

PRESIDENT'S LETTER—DOUG KIRK

Bike Week is May 11 to May 18. Enjoy It!

It's a wonderful thing to watch this event grow year by year. David & Mary Jo Warwick did a fine job getting Bike Week off the ground—building it the first 7 years. Now Bike Friendly Kalamazoo has taken over the job of putting it all together and handling the publicity. A lot of work!

Lots of different events going on this year—Bike Camp, regular KBC and Pedal rides, the Mayor's Ride, a hillclimb, a Ride of Silence, an introduction to gravel road riding, radio programs, governmental presentations, and more. Click on www.kalamazoobikeweek.org and take a look at everything that's going on. I bet you find at least two or three events you'll want to attend.

Sadly, no bike-related movie shorts again this year. I know I'm not the only one who really enjoyed hoisting one or two of Bell's finest brews while watching that cycling-related cinematic creativity with a few dozen fellow bike-geeks! Maybe next year...

A little revelry with biking buddies is a hoot for sure, but it's only a corner of Bike Week's big picture, which of course is to celebrate all the different facets of bicycling. When you think about it, what sport—or other activity—has so many dimensions? Biking is freedom (remember that first bike when you were a kid?), great exercise, lots of fun, and genuinely useful transportation. It's terrific aerobic exercise and is easy on the body. You can noodle around the neighborhood or ride across the country. You can race. You can ride pavement, dirt or gravel—with your significant other, your kids—or grandkids! You can push yourself to the absolute limit of your ability hammering with friends. Or you can go slow and alone—unwind, or take in the scenery, or just think.

Bike week is a great way to take a look at all that bicycling offers. So step back, take a look at all that's going on, and pick one or two new goings-on to investigate.

—Doug Kirk President@kalamazoobicycleclub.org



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

KBC Meeting Notes.....	2, 3, 4
Kal Tour	5
Bike-a-Palooza!.....	7
Bike Camp.....	8
Dirty Donut	9
Blind Camp.....	10
All Bike Open House!.....	11
W Ave. Ride Report.....	14

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Do you take pictures? Send some cycling pics for inclusion in future PedalPress issues!

editor@kalamazooBicycle
Club.org

KBC MEETING NOTES—APRIL 9, 2019

Finance report, Mike Boersema:

PNC CD: \$6,178.69

PNC Checking: \$4,244.81

Paypal as of April 7: \$4,077.62

Designated funds:

Jeremy Smith: \$560

Education/ DALMAC Grant: \$2850.43
(\$90 donation came in).

SPECIAL LOCATION FOR MAY CLUB MEET- ING

KBC's regular meeting takes place on the second Tuesday of each month. The May meeting takes place during Kalamazoo Bike Week and our regular meeting will be replaced with a Bicycle Open House from 7-9 at Boatyard Brewing.

The Kalamazoo Bicycle Club is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and donations are tax deductible. You may donate by holding Ctrl and clicking [here](#).

You may also designate how you wish your donation be used: general KBC activities, 5 foot passing education, or the Tuesday Night Time Trial series. You may also donate by check by sending your donation to Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, P.O. Box 50527, Kalamazoo, MI 49005. Please write "Donation" in the memo line.

Thank you, Mike Boersma
KBC Treasurer

KBC MEETING MINUTES

Vice-President: Paul Sotherland has been considering Bike Camp and volunteerism. The club consists of a distributed network of volunteers with independent volunteers that assist with questions and needs in a variety of ways. There is a lot of coordination and accountability. Paul thanked the volunteers for their efforts.

Secretary: Valerie Kitznerski Letters were sent asking local senators and representatives not to support the HB1440 bill. Thom Brennan asked if we can post a template on Facebook that members can copy and send to their representatives. LMB has posted templates in the past. LAB has also posted templates. We'll push information from LMB when it's available. Advocacy Day is coming up in Lansing with LMB.

Paul Wells: (Education director) Anyone interested in joining the education committee should reach out to him. Ed committee trained local bus drivers in Lansing at the Michigan Traffic Safety Summit. KBC will be represented at Earth Day on April 20th in Bronson Park by Terry O'Connor, John Idema, Paul Wells and Thom Brennan. There will be an upcoming bike safety rodeo at a school. John Dunlop, at Portage Central Middle school teaches kids to ride bikes as a part of their physical education. John Dunlop has asked the club for volunteers to help the middle school kids with their riding in April and May during the regular school day. Marc Irwin has seen the kids graduate from this program as high school kids. He's hearing 16-year-olds talking about bikes instead of cars when he substitutes at the high schools. Paul W mentioned that are looking at riding on the trails. Please reach out to Paul before you leave to let him know if you are available.

