Kalamazoo Bicycle Club

August 2026

PRESIDENT'S LETTER JOANNE BEVERAGE

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in, volunteered for, or helped organize the Kal Tour. From route planning and registration to sag support, rest stops, and cleanup, the success of this event depended on the teamwork and dedication of our volunteers. Special shout out to Mike Krischer, your efforts created a safe, enjoyable, and memorable experience for all who attended.

This year's Kal Tour featured riders of all abilities tackling routes that challenged them while allowing them to enjoy the beauty of Southwest Michigan. The smiles at the finish line, stories shared along the way, and friendships strengthened throughout the day remind us why events like these are so important to our cycling community.

The Kal Tour is more than just a ride. It is an opportunity to introduce new cyclists to our club, promote healthy and active lifestyles, and demonstrate the welcoming atmosphere that KBC is known for. Every year, it serves as a reminder that cycling brings people together in a unique and meaningful way.

As we continue through the season, I encourage everyone to stay involved, join upcoming club rides, and continue supporting one another on and off the road. Whether you're riding a few miles or a century, every ride is an opportunity to build friendships and create lasting memories.

Thank you for your continued enthusiasm and support of KBC. Together, we are keeping our cycling traditions strong while creating new adventures for riders of all ages and experience levels.

I look forward to seeing you on future rides and events. Ride safe and enjoy the journey!

Joanne



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Please send stories and photos of your rides to:

editor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org

KBC Business

The next KBC meeting will be Tuesday, October 13th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at Oshtemo Community Center (North Room), 6407 Parkview Ave, Kalamazoo MI

2026 Meeting Schedule

October 13th, 2026 – Nominations

November 10th, 2026 – Elections

(2027 Schedule to follow elections)

Current KBC Open Positions:

Social Director
Communications Director

KalTour Co-Director

June KBC Meeting Attendance:

Agenda

Nothing to Report

August 2026 KBC Membership

Total Memberships: 237

Total Individuals: 381

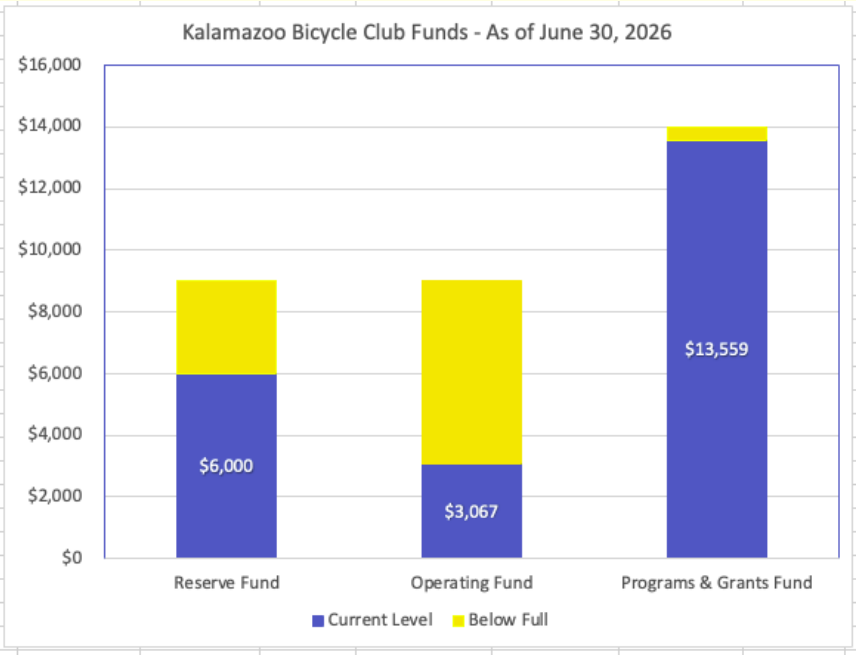
New or Renewed Members: Deborah Bauer; David Benedict; Jon Burke; Lue Cervone & Terry Brown; Kevin Cowham; Lauren Cummings; Cecelia Davis & Family; Daniel Fuentes del Rio; Harold Gleaves; Dan & Jane Goldburger; Steven Grieve; Paul Guimond; Buck Hickman; Bill Keene & Family; Ashley Kletke; Ali Leist; Paul Marquardt; Autumn Monaweck; Jessica Opfer & Family; Matt VanMiddlesworth; Kitty Vader Abigail Weiner;

