



April 2023

## PRESIDENT’S LETTER — JOHN KNOWLTON

### Abundant Opportunities for Biking!

Cornucopia usually come up in the fall as a symbol of abundant harvest. But after years of planting and sowing, bicyclists in SW Michigan are ready to reap a basket load of opportunities to engage!

**Group rides.** KBC’s group rides officially start with daylight savings time, though the weather didn’t get the message. March 20 there were about 8 hearty souls out for a chilly, windy Monday night ride. All the info is at <https://www.kalamazoobicycleclub.org/rides/>. Thanks to Gordy Vader, our ride captain, and all the ride leaders!

**Kalamazoo Cycle Show** is sponsored by the City of Kalamazoo on **May 13** from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Bronson Park. Think of a car show, but for bikes! KBC will have a booth and everyone is invited to come show off your favorite one, two or three-wheeled steed!

**Bike Camp.** KBC has offered a bike camp for many years. Bike camp is designed to help adults start riding on the road or to become more comfortable in a group. The education committee has shortened the camp this year, lowered the cost, and made registration super easy on bikereg.com. Please share details with your friends so they can enjoy riding with you! <https://www.kalamazoobicycleclub.org/events/bike-camp/>. Bike camp will take place on **May 20, 2023** and you can volunteer by sending a note to Paul Wells - education-chair@kalamazoobicycleclub.org.

**May 20** is also the date of our **anniversary party!** This is a fun evening to be held at Wind + James event center in Schoolcraft. Potluck food, plus beer and sandwiches provided by the club. We have a gear swap table, fabulous prizes and generally a great time! Also watch for announcements about anniversary rides in the afternoon.

**Kalamazoo Bike Week** is May 13-20. There are scores of activities and rides around the area, including some hosted by KBC members. Check out [kalamazoobikeweek.org](http://kalamazoobikeweek.org) for details.

Looking ahead, KBC hosts **KalTour** on Sunday, **June 25**. KalTour is preparing for some exciting updates this year including a new host location, dedicated start times and Root Beer floats! Wind + James will be



### HIGHLIGHTS

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

[editor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org](mailto:editor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org)

the start/finish site and a large building and kitchen allow us to keep ice cream cold for a special dessert at the finish! Registration for KalTour is also on BikeReg.com this year: <https://www.bikereg.com/kbc-kaltour>. Mike Krischer leads the KalTour team.

My last opportunity involves financial grants from KBC for bike related ideas, activities and infrastructure. Paul Sotherland is our grants and awards chair and has simplified the grant process. Find out how to fund your cool cycling idea at <https://www.kalamazoobicycleclub.org/about/grantsawards/>.

Well, that's all the news that fits this month. See you on the road!

## KBC Business

The next KBC meeting will be **Tuesday April 11** at 7:00 p.m. at **Oshtemo Community Center** (North Room), 6407 Parkview Ave, Kalamazoo MI .

### Kalamazoo Bicycle Club

14 March 2023

#### ATTENDANCE:

<b>John Ballema</b>	<b>Don Leitow</b>	<b>Hugo Galvez</b>
<b>Bill Price</b>	<b>Renee Mitchell</b>	<b>Mike Krischer</b>
<b>Clark Bennett</b>	<b>Rick Whaley</b>	<b>Paul Sotherland</b>
<b>Paul Runnels</b>	<b>John Knowlton</b>	<b>Pam Sotherland</b>
<b>Paul Wells</b>	<b>Paul Guimond</b>	<b>Jillian Howland</b>
<b>Gordy Vader</b>	<b>Jenna Kovach</b>	<b>Mike Boersma</b>
<b>Katie Little</b>	<b>Angela Bowers</b>	<b>Leah Peterson</b>
<b>Charlie Grdina</b>		

**President** John Knowlton opened the meeting at 7:00.

Paul Sotherland discussed the new Grants and Awards process and encouraged members to bring their ideas to improve bicycling in and around the Kalamazoo area to the Club. Possibilities include sweeping bike lanes; servicing bike fix-it stations, etc. You can contact Paul at Grants and Awards on our website. Here's a link: <https://www.kalamazoobicycleclub.org/about/grantsawards/>

The Thundercats were in attendance to apply for a KBC grant to support their nonprofit, whose mission is to make life-long cyclists out of children, primarily by introducing them to mountain bike racing. Thundercats are a 501c3 program and is 100% volunteer run and led. Find them on Facebook at Southwest Michigan Thundercats.

KBC Ride Leaders will start all rides this year with a pre-ride briefing in the huddle before rolling out. Topics regarding safety and ride etiquette are included on a laminated card provided to ride leaders.

Ride updates and cancellations are currently posted on the Club's Facebook page. Other means of communication are being considered, as not all members are on Facebook.