Gordy Vader (ride captain): Over 70 riders attended last MNR ride. Teri Olbrot has expressed a need for a leader to step in to lead the Tuesday Night ladies rides. Gordy encouraged everyone to join the KBC discussion group on Facebook. There are lots of posts about rides before and after rides by the ride leaders including impromptu rides as well.

Social (John Idema): The Anniversary ride will be Sept 14th, 2019.

Website (Renee Mitchell): Membership renewals have been synched up successfully to the website. There are contact forms on the website if you have questions about Bike Camp and other events.

KBC MEETING NOTES CONTINUED —APRIL 9, 2019

Old Business The amendment to “Section 6-C Secretary:” is the following: “5. Serves as archivist of KBC documents.” The amendment was unanimously approved.

Bike Camp update – Paul Wells There are now 29 enrolled. We are adding education about nutrition, training and goal setting, along with a longer presentation about fixing flat tires. We still need more individuals to lead rides, answer questions and assist riders who might be in need.

Blind Camp update – Terry Butcher This takes May 8-10. See article.

KalTour update – Mike Krischer and Terry Butcher June 29. See article. We likely have the most room for growth with the gravel event. We might also run a WMUK underwriting clip as well to promote the ride.

Road Commission Community Liason (Paul Runnels) submitted the following report for inclusion in the notes: Our two members acquitted themselves well, helping to enable a near-record 25 minute meeting! (They may want to claim the record!).

Details on road repair projects, listed by township, can be found at the RCKC website: <http://www.kalamazooountyroads.com/projects.php> under 2019 Local Primary Construction Season Projects Update.”

Thom Brennan noted that both 8th Avenue and S Avenue will undergo major construction to offer a more permanent fix for the ongoing flooding issues. Dawn Gross asked about how to report road rage. Valerie responded to call the police and provide a great deal of detail.

Ride Leader Sanctioning. Paul Sotherland reminded everyone of the advantages of being a ride leader, including the insurance coverage on group rides. Information is available on the website. Paul also reminded the ride leaders of the duties. A few people signed up online, **Katie Little, Stacey and Shawn Ballard, Marc Irwin.** Please remember you must register online and be sanctioned in person at a meeting, and that you need to have a sponsor you as a ride leader.

Correction to last months’ notes: Jonathan Evans was not included in the list of newly sanctioned riders. He was sanctioned on March 12th, 2019. A thank you letter was sent to the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners thanking them for their support of bicycling in response to the appointment of Mike Boersma and Thom Brennan. The letter was not sent to the KCRC.

Bike Week update-Thom Brennan, including plans for KBC's May 14th Bike Week club meeting at **Boatyard Brewing.** This will be a club meeting that is open to the public. It will be named the “All Bike Open House” hosted by Kalamazoo Bicycle Club. There are 13 confirmed presenters for the club, representing a variety of organizations. Speakers will speak for about 5 minutes. The meeting will last from 7 pm to 9 pm. We are getting a special beer made for the club again and local leaders are invited as well. There is information at KalamazooBikeWeek.org about other bike week events. There will be a Facebook Event that Dale will create for this event. AMBUCS, Bike Friendly Kalamazoo, Bronson Bike to Work, Chain Gang, Discover Kalamazoo, Friends of KRVT, Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, Kzoo Swift, Open Roads, Parks Foundation of Kalamazoo County, Pedal, SWMMBA, TriKats and possibly others will present.

ATTENDEES:

Mike Boersma
Thom Brennan
Bonnie Conway
John Olbrot
Terry Butcher
Renee Mitchell
Gordy Vader
Shaun Ballard
Stacie Ballard
Dale Abbott
Bill Surna
John Knowlton
Julie Knowlton
Katie Little
Pam Sotherland
Rich Voorman
John Hart
Barb Hart
Mar Irwin
Dan Goldberg
Joe Kucharski
Dave Gross
Dawn Gros
Molly Yoshinkawa
Paul Selden
Rick Whaley
John Idema
Terry O'Connor
Mike Krischer
Paul Sotherland
Tim Stewart Jr
Rick Rumsey
Valerie Litznerski
Your name could be here, too, if you attended the KBC monthly meeting!

KBC MEETING NOTES CONTINUED

Grants/Awards (Terry O'Connor)

Terry submitted the following report head of the meeting for discussion. He is requesting approval from the executive committee. "The KBC Grant & Awards Committee received a request this afternoon from Portage West Middle School, PE Coach James Righter, for \$2,000 to be used for the purchase of 4-5 bicycles, which supplements a "Riding for Focus Grant" of 24 Specialized Bicycles through the Specialized Bike Foundation. This request meets our Club's mission to promote the sport of cycling, education, and advocacy but \$2,000 is over the \$500 approval limit for the Grant Committee.

