

IMPORTANT STUFF—DOUG KIRK

We will vote for KBC's next President, Secretary and Treasurer at the next KBC meeting: November 12th, 7:00 at Shakespeare's Pub on Kalamazoo Ave. Please attend, have a bite to eat or something to drink, and visit with friends. The atmosphere at Shakespeare's is far superior than at the YMCA and Club meetings are much more fun nowadays. So come on down. I bet you have a good time.

Sharp-eyed readers may have noticed that I did not mention the Vice-President in the preceding paragraph. This is because no one was nominated. In fact, we have only one nominee for Treasurer (Pam Sotherland), Secretary (Stacie Ballard), and President (me). As things now stand we will soldier on with no one in the second most important position in the club. Not a good thing. Please consider nominating yourself—or someone you think would do a good job—before we vote at the meeting.

Also, John Idema would like to retire as Social Director and Dale Abbott has resigned as Communications Director.

Take a moment to consider what an important role bicycling plays in your life—and to think about how much our club has done to improve biking in our community.

Now pause to think about the ways in which you believe bicycling in our community could be improved.

I'm certain that you—yes, you—have abilities that could help our club. Whether it's helping plan parties, leading rides, taking care of our insurance, spreading the word about bike safety, helping at bike camp, working to improve road conditions, starting your own ride, or being a liaison between the club and one or more local governments, if you ride a bike you can help grow this club.

You get the point—we need you—and other people like you—to do more than come ride your bike on club rides. This is a volunteer organization and we need more people to volunteer. Please consider getting more involved with KBC, and in particular please give serious thought to taking on one of the positions mentioned above.

—Doug Kirk President@kalamazooBicycleClub.org



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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

editor@kalamazooBicycleClub.org

KBC MEETING NOTES—OCTOBER 8, 2019

Finance report, Mike Boersema:

\$8,410 in the checking account
\$6,181 in the CD
\$2,348 in PayPal
\$2,106 in the education funds which has received some donations.

The \$560 in the Jeremy Smith fund is earmarked for a bike repair stand. We are wait-

ing for the city of Portage to complete their work on a bike trail. (Editor's note: I recently observed that the City of Portage has started excavating along the west side of Portage Road for a future trail.)

NO MEETING IN AUGUST. TRY GOING FOR A RIDE INSTEAD!

KBC's regular meeting takes place on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be **November 12, 2019 at 7 p.m.** Enter Shakespeares and go to the back left.

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

President, Doug Kirk: reminded everyone that the Fall Foliage Tour will take place on 10/19 at 10:30 at the park at the West Side of Gun Lake near 124th street. Doug reminded everyone about the distracted driving ordinance. He is still working on getting a meeting with the city scheduled before moving forward with presenting the ordinance. He also shared that he recently built his e-bike and is really enjoying riding it.

Vice President, Paul Sotherland: reminded everyone about the survey sent out by Kalamazoo to discuss proposed bike routes.

Secretary, Valerie Litznerski: asked everyone to reach out to her with information about the condition of railroad crossings in Kalamazoo. A letter will be sent soon to the railroad companies informing them about crossings that need to be improved.

Education Committee, Paul Wells: Considering some potential projects for the education committee. A survey will be sent out to the membership to gather feedback about what the committee should focus on. Paul would like to grow the education committee to meet soon to talk about next year's Bike Camp.

Social Director, John Idema: had a great anniversary ride this year on 9/14. It was earlier and the weather was great. He thanked everyone who brought a dish and all of the ride leaders, especially Gordy Vader. Tim Verdries also helped as well. John would like to step down from his role but will stay involved.

Insurance Coordinator, Thom Brennan. There was recently an additional charge that was contested. He also reminded everyone about the open house for the Road Commission this Thursday. There will also be a reward for a safety project. Kids will receive bikes as awards.