Paul Sotherland announced that this year's Anniversary Party will be held on May 20, 2023 at the end of Bike Week, time TBD. Jimmy John's sandwiches will be provided and members are asked to bring a dish to pass. **Volunteers are needed for set-up and clean-up, please see someone on the Executive Committee if you can help.**

Paul Wells announced that Bike Camp will be on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM this year, redesigned as a one day event. Reduced registration cost is \$25 and includes one year of KBC membership. Further mentoring of Bike Campers will be available at some of our club rides and additional educational content will be available on our website. Paul was recognized at the meeting for his contributions to Van Buren Conservation district. Nicely done Paul !



The City of Kalamazoo is hosting the Kalamazoo Cycle Show at Bronson Park on May 13<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, during Bike Week and KBC is invited to contribute.

Mike Krisher announced that this year's Kal Tour is scheduled for June 25<sup>th</sup> at Wind + James. There will be ice cream!

Kalamazoo Marathon is looking for volunteer cyclists to lead out the marathon racers - [2023 Zeigler Kalamazoo Marathon Volunteer Registration \(runsignup.com\)](https://www.runsignup.com). Think about it - you can win this thing !

Renee Mitchell announced that registration for both Bike Camp and Kal Tour will be available this year at <https://www.bikereg.com/> the "Amazon" of bicycle event registration.

Michael Boersma reminds us to report potholes and road debris to the Road Commission. See "Service Requests" under Non-Motorized Transportation. Here's a link: [https://www.kalamazoocondtyroads.com/non\\_motorized.php](https://www.kalamazoocondtyroads.com/non_motorized.php).

Open Roads is hosting their annual Tweed Ride, starting at Bronson Park on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM / **Leah Peterson standing in for Teri Olbrot**

## Bike Camp 2023

KBC Bike Camp 2023 registration is open. The Bike Camp Crew is looking forward to the 17<sup>th</sup> year of bringing new cyclists into the KBC fold and introducing them to the joy of our group rides.

We have condensed Bike Camp into a one-day event by keeping the critical elements of learning to ride on the road safely, and in a group with other cyclists. We hope this new condensed Bike Camp will attract more folks by being a shorter, easier commitment. Participants also get KBC membership for one year, and 50% discount on KalTour entry. We'll cover cycling laws, rules of the road, bike handling skills, proper bike fit, wise bike and accessory choices, and a bit of bike mechanical wisdom. Then we'll put that new knowledge into practice with group rides. Videos (coming soon!) covering a broad range of topics will be available via links on the KBC website, so that anyone can access the information we think is essential.

Bike Camp will be **Saturday, May 20, from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. at Wind & James Event Center in Schoolcraft.** Bike Campers are invited to join in the fun at the KBC annual Party later in the day. We are offering optional Bike Camp info sessions and group rides at the Monday Night Ride for a couple weeks (May 22, May 29) or more, depending on interest.

To take it to the next level, Pedal Bicycles South is hosting "Learnin' to Group Ride Real Good," for longer, a bit faster group rides on Tuesday nights (May 23, May 30, June 6, and June 13) from the Celery Flats in Portage. Topics will include group ride communication, drafting, taking a turn at the front, and riding in a paceline.

To make this all happen, we need you seasoned KBCers to volunteer for the Saturday group rides, the Monday Night Bike Camp rides, and the Pedal Bicycle group rides. We have a nice list from last year, and it turned out we didn't need the number of helpers who volunteered. We'll be contacting you folks again soon. Weather permitting, this year we will need as many as 10 riders to help us out on Saturday, and a few of you for the MNR and Pedal rides. If you'd like to help, send a note to [bikecamp@kalamazoobicycleclub.org](mailto:bikecamp@kalamazoobicycleclub.org).

**Paul Wells, KBC Bike Camp Czar**

**KBC FINANCES**

**2022 Year End Summary & 2023 Q1 Report**

**BEGINNING CASH BALANCE: \$15,554**

RECEIPTS (Cash In): \$15,447

EXPENSES: \$12,929

INCOME LESS EXPENSES: \$2,418

**ENDING CASH BALANCE: \$18,072**

**Certificate of Deposit: \$6,191**

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**KBC FINANCES as of 3/20/2023**

**PREVIOUS BALANCE CASH (PNC Checking + PayPal) ACCOUNTS: \$18,072**

RECEIPTS (Cash In): \$2,545

EXPENSES: \$6,090

INCOME LESS EXPENSES: \$3,545

**CURRENT BALANCE CASH ACCOUNTS: \$14,527**

**TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS: \$3,911**

Discretionary Expenses: \$218

Education Fund: \$2,806

ROR21: \$887

**ENCUMBERED EXPENSES: \$0**

**AVAILABLE BALANCE for REMAINING Budgeted Expenses: \$10,616**

Current Cash minus Designated Funds minus Encumbered Expenses

**CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT: \$6,191**

**Pam Sotherland, KBC Finance Director**

## The 2023 W Ride

It must be spring; flowers are blossoming, birds are chirping, and bicycle wheels are spinning! So, let those wheels spin at the 23<sup>rd</sup> W Ride! And, this year, the ride will be held a week later than usual, on May 6, the first Saturday in May. Perhaps that extra week will be just the adjustment that is needed in order to ensure that there will be perfect weather, perhaps (and more likely) not, but either way, be ready to roll at 9:00 A.M. from the east parking lot of Vicksburg High School, where 48 miles of W Avenue riding awaits.

