



**Kalamazoo
Bicycle Club**

April 2026

PRESIDENT'S LETTER — JOANNE BEVERAGE

In 2025, we sharpened our focus on our core offering: providing the best group road rides in the area. Our goal is simple—to make every ride safe and fun for everyone.

Safety starts with the pre-ride briefing. This is when ride leaders review the route and pace and share key reminders, such as riding no more than two abreast, calling out road hazards, and following the rules of the road. These small steps go a long way toward keeping our rides enjoyable and predictable for all.

And of course, there's the fun. Camaraderie and companionship are often the main reasons we choose to ride in a group. That experience is richer when we know the names of the people we're riding with. I encourage ride leaders to introduce themselves and invite participants to share their names. And whether that happens or not, you can always start the conversation yourself:

"Hi, I'm Joanne. What's your name? How long have you been riding with the club?"

I'm sure it will lead to a great conversation—and maybe even a new friendship.

KBC also has a Discord server that allows you to sign up for notifications for just the rides you participate in. Our aim is to communicate quickly and clearly, without overwhelming you with information you don't need.

Looking ahead, Kalamazoo Bike Week runs May 09-16 with dozens of rides and activities throughout the area, including several hosted by KBC members. Visit kalamazoobikeweek.org for details.

Finally, KBC hosts KalTour on Sunday, June 28. We are



HIGHLIGHTS

President's letter	1
Club Updates.....	2
Finances	4
W- Ride.....	5
MNR -2026.....	5
2025 KBC Milage Rpt....	6
Old Crank Award.....	7
Membership.....	8
Photo Contest.....	8
Open Roads Campaign...	9
KalTour /Blind Ride.....	10
KalTour/Ride UP.....	11
Tandem Ride.....	12
Event Calendar.....	13

looking for volunteers in several roles. Mike Krischer, who has served as KalTour Director for several years, is seeking someone to serve as Co-Director this year and step into the Director role next year.

2

Hope to see you out on the road!

Joanne

KBC Business

The next KBC meeting will be **Tuesday May 12, 2026** at 7:00 p.m. at **Oshtemo Community Center** (North Room), 6407 Parkview Ave, Kalamazoo MI

2026 Meeting Schedule

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

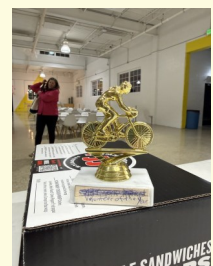
Finance Director

KBC Kick-off Meeting - March 07 2026

Opening Remarks – KBC President Joanne Beverage began the meeting thanking everyone for the warm welcome and noted she is honored to step into the role of President.

Presentation of the Old Crank Award – Presented to Rick Whaley.
(full writeup on page 7)

Volunteer of the Year Award – Pam Sotherland presented the Award to Paul Guimond and Charlie Grdina. Pam also recognized the many contributions of John Knowlton.



Ride Leader Sanctioning - John Knowlton sanctioned ride leaders for 2026. Those that did not register yet can do so on the KBC website.

Road and railroad track conditions - Pam presented ways to report road conditions and who to reach out to and report bad tracks. Websites are listed on the KBC website and links are the calendar page of the Pedal Press

Photo Contest award winners – KBC members voted on photos and winners were selected. See article on page

KBC website design – Focus of the upgrade will be to ensure club rides and the calendar are prominent. The website will be much more upgraded with better optics and easier to navigate from smart phones

KalTour – KalTour will be held on June 28th. Several people spoke up and volunteered. Food purchasing – Charlie, Mike and Paul – SAG/Driver and U-Haul – Charlie, Registration – John Knowlton, Scott, Cleanup – Jacinda; Signup genius will be live soon and requested slots.



Open Roads Campaign- Paul Sotherland requested KBC membership to donate \$1,000 dollars to “Open Roads Capital Campaign”. The vote was unanimous. Members are also encourage to support the campaign given the great service it provides the community.

Bike Week – Paul Selden talked about BFK and the many contributions it brings to the club and community.