August Expired Members: Hank Apotheker; Caleb Collins; Brian Germain; Mike Jones; Ed & Linda Maring; Robert Nemecek

September Expired Members: Kathy Braginton; Jay Campbell; Andrew Florian; Nick Garrison; George Granger III; Paul Guthrie; Dawn Hinz; Joan Orman; Leah Peterson; Jason Sparks; Scott Spray; Bill & Sharon Surna

Rick Whaley, Membership Director

Q2 2026 Financial Report



Pam Sotherland, KBC Treasurer

KalTour 2026: Final Report

The ride is over and the numbers are in. KalTour 2026, the 34th annual KBC summer tour, continued the strong turnouts of the post-Covid years. Luck played a part since KalTour day on Sunday June 27 managed to slip between the storms and the heat waves that have characterized this summer, not to mention the air quality concerns that forced cancelation of the Holland 100 and the Ride Around Torch Lake on July 17 and 18.

KalTour by the numbers: There were 157 preregistered riders and 27 day-of-ride registrations. A total of 163 riders participated. There was virtually an even split between riders who were KBC members and those who were not members. In comparison with 2025 rider numbers were up very slightly and revenue was approximately the same. However, expenses were significantly lower so the club's contribution to AMBUCS of half of the profits was $1,256 compared to $930 last year.

However, a ride is always more than just numbers. Two of my most lasting impressions were the departure of a good-sized group of riders on the 15 mile group ride and the recipient of an Amtryke enjoying his ride around the Wind + James facility. The 15 mile group ride was particularly notable because of the lack of any participants for this group in past years. The Amtryke recipient, a toddler with cerebral palsy and wearing leg braces benefited from the customized features of his new tricycle.

A ride such was KalTour would not be possible without the support of both KBC members and our outside partners. Most important is the Wind + James facility the site of the post- ride lunch. Indoor plumbing, comfortable table seating, and root beer floats are some of the benefits of having our ride headquarters at this facility. Tim Krone of Pedal can always be counted on to provide mechanical support. Gordon water has been a long-time supporter of KalTour. The Scotts Mill and Prairie View Park units of the Kalamazoo County Parks department provide pleasant locations for riders to relax and refresh. AMBUCS led by Donna Whitcomb has for many years provided servers for the Scotts Mill sag stop and the post-ride lunch.

The following KBC members played an important role in preparing for and running KalTour:

ROAD PAINTING: Rick Whaley, Mike Boersma, Charlie Grdina, Barb Hart, Robin Sides, Paul Selden

PRERIDE SHOPPING AND PREPARATION: Dan Goldenberger, Charlie Grdina, Paul Guimond, Kim Guimond, Pam Sotherland, Jacinda Roedel

DAY OF RIDE: Pam Sotherland, Stacy Knowlton, Scott Steuer, John Knowlton, Rick Whaley, Joanne Beverage, Charlie Grdina,

RIDE LEADERS: Gautier Debyser, Lauren Hutchings, Paul Guimond, Paul Selden

It is easy to closes with a simple "See you next year at KalTour 2027!" However, it is important to emphasize that the continuation of KalTour requires an infusion of new leadership from the members of KBC. Detailed explanation of areas of responsibilities will be forthcoming, but I want to encourage all of the KBC members who enjoyed this year's KalTour and those who want to see it exist to consider how they can help KalTour continue and to grow.

Mike Krischer, KalTour Director

2026 Kal- Tour AMBUCS Amtryke Recipient





Theodore Tyler (Teddy), a 2 year old from Otsego. His parents are Sarah and Ken Tyler. His twin brother that was there is Reid along with his other 2 siblings.

