

PRESIDENT’S LETTER — JOHN KNOWLTON

Group Rides, Bike Camp and a Big Celebration

March blessed us with some beautiful weather on a couple of Monday nights! And that means that the 2022 group riding season is officially open! With the past two lost years of the pandemic behind us, it has been great to see old friends, riding buddies and some new folks out to ride.

While KBC has a number of elements to our purpose statement, riding with others is surely the biggest draw to the club. And we want to provide the best experience possible, to riders and the communities through which we ride. I shared with our Ride Leaders at an orientation meeting recently, RLs represent the club to the riders, and all of us represent cyclists to the rest of the population who see us. If people see one knucklehead on a bike, they tend to generalize and think all cyclists are knuckleheads. On the flip side, we have the opportunity to create good impressions with residents and motorists as well. Our Monday night rides leave from Texas Drive Park. I attended the March meeting of the Texas Township Parks and Trails committee. In my presentation I thanked the members for their service and for providing the park facility. I also shared that we provide trained ride leaders for our groups and that training includes safety information, pre-ride briefing ideas and reminders about following traffic rules. The committee members were thankful for my presentation and were glad that the park is getting a diverse variety of users.

KBC is committed to offering ride leaders for each of our published rides and paces. We have updated our procedures a little bit by creating communication groups amongst the ride leaders in an effort to ensure that we have a leader for each published ride. Of course, we are all volunteers and sometimes there are unavoidable circumstances. But our goal is to ensure consistent and safe group riding opportunities throughout the season. And lots of people are attracted to well-lead safe rides! Since it has been a few years since we have had a large number of riders, you might notice that your ride leader offers a safe riding reminder if needed. If you are the recipient of a safety reminder, please accept the feedback graciously – and keep coming back!



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Please send stories and photos of your rides to:

editor@kalamazooBicycle
 Club.org

One point of emphasis for this year is to limit the size of groups on the road. If a ride leader sees more than 10 or 12 people gathering for a particular ride pace, she or he may ask the group to form into two or more groups. And to help avoid the groups recombining into an unsafe mass, one group might be asked to alter their route or ride the route backwards.

All of that detail is to say, I can't wait to see you out on your bike!

KBC has lots of other cool stuff coming this spring: Bike Camp, 50th Anniversary celebration with rides, and Kal Tour. You are here at the right time. Let's have a ball!

John Knowlton, president@kalamazoobicycleclub.org

KBC Business

The next KBC meeting will be **Tuesday, 12 April** at 7:00 p.m. at Shakespeare's Pub, 241 E Kalamazoo Ave. Up the steps, to the back and left.

Finance Report (01JAN-20MAR 2022)

Pam Sotherland, Treasurer

PREVIOUS BALANCE CASH (PNC Checking + PayPal) ACCOUNTS: \$15,554

Total RECEIPTS (Cash In): \$2,919

Total EXPENSES: **\$4,183**

CURRENT BALANCE CASH ACCOUNTS: \$14,290

TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS: \$4,136

Discretionary Expenses: **\$500**

Education Fund: **\$2,749**

ROR21: **\$887**

ENCUMBERED EXPENSES: \$0

AVAILABLE BALANCE for REMAINING Budgeted Expenses: \$10,154

Current Cash minus Designated Funds minus Encumbered Expenses

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT: \$6189

Kalamazoo Bicycle Club

March 8, 2022 7:00PM

Shakespeare's Pub

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm

Attendees: Clark Bennett, Charlie Grdina, Jillian Howland, John Knowlton, Mike Krischer, Terry O'Connor, Leah Peterson, Bill Price, Paul Rehkopf, Paul Selden, Pam Sotherland, Paul Sotherland, Bill Surna, Rick Whaley, Jason Young

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: John Knowlton

Spring is a big time for the club: group rides start (March 14), Bike Camp, 50th Anniversary Party, and KalTour. The Ride Leader Sanction Application process and commitments have been updated. Sanctioned ride leaders are required to extend insurance coverage to a ride.

OLD BUSINESS:

Second reading of the Proposed amendment (below) to the KBC's purpose statement. Vote taken: Board of Directors - Unanimous – Yes; Member vote - Unanimous - Yes

BOARD REPORTS:

Communications: Jillian Howland communications@kalamazobicycleclub.org

Currently working on promotional art for Bike Camp and KalTour. Please send photos from past KalTours for promotional materials and general photos to be posted to Instagram page

Pedal Press: Charlie Grdina

March Pedal Press hit the deadline however a few things were missed. Reminder that the deadline for submissions is 21st of the month. Charlie mentioned the book, *BikeBoom*, about the rise of cycling in the 70s. It's a great book and he's happy to lend it to anyone interested in it.

