



March 2023

PRESIDENT'S LETTER — JOHN KNOWLTON

Safe and Fun for Everyone

An Ice Storm closed all the schools today. The wind is blowing, hydrogen-oxygen molecules are falling from the sky, and the temperature is falling. Despite – or perhaps because of – this, I am thinking about riding bikes outside with my KBC friends. Daylight savings time starts March 12 which means the official group riding season begins on Monday, March 13. KBC does lots of cool things: advocating with public officials, hosting bike camp, and funding bike-related projects. But the main way people interact with the club is through organized rides. KBC rides take place at least four days per week throughout the entire riding season. My goal is that KBC rides become the gold standard for the best-run, well organized, safe and enjoyable rides anywhere. I have a rhyming catch phrase to describe this goal: Safe and Fun for Everyone.

Let's look at each of those elements:

Safe means that we obey traffic laws, of course. That means no more than two abreast, stopping at stop signs, and keeping speeds under 55 miles per hour on county roads (some laws are easier to obey than others!). Safety also means looking out for each other. We point out obstacles, warn about traffic, and communicate clearly and loudly with short words! "HOLE" is much easier to understand than, "There seems to be some broken pavement ahead." And "HOLE LEFT" takes out most of the remaining guess-work. We also communicate when we are passing a rider (always on the left) or our group is overtaking another group.

Fun is why we ride together. Of course, sometimes we ride alone. But we come to a group ride because we want to ride with other people. We encourage and challenge each other, but we are there to ride with, not against others. Racing is awesome. And KBC group rides aren't races. Part of fun means feeling included and that we belong here. Will you please join me in learning the names of people you ride with? And intentionally seeking out new riders? It can sound like this: "Hi I'm John. I don't think I have ridden with you before. Can I help you find a group to ride with?"

Everyone is a whole bunch of people! KBC offers rides on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings. And we have a standing women's ride on Friday morning. This year we are experimenting



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

editor@kalamazoobicycle
club.org

with two new daytime rides as well starting in April: Monday morning on the East Side of the county and a Saturday morning LGBTQAI+ and allies ride. We offer speeds all the way from developmental paces up to 20+ mph. And if you have an idea for another ride, become a sanctioned ride leader and start it up!

Speaking of **ride leaders**, KBC group rides are covered by additional medical insurance when we have a sanctioned ride leader along with another member. Ride leaders are tasked with helping to ensure that rides are safe and fun for everyone. We ask RLs to commit to leading a least four rides throughout the season. Will you become a ride leader? Apply [HERE](#). There will be a zoom ride leader orientation meeting March 2 at 7:00 p.m. A link to the zoom meeting will be sent to those who apply to be ride leaders and a recording will be available for those who miss the live meeting.

Let's have a great riding season, safe and fun for everyone!

KBC Business

The next KBC meeting will be **Tuesday 14 March** at 7:00 p.m. at [Oshtemo Community Center](#) (North Room), 6407 Parkview Ave, Kalamazoo MI .

Kalamazoo Bicycle Club

14 Feb 2023

CANCELED

Due to a culmination of several factors the February KBC bike club meeting was canceled. We apologize for the inconvenience, especially if you were using this venue for date night on Valentines Day. The March meeting will resume at the same location and set time.

2022 KBC Member Mileage Almanac – Paul Selden



The idea behind KBC's Annual Mileage Almanac is to share the joy of bicycling that the numbers represent -- with others -- regardless of the number of miles you ride or how and where you ride them. Thanks to all who submitted reports -- and thanks for inspiring everyone to get out there and ride -- no matter how much!