What has the Club supported in the past? Markin Glenn \$2,500, KVRT \$1,500, AMBUCS (over \$7,400 since 2014), Race for Wishes \$2,000 Chain Gang Memorial and our Race Team. More recently our Club approved a \$500 request the National 24-hour Challenge but the committee denied a summer 2019 request of \$1,000 from GFM Synergy Center (a local non-profit) - "Break the Cycle of Addiction" - because it did not meet Kalamazoo Bicycling Club's mission statement and club purpose."

We recommend that we approve \$500 for Portage West Middle School and the committee chair will notify Coach Righter of our decision to modify the requested amount to \$500 and provide him with Bike Camp brochures for his students.

Paul Selden mentioned that giving money for a cause like this is a first. He thinks it's very important to support the community and the youth and also thinks that it will improve the club's image. Valerie asked Terry to write a blurb for the website and communications. She also mentioned that she thinks it's great that other organizations that support cycling in the community are looking to the club as a resource.

**NEXT KBC CLUB MEETING IS
APRIL MAY 14, 7:00 P.M. AT
BOATYARD BREWING.**



Your amazing (or quotidian) cycling photo would
be here if you had sent it to
editor@kalamazooicycleclub.org.

KAL-TOUR WHAT'S NEW AND WHAT'S OLD

What's new with KalTour this year? It will take place on a **Saturday** instead of a **Sunday**. There will be a new lunch stop for the Century Route and **two new gravel routes**.

KalTour even under its old Flowerfest name was always on a Sunday. Since heavy traffic is less of a concern at our start location in Schoolcraft than when we were closer to I-94, we are holding KalTour on a Saturday this year.

Last year, century riders might have noticed that it was a long way from the morning sag stop at Scotts Mill to the lunch stop at Markin Glen Park. This year **lunch for century riders will be at Richland Township Park** which will better balance the distances between morning sag stop, lunch stop, and afternoon sag stop.

One thing I know about gravel riding is that I can ride a mile on gravel and count the cars (passing and oncoming) with the fingers on one hand and still have a few fingers left over. I also know that south and west of Schoolcraft, you find more gravel than pavement. The extreme southwest corner of Kalamazoo County where it meets three other counties is an intersection of two gravel roads, and is well worth the trip. KalTour will have two gravel routes of 30 and 60 miles that reach into St. Joseph and Cass Counties with a sag stop (in the middle of nowhere). Gravel riders will have **lunch at the school after the ride**.

What hasn't changed about KalTour? It still takes a lot of people to make it run smoothly (or even run at all). We need people to shop for supplies, paint the arrows on the roads, handle registrations and check in, run sag stops, patrol the course, serve watermelon, and clean up after the ride. If you are any of those people, please join us for a short KalTour committee meeting before the next regular KBC meeting on Tuesday April 9 at 6 pm in the backroom at Shakespeare's pub. If you can't make the meeting, but would like to help out, please let me know.

Michael Krischer Kal-Tour Director
Follow this link for more information and to register:

www.kalamazooobicycleclub.org/events/kaltour/



Photo taken by Editor last August at the junction of Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Cass and VanBuren Counties. Z Ave. Who Knew?



ROAD COMMISSION OF KALAMAZOO COUNTY REPORT

RE: Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) Meeting April 16, 2019

From: Paul Runnels

All commissioners plus Joanna Johnson, Managing Director were in attendance

Items of greatest interest to the bicycling public:

C Avenue bridge between 42nd and 43rd streets is being replaced (East of Gull Lake). Will result in closing of that section of roadway for the summer and well into fall. Projected re-opening is October 15.

A section of Riverview between G Avenue and Mt. Olivet in Cooper Township could be under repair due to Cooper Township Sewer construction – timing not certain.

From April 2 meeting: D Avenue between Rolling Meadow Drive and Douglas Avenue as well as between 17th Street and Riverview Drive will be milled and resurfaced this summer – traffic is likely to be restricted while this is in progress.

Additionally, the segment of D Avenue between Douglas and 17th street is scheduled for chip-and-seal.

Most effective way to report issues with local roads is to open a service request with the RCKC:

Phone 269-381-1760 or Online: <http://www.kalamazooountyroads.com/contact.php>

If reporting online, and you are at the 'offending' site, and you have your phone handy, snap a picture and include it with the service request.

Service requests are prioritized. All are not resolved in a similar timeframe. A crooked sign may not get attention as quickly as a fallen tree on the road

Active Service Requests link can be found at the same URL as above.