This year, we'll be doing the Alternative East-West-East W Ride Route. We'll leave the parking lot, turn left, and enjoy the couple of rolling hills just before we reach Fulton, The City That Never Sleeps, before continuing to the Calhoun County line. Then we turn around and enjoy those rolling hills again, before arriving back at the high school for clothes shedding (or layering). And let's not forget the Shell station, where we'll help ourselves to nutritious (and yummy!) convenience store snacks. Some of you may choose to end your adventure here, but, if not, we'll then ride to the Van Buren County line and back, passing through Schoolcraft (twice!), and finishing where we started, which works out conveniently for those who choose to drive to the high school.

After we finish, we will toast our accomplishment with Gatorade and feast on pretzels! I got my bike, I got cycling, I got my snacks, who could ask for anything more?

The usual superfluous maps will be provided, of course. The Ride Leader will lead a group averaging about 14-16 mph, but other slower or faster groups are welcome.

So, join us, the choice is yours, but keep in mind that no one ever lies on his death bed and exclaims, "I wish I'd spent less time doing the W Ride!"

**Rick Whaley**, W Ride Leader

(not to be confused with this W)



## April 2023 Membership

Total Memberships: 303

Total Individuals: 484

**New or Renewed Members:** Carol Anderson; Keith Boneburg; Sara Burhans; Mike Connelly; Steve Cox; Kevin Douglass & Family; Terry Florian; Pat Gipper & Family; Laura Hamann; Gary Hammock; Heather Haydo & Family; Kevin & Karen High; Megan James & Family; Mike Jones; Amy Kuchta; Josh Lacey; Dave Mitchell; Renee & Don Mitchell; Tim Mitchell; Carolyn Molhoek; Barry Olson & Family; Vincent Patrizi; Aaron Pearce; Kate Rizor; Barry Roelofs; Greg Strader; Bill & Sharon Surna; Bruce Taylor; Mike Vandever; Dan Victor; Amber Warren & Bill Eichstaedt; Matt Wells

**April Expired Members:** Melissa & Dale Capman; Russell Chmiel & Family; Tom Cochran; Tim Dirske; Andrea & Don Fore; Ryan Howard; Marc Irwin; Ann LaPoint & Family; Ed Micallizi; Pam Stinchcomb; Jason Young; Eric Zahrai; Jana Zollinger

Rick Whaley, Membership Director

## KBC hustling at the KZOO Cycle Show

KBC will have a "booth" at the Cycle Show and will be helping making fruit slushies at the "Fresh Food is Fun" booth from 11 to 1. Looks to be a grand time so come on down and see the show, it looks to be a dynamo!

KALAMAZOO

# Cycle Show

13  
MAY

10 am - 3 pm | Bronson Park

COOL BIKES • LIVE MUSIC • FOOD TRUCKS

Join us for a community bike celebration featuring cool bikes throughout the decades. Like a car show, but for bikes! There will be live music, food trucks, and information on biking activities in Kalamazoo.

The first 100 attendees will get free ice cream from the Red Tricycle Ice Cream Company!

Sign up to show off your vintage or modern bike at:

[KalamazooCity.org/CycleShow](http://KalamazooCity.org/CycleShow)

In Partnership With:



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Office for Sustainability



# DA2



Say Ya to Da2 eh ! Received a nice shout out from Paul Sotherland for taking the idea for “The Two-Wheeled Observations” (aka The TWO), and starting this periodic feature in PedalPress. Many thanks Paul and I lift my water bottle across I-94 to ya!

With spring cycling starting the opportunity to better the cyclist- driver relationship can be improved with the friendly gesture of a wave. I have reprinted Doug Kirk’s observations in this realm as we will not win this fight on raw tonnage and see kindness as the way forward.

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. Send articles & associated photos to editor@kalmazoobicycleclub.org.

Appreciate all,  
Charlie Grdina, KBC Editor

## The Wave

In November 2005 Kathy and I drove 900 miles south to Alabama Cycling Camp, a bike camp run by Coach Aldo Sfalcin, an Italian immigrant, certified coach, and ex-bike racer. Gregarious and insightful, Aldo loves to talk about anything having to do with bikes, so we hit it off right away. I mention him because a seed he planted back then germinated into something of an informal study I’ve been doing ever since.