Ride Captain: Gordy Vader

Ride Leader (RL) Application process updated and a link to application is on website. RLs are asked to commit to leading at least 4 individual rides during season and attend/watch the Ride Leader Orientation – March 22 – Zoom Call. Zoom presentation will be recorded and available online for subsequent viewing.

Insurance questions:

If 4-5 people get dropped off the back of a KBC group ride that is too fast are those people covered by insurance? KBC is not the insurer, but we interpret the policy as saying these people are covered. If a sanctioned ride leader is leading a ride and flagrantly disobeys the rules of the road - does the insurance cover this? Yes, that said, Sanctioned Ride Leaders will be strongly encouraged to obey rules of the road. Are eBikes covered on our insurance? Not sure - EC will look into this. Riders of eBikes need to be aware of staying with the group when leading/participating in KBC Rides.

KalTour: Michael Krischer & Terry Butcher

Reviving group rides being led by KBC Ride Leaders. A 50-mile route has been added. Mike put together a brief description of tasks to run KalTour and this year's plans are progressing.

Education: Bill Surna (for Paul Wells)

Bike Camp – Registration will go live soon, not sure if it will be through city of Portage or KBC. Volunteers needed primarily to lead group rides. Each volunteer will be required to sign a waiver of workman's compensation ahead of time. Waivers will be sent mid-April to be signed, returned, and put on file. If volunteering to lead a Monday ride for Bike Camp signed a waiver is also required. Jillian will send a single-issue email asking for volunteers for Bike Camp. REMINDER – Put out your 5' yard signs.

Social Director AND 50th Anniversary: Paul Sotherland

50th Anniversary party - May 21 at Wind + James – contract signed. Organized rides will occur on the morning.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jason Young: Gilmore Gravel Grand Prix, Saturday, October 8

Same distances as last year with the addition of a 40-mile route. If KBC wants a tent talk to Jason. Volunteers are needed: social media coordinator, drivers, corner marshals (15-20 people) set up, tear down, registration coordinator (weekend commitment)

If interested contact Jason: 269-720-7909.

Rick Whaley: W Ride, April 23 or 30.

This year, the ride will start at Vicksburg, turning around at the Van Buren County line and then turning around at the Calhoun County line.

MEMBER OR GUEST COMMENTS:

John Knowlton: Invited to the Texas Township Parks meeting – going as a KBC goodwill ambassador.

John Knowlton: Paul Wells asked to add the following to the Club’s mission statement – “educate cyclists and the public about safe riding practices and driving skills”. A revote taken - Member vote - unanimous - YES

Paul Selden: Bike Friendly Kalamazoo (BFK) April 2 is deadline for Bike Booster Mini Grant.

Safety is a big push this year and they are looking for organizations who might put on mini-bike camps for the general public. Vicksburg started the program All Kids Ride which helps educate

Let Paul know of any elementary schools that might be interested in establishing a program. There will be an article published Pedal Press with more information.

KBCs current mission statement and proposed revision

Current mission (from KBC website): 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.

Final Revision: The Club’s mission is to promote bicycling as a preferred means of combining a healthy lifestyle with transportation. We encourage and facilitate group riding, touring, racing, commuting by cycling, and other cycling activities; defend and protect rights of cyclists; foster development and maintenance of safe cycling infrastructure; educate cyclists about safe riding practices and skills; encourage creation of cycling facilities on public lands; cooperate with public authorities in observing and upholding all traffic regulations; provide opportunities for members to socialize with others who have an interest in cycling; help everyone recognize bicycles as vehicles used for pleasure, fitness, and transportation; and cooperate with other organizations having similar goals and purposes.

Meeting Adjourned 8:05 pm

Pam Sotherland, Treasurer

KBC Bike Camp

The KBC Bike Camp Committee is finalizing details for Bike Camp 2022, after having canceled the last two years. We have secured a different venue, the Portage Senior Center, for Sessions 1,2, and 4, on May 5, 7, and 14, and are incorporating the Monday night rides at Texas Drive Park as Sessions 3 and 5, on May 9 and 16, so the participants can join us as new members on the rides. We are inviting the Bike Camp graduates to the KBC 50th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, May 21st, so we can all welcome them to KBC.

The Portage Senior Center gives us a much bigger space than the Portage YMCA which we used for the Saturday sessions for many years, and gives us direct access to the Portage Trail, and from there access to the bike lane network in Portage.