Weekly report on RCKC projects can be found at

<http://www.kalamazooountyroads.com/news.php>

Fog sealing (spraying 'tar' on top of chip-and-seal) is an effective maintenance/preservative tool.

Expect to see more of that on chipped-and-sealed roads. Beware of fresh tar on bikes!

Construction season is very busy this year – respect detours and be alert!

KBC STATISTICS (CHECK FOR YOUR NAME HERE!)

Total Memberships: 355 **Total Individuals:** 571

May Expiring Members: Becky Argue; Tom Boomer; Zolton Cohen; Darryl Hutson; Chelsey Jones; Michele Karpinski; Blair Latulippi; Chris Mowell; Rob Nicey; Megan Preston; Tracy Reilly; Shelley Woertint; Wilson Xu; Zach Morales; Jessica Parise; Theresa Buelle; Jennifer Braga; Linda Buel; Paula Chomis; Michael Conway; Emika Debyser; Christy Elder; Kitty Flatland; Linda Fox; Tina Fuller; Pat Gipper; Elisha Hall; Linda Hampshire; Kelly Jones; Ann LaPoint; Mark Lemons; Holly McNally; Cindy Miller; Margaret Nichols; Holly Nickel; Julie Pioch; Teresa Redmond; Amy Roberts; Lisa Shirley; Helayne Smith; Tamara Smith; Tina Straw; William Surna; Tim Verdries; Joni Voss; Sally Wilkins; Rose Tobin; Linda Kozacki; Cindy Workman

New or Renewed Members: Michael & Sharon VanderMuelen; Thomas Dewhirst; Andrea & Dan Fore; Martin Knop; Heather Boersma; Charles Lorenzo Johnson III; Robert Taylor; Mark Schauer; Jacob Nash; Katie Little; Tom & Celine Keizer; Shaun & Stacie Ballard; Kevin Kimbrough; Carolyn Wyllie; John & Barbara Hart; Julie Bradfield; Mike Connelly; Terry O'Connor; Beri Miller; Sharon Brown; Ted & Stephanie Robinson; Roger Pozeznik; Alec Schau; Ethan Alexander; Bob Schuler; Melanie Sanic-Burke; Lisa & David Brown; Karen Halsted; Carolyn Everts; Kenneth Smith; Susan Hall; Tracy & Dan Harrison; Wendy Sinclair & Patrick Lynch; Linda Marks; Michele Frey; Lynn Morrison; Sandra Molvern; Cathy Cheron; Alice Rowe; Shannon & Adam Potgiesser; Nicole Bradshaw; Karen Applebey; Rebecca Martinez; Dennis Sinke; Kathy Rubino; Dawn Gross; Maureen & Keith Corts; Marcy Dix; Jeanette Marshall; Alisha Farber; Bridget Gonder; Pam Stinchcomb; Clark Bennett; Lauren Cummings; Patrick Tkacz; Michele Aslanian; Nancy Vandeville

BIKE- A- PALOOZA

Join Open Roads Bike Program for the grand finale of Kalamazoo Bike Week on Saturday, May 18 from 6-9 p.m. at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts! Bike-a-Palooza is a one-of-a-kind fundraising event that supports local youth gaining access to a bicycle, as well as the skills and confidence to navigate their community. Event features include live music, a silent auction, abundant hors d'oeuvres and drinks, a bike raffle sponsored by Pedal, bike building demonstration by students, access to the KIA art gallery, bike valet parking, and so much more!

Presenting sponsors include: Old National Bank, Honor Credit Union, Lindenwoods Dental, Miller Energy Company, and Eaton.

Event website: <https://www.openroadsbike.org/bike-a-palooza.html>

Tickets: \$40 Early Bird Ticket until April 13 / \$45 Advance Ticket / \$50 At-the-door Ticket

For More Information, Please Contact: Erin Denay at director@openroadsbike.org or call 269-365-9142.

OPEN ROADS
- PRESENTS -
BIKE-A-PALOOZA
PEDALS TO THE PEOPLE



Saturday, May 18: 6-9pm
at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts

A NIGHT OUT FEATURING:
Live Music by Jordan Hamilton
Abundant Hors d'oeuvres, Beer, & Wine
Bike Raffle by Pedal
Silent Auction
Bike Valet Parking

* SPONSORED BY *

EAT•N
Powering Business Worldwide

OLD NATIONAL BANK
Your bank. For life.™

HONOR
CREDIT UNION
© Come Be Part of It!