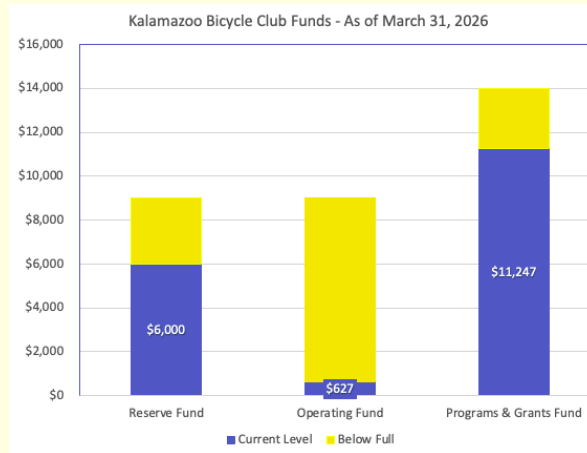


Closing Remarks – Joanne closed the meeting, thanking everyone for attending.

Jacinda Roedel, KBC Secretary & Webmaster.

Kalamazoo Bicycle Club

Income and Expense Report January 1 – December 31, 2025



Cash Balance, January 1, 2025 **\$24,280.25**

Income

Interest Income	543.08
Membership Dues	9,222.16
Donations	600.00
KalTour Registrations	7,790.00
Restricted Donations	<u>24.01</u>
	\$18,179.25

Expenses

Ambucs Donation	930.00
General Club Expenses	620.59
Gifts/Awards	175.00
Insurance	3,397.80
KalTour	5,931.57
LAB/LMB Memberships	225.00
TCL Race Team	2,000.00
Social Activities	1,917.52
Subscriptions	250.00
Website*	<u>5,205.93</u>
	<u>(20,653.41)</u>

Cash Balance, December 31, 2025 **\$21,806.09**

KBC **greatly appreciates** the very generous donation from Paul and Mary Selden and Bike Friendly Kalamazoo in 2025.

Pam Sotherland, KBC Finance Director

*Includes \$5,000 of a \$10,000 expense to redo the KBC website

The 2026 26th (Almost) Annual W Ride (02 May 09:00 Vicksburg High School—24 / 48 miles)

It starts off innocently enough. You're out on a ride with a so-called cycling buddy on one of your favorite routes when you come to an intersection. With a twisted grin on his face, your buddy says, "Instead of riding through the intersection, why don't we turn this time?" You're reluctant to do so, but then your buddy tempts you again, saying, "Aw, c'mon, it'll be fun."

And so, you make that fateful turn, and it IS fun. Too fun. Next thing you know, you're riding with a bad crowd, turning at intersections with reckless abandon for the pure D heck of it. You need to be Scared Straight!

And that's where the W Ride can help. This year, the W Ride returns to its usual late April/early May time on Saturday, May 2. The ride will start at the east parking lot of Vicksburg High School at 9:00 AM, and we'll be doing the classic route this year, riding on W Avenue to the Van Buren County line. Then we'll rotate our bikes 180 degrees and ride back to Vicksburg, perhaps to stop at the Shell station for delightful snacks, or to eat some snacks that you've brought with you at the high school.

If you like, you can finish your 24 mile W Avenue experience here, but for those of us who haven't been sufficiently frightened, we'll ride on W Avenue to the Calhoun County line, enjoying the hills west of Fulton. Once we rotate our bikes 180 degrees, we'll ride back to the high school, where, after completing 48 miles, more snacks and Gatorade (in at least some colors of the rainbow) await, courtesy of the Ride Leader.

Maps will be provided, because that's the way it's always been. The Ride Leader will lead a 14-15 mph group, but slower and faster groups are also encouraged to join us.

Are you a direction turning joyride cycling hooligan? Well, maybe the W Ride can set you straight, both literally and figuratively. The journey to cycling respectability begins with a single W Avenue pedal stroke.

Rick Whaley, W Ride Leader



First KBC Ride of 2026

A splendid 70 degree day in March kicked off the riding season for KBC. Many smiling faces, like 80, in this crowd just happy to be outside, on the bike and enjoying the taste of warm weather to come. Get out there and ride your bike !

Photos submitted by Julie Knowlton.



2025 KBC Member Mileage Almanac

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>
850	Hank Apotheker
5,031	Jeff Belknap
5,805	Jonathan Burke
2,859	Randy Button
889	Daniel Goldberger
3,420	Charlie Grdina
8,191	Paul Guthrie
953	Brent Hepp
800	Charlene Howland
4,077	Terry Hutchins
9,800	Doug Kirk
5,495	Jeff Kirschensteiner
2,500	Michael Kluz
3,000	Katie Little
8,314	Blair Miller
2,550	Terry O'Connor
1,300	Elsa Opfer
2,508	Jessica Opfer
1,337	John Opfer
5,938	Katja Opfer
2,885	Bill Price
129	Paul Selden
418	Libby Subers
2,790	Gordy Vader
2,213	Matthew VanMiddlesworth
3,953	Paul Wells
4,234	Rick Whaley
1,713	Gregory Worsnop



