemed convinced that the driver would treat bicyclists more appropriately in the future.

There are two important takeaways from the experience.

1. We clearly have at least one ally in the Sheriff's Department who notices good riding behavior and is responsive to our concerns as bicyclists.
2. Riding our bikes safely and legally is essential.

If you are harassed while riding call the Kalamazoo County Non-emergency dispatch number 269-488-8911.

KalTour 2022 -- Final Report

KalTour 2022 is now history. After the cancellation of 2020 and the hesitation and nervousness of 2021, a relatively normal KalTour was certainly welcome in 2022.

I say relatively normal because our numbers even though they increased from last year were still down from what they were three years ago. (A full statistical report will be presented at the KBC July meeting and will be in the August Pedal Press.) On the other hand, the participants and the volunteers enjoyed almost perfect weather (except for a strong northwest wind). There was plenty to eat and no major incidents. The only distress call I received was from a lost rider.



The new 50 mile route proved popular; it is a combination of the Scotts Mill loop from the 62 mile route and the 31 mile route. Based on reports from the Richland and Fish Hatchery sags, eleven people completed the century route. The riders who finished just before the course closed at 4:00 were probably the happiest. At the other end of the route spectrum, the 15 mile route was also a popular choice and also had several happy finishers. Although Scotts Mill is too far from Schoolcraft to be reachable on this route, riders are provided with snacks and can use Prairie View Park as their turn-around point.

Looking to the future, I think we will continue to do sandwiches and watermelon at the end of the ride. The start location at Schoolcraft High School offers easy access to rural roads and relatively flat routes for all routes except the century. Hopefully the gravel route and century numbers will increase; the long gravel route is a worthy challenge for any rider. Unfortunately, the long tradition of a guided 10 mile family ride starting at 10:00, does not seem to be attracting families with children. Three Bike Campers rode this year as Bike Camp returned after a two-year lapse. Bike Camp numbers were quite low; both KalTour and Bike Camp should do more to attract new riders. Perhaps a group ride on the 15 mile route can play a role in this effort. New publicity initiatives will likely be a focus of future KalTour planning as Facebook "clicks" are now more important than the distribution of paper fliers.

KalTour would not be possible without the help of many people beginning with the road painting which took place on Thursday June 16 with the following present:

Charlie Grdina, Rick Whaley, John Olbrot, Clark Bennett, Marc Irwin, Mike Boersma, Evan St. Peter; Paul Selden, John Knowlton, Julie Knowlton.



On the day of ride the following volunteers joined in:

Mike Vander Meulen, Kevin Douglass, Scott Steuer, Tim Stewart, Ann La Point, Mike Boersma, Paul Sotherland, Pam Sotherland, Jillian Howland, Bruce Caple, Paul Selden, Doc Rehkopf, Terry O'Connor, Marc Irwin, Tom Keizer, Doug Kirk, Kathy Kirk. Several first-time volunteers were recruited from the Clark Logic Race Team by Paul Guimond and Tim Stewart.

The following Kazoo Valley AMBUCS volunteers took charge of both the Scotts Mill Sag and the lunch service at ride headquarters: Donna Whitcomb, Fred Sammons, Barbara Ryder, Sarah Ryder, Craig Eberstein, Brenda Eberstein, Brandy Lowrey, Jack Bellware, Rick Remyse, Denise Turner.

Under the direction of Donna Whitcomb, they prepared peanut butter sandwiches, and bags of trail mix and grapes the day before the ride. Craig Eberstein's watermelon cutter tool proved to be a welcome addition, and I will look into purchasing one.

Mike Krischer— KALTOUR Director



An Awesome June

I hope you all are having a great summer riding season. June has been favorably warm and dry and it feels like we are back to the riding days prior to the pandemic:

The Dirty Donut race was well attended and Dan Frazier continues to do a fantastic job with the logistics for that event. Several KBC members helped support and raced the event.



Some KBC members were fortunate enough to be able to participate in the 70-mile bike ride marking a milestone birthday for Doug Kirk. When we stopped at an old bridge near Three Rivers the woman who took our picture said he looked like a man in his early 50's – good thing he never took his helmet off as I doubt it would have fit to put back on. Seriously, he still pedals faster than most people half his age and a great time was had by all.



Mike Krischer provided the official KalTour article but from a rider's perspective it was a "No Ka Oi," Hawaiian for "None are Better," event. The cool and overcast weather was made to order for a bike ride. I jumped on the metric century this year with old friends and some new young faces. We have all had a moment at the start of a ride when you size up the new folks and say to yourself "Hmm .. they look pretty young, fit and should really eat more." Never doubt your spider senses as such was the case here. The first 40 miles were at a 20+ pace and I was content to sit in and save my contribution for the last 300 feet if still alive. The support at the Scotts Mill SAG stop was well staffed and stocked. We all powered up on some PB&J sandwiches and cruised back to Schoolcraft after parting ways with the youth determined to wear out their tires at a faster rate. Hats off to Mike and all the volunteers that made that event run smoothly.



The 4th of July has always marked a few midwestern events for me. First is that the corn should be knee high (whose knees? who knows?) and parades down main street across the country. My earliest memories of the 4th of July are of watching the bands and flagbearers march down main street in my home town near the south side of Chicago. My father, a Navy veteran from the Korean war era, would salute the flag as it went by and tell his six kids we lived in a great country and have many freedoms in our lives to be thankful for. I still believe this to be true and ideals worth striving for. Though Pops left the planet a few decades back, I often return to my hometown for the parade and, if lucky, catch a glimpse of him as the flags go past.

Wishing you a happy Independence Day !
Charlie Grdina, KBC Editor

One more bit. A historical, informative, and thought-provoking piece on the bicycle - worth the electrons and audio time. You will smile and I leave the "menace to morality" consensus to you readers & listeners.

<https://the1a.org/segments/a-tough-love-history-of-the-bicycle-rebroadcast/>

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>
Time Trial	3&17 May, 7 &21 June, 5&19 July, 2&16 August	Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - Life is better on a bike!
Holland 100	16 July 2022	Holland 100
Vineyard Classic (Paw Paw)	11 September 2022	
BFK's Fall Bike Celebration	18 September 2022	https://fallbikecelebration.org/registration/
Gilmore Gravel	08 October 2022	Gilmore Gravel Grand Prix