Miller Energy Company
MEC

LINDENWOODS DENTAL
FAMILY & COSMETIC DENTISTRY

Bike Camp 2019 Coming in May

Registration opens on January 1st for KBC's Bike Camp. If you or someone you know, a family member or friend who isn't comfortable with riding on the road, tell them they can benefit by enrolling in Bike Camp for 2019, a multi-session information and training program for cyclists getting more serious about the sport, or wishing to hone their skills.

KBC has successfully trained new cyclists for 14 years with this program. The instructors are seasoned, experienced cyclists who are passionate about bringing interested folks into this great sport. Attendees complete the program knowing how to safely, comfortably, and efficiently ride their bike.

Topics covered include a review of laws applying to bicycles, safe biking skills, bike fit adjustments to improve comfort and efficiency, fitness goals, nutrition, and bike maintenance. Families, adults new to road cycling, and those renewing their interest in the sport can all benefit from Bike Camp.

Bike Camp Dates:

Session 1: Thursday, May 9th, at 6:30 PM. This is an orientation and informational session, without your bike, held at the Greater Kalamazoo Association of Realtors (GKSR) Auditorium located at 5830 Venture Park Drive, Kalamazoo.

Sessions 2 and 3: Saturdays, May 11 and 18. These are educational and riding sessions held at the Portage YMCA, 2900 West Centre Ave in Portage. We will be getting into the details of safe riding and keeping your bike operating properly, so bring your bike and all your riding gear (helmet, mirror, bike clothing, protective eyewear, and bike gloves).

Sessions 4 and 5: Saturdays, May 25 and June 1. These are also educational and riding sessions, but held at the Texas Township Park Pavilion on Texas Drive. Bring your bike and all your riding gear.

On Saturday, June 29, Bike Camp concludes with participation in KBC's KalTour, the Kalamazoo Scenic Bicycle Tour, which starts at Schoolcraft High School. Schoolcraft, MI 49087.

Cost, includes Bike Camp, one-year KBC membership, and entry into KalTour:

\$60.00 for individuals signed up on or before May 1

\$75.00 for families signed up on or before May 1

For additional information and to register, hold the Ctrl key and click [here](#).

If you would like to volunteer to help at Bike Camp, or have questions, please email:

bikecamp@kalamazobicycleclub.org

Please come and join us!

-KBC Bike Camp Committee

Dirty Donut Race – Free Registration (and dig that hardware)!

Have you taken a look at the Dirty Donut race yet? Do yourself a favor and sign up now before the price goes up next month for what will be one of the most fun races of the year. Years from now you can sit around with your cycling friends and tell them how you raced in the First Dirty Donut race, back before it was one of the most popular races each year.

It all takes place on **Sunday June 9, 2019** as part of the National Donut Day celebration weekend. The race will start and finish at the US 131 Motorsports Park in Martin, Michigan. It is a dirt road race that offers three different distances of races, 18, 40, and 64 miles, and welcomes a wide variety of cyclists. Everyone from the very serious racer to those that just want a fun riding experience have a place at this event. Each race distance will have “donut stops” positioned along the race route. Participants will deduct five minutes from their final finish time for each donut they consume at one of our “donut stops” in the race. If donuts are not your thing and you just want to race, then our Sprint race will be for you.

Our inaugural raffle will be awesome!!!! Pedal has provided a 2019 Trek Checkpoint ALR 5 gravel bike valued at over \$2,000. Velocity has donated a pair of Aileron wheels, and SportCrafters has donated 2 of there Rollers. Each registered racer will get one raffle ticket for these prizes and we will be selling additional raffle tickets on race day for \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. The proceeds will be going to Walk Tall for Kids Foundation and Make-A-Wish of Michigan.

A very beautiful high quality medal will be presented to everyone who finishes. We will be awarding custom winners cycling jerseys, trophies, and custom medals in several different divisions and age categories. We have even more hardware for our divisional and age division winners as well! Visit our web page at www.dirtydonutraces.com for all the details. Keep checking our “Dirty Donut Race” Facebook page as well for up to the minute news on what is happening.



2019 Blind Camp!

When: W, Th, F May 8th-10th

Time: 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Where: WMU BTR Park / Western Michigan University College of Engineering
4601 Campus Drive, Kalamazoo, MI

We need volunteers to be timers on Friday evening, as well as tandem captains and assistants to help the campers get fitted on their bikes.

Ride captains will have the option to guide their camper(s) on a 1, 2, or 3 mile closed course on Wednesday and Thursday nights. Friday will be a one-mile time-trail.

The more volunteers will allow the campers to more riding experiences. We hope to utilize their 90 minutes of time with us to give them as much riding experience as the desire each day. This is a great way to share our sport and pass on the love of cycling while putting a positive note on Kalamazoo. People can volunteer on one or all three nights.