Call For Annual Mileage in 2025



Based on member reports received in time to submit for this edition of the Pedal Press; may be approximate or a best guess. Not responsible for errors/omissions, etc. Please send any corrections/updates to the Pedal Press Editor at editor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org. Throughout the coming year please submit stories about rides that inspire, amuse or share lessons learned to editor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org. Trips, adventures, long rides, race results, an experience on a trail, a pleasant outing with the family...in short, share anything you think may help our members get a feeling for your diverse and wonderful bicycling experiences.

Paul Selden, KBC Member & Annual Milage Almanac coordinator.

Old Crank Award – 2025

Presented for the first time at the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club's 50th Anniversary Celebration and annually thereafter, the "Old Crank Award" recognizes service by club members to the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club over many years and in various capacities.

This travelling award, inscribed with the names of recipients, will be in the possession of each new recipient before being passed along to the next recipient designated on the award.

This year the Executive Committee took on the responsibility of selecting the recipient of the 2025 **Old Crank Award**. After considering several worthy candidates, we chose a member who truly embodies the spirit of this recognition.



This year's recipient has been a member of the club since the 1990s and has participated in—or supported—nearly every KBC ride and event. In terms of official service, he has worn many hats over the years: co-director of the Flowerfest Tour (also known as KalTour), editor of *PedalPress*, and most recently Database Manager and Membership Director, which entails much of the behind-the-scene work necessary for *PedalPress* to get to your inboxes, and your memberships to stay current.

However, one of his most memorable contributions began with these words:

"Have you ever said to yourself, 'Boy, I really enjoy these KBC rides,' but then whined, 'There are just soooo many turns!' Well, have I got a ride for you. This may not be the most scenic ride in the world. This may not be the most interesting ride in the world. But you won't get lost, and you'll have the satisfaction of knowing you've ridden the entire length of W Avenue—not once, but twice."

And so began what we now know as the "**W**" **Ride**. One might assume that the ride was named after the person who started it, but it turns out it's named after the only street you need to remember when you're riding it.

Please join us in congratulating **Rick Whaley**, the 2025 recipient of the **KBC Old Crank Award**.

Past recipients include:

Doug and Kathy Kirk...and...Mike Krischer

Zolton Cohen and Renee Mitchell

Paul Wells and Mike Boersma

April 2026 KBC Membership

Total Memberships: 245

Total Individuals: 389

New or Renewed Members: Jon Ballema; Robert Bauman; Benjamin Belloli; Sara & Bill Burhans; Tory Cane; Mike Connelly; Catherine Cowles; Steve Cox; Pat Cronin & Karen Halsted; Dennis Derhammer; Andrzej Dudek; Thomas Durlach; Hugo Galvez & Family; Pat Gipper & Family; Charlie Grdina & Family; Steve Groetsema; Bryan Gruizenga; Kevin & Karen High; Ryan Howard; Mike Hughes; Marc Irwin; Darryl & Amber Hutson; Megan James & Family; Dan Kalleward; Kevin Kimbrough; Linda & Jeff Kozacki; Martin Knop; Matt Lechel & Family; Cindy & Tom Little; Dan Martz; Michael McKeeby; Blair Miller; Michael Miller; Dave Mitchell; Renee & Don Mitchell; Tim Mitchell; Barry Olson & Family; Brian Peterman; Jon Penrod & Family; Luke Penrod & Ester Ferraz-Penrod; Sandra Rapp; Jill & Will Roberts; Ted & Stephanie Robinson; Paul Runnels; Isaac Scott; Joe Shorb; Ken Slocum; Jillian Unterborn & Family; Mike Vandever; Jeff Witt

March Expired Members: Laura Hamann; Adam Standiford

April Expired Members: Keegan Adriance; Clark Bennett; Chris Coyle; Michael Estes; Andrea & Don Fore; Chris Gottwald & Family; Dick & Patt Hewitt; John Howson; Dave Keyke; Scott Kirklin; Jeff Kirschenstein; Ann LaPoint & Family; Richard Morse; Jeffrey Pregoner & Family; Paul Raynes; Jessica Sackett; Mason Swartz; Evan St. Peter; Ruth Subers

Rick Whaley, Membership Director

2026 KBC Photo Contest

Some outstanding photographers in KBC and many colorful photos submitted in this years photo contest. We will do this again in 2027 so keep that camera that you call a phone at the ready in that bike-jersey pocket—you too can win BIG !