KalTour, Mike Krischer: The donation to AMBUCs is completed and it's time to start planning for next year. We will continue to have the ride at the end of June and asked if we should have the ride on Saturday or Sunday. Thom Brennan: many of the bike shop owners prefer the ride take place on Sunday, since it is a

KBC MEETING NOTES CONTINUED – OCTOBER 8, 2019

day that many of the shops are closed. Mike Krischer suggested we alternate years, doing a Saturday ride one year and a Sunday ride the next year. John Olbrot mentioned that we changed to Saturday to increase ridership. He mentioned that it didn't seem to increase participation. Traffic tends to be lighter on Sundays, which is why we had it on Sunday. He expressed his support for a Sunday ride.

Ride Captain, Gordy Vader: there was a letter from a Texas Township resident complaining about the Monday Night Ride. The writer expressed concern about the amount of space that groups are taking up on the roads, making it difficult for traffic. The writer mentioned that the riders don't signal, stop for signs, or move over for drivers. The writer was concerned that riders would get hurt. Gordy gave a quick talk at the last Wednesday Night Ride. A few Texas Township residents, also riders, followed up with Gordy to confirm that they have witnessed that same from ride groups. The residents state that they see this from cyclists ****all of the time**** not just on nights when we have rides. Gordy realizes that there are other groups, formal and informal, that could display some poor behavior. Gordy asked that everyone stay closer together, stop more, signal more, and etc. Doug added that he has been hearing complaints like this for 20+ years. He added that the riders didn't do anything illegal in taking up the whole road. Riders have the right to the full lane. He added that our groups are not good at communication about cars, dropped riders, turns, and we need to communicate better.

Mike Krischer stated that there is a new Texas Township park being constructed on 6th street. He wondered if we should move the ride to that park. He also wondered if we should make the groups smaller. Gordy agreed with Doug that it is hard to split up groups since the riders in the same pace groups want to ride with each other and not with a second group. Doug mentioned that he supports taking the full lane because it encourages drivers to wait until oncoming traffic is clear before trying to pass which becomes very dangerous. Paul Selden added that the letter writer did not want his or her name to get out to the club. He added that the individual has considerable influence in the community in terms of law and infrastructure. He also added that he understands when riding two abreast is safer than single file. The letter writer was thankful that the club did not respond defensively and clarified that the club was not specifically targeted.

Paul Wells agreed with Doug about the groups' right to take up the road and that there will be disgruntled drivers. John Olbrot added that he would ask the letter writer to meet with a club officer to discuss the letter. It's possible they don't understand cycling etiquette and dynamics, especially when there are rough roads. Paul Selden added that he thinks the individual would be open to meeting with the club. Valerie added that we might need to educate the public about the right for bikes to take a full lane. Doug added that he thinks that the people of Texas Township should be thankful and also stated that he can't take a complaint seriously from someone who claims to have influence but wants to communicate publicly without revealing their name.

Awards, Terry O'Connor: He is looking for someone to take on the Friend of Bicycling.

Doug added that we need someone to step in for the Fundraising and also someone to take on the Communications position. Dale did a great job but decided to step down.

Bike Friendly Kalamazoo, Paul Selden: The Fall Bike Celebration Ride. A do-

ATTENDEES:

Your name could be here, too, if you attended the KBC monthly meeting!

Mike Krischer
Gordy Vader
Thom Brennan
Kathy Kirk
John Idema
Melanie Grimble
Pam Sotherland
Paul Wells
John Knowlton
Clark Bennett
John Olbrot
Bill Surna
Paul Selden
Rick Whaley
Paul Runnels
Doug Kirk
Paul Sotherland
Shaun Ballard
Stacie Ballard
Renee Mitchel
Mary Lagerwey
Rick (?)
Mike Boersma
Valerie Litznerski

KBC MEETING NOTES, CONTINUED

nor approached BFK and offered \$5 per rider along with \$1 per rider for each KBC member that registered for the ride. Paul presented the club with a check for \$100. He thanked the club members for their participation. Doug congratulated Paul for putting on a great ride.

Nominations for the executive committee positions

Mike Boersma and Paul Sotherland nominated Doug for president. Doug thanked Paul Sotherland for the assistance that he offered as Vice President. He expressed his willingness to continue to serve.