We are looking for KBC volunteers to join us at Bike Camp as Ride Guides, to ride with the campers on the group rides from the Senior Center, and on the Monday Night Rides. All you need is experience doing group rides, so you are confident of your group riding skills and can help campers with your knowledge to keep them rolling smoothly and safely. I know a lot of you have signed up as ride leaders, and KBC asks that you lead a few rides this season. This is an opportunity to accomplish that. The Clark Logic Race Team can help too. We are thinking we need about 15 to 20 KBCers to step up for this, so we have enough to cover the two Saturday Bike Camp ride sessions and the two Monday Night Rides. If we enroll our maximum of 60 campers, we will need a minimum of 10 volunteers at each session on the rides as Ride Guides. That's a ratio of one Ride Guide for every six campers.

To volunteer, send us an email at bikecamp@kalamazoobicycleclub.org with your name, phone number, and email so we can sign you up. Thank you!

March is here and most of us will be out on the roads again. It is time! Time to get the old "Give Them 5 To Keep Them Alive" yard signs and bumper magnets out. I will be restocking the bike shops and other locations with the signs if you don't have one, or need a new one. While you're at the bike shop, drop a few dollars in the donation jar to keep this program rolling along. There can never be enough signs out there to get the message across.

Thanks for reading and volunteering for these programs!

Paul Wells, Bike Camp & Education Chair

KBC Membership Statistics

Total Memberships: 292

Total Individuals: 464

New or Renewed Members: Paul Banner; Sandy Blix; Tom & Anne Boomer; Michael Brus; Zolton Cohen; Steve Cox; Janet & Herman Evenboer; Pat Gipper & Family; Harold Gleaves; Amy Kutcha; Cindy & Tom Little; Dave Mitchell; Richard Morse; Terry O'Connor; Vincent Patrizi; Tracy Reilly; Susan Schneider; Bill & Sharon Surna; Robert Taylor; Dan Victor; Matt Wells; Rick Whaley; Eric Zahrai

April Expired Members: Shaun & Stacie Ballard; Collin Bates; Max Beffel; Clark Bennett; Adam Bradley; Mike Connelly; Philip Fisher; Terry Florian; Andrea & Don Fore; Sherrie Glas; Katie Grabiec; Andrew Graham; John & Barb Hart; Marc Irwin; Tana Jackson & Family; Kevin Kimbrough; Phil Kline; Ann LaPoint & Family; Katie Little; Wes McGee; Ed Micalizzi; Ciara Poolman; Ted & Stephanie Robinson; Mark Schauer; Pam Stinchcomb; Nancy Vandeville; Ann Weltevreden-Penix; Nancy Wyman; Jason Young

Rick Whaley, Membership Director



The W Ride – A Spring Tradition Once Again

The 22nd Almost Annual W Ride is returning to its usual time of year in 2022! It will be held on Saturday, April 30 at 9:00 A.M. starting from the east parking lot of Vicksburg High School.

This year, we'll be doing the Classic West-East-West W Ride Route. Once we leave the parking lot, we will turn right and soak in that W Avenue ambience all the way to the Van Buren County line. Then, we'll display our cycling skills by executing a 180 degree turn and we will ride back to Vicksburg with an intermission at the Shell station for fine convenience store dining. But that's not all! We will then continue riding on W Avenue all the way to the Calhoun County line. After we execute another graceful 180 degree turn, we will ride back (on W Avenue in case you were wondering) to the Vicksburg High School parking lot. There, we will be rewarded with Gatorade and snacks. The Gatorade is intended for drinking and not for pouring over your head in a celebratory manner. But if that's your preference, go for it! Forty-eight miles of W Avenue and an uncountable number of cherished memories.

Although no one knows exactly why, maps will be provided. The Ride Leader will lead a group averaging about 15 to 16 mph, but other slower or faster groups are welcome.

So, come to Vicksburg on April 30, do the W Ride, become the envy of your neighborhood, and add another line of accomplishment to your obituary.

Rick Whaley, W Ride Leader



WHAT IT TAKES TO RUN KALTOUR

KBC Vice President Paul Guimond asked me to describe where help was needed to run KalTour in order to solicit volunteers from the race team. I came up with the following list of tasks broken down according to when help was needed:

KALTOUR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY SCHEDULE

PRE-RIDE

- road painting -- Thursday evening June 16
- purchasing fruit a few days before the ride
- posting signs at the start -- Saturday evening June 25

EARLY MORNING ON SUNDAY JUNE 26 (starting at 6 about am)

- purchasing ice
- setting up registration area & unloading supplies
- registering and checking-in riders

LATE MORNING ON SUNDAY JUNE 26 (starting at about 9:00 am)

- registering and checking-in riders until 11 am
- transporting supplies from Schoolcraft to sag stops
- serving food at sag stops

AFTERNOON ON SUNDAY JUNE 26 (starting at about noon)

- cutting up watermelon
- cleanup & loading leftover food and supplies

Many people want to ride KalTour in addition to helping out.. This is certainly possible for any pre-ride tasks. Many volunteers help out early in the day and then ride which works well for those doing 31 or 62 mile routes.. Volunteers for afternoon tasks can start their rides promptly in the morning, and then help out when they finish. The most dedicated KalTour volunteers are those who transport supplies, manage the sag stops and respond to riders in need of help since they are not able to ride.

