



January 2026

PRESIDENT'S LETTER — JOANNE BEVERAGE

Hello Kalamazoo Bike Club Members,

My name is Joanne Beverage, and I'm honored (and a little nervous!) to step into the role of President. I'm more of a "ride for the fun of it" cyclist than a competitive rider, and recently I've started dabbling in bikepacking—which has been an exciting new adventure!

I've called Michigan home for 29 years and have two adult children who are both proudly serving in the Army. I came to this role after being asked to help when the board was having difficulty finding a replacement for John—who will certainly be a tough act to follow.

I'm looking forward to connecting with all of you, planning some great rides, and continuing the strong sense of community that makes this club special. Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Ride safe,
Joanne Beverage



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

editor@kalamazoobicycle
club.org

Double Nickle : KBC will be celebrating it's 55th year in 2026. That a lot of miles, years, community and great fun on the road. Mark your calendar to celebrate on the evening of March 07 at Wind+James. Details to follow in the February release of the Pedal Press.

KBC Business

The next KBC meeting will be **Saturday, 07 March 2026** at **Wind+James (555 E Eliza St, Schoolcraft)** after the KBC Party.

Kalamazoo Bicycle Club Oshtemo Community Center

2026 Meeting Schedule (no longer monthly)

March 7th, 2026 (KBC Party @ Wind+James—Mark your calendars)

May 12th, 2026

June 9th, 2026

October 13th, 2026 – Nominations

November 10th, 2026 – Elections

Current KBC Open Positions:

Social Director

Communications Director

KalTour Co-Director

KBC Website Redesign

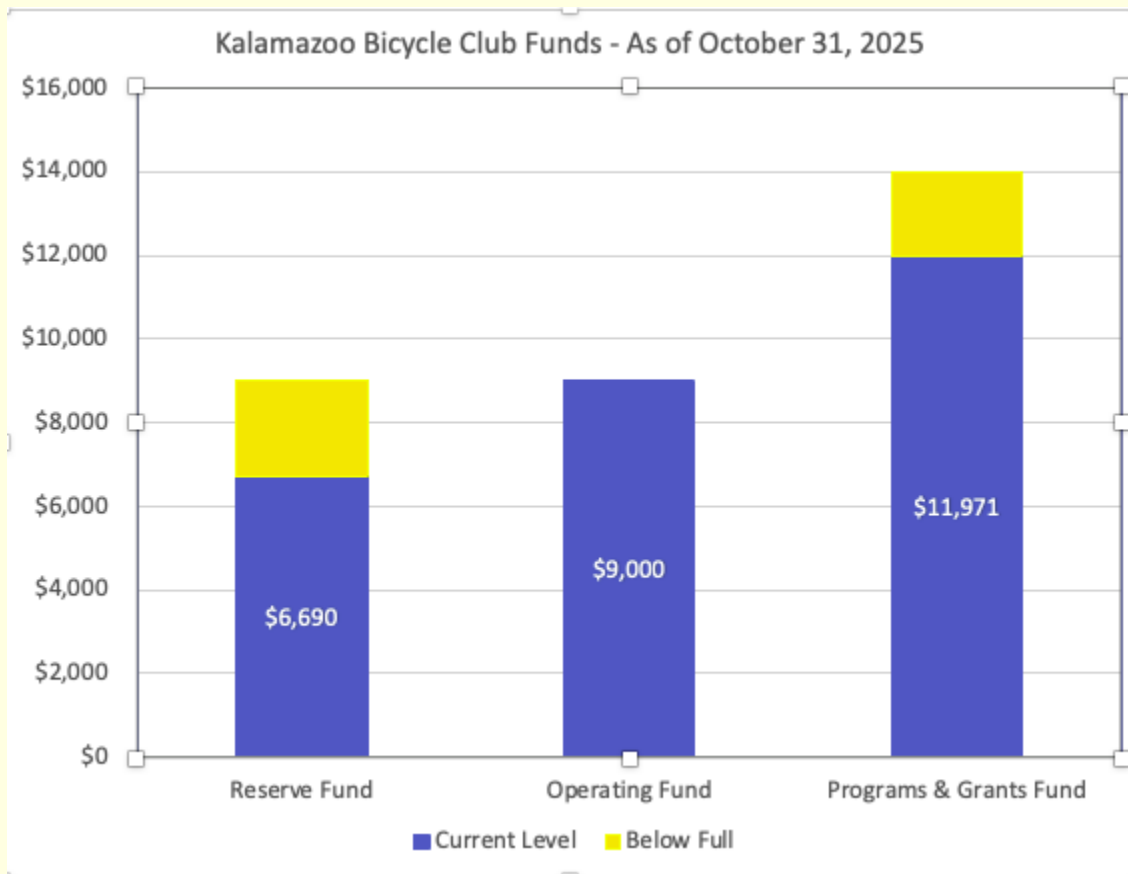
We are currently doing a redesign of the KBC website. If there is new functionality to add to the site that you would see useful, please send your inputs to the following email list: secretary@kalamazoobicycleclub.org, editor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org, vicepresident@kalamazoobicycleclub.org, president@kalamazoobicycleclub.org, treasurer@kalamazoobicycleclub.org (please copy all). Hoping to have the new site up and operational come Q2 2026. All inputs will be considered.