<u>Miles</u>	<u>Member</u>				
1,304	Clark Bennett	8,541	Sandy Blix	2,028	Thom Brennan
3,125	Randy Button	5,100	Jamie Clark	4,555	Terry Florian
2,500	Charlie Grdina	9,050	Paul Guthrie	7,478	Barb Hart
3,744	Terry Hutchins	3,850	John Idema	5,005	Mark Johnson
2,307	Tom Keizer	6,690	Jim Kindle	9,510	Doug Kirk
1,065	Jenna Marie Kovach	5,405	Marty Knop	3,214	John Knowlton
3,046	Mike Krischer	4,350	Katie Little	3,800	Terry O'Connor
8,300	Kevin Oostema	1,220	Kelly Root	5,500	Erik Schnepf
5,100	Samuel Schnepf	1,035	Paul Selden	3,970	Gordy Vader
2,470	Kitty Vader	1,768	Valerie Vuk	2,581	Paul Wells
5,229	Rick Whaley	8,514	Don Reeves	2,125	Jeanette Holm
6,840	Tim Stewart	1,467.8	Sharon Surna	6,800	Tommy Noverr
5,568	Greg Strader	2,556	Rick Huyser		

Based on member reports received in time for submission to the March Pedal Press; may be approximate or based on an estimate. Not responsible for errors/omissions, etc. Please send any corrections/updates to the Pedal Press Editor at editor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org.

BIKE CAMP 2023

Bike Camp is back for 2023. We are shortening and streamlining it to a one-day program, to be held on Saturday, May 20th, at Wind+James Event Center in Schoolcraft. Bike Camp will be in the morning on the same day as the KBC annual party. The Bike Camp Committee believes that we can entice more attendees with a one day event, as opposed to the five day event of prior years.

We will still cover the important topics cyclists need to know to ride safely on the road, and in groups. Some of the mechanical and accessory information we covered in live sessions will be available on the KBC website to anyone viewing it, whether enrolled in Bike Camp, already a KBC member, or anyone else exploring the website. We will be posting videos covering many cycling topics, from many sources.

It's almost March, and the official start of the cycling season, so it's time to get your 5' passing yard signs dusted off and back out there! If you don't have any, well that's no excuse! We have good quantities still available. You can pick them up at Pedal Bicycles North or South.

Paul Wells, Education Chair

DA2



DA2 (as in wheels), not exactly the king's English but the times are changing. I am starting this column and requesting your assistance. Many KBC members ride the roads of Kalamazoo and surrounding counties and beyond. Heck, with just the total mileage for those who reported for the call for mileage this year is a good 3 times around the earth (25K miles = 1 lap around the joint). KBC membership is not an idle lot.

I am soliciting the membership for their observations for improvement, things that are working well and creative ideas that would improve the overall bicycling experience for riders in the community. One paragraph or two will fit the bill and it will be a work in progress. Call 'em as you see 'em but keep it upbeat and recommend a practical solution if possible. Send articles, and associated photos, to editor@kalmazoobicycleclub.org.

Appreciate all !
Charlie Grdina, KBC Editor

Da2.1

The view from a bike is different than the view from a car.....

I ride quite a few miles on some of the Portage City and Kalamazoo bike lanes and while I appreciate the dedicated bike lane for sure, I was noticing a bunch of debris in the bike lane. I am a creature of habit so I found myself staring at the same objects in the bike lane each day. Then I started to wonder how often the bike lanes were swept. I kept an eye on a small nylon key chain (no keys on the chain) that was in the bike path as a bellwether as to how often the bike lanes are swept. After a month of seeing my new found key chain friend in the bike lane, I thought maybe a phone call to the Portage city bike lane department was in order.



I found the number and got a hold of the person who scheduled the bike lane cleaning. I asked them how often the bike lanes were cleaned. They proudly announced.... twice a year, once after leaf pick-up in the fall and once in the Spring. While, from the view from a car, makes complete sense. If you do not ride the bike lanes, you do not notice things like glass, sticks, road kill, and yes, even my friendly key chain. I explained to them that I was a bike rider who spends some time riding in the bike lane and why cleaning the bike lanes would be helpful and beneficial to cyclists. Understanding the "why" is often super helpful for people to understand.

A week later, my favorite key chain was gone, which honestly, made me a little sad, in a weird way. But, so were all the other objects that I had shared my bike lane with over the months since Spring cleaning. There are some who assume that the city does not care about issues like clean bike lanes, but in my experience, they do care, they just thought they were cleaning the bike lanes, and from the view through a windshield, they were cleaning the bike lanes. We just had different views, and once they understood the view from a cyclist, they got their city street sweepers fired up and cleaned the bike lane.