1st Place - Paul Guimond

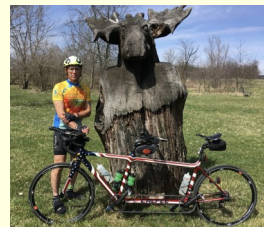
2nd Place—Doug Kirk (actually, a nice guy)

3rd Place— Barb Hart

4th—Garret Gokey

*Special mention—Rick Whaley (I missed getting his pic in the mix)

Charlie Grdina, KBC Editor



*



A Final Sprint—Open Roads Campaign

As the Open Roads Capital Campaign approaches launching its public phase the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club (KBC) is in a final sprint to reach its goal of raising \$30,000 for the campaign. Here's a link to more information about the Capital Campaign

<https://www.openroadsbike.org/capital-campaign.html>

Collectively, over a dozen KBC members have donated or pledged nearly \$27,000 to the Open Roads Capital Campaign. At the Launch Party last month, KBC members voted to contribute \$1,000 of Club funds to the campaign. That donation brought us to just over 90% of reaching our \$30,000 goal. When we reach (or exceed!) that goal the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club will have an opportunity to name a room at Open Roads – the Lobby/Front Desk or the Youth Lounge – in recognition of KBC's support for the Campaign.



Two tasks remain. First: follow the lead-out donations and pledges made by several KBC members by contributing to the final sprint with a donation or pledge to the Campaign. Doing that will help KBC reach (and exceed!) our goal of \$30,000. Second: help with choosing which naming opportunity the KBC should select when we reach our goal.

When you make a monetary contribution or pledge to donate to the Open Roads Capital Campaign, please consider designating your gift as part of KBC's collective contribution to the Campaign. You can request this designation in one of the following 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.

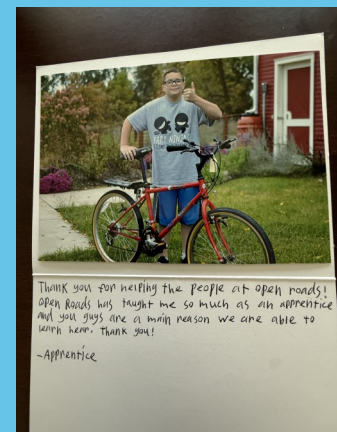
Paul Sotherland, KBC Grands and Awards

Great Letter of Gratitude

I recently sent a small contribution to the Open Roads capital campaign and received this well written note from this young apprentice working at Open Roads. Many of us have had opportunities in our youth that have shaped us into the citizens we are today. I believe this program is changing the lives of our youth in a very positive way showing the value of hard work and teaching them customer and community service, life skills and mechanical skills that can lead to a career in the trades. Heck, he may be the next young tuning that high-end electronic derailleur in your local bike shop in a few years.

When I read his shirt "Fart Ninjas" I laughed outloud and immediately thought to myself how I would have loved to have sported one of those in my youth.

Charlie G. , KBC Editor



KalTour 2026

- Online registration for KalTour is available through the Bikereg website at <https://www.bikereg.com/kbc-kaltour>
 - EARLY BIRD On-line Registration before Memorial Day or rider capacity of 250 is reached:
- \$45 for individuals (\$10 discount for KBC members)
- \$90 for families of up to 2 adults and minor children (\$20 discount for KBC family members).
- - On-line Registration through June 27
- \$50 for individuals (\$10 discount for KBC members)
- \$95 for families of up to 2 adults and minor children (\$20 discount for KBC family members).
- - Day of Registration
- \$55 for individuals (\$10 discount for KBC members)
- \$100 for families of up to 2 adults and minor children (\$20 discount for KBC family members).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for BLIND CAMP RIDE (16-18 May)

The 2026 Michigan Blind Athletic Association (MBAA) Sports Camp is taking place once again. This is a fun and rewarding experience for volunteers and riders. Blind/legally blind kids age 13-18 get to experience riding on the back of a tandem bicycle. Captains for the tandems and other volunteers are needed.

Tentative Dates and Times for 2026 are as follows:

May 16, Sunday, Times- TDB

May 17, Monday, Times- TDB (evening)

May 18th, Tuesday TBD (evening)

* Firm times will be emailed in May to all KBC members

Location is the WMU Business Technology and Research (BTR) Park off of Parkview Rd. It is held rain or shine.