Q4 2025 KBC Finances

Operating Fund (membership dues minus operating costs) = Initial balance set in January and fluctuates throughout the year.

Reserve Fund (calculated each December for the next year) = Avg. operating costs for previous 4 yrs.

Programs and Grants Fund = Current Assets – (Operating Fund + Reserve Fund).



Notes:

- Programs and Grants Fund includes Bike Camp, KalTour, Cycling Shorts, and grants.
- Operating Fund supports all other club activities, including ride insurance.
- KBC is open to receiving unrestricted donations and the full amount of those donations will go into the Programs and Grants Fund.

Pam Sotherland, KBC Treasurer

January 2026 KBC Membership

Total Memberships: 239

Total Individuals: 376

New or Renewed Members: David Anderson; Karen Cooper & Family; Jenna Kovach; Don Leitow & Family; Jeff Newman & Family; Tom Noverr; Steve Stapleton; Greg Strader; Gordy Vader; Brian VanderHoff

January Expired Members: Tori Cane; Kevin Cleary; Neil Feliska; Terry Florian; Artis Freye & Kevin Ulrich; Kevin Hains; Mark Jackson; Richard Schau; Erik & Sam Schnepf

February Expired Members: Dan Kallewaard; Mike & Sharon VanderMeulen; Randall Yagela

Rick Whaley, Membership Director

KBC Photo Contest (Extended to Feb 2026)

Happy New Year and hope all are well. As you can see cycling in SW Michigan is a year round activity. I know there are many great photos sitting in your pockets just waiting to get out. We will do a running slide show with pictures at the KBC Anniversary Party in March to select the winners by popular vote.



Contest Rules: The photos, 4 per person, should be cycling related and have at least a bike or riders in the frame somewhere. You must have taken the photo yourself and not used any editing software to enhance the shot.

We will vote on the winner at the KBC meeting in March with the first, second and third place winners will taking home prizes.

Please send photos to: editor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org along with a description of the photo (who, what and where) by **Friday 16 February 2026**. Subject line of <KBC Photo Contest >

Charlie Grdina, KBC Editor

KBC “Naming Opportunity” at Open Roads A Capital Campaign Donation/Pledge

As many of you know, Open Roads (<https://www.openroadsbike.org/>) is a vibrant youth mentoring program that uses bikes and the joy of maintaining and riding them to help young people in the Kalamazoo area develop a sense of community while learning life skills that will serve them well in the future. Open Roads is conducting a three-year Capital Campaign, and KBC members can contribute to ensure this important program will continue and thrive.

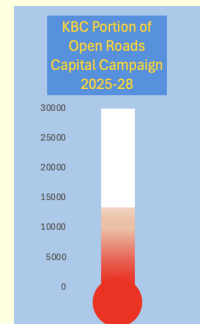
At the same time, your contributions can help raise KBC’s profile in the community. Funds that are donated to Open Roads and designated as collaborative contributions from KBC members will count towards KBC’s eligibility for a ‘naming opportunity’ in the Open Roads building. Many areas of the facility – Lobby/Front Desk, Youth Lounge, Bike and Parts Storage, or the Workshop, for example – will be named to recognize noteworthy donors to the Capital Campaign. Having one of those areas named for KBC would cement the club’s position as a contributor to youth development through a focus on bikes and bicycling.

This invitation to help with the campaign, along with the extra bookkeeping needed to implement it, has been approved by the KBC Executive Committee and the Open Roads Board of Directors.

More information about Open Roads and its Capital Campaign is available at this link <https://www.openroadsbike.org/capital-campaign.html> I hope you will join Pam, me, and other KBC members who serve on the Open Roads Capital Campaign Board, in supporting Open Roads and having our donations designated as part of a collective contribution to Open Roads from the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club.

Here’s a link to the Open Roads “Donate” page <https://www.openroadsbike.org/donate.html>

Over the next three years, if you make a monetary donation or pledge to the Open Roads Capital Campaign, please consider asking to have your donation designated as part of KBC’s contribution to the Capital Campaign. You can request this designation in one of two ways. If you mail a check to the Open Roads Capital Campaign, please include a note stating that you would like your contribution to count toward KBC’s collective support of Open Roads. Or, if you make your donation via the “Donate” page, please check the “Dedicate this gift” box and then complete the text boxes that appear. Check the “... donation in honor of” box; type “Kalamazoo Bicycle Club” in the “...recognize” box; then, if you choose, complete the “Send a message?” boxes. Either way will work; you just need to let the Open Roads folks know about your donation contributing to KBC’s collective support of Open Roads.



As a result of our collective/collaborative effort, KBC will be ‘credited’ with a sizable donation to the Open Roads Capital Campaign and will be eligible for a ‘naming opportunity’ in the Open Roads building. Already, donations and pledges of about \$13.5K have been made by KBC members serving on the Capital Campaign Committee. Thus, the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club is well on its way to being acknowledged as a patron of the Open Roads program by having its name displayed prominently in the Open Roads building. Let’s set a tentative goal of collectively contributing \$30K.

