

PRESIDENT'S LETTER — JOHN KNOWLTON

Better Biking in Two Acts

Happy New Year! We say it even though we know it won't all be happy. Or even pleasant. In fact, some of us aren't happy unless we're intentionally pursuing something difficult. We seek out something hard in order to test ourselves, to overcome the obstacle. Nonetheless, KBC wants to provide as many happy opportunities for you to ride your bike as we can. And we want those rides to give you what you want and need in a group riding experience.

(Act I)

To that end we published a group ride survey to gain some insight into how our current offerings are doing to help our members. We explicitly asked those who don't participate in group rides to answer the survey and gave them a separate set of questions to ascertain how we might adjust our rides to meet their needs. I was gratified that about 50 people answered the survey! Thank you for participating!

As a quick reminder, from March to October KBC sponsors the following weekly rides:

Monday night from Texas Drive Park

Tuesday evening PoWeR women's ride from Celery Flats in Portage

Wednesday night ride from the Kal Haven Trailhead on 10th St.

Friday Morning Ladies Ride from Texas Drive Park

And then once a year rides including W Avenue (April), Anniversary Celebration Ride (May), Kal-Tour (June), Ride to South Haven (August), we encourage members to participate in Fall Bike Celebration (September) and the Fall Foliage in the Forest (October).

We are still working through a mountain of data you provided but look for a summary and recommendations to come out in the next couple of months. KBC will update and improve our group riding in 2023.

(Act II)

Street Fight! This provocative phrase is the title of a book we have been reading together. It details efforts made in New York City to make streets safer for all users, including walkers and bike riders.



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

editor@kalamazooBicycle
Club.org

At the January membership meeting Paul Sotherland will guide our discussion of the book and help us gather insights we might apply here in the Kalamazoo area. Kalamazoo City Planner Christina Anderson intends to join us and listen in as cyclists share ideas sparked by the book.

We are experimenting with a **new location** for the first couple of months in 2023. Please join us Tuesday, January 10 at the **Osthemo Community Center** from 7 to 8 p.m. The OCC is a simple white building at 6407 Parkview Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. See you soon for better biking!

KBC Business

The next KBC meeting will be **Tuesday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m. at Osthemo Community Center (North Room), 6407 Parkview Ave, Kalamazoo MI .**

Kalamazoo Bicycle Club

December 13, 2022

Shakespeare's Pub

ATTENDANCE

Paul Sotherland	Teri Olbrot	Paul Guimond
Paul Selden	Paul Wells	Mike Boersma
Rick Whaley	Mike Krischer	John Knowlton
Gordy Vader	Jenna Marie Kovach	Bill Surna
Charlie Grdina	John Olbrot	Doug Kirk
Kathy Kirk		

President: John Knowlton

John opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and announced that KBC will try out a new venue for our monthly meeting. On January 10, 2023, we will meet at the **Osthemo Community Center** at 6407 Parkview Avenue, Kalamazoo 49009 to see if this venue is a better fit for our group.

In response to member comments about the pop-up bike lanes on Westnedge and Park, we asked Doug Kirk to follow up with traffic engineer Dennis Randolph about the metrics regarding the City's plan for these lanes. Dennis responded that the lanes will continue be in use for at least a full year while the City collects additional data for further evaluation.

KBC sent out a survey regarding group rides and received 59 responses. A complete summary of the survey will be shared at a later date, but the responses indicate an appetite for a greater variety of rides, routes, and times of rides.

DIRECTORS REPORTS:

Education Chair: Paul Wells

The Education Committee is proposing a scaled-down version of Bike Camp for 2023 by reducing the time commitment and price, while supplementing the experience with high quality educational videos and mentorship by experienced KBC Ride Leaders. Mentorship and guidance will continue to be offered at the Monday Night Ride and perhaps other Club rides. No final decisions have been made and the committee is open to feedback and suggestions.

Gordy asked about LCI training. Paul noted that the League of American Bicyclists will hold an LCI training course tentatively in August 2023. LCI training is for those who want to become bicycle educators. They are also planning a Smart Cycling class in March 2023, which is a prerequisite for LCI training.

Doug noted that bike fit and education in bike function are both critical elements to Bike Camp.

John Knowlton proposed that we consider offering Bike Camp free of charge. Several other members agreed that free or nominal cost is worthy of consideration.



(Picture above is Paul Selden presenting the KBC President with a check from Bike Friendly Kalamazoo)

Grants and Awards: Paul Sotherland

Paul is working to improve the grant application form and will be making it an on-line process. He is looking forward to receiving applications for projects that will benefit the bicycling community. He is also coordinating the 2023 Anniversary Party, which, like Bike Camp, is considering May 20th as a possible date. The EC will continue to discuss KBC's 2023 calendar so that Bike Camp and the Anniversary Party complement each other.