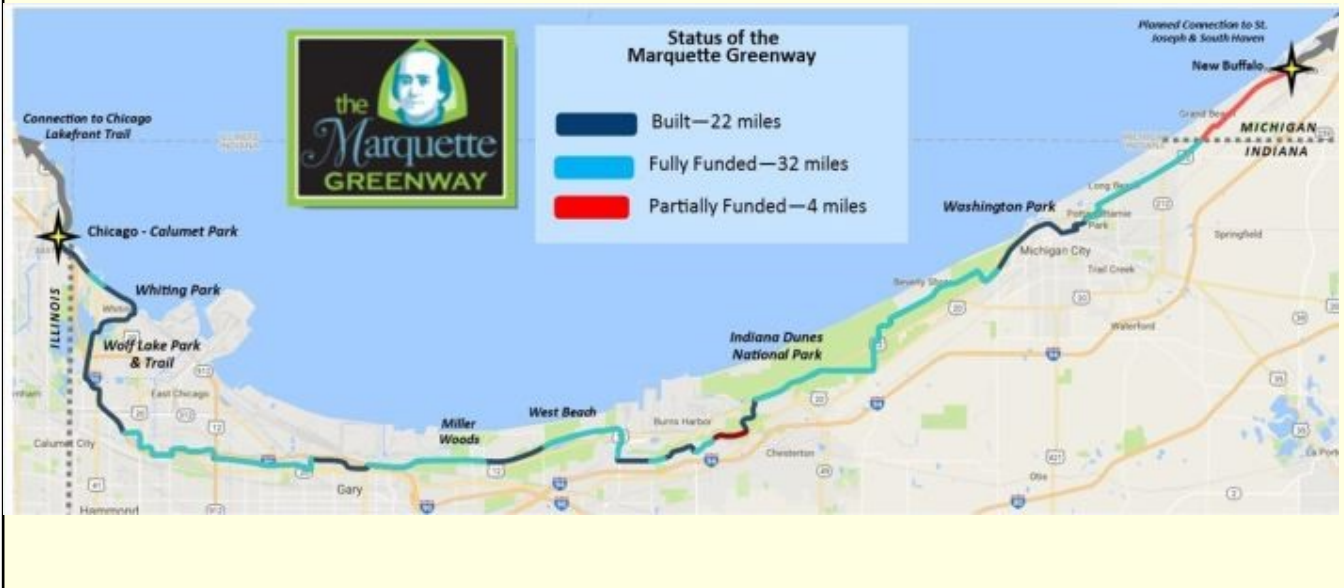
So, this experience reinforced my belief that people want to do the right thing, they just might need some help in understanding exactly what that is, and it is our responsibility to politely help them with the view from the bicycle. We all benefit from open, considerate and honest communication. I think about the key chain often, it was not my style, but it served its purpose and I feel we parted knowing we had a mutual respect for each other.

Submitted by Paul Guimond, KBC Vice President (& big fan of always wear a helmet). Go Green brother !

Bicycle Route to the Windy City

Pam Sotherland sent this article to me and my eyes lit up and immediately thought to myself “Bike trip to Chitown” for some good pizza, Chicago dogs & Goose Island IPA some long summer week-end.

Big things take time and this project has been 20+ years in the making. Funding is still being collected for certain sections of the trail but it is coming along nicely. I grew up in NW Indiana and have ridden that local section on many a nice summer day, it is well traveled and maintained. Once you get across the IN/IL border there is a well established bike path along Lake Michigan to downtown. Click on the map below for more information on this new route. Many thanks Pam !