Paul Sotherland was nominated by Paul Selden for Vice President. Doug opened it to the floor but no one volunteered. Paul Selden nominated John Knowlton, who declined. Mike Boersma added that the vacancy can be filled later.

Valerie nominated Stacie Ballard and thanked her for her communication and willingness to serve.

Mike Boersma nominated Pam Sotherland for Treasurer.

New Business. Doug mentioned that we should look into the idea about posting bike may use full lane signs. He has seen them while traveling. Some are put up by road commissions and other are put up by cycling-friendly organizations. Thom Brennan mentioned that road signs are not easily changed. Paul Runnels mentioned that the county is trying to reduce the number of road signs. Doug added that he has seen lots of bike route signs posted. Paul mentioned that the signs are determined by the Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. This is frequently seen in a roundabouts where cyclists need to take the full lane. Paul Selden mentioned that we should write letters to MDOT. This was denied about 10 years ago when LMB brought this up to the state. Val added that maybe we can replace the 3' signs with bike may take full lane signs.

Pam Sotherland asked for nominations for the **Friend of Bicycling** award, due by the end of the next club meeting. Please nominate anyone in the community that he significantly advanced cycling in the community. Please remember that club members as individuals can't be nominated, but they can be members of organizations that are nominated. Paul talked about the upcoming MDOT meeting at KRESA, where cycling safety will be discussed. Bike lights will be discussed along with education programs. Doug asked that Paul bring up bikes may use full lane signs at the meeting.

ROAD COMMISSION UPDATE—Paul Runnels

For those who have been following the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County Website (<https://www.kalamazooountyroads.com/>), or the K'zoo Gazette, or most likely those who frequently ride in western K'zoo County, the news that two of the formerly closed, flooded roads in Texas Township have reopened will not be a surprise. For all others, here it is: The water has settled a bit and allowed temporary fixes to P Ave from Main to 3rd Street and S Ave from 6th to 8th Street. These two roads are now open to traffic. Long term fixes to these and other roads in the area are still not set in stone (or asphalt or concrete). Another major throughway on the East side of the county is also in line for repair. East Michigan Ave, east of Sprinkle, is slated for repair of a significant washout. At the RCKC meeting October 15, a contract was approved to remediate the drainage issues at the site of the erosion 'event'. Per the contract, the work is to be completed by Nov. 15. For details, see the minutes of the Oct 15 RCKC meeting.

36th Street between PQ and MN Ave. has undergone major reconstruction this summer and appears due to be completed by the end of October (possibly without striping by that time). It was rideable on Oct 20, but has not had a final layer of asphalt or completion of 'linkages' to intersecting roads completed yet.

For those interested in multi-use trails or who know those who are, the KRVT is extending from Galesburg to Custer Park. The first phase, from Galesburg to the Galesburg High School is in progress, but won't be completed until next year. The second phase from the High School to Custer should be completed by 2021.

FRIEND OF BICYCLING AWARD

2020 Friend of Bicycling Award Nomination Request

Each year at the December club meeting, Kalamazoo Bicycle Club (KBC) members vote for the annual Friend of Bicycling Award recipient from a list of nominees. The 2019 Friend of Bicycling Award (FoB) went to John Dunlop and the Portage Central Middle School's *Ride for Focus Program*, which won by an overwhelming margin.

Submitting a nomination for the 2020 FoB - for an individual, organization, or entity that has significantly advanced the interests of bicycling - is relatively easy.

Go to kalamazoo bicycle club.org and under "ABOUT KBC" click on "Grants and awards" and then complete and submit the nomination form by November 11, 2019.

Here is an example of a justification for the FoB award: Through the *Ride for Focus Program*, Mr. Dunlop, along with the support of other school staff members, has exposed more than 700 students to the sport of cycling. John has also offered bike-handling clinics for parents and staff of the school, many of whom now share a love for bicycling.

Thank you very much for your help.