His mother describes him as a happy 2 year old who enjoys being outside and playing with his siblings. He is very curious and determined and works to keep up and do all the adventure that he can. His Amtryke was fitted by his therapist Catey Koch-Blanchard from Bronson Rehabilitation Pediatrics. Catey states that he will benefit from the bike with global strengthening and coordination. He will be able to continue his therapy goals at home with this bike at home.

Donna Whitcomb, Treasurer
Kazoo Valley Ambucs

For all that ride and support KalTour in 2026 much of the proceeds from this years ride is donated to AMBUCS making such a gift of mobility and joy possible for this child. THANK YOU for making this gift possible .



The BEST KBC Time Trial of 2026

It was a hit in 2025 so let's have some fun once again in 26! This course is flat, fast and guaranteed to get you breathing like a lung shot moose by the time you finish. With only two right turns it beckons even the most navigationally challenged among us to go astray (it has, of course, been done).

You can race individually as well as on a team (first team rider to cross stops the clock (just like the Tour de France) Just let the organizers know your team when you sign-up at the event. We will start the first rider at 6:00 PM. Feel free to show-up anytime before 7:00 PM. Event is coordinated with Team Clark Logic.

DO NOT MISS IT! Call or text 269.744-0722 if any questions
Paul Guimond, KBC Vice President



Team Clark Logic Community Support

team CLARK LOGIC

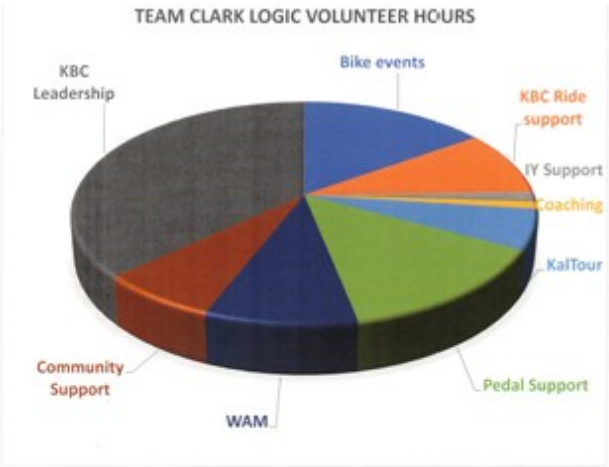
Team Clark Logic hopes everyone is having a great start to 2026. As we reflect back on the 2025 race season, we would like to thank you for your continued sponsorship. While there is a financial component, it is the partnership that we truly appreciate. Kalamazoo Bike Club does a wonderful job of supporting cycling in the community and we are proud to help support that effort through assisting with club rides and serving in various roles on KBC leadership team.

Here are some stats on the 2025 race season:

- The team raced in 3 different countries
- The team raced in 6 different US states
- The team competed in gravel, road, mountain and multistate distance races. There were overall podiums as well as many age group podiums. A few crashes, many close calls, some big miles and lots of stories.

A large part of being a member of TCL is giving back to our community, and in 2025. The total volunteer hours for 2025 was 726 hours. We supported our community in a variety of ways. Some of the big buckets were:

- Helping at local bike races
- Helping at bike events (KalTour and WAM were 2 major events)
- Supporting Pedal shop rides
- Supporting KBC weekly rides
- Volunteering for KBC leadership



The members of Team Clark Logic enjoy helping to make cycling safer and enjoyable for everyone who chooses to ride. We do this through our support of cycling related activities and helping newer riders understand the rules of the road and proper cycling etiquette.

Thank you for the continued the support and friendship.