Wednesday and Thursday night campers will be riding with ride campers at a conversational pace to help gain more cycling experiences. Friday night campers will be doing a one mile time-trail with their captains. Students can make as many attempts with as many ride captain as possible to ride the time they desire. Campers are kids from all parts of the US as well as several countries throughout the world. They are Middle school and High School students that will be showing up to ride. The campers have a wide variety of cycling experience. Some have never ridden a bike in their life while others ride often on a regular bases.

I hope you can join us one or all of the evening. If you have questions you can email me at BikerTerry@mail.com or text me at 269-929-7595 or send me a message on the KBC Facebook page.





All-Bike Open House



Kalamazoo Bicycle Club presents:

All-Bike Open House

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Boatyard Brewing Company

432 E. Paterson St., Kalamazoo

Join us for an evening of cycling celebration and to learn more about the many organizations and businesses that support cycling in our community. Local bike shops, community service organizations, and bicycle advocacy groups will be represented. There's something here for every type of cyclist.

Hook up with old friends and meet some new ones.

Light snacks will be available, courtesy of Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, and refreshments can be purchased. Boatyard Brewing has made a special brew for the occasion!

AMBUCS

Bike Friendly Kalamazoo

Bronson – Bike To Work

Chain Gang

Discover Kalamazoo

Friends of KRVT

Just Ride at Just Move Fitness

Kalamazoo Bicycle Club

Kzoo Swift

Open Roads Bike Program

Pedal Bicycle

Southwest Michigan Mountain
Bike Association

TriKats

Village Cyclery

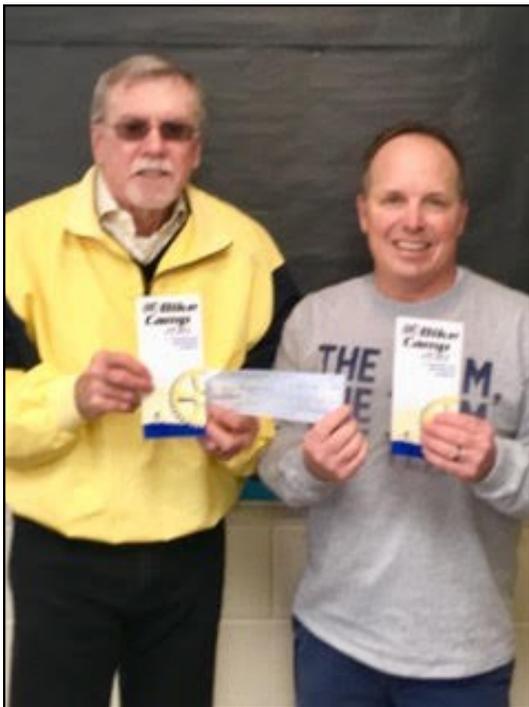
Zoo City

Kalamazoo Bicycle Club awards Portage West Middle School with cycling grant

KALAMAZOO -- The Kalamazoo Bicycle Club was pleased to grant Portage West Middle School a \$500 grant for their Riding with Focus program. Through this program cycling is incorporated into Portage West Middle School's Physical Education classes, which all students are required to take. Riding with Focus teaches basic cycling skills and safety.

Portage West Middle School received a previous grant of 24 bikes from the Specialized Bike Foundation. The grant from Kalamazoo Bicycle Club will allow them to expand the program to include more bikes, allowing them to reach more students.

The Kalamazoo Bicycle Club periodically awards small grants to help fund bicycling-related projects that meet the Club's mission to promote the sport of cycling and provide cycling education and advocacy. Terry O'Connor, Kalamazoo Bike Club Grants Committee Chair, said, "We are excited that Portage West Middle School is incorporating cycling in their Phys Ed program. We are happy to support a program that will help create the next generation of safe and re-



KBC's Terry O'Connor, coach Jim Righter

We have a new opportunity to buy high quality jerseys.

I have had several wool cycling jerseys from Oregon Cyclewear for about 3 years. A few club members asked about them so we worked with their embroiderer to keep the KBC logo on file enabling any member to



order whatever jersey they choose with the KBC logo in either a single color or two colors of their choice.

These jerseys are very high quality 100% merino wool which are supremely comfortable for cool weather. I've found them comfortable in temps ranging from 40-70 degrees. The sizing chart on their website is very accurate. I have a 45 inch chest, a very long torso and the jersey in the photo is an x-Large. They're easy to care for with an occasional cold/delicate wash with Woolite and left over the shower rod to dry in a few hours. You can expect a little shrinkage but not much if you don't use hot water or machine dry them.