Please think of what you can do to help run KalTour on Sunday June 26. I can be contacted at kaltour@kalamazoobicycleclub.org.

Mike Krischer

Let's Grow More Cyclists

"We're on a mission to teach every child in America how to ride a bike in kindergarten PE class. ... All Kids Bike is a national movement to place Kindergarten PE Learn-To-Ride Programs into public schools for free, using donations from individuals, businesses, and organizations." - From www.allkidsbike.org.

The All Kids Bike Kindergarten PE class is offered at no cost to schools. For a budget of \$5,000 per schools, donors fund training for the phys ed teacher, certification, an eight lesson curriculum, a fleet of 25 learn to ride bikes and conversion to pedal kits, helmets and five years of support. Over the expected life of the bikes, this works out to about \$10 per student in the typical elementary school.

One really nice fact about starting so young is that this program can be conducted on school property in a typical gym or outside on the kind of playgrounds found in most area elementary schools. A version of the program can be set up for parks & recreation department programming, special needs classes and day care facilities as well.

There are currently two schools offering the All Kids Bike Kindergarten PE class in Michigan. One of them is right here in Kalamazoo County, thanks to the Vicksburg Community Schools.

As announced during our last club meeting, All Kids Bike is partnering with Bike Friendly Kalamazoo to support bringing the Kindergarten Learn-to-ride program to Kalamazoo County and the school districts of Lawton, Mattawan and Paw Paw (see <https://support.allkidsbike.org/bike-friendly-kalamazoo-for-all-kids-bike>). Donations made to this page go straight to a restricted account at the Strider Education Foundation. Once the funding goal is reached for schools expressing an interest, the money is used to purchase the bikes and gear and they are then shipped to a school. Once the next four schools have started the program, our initial \$20,000 goal will be reset. BFK intends to present the concept to audiences of teachers and administrators over the coming year.

Kids have a tendency to "teach" their parents what they learn in school. Can you imagine the positive ripple effect?

If you want to help out, there are three simple ways you can move things forward another step:

1. Spread the word to your own local teachers, principals and superintendents.
2. Email contact information for teachers, principals and superintendents to info@bikefriendlykalamazoo.org.
3. Donate directly via the link above.

It's difficult to think of a better way to grow future cyclists than this. The amazing thing is, we can make it happen.

Paul Selden, Bike Friendly Kalamazoo

EDITOR'S CORNER

If you have an article or short story of any topic bicycle related (along with pictures if possible) that you would like to share with the Kalamazoo bicycle community please send forward. I will reply to all articles submitted. Spring rains have started in earnest which means salt free (Ok, reduced sodium) roads beckon soon— I hope to see you out there .

Charlie Grdina, KBC Editor
editor@kalamazooobicycleclub.org

2022 Cycling Events.

Riding season is close at hand and time to look rides & races that keep us all going in this sport. Not an all inclusive list of all rides in the area but certainly the major ones in driving proximity to Kalamazoo. KBC Events, in **RED**, are the only club sponsored events.



<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Link</u>
Lowell Gravel Race	9 April 2022	LOWELL CLASSIC GRAVEL ROAD RACE - Home (thelowell50.com)
Willow Time Trial	23 April 2022	Willow Time Trial Registration via BikeReg
W Ride	30 April 2022	Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - Life is better on a bike!
Bike Camp 2022	May 5th, from 7-9 pm May 7th & 14th, from 8:30-12:00	Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - Life is better on a bike!
Kalamazoo Bike Week	7-14 May 2022	Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - Life is better on a bike!
KBC Recovery Party	21 May 2022	Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - Life is better on a bike!
KalTour	26 June 2022	Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - Life is better on a bike!
Dirty Donut	4 June 2022	Dirty Donut
Holland 100	16 July 2022	Holland 100
BFK's Fall Bike Celebration	18 September 2022	https://fallbikescelebration.org/registration/
Gilmore Gravel	08 October 2022	Gilmore Gravel Grand Prix