March 2023 Membership

Total Memberships: 295

Total Individuals: 472

New or Renewed Members: Dennis Derhammer; Chris Geiersbach; Charlie Grdina & Family; Dan Kallewaard; Monica Tory & Jonathan Evans

March Expired Members: Keegan Adriance; Julie Bradfield; Dave DeBeck & Family Pat Gipper & Family ; Harold Gleaves; Gary Hammock; Kevin & Karen High; Dave Mitchell; Richard Morse; Vincent Patrizi; Susan Schneider; Kurt Sherwood; Bill & Susan Surna; Matt Wells

Rick Whaley, Membership Director

KalTour 2023 News

Tuesday February 21st was an active day for KalTour 2023. In the afternoon Renee Mitchell, Paul Wells, Pam Sotherland, and I listened to a representative of BikeReg discuss the use of that web site for KalTour registration. Please watch the KalTour page on the KBC website for the start of registration sometime during March. There will likely be new procedures for KBC members to obtain the KBC discount for KalTour. In the evening I was joined by five members of the KalTour committee as we considered the possible change in registration procedures, publicity initiatives, and the opportunities opened by the new start location for KalTour. The 2023 KalTour date is **25 June**— mark your calendar, shine your rig and show up for a grand time !



The most significant change for KalTour in 2023 will be the opportunity to use the Wind+ James event space in Schoolcraft as our ride headquarters and start location. Many of you are familiar with W+J due to attending previous KBC Recovery and Anniversary parties there. It offers us improved food storage and food service facilities and a pleasant dining experience. It will now be possible to add ice cream to the post-ride meal (and even floats)! Our new start location, only a half mile from our old one, allows us to use the routes and sag stops that we have utilized in the past with only minor changes.

As you may (or may not remember) in the years leading up to 2019 KalTour featured an increasing selection of ride groups especially for the 31 and 62 mile rides. When we resumed KalTour in 2021 after canceling in 2020, we did not encourage riding in large groups due to the pandemic. Ride groups resumed in a modest way last year. This year we would like to expand on the ride groups and have KBC sanctioned ride leaders cover as many distances and paces as possible. It's not too early to start thinking what distances, start times and paces you would like to lead or co-lead.

That brings me to a final point: running KalTour takes a lot of work and a lot of volunteers. If you would like to help, at any stage of KalTour planning, preparation, or execution, please let me know at kaltour@kalmazoobicycleclub.org. Previous volunteers can let me know what they want to do, and new volunteers can let me know who you are and I will get back to you.

Mike Krischer, KBC KalTour Director

Wednesday
Mar 29, 2023
7:00 PM

'Together We Cycle' Public Screening

[Learn More](#)

Join ModeShift Kalamazoo, WMU Climate Crisis Working Group, and Kalamazoo College for a screening of 'Together We Cycle.' Activities, light snacks, and refreshments will be provided.

Location:

Kalamazoo College,
Dewing Hall, Room
103

The film 'Together We Cycle' investigates the critical events that led to the revival of the Dutch cycling culture.

NO registration required

[Registration \(if applicable\)](#)

[Zoom Link \(if applicable\)](#)

Ever wonder how the Dutch were able to become the successful cycling community they are today ? Well wonder no longer and attend the screening of the movie "Together We Cycle" being shown at K-College on 29 March @ 7:00pm.

Clicking on the above advertisement will take you to the trailer of the video and give you an overview of what the movie is looking to communicate. Many thanks to Paul Sotherland for bringing this screening to our attention.

Look forward to seeing you there.

2023 Cycling Events.

Not all inclusive and a work in progress but looking to capture the main cycling events in the immediate (50 mile or so) area. Provided for informational content only – **KalTour**, **Bike Camp** and **KBC Recovery Party** are KBC sponsored events.



<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Link</u>
Melting Mann Gravel Race	25 March 2023	Home - Melting Mann
Barry Roubaix Gravel Race	15 April 2023	Barry-Roubaix
Willow Time Trial	22 April 2023	Willow Time Trial Registration via BikeReg
Bike Camp	20 May 2023	Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - Life is better on a bike!
KBC Recovery Party (Wind & James)	20 May 2023	Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - Life is better on a bike!
Dirty Donut	3 June 2023	Dirty Donut
KalTour	25 June 2023	Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - Life is better on a bike!
Holland 100	15 July 2023	Holland 100
Gilmore Gravel	TBD	Gilmore Gravel Grand Prix
Lowell Gravel Race	28 October 2023	LOWELL CLASSIC GRAVEL ROAD RACE - Home