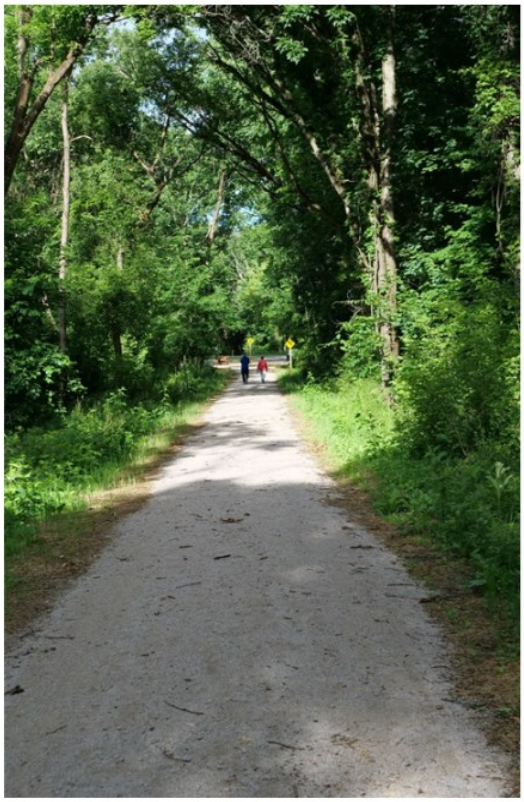
Looking forward to another fantastic year on the bike in 2026

The above report highlights the many volunteer hours TCL provides to greater Kalamazoo community. Given the long standing symbiotic relationship between the organizations, KBC is a recipient of many of these hours and is grateful for all the support keeping us both strong.

Paul Guimond, KBC Vice President

Oshtemo Opens a Rails to Trail Section

The Fruit Belt Rail Trail is open and ready to explore!



The Fruit Belt Rail Trail (FBRT) is now complete and open to the public!

This two-mile linear trail provides a comfortable route for walking, running, and biking. Paved parking lots at the Sixth Street and Flesher Field trailheads improve access for trail users. Along the corridor, landscaping, grading, and native wildflower seeding help stabilize soils while supporting pollinator and wildlife habitat. Black walnut benches, safety fencing, and wayfinding signage further enhance comfort, safety, and navigation.

Funding for the FBRT was supported in part by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, which invests revenue from nonrenewable resources into lasting public assets like parks and trails through grants to state and local governments.

A bit of history: The corridor that would become the Fruit Belt Line began as part of the Michigan Central Railroad, whose tracks once passed through Oshtemo before the route was shifted to what is now the Amtrak corridor. In the early 1900s, Samuel Dunkley acquired the former line, and by 1907 it connected Kalamazoo to South Haven, where steamships carried passengers and fruit across Lake Michigan to Chicago.

Today, 14 miles of this historic corridor are enjoyed as Michigan DNR's Van Buren Trail, and communities along the remaining route are working to create a continuous trail. This Fruit Belt Rail Trail segment is the first to be built in Kalamazoo County, an important milestone toward a connected regional trail network. Once complete and linked with the Kal-Haven Trail, the two trails will form a unique 70-mile loop of regional and statewide significance.

Please enjoy the trail and stay tuned for more updates!

Fruit Belt Rail Trail Master Plan:

View the Master Plan Document (PDF, 7MB)

Click on above picture/link for the entire article & more information.
Paul Sotherland, KBC Grants and Awards

Portage Poker Ride - September 13

The event will start at South Westnedge Park at 11:00. Participants have up to three hours to visit up to seven parks via bike to draw playing cards to make a poker hand. Looks to be a fun time for family and friends cycling in Portage. Further details can be found at City of Portage and Pedal Bike shops.

Save the Date !

KalTour 2027

KALTOUR 2026 was a well supported and successful ride for all who participated **but we need your help for 2027**. We are seeking find volunteers to lead the 5 major roles essential to a successful event. Continuing KALTOUR in 2027 will hinge on the participation of club members to fill these roles.

1. KALTOUR Director: Responsibilities to oversee the event is planned and executed safely. Turnover with current KalTour director, Mike Krischer.

2. Marketing: Responsibilities to oversee the promotion of the event with social media and local fliers.

3. Registration: Responsibilities to oversee the registration of riders via BikeReg and day of registration. Maintain routes in RidewGPS software.

4. Routes: Responsibilities to oversee condition of existing routes and a road marking prior to the event.

5. Facilities: Responsibilities to coordinate use of Wind+James, Scotts Mill Park and AMBUCS for SAG stop support.

None of the roles are overly complex or time consuming but do require ownership and some time to coordinate and oversee prior to and during the event. This is not the full list and many of the volunteer roles are filled weeks prior to event.