We hope you will grab the wheel provided by KBC’ers at the front of the peloton that will help launch the Open Roads Capital Campaign and bring it home to a podium finish for KBC. The most effective way to support the Capital Campaign will be to make your donation or pledge before the Campaign goes public in April 2026.

Together we can make this happen.

Finally, if you haven’t do so already, please experience firsthand the magic happening at and through Open Roads by visiting their new shop, located at 914 E. Vine St., between 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm on Thursday or Friday afternoons. I’m sure you’ll be impressed.

Paul Sotherland, KBC Grands and Awards

WANTED: KALTOUR 2026 CO-DIRECTOR

The club is seeking someone to join Mike Krischer as the Co-director of KalTour 2026. There are three essential qualifications for this position: You must be a member of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club (or be willing to join); you must be available to help load supplies on the day before KalTour (Saturday June 27); and the next day (Sunday June 28) you must help unload supplies in the morning and help load leftover supplies at the conclusion of the ride. Note that it will be possible to ride KalTour after the completion of the initial setup. No prior experience is necessary.

The primary responsibility of the co director will be managing supplies needed for KalTour, primarily non-food items which can be purchased and stored in advance of KalTour. It would be desirable for the co-director to have space to store the plastic bins in which the supplies are packed, but this is not essential.



KalTour serves as the major fund raiser for the club, and the proceeds support grants to many organizations including the adaptive bicycles provided by Kazoo Valley AMBUCS, our longtime partners. As with all other KBC positions, this is a volunteer opportunity. However, there are a few benefits: the co-director will not need to pay to ride KalTour, and helping with cleanup means access to the leftover food.

Mike Krischer, KalTour Director



Call For Annual Mileage in 2025

How many miles did you ride in 2025?

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, enter your name and miles logged at this Google Form: [Call For Annual Mileage in 2025](https://forms.gle/Fk3xR562YK7bxgzq9) or enter <https://forms.gle/Fk3xR562YK7bxgzq9> into your favorite browser.



Paul Selden, KBC Member

Wax on / Wax off

Let's talk chain wax. Waxing is all the rage these days. I have been actively waxing my chains for the last few years now and I love it.

There are a few benefits:

- 1) **An efficient drivetrain.** Okay, let's be honest, most of us aren't fast enough to benefit from the speed and efficiency gains of a waxed chain but I will take all the help I can get. Waxed chains are more efficient. And that's all fine and dandy.
- 2) **Your drivetrain will stay clean!** This is my favorite part. No more grease marks on your leg. No more gross disgusting chain and cassette. Just a clean and shiny drivetrain.
- 3) **Your drivetrain will last longer.** If you wax your chain, your chain will last longer. Wax does a fantastic job of reducing wear. Will your chain last forever? No. But it will last longer and that's great considering the price of replacement parts these days.

Nick Hampton, KBC Member, TCL Race Team Liaison

Local services providing chain waxing:

VeloVan
Pedal Bicycle Shop
Knight Bicycle Shop

Do it yourself guidance.

[How To Wax A Bicycle Chain | Maintenance Monday](#) (Don't forget to breathe)

KBC Partnership with Crossfit AZO for cross training / strength training

Most people know that there is benefit to strength training, whether you are a cyclist or just a person looking to stay fit in life. As cyclists, we love to ride, and speaking for myself, strength training is way less fun. But, one way to stay on the bike more, be stronger and have less injuries is to add strength training into your weekly routine. I started adding strength workouts when I was rehabbing a running injury. I would receive an email listing the workout for that day and I would do downstairs with limited equipment and perform the exercises.

They were not as fun as riding my bike, but I could work through the exercises in 45 minutes or so. My injury got better and I was back to running and riding. I had many of the exercises memorized so I stopped working with AZO and figured I could be disciplined to do the workouts myself. That worked for about 2-days. Something about getting that email and listing the exercises. I knew strength training was good for me, most cycling, running and fitness coaches tell you that.



As we get older, we need strength training just to preserve our muscle mass. So, the proposal to the KBC EC was to partner with AZO crossfit and have them put together weekly strength training workouts for KBC members. We hope this is helpful and you are enjoying the added perk of being a KBC member. If you missed the communication about this opportunity, shoot me an email and I will add you to the distribution list. pmguimond@gmail.com.

Paul Guimond, KBC Vice President



2026 Cycling Events.

Not all inclusive but looking to capture the main cycling events in the immediate (50 mile or so) area. Opportunities to volunteer for the club abound.

[League of Michigan Cyclist](#)—Link to most major bicycle events in Michigan

[RACE SCHEDULE – MGRS \(michigangravelraceseries.com\)](#) - Link to MI gravel races

[Michigan Bike Events | Bicycle Races in Michigan - Michigan Bicycle Law](#) - Link to MI Road & Gravel

[Events – Bike Friendly Kalamazoo](#) - Link to many local cycling events

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Link</u>
Melting Mann	28 March	Melting Mann
Barry Roubaix	18 April	Barry Roubaix
Dirty Donut	20 June	Dirty Donut
KalTour	27 June	Kalamazoo Bicycle Club