Right now their entire stock is on sale to make room for their summer shipment. You can order from their website with Credit, Debit cards or PayPal. It's a two step process, you can find directions on the website: first select the jerseys and payment and stipulate drop off to Spectrum Embroidery. When you receive an order confirmation, e-mail Spectrum with the order number and your shipping address requesting the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club logo for the front. They will confirm and bill \$16 +shipping cost when it is completed. It's easier than it sounds on paper.



Oregon Cyclewear is [here](#).

Spectrum Embroidery is [here](#).

Submitted by Marc Irwin

Kalamazoo Bike Week 2019: Dozens of Reasons to Ride and Support Bicycling

By Paul Selden, KBW Chair

The 8th Annual Kalamazoo Bike Week starts with a bang on May 11 -- the Saturday before Mother's Day -- hit multiple high notes throughout the week -- and wraps up with an bold crescendo the following Saturday, May 18.

Throughout, events led by or featuring KBC members such as Thom Brennan, John and Julie Knowlton, Paul Guthrie, Paul Wells, club president Doug Kirk and leading bike-related organizations will pack a week (and then some) with dozens of reasons to ride and show your support of bicycling.

This super nifty poster captures the spirit of KBW 2019. You can download, print out and tack up one of your very own. Wouldn't it look great in a break room or posted in a window for the world to admire?

The poster features more than 30 major events, which are described in more detail on www.kalamazoobikeweek.org. Some events are free, some require waivers and some require attendees to be of legal age to enjoy a special brew. You get the idea -- check the Bike Week website for important details. Oh, and please like and follow us on Facebook @kalamazoobikeweek.

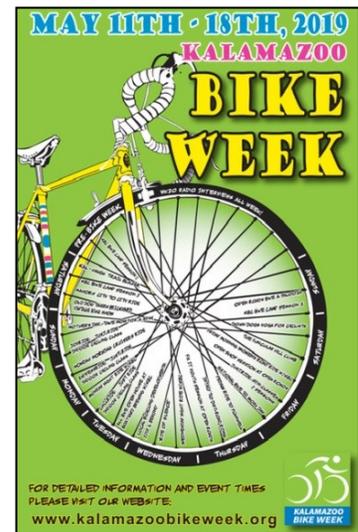
An Announcements page lists places to pick up bike safety tips, maps and emergency whistles provided by Silent Observer (while supplies last, etc.). While you are on the website, check out KBW 2019's Supporters -- without whom there would be no Bike Week. They have earned our thanks and support.

Culminating a dream of KBC members for many years, if everything goes right -- drum roll -- during KBW a local recycler will allow you to can drop off those beat up tires and inner tubes filled with holes that you've been saving up in your garage all these years! (Well, at least I have been waiting for such a time -- bike tires and inner tubes are illegal to throw into household waste and recycling containers.)

Here is a Reader's Digest summary of Events to whet your appetite:

- WKZO radio interviews with Ken Lamphear (many)
- KBC's Bike Camp Sessions 1-3
- JUST RIDE Indoor Cycling Classes (many)
- Kal-Haven Trail Blazer
- Mayors' City to City Ride
- Old Dog Tavern Brickyard 7th Annual Vintage Bicycle Show
- KBC Monday, Wednesday & Friday (Women's) Rides
- Monday Morning Cruisers Ride
- All-Bike Open House at Boatyard Brewing
- Local Bicycling Developments: Community Leader Presentations (Organized by KATS & BFK*)
- Ride of Silence (Organized by Pedal Bicycles)
- Youth and Adult Bike Repair Clinics at Open Roads
- Intro to Dirt Riding (Organized by John and Julie Knowlton)
- Pedal's Ride to Plainwell
- National Bike to Work Day (Organized by Paul Guthrie)
- The Funicular Hill Climb (Organized by Brendan Molony)
- Yoga For Cyclists (Organized by Down Dog Yoga)
- Bike-A-Palooza (Open Roads Bike Program's Gala Fundraiser)

IMPORTANT - Expect to hear about a county-wide selective traffic law enforcement crackdown on bike-related offenses aimed at dangerous motorists (and bicyclists), organized by KBC, BFK and local law enforcement agencies. *KATS=Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study / BFK=Bike Friendly Kalamazoo. BFK (a Michigan non-profit) organizes and pays for Bike Week, its signs, posters, web site,



20th Annual W Ride Report

The temperature was in the upper 30s and the west wind was somewhat brisk, as eleven cyclists and 10 bicycles arrived for the historic 20th Annual W Ride on Saturday, April 27. A twelfth nonriding participant also showed up, the had-been-sick-all-week-and-still-not-quite-recovered Ride Leader. His role this year would be the hander-out of the special commemorative map; colorful blue pens imprinted with the words “20th Annual W Ride Map.” (As opposed to the words “This Is a Pen.”) And, so it was that Randy Button, Herman Evenboer, Susan Hubert, Dan Kalwaard, John and Julie Knowlton (on their tandem), Terry O’Connor, Steve Stapleton, Greg Strader, Flint Wiles, and Molly Yoshikawa received the ride memento of either a lifetime or whenever the ink runs out.