Secretary: Teri Olbrot

Teri noted that ModeShift Kalamazoo has donated a bike rack to a new grab-and-go coffee shop and eatery in Texas Township, the Round About Caffè. She encouraged everyone to check out the coffee shop and bike rack, which is across the street from Wedel's on the corner of Texas Drive and 12th Street.

New Business:

Membership suggests that KBC write a congratulatory letter to the City of Kalamazoo, Christina and Dennis in particular, to thank them for their hard work efforts on behalf of bicyclists and consider them for our Friends of Bicycling Award.

Meeting adjourned—20:00

Teri Olbrot, KBC Secretary



Finance Report (OCT-DEC 2022)

Pam Sotherland, Treasurer

KBC FINANCES as of 12/19/2022

PREVIOUS BALANCE CASH (PNC Checking + PayPal) ACCOUNTS: \$17,686

RECEIPTS (Cash In): \$1,210

EXPENSES: **\$874**

CURRENT BALANCE CASH ACCOUNTS: \$18,022

TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS: \$3,993

Discretionary Expenses: **\$300**

Education Fund: **\$2,806**

ROR21: **\$887**

ENCUMBERED EXPENSES: \$0

AVAILABLE BALANCE for REMAINING Budgeted Expenses: \$14,029

Current Cash minus Designated Funds minus Encumbered Expenses

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT: \$6,191

Call for Your 2022 Bike Mileage



How many miles did you ride in 2022?

I know a lot of you keep track of the miles you ride. This is an early call to submit yours, in time to print in the March edition of Pedal Press. Your report may inspire others to get out there and ride, too -- regardless of the distance!

If you are a current KBC member and want to give others a sense of what you are doing mileage-wise, mail your first and last name and miles logged to pselden@aol.com. Estimates ("about 750"), reasonable rounding (if you say, "under 1000" that is close enough for me), and exact numbers ("1234") are all equally okay. Indoor and/or outdoor miles -- we play no favorites in this annual KBC column. In other words, this is for fun and it's very informal.

To make March's Pedal Press, reports submitted on or by February 20 will be printed. After that, I'll close the request for our "**2022 KBC Member's Annual Mileage Almanac.**"

Paul Selden

December 2022 Membership

Total Memberships: 300

Total Individuals: 480

New or Renewed Members: Terry & Kathy Huchins; Ed Maring & Family; Jeff Newman & Family; Leah Peterson

January Expired Members: Laurie Bennett; Jake Biernacki; David Galarneau; Matt & Kristy Gunderson; Kevin Hains; Mike & Sheri Jones; Erik Schnepf; Steve Stapleton; Monica Tory & Jonathan Evans; Mark Zettel

Rick Whaley, Membership Director

Dirty Donut Race Discount !!



The 4th annual Dirty Donut Race is June 3, 2023 at the Martin High School, in Martin, Michigan. For those of you who have not yet entered, we want to offer our fellow KBC members a discount for the race. When you register, use the following **15% OFF** promo code at registration – **kbc23**

The Dirty Donut is fast becoming one of the premier gravel races in not only Michigan, but the Midwest. We offer races from 10 miles to 61 miles. IN just our 3rd year, we had 535 people race in 2022. Racers from Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Texas, Minnesota, and Canada are already registered for the 2023 race and we expect to grow even more this year. Last year we saw many KBC members race for the first time and we would love to see more of you this year.

If you would like to race for FREE, all you have to do is bring a friend with you to volunteer for a corner worker position and we will give you a free race entry. If interested please send us an email dirtydonutrace@gmail.com and we will send you a list of what jobs are available to select from.

Happy New Year,

Dan Frazier – Race Director



at

New Years Thoughts & Ramblings



Cycling wise 2022 been a good year and certainly a much welcome improvement over the previous two. It was refreshing to see the local races & rides well attended again by an enthusiastic cycling community. The pandemic situation, though still a concern, has improved significantly this year and the expanded and most welcome social gatherings are reflective of it. Hopefully this year we can start to recycle some of those face masks for chain lube rags as they appear to be the perfect size.

Rearview mirrors are small for a reason, normally just a glance to see where you have been or who is hanging on your wheel is enough as the road ahead is where all the action is. In 2023 I see no shortage of opportunity where we can all help the community and KBC move some things forward. Spring is less than 90 days away now with rides, races and touring dates already starting to advertise and populate calendars. Toss a few of these into your 2023 planning to “keep er movin”.

George Jetson was born in 2022. Still I am doubtful this mode of travel will be available to most of us this lifetime so we best get to keeping on with the tasks at hand. He looks like he would really rather be on a bike anyway.



Wishing you safe and adventurous cycling this coming year,

Charlie Grdina, KBC Editor