Pam Sotherland, FoB Coordinator

Kudos- submitted by Paul Selden

Kudos to City of Portage City Manager Larry Shaffer, who is retiring on November 3 after serving the City of Portage for 5 1/2 years. He supported of including "Bikes May Use Full Lane" signs, made sure that the first SW MI Bikeway route signs were installed on Oakland Drive; hosted a 2016 public dialog on issues pertaining to bicyclists and motorists; lent his support to the five foot passing ordinance in Portage, and the resolution supporting an annual bike light campaign during the darker hours of the year; and has given his support for a number of memorial rides that KBC has either organized or participated in, to name some of the many ways that Mr. Shaffer has helped to make the greater community even more bicycle friendly over the years. For these reasons and for the collegial way in which Mr. Shaffer helped to make all of this happen, Larry deserves our kudos!

FALL FOLIAGE IN THE FOREST RIDE - MARC IRWIN

The annual Fall Foliage in the Forest Ride was a great success for 2019! The weather turned out great and there were about 38 riders on 36 bikes (2 tandem teams included).



KBC STATS — CHECK FOR YOUR NAME HERE!

Total Memberships: 328

Total Individuals: 541

November Expiring Members: Bruce Dedee; Renee & Donald Mitchell

New or Renewed Members: Jon Ballema & Family; Charlie Eaton; Nick & Kelley Hampton; Dan Kannegieter; Mike Krischer; Dan Martz; Ben Miron; Dan Murrin; Jacinda Roedel; Evan St. Peter



There was spirited conversation about road signage at the last KBC meeting. Anecdotally, many motorists think the “Share the Road” signs are a message to cyclists saying essentially, “Get Out of the Lane!”

Val later shared a picture she took in Texas of some wildcat signage telling drivers:

- Bikes may use the full lane
- Change lanes to pass
- Stop Honking!

The club does not advocate posting unauthorized signs on state- or municipal-owned posts. The language on this Texas sign may be more clear, however, than the “Share the Road” signs used in Michigan.

What suggestions do you have to clarify and communicate effectively for road safety?



Saturday with Big Boy! - Dan Kalleward

Send your cycling pictures to editor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org and see yourself and your friends in this space next month!

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.

A Great Riding Partner-OR a Great Human?

What makes for a great organized ride? That was the subject of a recent Paceline podcast segment by Selene Yeager and Patrick Brady. Selene had been on an organized ride with a \$100 entry fee. She is a strong rider and was in the first half of the participants to reach the rest stops. Which were out of food. So that was a quality which made for a BAD organized ride. Julie, Pam, Aaron and I recently rode the Hilly Hundred near Bloomington Indiana. The Central Indiana Bicycle Association organizes a great event. The route is beautiful (and hilly, as might be expected) and well-marked. There are sag vehicles driving against the bike traffic and one of them seems to pass about every 5 to 10 minutes. The rest stops are well stocked, accompanied by live music and follow a great theme: donuts at the first one in the morning; chicken and sandwiches at the middle stop, and beer on the home stretch.

This conversation about great cycling events prompted me to think about what makes for a great cycling partner. What qualities lead you to want to ride with someone more than once? I posed this question to our little group at the Hilly and we came up with these characteristics:

Pleasant to be around. Is this person a good conversationalist? Do you like to be with them? Will you be happy to grab a coffee or a beer with them after the ride? Interpersonal compatibility is one of the key qualities of a great riding partner.

Awareness of hazards and safety issues. Pointing and calling out sticks, holes, rocks, roadkill, walnuts, and cars up and cars back is critical. An oblivious or selfish cyclist is a poor riding partner.

Mutually encouraging is another attribute we picked for a great partner. Someone who knows when you need a psychological boost, and is open to your inspirational thoughts, too.

The last item in our list is having the wisdom to know when to talk and when to ride in silence. When to sit up and chat and when to put your head down and hammer. When to encourage a tough training session by riding half wheel ahead and when to offer a pull to keep you out of the red zone.

As I review our four key qualities of a great riding partner, it occurs to me that these are qualities not just of a great riding partner, but of a great human being.

So what do you think? What makes a great riding partner for you? Let me know at: John Knowlton, editor (ctrl+click) [edi-
tor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org](mailto:editor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org)