

PRESIDENT'S LETTER — JOHN KNOWLTON

Do Something New!

This time of year organizations and individuals start thinking about the next year. As you think about your plans for 2023 may I encourage you to try something new with your bicycle.

In 2022 I was really challenged by hearing some KBC members share about their commuting experience. I presented myself a charge to begin replacing car trips with bike rides. My adventure/gravel bike is built for carrying loads. I fitted it with a sturdy rear rack and waterproof panniers. Then I began training myself to take the bike instead of driving for errands. Visits to the library, offices and even the pharmacy can be done on a bike. It saves gas, feels healthier and you get to carry a smugness that only comes from traveling under your own power.

My son moved to Oregon recently and has cajoled us into hiking on mountains. To reach the top of a mountain you sometimes leave before sunrise. This has prompted me to get a headlamp and start hiking while the sun is shining on another part of the world. It is a different experience to be in the woods in the dark. Your world gets smaller and more focused. You wonder what might be beyond the small tunnel illuminated by your lamps. And then you realize that you are still safe, even in the dark. I have commuted to work in the dark many times, but just recently started winter mountain biking in the dark. Yep, that's new and different!

2022 also saw my biggest day ever on the bike. I completed the Assault on Mount Mitchell. We started in Spartanburg, SC and finished on top of Mitchell in NC. That was 103 miles with 11,000 feet of climbing. Glad I got it done so I don't need to go back next year!

What might you do that you have never done in 2023? The bike is a perfect vehicle to keep you young, mentally and physically. One of the primary characteristics of youth is discovery. For an infant, everything they do is for the first time. Then as we gain experience more things become common, then routine, then unconscious. As we add trips around the sun we may need to be intentional about seeking novel experiences. To become intentional about being inexperienced. Like a kid.



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Please send stories and photos of your rides to:

[editor@kalamazooBicycle
Club.org](mailto:editor@kalamazooBicycleClub.org)

What might you do that you have never done next year? Ride a Century? Try gravel riding? Ride in the winter? Grocery shop with your bike? Become a group ride leader? Learn to unicycle? Bikepack? Set a goal and make it so! Choose to learn something new with your bike this year. Don't be afraid to be inexperienced. You'll get better!

As Dr. Seuss said, "Oh, the places you'll go!"

KBC Business

The next KBC meeting will be **Tuesday, December 13** at 7:00 p.m. at Shakespeare's Pub, 241 E Kalamazoo Ave. Up the steps, to the back and left.

Kalamazoo Bicycle Club

November 11, 2022

ATTENDANCE

Pam Sotherland	John Knowlton	Paul Sotherland
Mike Boersma	Mike Krischer	Paul Rehkopf
Doug Kirk	Kathy Kirk	Bill Surna
Clark Bennett	Rick Whaley	Jillian Howland
Paul Guimond	Teri Olbrot	

President: John Knowlton

John opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and initiated the official election of KBC's Executive Committee, where all incumbents were unanimously re-elected by verbal response.

John is looking for feedback about how things went this year with KBC, including our events, group rides, and membership meetings. "How did we do this year and how can we do better?" The group discussion included input about meeting location and how we might attract better attendance; positive feedback on the panel discussion and invited speakers at meetings; and the suggestion of adding more daytime rides next year. The EC will be putting together a membership survey about how the club can better meet the interests and needs of our membership.

Paul has several copies of the book Street Fight by Janette Sadik-Khan to loan out to interested members. Street Fight is about re-engineering city streets into "dynamic space(s) for pedestrians and bikers." All interested club members are invited to read the book and participate in a group discussion at our January meeting.

Doug Kirk passed the Old Crank trophy on to Mike Krischer, who shared the honor with Doug and Kathy in this inaugural year of the Old Crank Award. Mike will keep the prestigious Crank until next year's honoree is named.

DIRECTORS REPORTS:

Communications: Jillian Howland

Two local college students have asked Jillian to distribute surveys related to bicycling and have promised to share their data with us once it is obtained.

Fundraising: Mike Boersma

Mike reminds us to support KBC when using Amazon Smile. Also, please see Mike if you're interested in volunteering next year at the Ice Man race.

Kal Tour: Mike Krischer

Nothing to report tonight.

Website: Kathy Kirk

Nothing to report tonight.

Insurance Coordinator: Doug Kirk

Nothing to report tonight.

Education Chair:

Bill Surna reports for Paul Wells that the Education Committee is working on how to best meet the needs of the community and will likely recommend a different configuration of Bike Camp for next year.

Grants and Awards:

Paul Sotherland has offered to be the Director of Grants and Awards and will be stepping down as Social Director.

Vice President: Paul Guimond

Paul notes that the current Executive Committee will be looking to retire a year from now and will be planning for succession.