Aldo told us that he’d had more than one southerner drawl that bicyclists seem like snobs and aren’t very friendly because they don’t wave at the drivers, even if the drivers wave first. He told this story to underscore his request that we bike campers wave as cars passed by to help us newcomers fit in to a very rural community where most everyone knows most everyone else and where Lycra and packs of bicyclists were quite a novelty.

Over the years I’ve taken the idea of waving to heart. Waving to drivers—and even to people in their yards or by the road—seems to me like a pretty simple way to emphasize that we too are vulnerable human beings while engendering a bit of positive feedback and maybe some good karma. I’m a big believer in karma, and I’ve waved a lot the last twelve years. Not always, but I’ve done it enough that I’ve noticed a few things along the way.

It’s pretty rare to get a wave in an urban setting unless the vehicle is sporting some sort of trappings indicating bike-friendliness, so I don’t even bother most of the time while riding in the city. Besides, likely as not there are just too many cars and too many distractions. But the further out in the country I am, the more likely I am to get a wave.

Men wave more than women. Young, attractive women almost never wave. (It’s been suggested this might, in fact, have something to do with exactly whom it is they’d be waving to, and that if I looked a bit like, say Mario Cipolini, they’d all wave.)

Far more people wave in the south than up north. (On some rides in the south I get around fifty percent wave-backs!) Older people wave more than young ones. Black people are more likely to wave than whites, but whites are more likely to wave than Asians.

I'm more likely to get a wave from a pick-up truck than a car, and more likely to get a wave from a big truck than a pickup. Post Office letter carriers and delivery vans are very good bets. Any commercial vehicle—one with lettering on the sides or back—is more likely to produce a wave. Drivers of vehicles that have diesel engines are more likely to wave, and those in expensive or high performance cars are less likely. The more politely a vehicle passes, the more likely they'll wave. If a string of cars approaches, only the front one is likely to wave.

More people wave Sunday morning than any other time. (You can draw your own conclusions about this. Personally, I think it has something to do with the fact that riding on Sunday morning is, IMHO, attending Bike Church and even the drivers realize that if we're out riding Sunday morning we must be practicing our religion.)

Only drivers wave—not passengers. The exception is kids—if they pull their heads out of their phones and actually see you. Kids you pull up next to or in school busses love to wave—and occasionally shout (luckily, I usually can't hear what they say). A couple of kids have actually mooned me which I figure is a far greater acknowledgment than a wave.

Thankfully, most people eating or using their phones can't figure out how to wave. People in yards are more likely to wave than people in cars, and kids and older people along the roadside are better bets. Folks mowing the yard will almost always wave if they see you.

I've seen lots of different kinds of waves. Most common is the driver lifting most of one hand off the steering wheel, but sometimes it's just a few fingers or the whole hand. Sometimes it's just one finger (usually the index finger, not its neighbor). Once in a while, someone sticks a hand out the window to wave (my personal favorite), and of course a few folks tap on the horn. Funny how you can always tell a friendly beep from the other kind!

One situation in which I try to wave every time is when an approaching vehicle takes some action that shows me the driver is looking out for me. When that happens I make sure to wave big, and time it to be hard for them to miss. Drivers who show me they care are definitely worth waving to.

Now, if I could just figure out how to get a "wave" like they do in stadiums going on the Monday Night Ride, maybe I could patent it and sell the rights...

So, how about "catching the wave" and joining me in waving to motorists and folks along the road whenever you can? You can help expand good impressions that people have of bicyclists and maybe even generate some good karma. And, if you notice patterns in who waves back and who doesn't, let me know.

Doug Kirk, KBC Member of many talents.



# 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	<a href="#">Home - Melting Mann</a>
Barry Roubaix Gravel Race	15 April 2023	<a href="#">Barry-Roubaix</a>
Willow Time Trial	22 April 2023	<a href="#">Willow Time Trial Registration via BikeReg</a>
<b>Bike Camp</b>	20 May 2023	<a href="#">Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - Life is better on a bike!</a>
<b>KBC Recovery Party (Wind &amp; James)</b>	20 May 2023	<a href="#">Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - Life is better on a bike!</a>
Dirty Donut	3 June 2023	<a href="#">Dirty Donut</a>
Bike-a-Palooza	3 June 2023	<a href="#">Tweed Ride &amp; Bike-a-Palooza</a>
<b>KalTour</b>	25 June 2023	<a href="#">Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - Life is better on a bike!</a>
Holland 100	15 July 2023	<a href="#">Holland 100</a>
Gilmore Gravel	TBD	<a href="#">Gilmore Gravel Grand Prix</a>
Lowell Gravel Race	28 October 2023	<a href="#">LOWELL CLASSIC GRAVEL ROAD RACE - Home (thelowell50.com)</a>