If interested please contact any of the Kalamazoo leadership or attend one of the upcoming meetings in October or November.

KBC Leadership

8th Fall Bike Celebration Weekend Coming Sept. 18-20

Sunday Bike Tour -- Kids Helmet Fitting and Bike Tune-Up -- Farmers Market Cycle-In Events

The FBC is coming! The Fall Bike Celebration Weekend features a 7+ route **Bike Tour** (including mixed surface/gravel rides), **Kids Helmet Fitting & Bike Tune Up** and **Farmers Market Cycle-In**! events, guided tours of the **Vicksburg Historic Village**, all during the third weekend in September from September 18-20. The weekend also highlights attractions in and around the charming village of Vicksburg, MI and raises awareness of the need to drive bike safely as the hours of darkness increase during the fall, with the help of many KBC members. Organized by Bike Friendly Kalamazoo, the "FBC" has consistently been followed by a donation to KBC -- so the more KBC riders, the better! To register for Sunday's Bike Tour (Sept. 20) go to BikeReg.com or copy & paste https://www.bikereg.com/bfk-fall-bike-celebration into your favorite browser. For the latest Bike Tour details, see https://fallbikecelebration.org/registration/.



Two main events are scheduled for Friday Sept. 18. **The first 30 cyclists to visit the Vicksburg Farmers Market will receive a $5 coupon good for purchases**. A second event allows the public to schedule **Guided Tours of the Vicksburg Historic Village** -- whether arriving on bicycles or not. :-)

On Saturday Sept. 19 a free **Kids Bike Helmet Fitting & Tune-Up** for children from the entire area is planned for 11am-1pm, hosted by the Vicksburg District Library and supported by Safe Kids/Bronson Health Foundation and Open Roads Bike Program. Saturday also features guided tours of the Vicksburg Historic Village and an **Ice Cream Social at Apple Knockers Ice Cream Parlor** (with a free cone for riders registering on-line).

On Sunday Sept. 20 the **Fall Bike Celebration Bike Tour** offers routes created by Barb Hart that take cyclists back in time, starting and ending at the lovingly restored Vicksburg Historic Village while featuring views of Vicksburg Quilt Trail paintings. Depending on the route, scenic routes include the **Shipshewana Century**, Michigan's longest **covered wooden bridge**, **Rawson's King Mill Park**, a chance to try the bite-sized **Lake Cruise** route using the newly paved Austin Lake Trail, and an even shorter family option on the **Vicksburg Recreational Trail**. The gravel/mixed surface routes are being organized by Steve Cox.

Bill Adams, former Vicksburg Village President observes, "Vicksburg welcomes bicyclists and encourages everyone to enjoy the Fall Bike Celebration. We are grateful for the contributions from the generous sponsors and wonderful in-kind supporters who make this fantastic fall bicycle festival possible."

The "FBC" is organized by civic leaders, local charities and KBC members. It packs the weekend with fun reasons to ride, showcases local amenities, provides ways to support bicycling, all while building public awareness of road safety. Some activities are free, some require waivers and some may require children to be accompanied by an adult. KBC has donated 5 Foot Safe Passing yard signs (supplies limited). Registration for Sunday's Bike Tour is at BikeReg.com. Riders who register online through September 13 receive coupons good for Apple Knockers ice cream and discounted refreshments at the Distant Whistle Brew Pub in Vicksburg.

"Get ready to roll in—the Fall Bike Celebration is gearing up for an unforgettable weekend on two wheels!" says KBC Member / **FBC volunteer Paul Selden.**

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

Report a Pothole—Kalamazoo County Report a Pothole-VanBuren County

Event	Date	Link
KBC Time Trial	11 August	Kalamazoo Bicycle Club
Midwest Tandem Ride	4-7 September	https://www.midwesttandemrally.org/
Portage Poker Ride	13 September	City of Portage
BFK's Fall Bike Celebration Tour	20 September	https://fallbikecelebration.org