Member Input:

Paul Sotherland passed out a one question survey asking, "Is there a difference between Bike Lanes and Bike Routes?" The correct answer is YES, there is a difference. Further discussion noted that the difference is that parking is not allowed on bike lanes, but is allowed on bike routes; however, this distinction is not well known nor made clear to the public at large. More accurate signage might be using the Bike Route signs universally and adding "no parking" signs where appropriate. Mike Boersma notes that an ordinance might be needed to change the signage and the group agrees that current signage is unclear regarding parking.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

Teri Olbrot, KBC Secretary

December 2022 Membership

Total Memberships: 304

Total Individuals: 485

New or Renewed Members: David Anderson; Jonathan Penrod; Jeff Robertson

December Expired Members: Bruce DeDee

Rick Whaley, Membership Director



As I put fingertips to keyboard there is the smell of roasted turkey in the air and a yard-full of leaves on the ground. No doubt about it - Thanksgiving time and there is much to be thankful for: family, friends, health and this community.

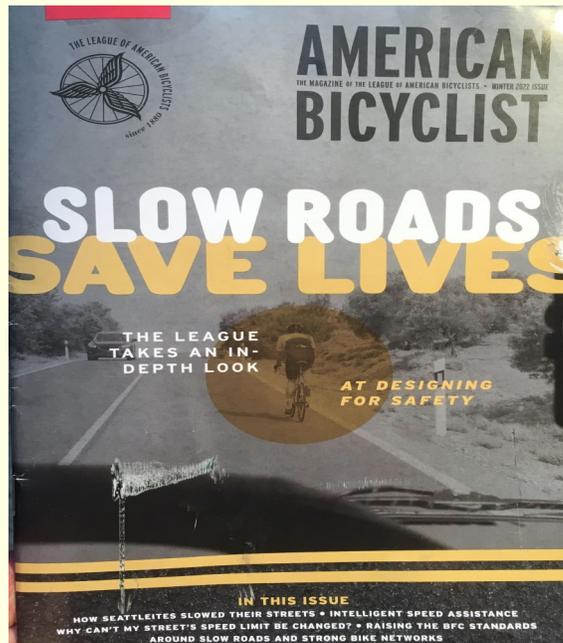
At the KBC 50th celebration party, an excellent bash, this past spring Paul Sotherland generated a word cloud with the opening of “What does Kalamazoo Bike Club mean” to it’s membership. From the cloud above one can see the submissions cover the gamut but some clear themes emerge from it.

Social Relationships. In the age of pervasive electronic communication and social media, face-face time with others is more important than ever. I look forward to rides with family, friends and group rides and catching up with folks and seeing where they are on the path. The laughs and chatter rising above the sound of crunching gravel borders on a dream state. As Arthur Brooks writes in “A New Formula for Happiness” it’s important have a diverse group of people to have social connections with and to take care of yourself like your going to live to be 100. I believe KBC provides on-ramps to support both of these aspects of life and am most thankful for them.

Fitness. We were fortunate to have our daughter Sophia join us at the celebration which was her first encounter with the KBC and its membership. Her first comment to me was on sizing up the crowd was “Dang Pop, these people are all Fit “. We could not have agreed more with her observation that as collective group of the population we are a healthy looking lot. Wellbeing is a by-product of riding outdoors and a lifestyle for many in the club. Although I can no longer bounce quarters off a hard belly I am thankful for the fitness and endurance from cycling.

Community Involvement. Many members of this club have worked tirelessly for decades helping implement changes that are both visible and invisible in making Kalamazoo a more bicycle-friendly city. Major initiatives of organized weekly rides and KALTOUR that provide an opportunity for like minded cyclists to safely share the experience of group rides and demonstrate a healthy bike community in the city. Bike Camp has done an excellent job of providing a entry point into teaching new cyclist the rules of the road to ride safely. Bike Friendly Kalamazoo initiatives are establishing early school programs and organized rides and events promoting bicycle safety. When I travel to Kalamazoo I see bike-lanes and signage that I know would not be there without the involvement of KBC members. It all brings a smile to my face when I see it and I THANK YOU all for your efforts over the years to make this happen.

Charlie Grdina, KBC Editor



KBC Membership,

Many have read or are currently reading “StreetFight” by Janet Sadik-Khan which is a book influencing the redesign of traffic patterns and bike lanes in Kalamazoo. We will discuss the book at the first meeting of 2023 as it has many ideas we can anticipate that may be implemented in the new road design and how we can be better proponents of their implementation.

Another piece that dovetails quite nicely with this book is the Winter 2022 edition of *American Bicyclist*. Click the picture above and you should be taken to the site where you can read this article.

Knowledge is Power.

Paul Sotherland— Grants and Awards Director