This is a fun and rewarding experience for volunteers and riders. Blind/legally blind kids age 13-18 get to experience riding on the back of a tandem bicycle. Captains for the tandems and other volunteers are needed. If it rains rides will take place in the parking garage.

MBAA has quite a few tandems, including a recumbent side by side, most of these tandems will have flat pedals so be sure to bring appropriate shoes. If you own a tandem and want to use it, that is always appreciated. Volunteers are needed to captain tandems, no tandem experience is required, but if you are not comfortable doing that there are many other things you can help with. Kids need help getting helmets on, securing pant legs, adjusting seat height, and help getting on and off tandems.

On the last day when the time trials happen, 5-6 timers are also needed. Distances are short, just over a mile for a loop around the business park and it is pretty flat. Understanding these dates conflict with club rides on Monday & Tuesday but it is a memorable experience, some of the kids have never been on a bike before. Watch for updates and reminders on KBC facebook page and KBC website under the Volunteer heading. **This event would not be possible without the help from KBC members.**



Barb Hart, KBC Member and Ride Coordinator

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

UP Adventure 2026, eh

We'd like to share an opportunity with your club: **Tour Da Yoop, eh**, a 10-day, 1,200-mile ride around Michigan's Upper Peninsula, taking place July 24 – August 2. Riders can choose what fits them best:

- 1 day
- 3 days
- 5 days
- or all 10

This is a supported ride focused on community, safety, and experiencing the beauty of the UP. It's not a race, it's a ride!

More information and registration:
www.tourdayoopeh.com

Thanks for helping us spread the word.
Gary Perala
Event Director, Tour Da Yoop, eh

Submitted by Pam Sotherland



Celebrate the 50th Midwest Tandem Rally in Kalamazoo Labor Day Weekend

The Midwest Tandem Rally (MTR) is going for the gold this Labor Day Weekend September 4-7, 2026 in Kalamazoo, MI.

We are celebrating our 50th MTR this year so dust off those tandems hanging in your garage (we know folks have them) or pick out your favorite bike from your collection and join us for four days of riding southwest Michigan's quiet, rural roads past orchards, vineyards, and farms.

This year's ride, "Bring the Crew to the Zoo," starts with an ice cream ride Friday afternoon, continues with lunch and sag supported rides on Saturday and Sunday, and concludes with a Monday morning doughnut ride. We are planning mass starts Friday - Sunday; it's pretty amazing seeing that many tandems on the road at once! Saturday and Sunday rides start at 25 miles and include several additional loops for those who want to ride more. Tandem riders of all ages and experience are welcomed.



The MTR also includes social events, vendors, and speakers at our host hotel Delta Hotels Kalamazoo Conference Center. Room reservations can be made now at a special MTR rate <https://www.midwesttandemrally.org/lodging>. Event registration opens February 2026. Planning for the 2026 event is underway with the assistance from veteran MTR hosts from throughout the Midwest. Kalamazoo provides a central location for most midwestern states and offers great local amenities for your post ride enjoyment.

Back in 1976 a group of 35 tandem riders got together on Labor Day weekend for a three day ride in Kokomo, IN, and the MTR was born. Hosted by individuals and tandem clubs, the MTR has moved throughout the Midwest. Small in number in the early years, the MTR peaked in 1997 with 652 teams. In the last decade ridership has averaged between 200-300 teams with riders from all over the United States, Canada, Mexico, and even France.

We are excited to host the 50th in Kalamazoo this year and the tradition will continue in 2027 in Wausau, WI.

Following this year's MTR in Kalamazoo, there will a post tour ride in Shipshewana, IN September 7-10th. For more information check out the website at <https://www.midwesttandemrally.org/> or follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MTRgroup>.

Join tandem riders from all over the Midwest and beyond. Come celebrate our 50th!

Sharon and Bill Surna, KBC Members



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 \(michigan gravel races series.com\)](#) - 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

[Report a Pothole—Kalamazoo County](#) [Report a Pothole-VanBuren County](#)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Link</u>
Barry Roubaix	18 April	Barry Roubaix
W Ride	02 May	Kalamazoo Bicycle Club
Volunteer Blind Ride	16-18 May	Kalamazoo Bicycle Club
BIKE WEEK	9-16 May	Kalamazoo Area Bike Week
Dirty Donut	20 June	Dirty Donut
KalTour	27 June	Kalamazoo Bicycle Club
Midwest Tandem Ride	4-7 September	https:// www.midwesttandemrally.org/