After seeing the riders off, the RL drove back to his house, where he participated in reading and house-cleaning activities of questionable relevance to cycling. Then, he drove back to Vicksburg High School to greet the finishers with Orange, Fierce Grape, and Blue Cherry flavored Gatorade and pretzel flavored pretzels. By then, the temperature had topped 40 degrees. Terry, John, and Julie finished their ride after 24 miles and Dan, having ridden to the ride, turned off the route to his house towards the end of the ride. After they finished, the remaining riders drank Gatorade and ate pretzels, as one might expect. Then they headed home, as did the RL. And a nap awaited, at least for the RL.

Rick Whaley, W Ride (Sort-of) Leader



Photo courtesy of Flint Wiles

Editor’s note: It appears that not one of the 11 cyclists and one ride leader had a camera, smartphone, cellphone, flip phone, Brownie, Leica, or Daguerreotype capable of capturing photographic evidence of the 20th Annual W Avenue ride. This includes the Editor. Please. Submit your photographs of KBC cycling events, especially of the people we ride with! If we can’t join you we want to see you. And if we were there, we want an alibi! Thanks, John Knowlton, editor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org



ABOUT KBC

Recognizing that Southwestern Michigan offers a rare combination of good bicycling roads and great scenery, several cycling enthusiasts got together in 1971 to form the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club.

They wanted to support and encourage other riders in the area, to promote the sport of bicycling, and to have fun. As shown in the Club Mission, that tradition continues today in the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club.

Club Mission

The purpose of the Club shall be to promote bicycling; to encourage and facilitate touring, races, bicycle outings, and all forms of recreational bicycling activities; to defend and protect the rights of bicyclists; to secure a better understanding and recognition of the need for safer riding conditions; to encourage the allocation of facilities for bicycling on public lands; to cooperate with the public authorities in the observance of all traffic regulations; to provide an opportunity for members to socialize with others who have an interest in bicycling; and to recognize bicycles as vehicles used for pleasure, fitness and transportation. The Club will cooperate with other organizations with a similar goal and purpose. Hold Ctrl and click [here](#) to view the constitution.

Editor's Letter: Inviting Friends to Discover the Amazing Sport of Bicycling

In this space I have shared that I have a friend who is getting into cycling. He is in his early 50's and just starting to train. One of his goals is to be able to participate in events with his 20 something kids, and he sees cycling as a great family activity. So far this year we have ridden Melting Mann and Barry-Roubaix together. These were the first two organized cycling events of his life! I am excited to share my love of bikes with my friend. But making that happen also means that I don't get to do events for me. Instead I am doing them with Doug. My Melting Mann time wasn't competitive. Barry-Roubaix results don't reflect my best time or the training I have done this year and fitness I have developed. Instead, the times reflect Doug's training and fitness because I rode these events next to my friend. How about you? Can you find a way to help someone discover the sport we love? Here are a few suggestions:

1. Invite a friend to go for a ride. Please assure them that you aren't looking to beat them in a race, but you want to spend time with them in the outdoors. Then be sure to ride at their comfortable pace!
2. Invite a friend to go to bike camp. Heck, offer to pay their tuition. This is a great way to help someone learn to ride or brush up skills they haven't used for a while. You can volunteer at camp so you spend time with your friend.
3. Say hello to someone at a group ride. You know when we are standing around waiting for the ride to get started? That is the perfect time for relationship building. Try this line: "Hi, I'm John. I don't think I have met you before. What's your name?" Make it a goal to learn one person's name every time you join a club ride.
4. Invite someone to a group ride. Then ride their pace and if they get dropped, hang with them back to the start. Be sure to tell them how much you enjoyed spending time with them. This isn't your training ride; it is your evangelism!
5. Invite someone to do an event with you. Kal Tour is a great suggestion. It has great rest stops, several lengths, and isn't timed so there should be no pressure about pace. Or Dirty Donut. What a great first event—low traffic dirt roads plus fried dough!



The more people who love our sport, the better. That means there will be more drivers who pay attention to pedestrians and cyclists, more volunteers and participants for better events, and more business for bike shops and vendors. Will you join me in sharing the love?

John Knowlton, editor (ctrl+click) editor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org