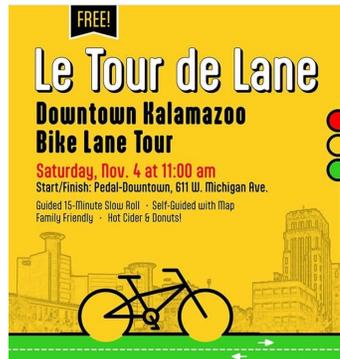


PRESIDENT’S LETTER — JOHN KNOWLTON

Last night I rode Pedal’s Ghoulish Gravel ride. In the dark. In the rain. But it wasn’t too cold! Yes, the group riding season is coming to an end. Darkness kills our evening rides and cold gets the daytime starts. Each fall I feel bummed that the group rides are ending. But I also feel some excitement as I anticipate variety: fat biking solo in the snow, hiking in the woods with a heavy pack, and group exercise classes at the YMCA. I try to see the “off-season” as an on-season for other types of work. Heavy work to build up bones and muscle. Being cold because, well, we live in Michigan! How do you approach the November to March months when we don’t have scheduled rides?

Speaking of scheduled rides, let’s ride the new cycle track on Michigan Avenue! Saturday, November 4 meet at Pedal downtown for an 11 a.m. roll out. We will have riders from multiple organizations and maybe even a drone to film it all. The city of Kalamazoo is working to make the infrastructure better for non-motorized transportation. I know they don’t do everything we want or the way we want. But they’re making a good effort and so let’s use the facilities they build! Plus, there will be cider and donuts after the short ride!



November’s club meeting features our annual election of officers. The current officers plan to run again and there were no other nominees at the October meeting. So, barring something really weird, we will continue to serve: Pam Sotherland, Treasurer; Teri Olbrot, Secretary; Paul Guimond, VP; John Knowlton, President.

A reminder that our business meeting starts at 6 p.m. with general announcements at 7:00 and guest speakers at 7:10 p.m. November’s guests are recipients of KBC grants reporting on how they used funds. Thundercats is a youth mountain biking team we funded for the first time in 2023 and Team Clark Logic is the race team affiliated with KBC. Please join us to hear from our guests!



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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, November 14 at 6:00 p.m.** at [Oshtemo Community Center](#) (North Room), 6407 Parkview Ave, Kalamazoo MI .

Kalamazoo Bicycle Club October 10, 2023 Oshtemo Community Center

ATTENDANCE:

Clark Bennett	Paul Selden	Doug Kirk
Renee Mitchell	Pam Sotherland	Jenna Marie Kovach
Paul Runnels	John Knowlton	Paul Rehkopf
Paul Sotherland	Rick Whaley	Kathy Kirk
Paul Wells	Charlie Grdina	Teri Olbrot
John Lindenmayer, Guest Speaker (LMB)		

The business meeting was opened at 6:00 PM by President John Knowlton:

Discord Update: Jenna Kovach provided updates on how our server is being set up and noted that best practice would include several other club members who have the same level of expertise and knowledge as she does. Several members volunteered. We are on track to offer Discord to Club members and the community at large for the 2024 riding season.

Marketing Plan follow up: John Knowlton is building an editorial calendar to guide the information that KBC communicates to the community at large. Paul Selden suggested we focus communications on specific goals. Jenna Kovach suggested that we amplify other community messages that are of interest to our members.

Friends of Bicycling Award: Paul Sotherland has offered to update and simplify the Friend of Bicycling application on our website, and his offer was accepted.

City of Kalamazoo Bicycle facilities and ride update: We are hosting a community ride on Saturday November 4, 2023, at 11:00 AM to celebrate and promote the new bicycling infrastructure on Michigan Avenue. This family friendly slow roll will begin and end at Pedal Bicycle downtown. Cider and donuts will be provided.

EC Succession Planning: Teri Olbrot regrettably announced that she is resigning as Secretary as soon as someone steps up to fill the vacancy. "It's really great having a seat at the table," Teri said, adding that she enjoys this role and working with the EC very much, but must step back due to health and family issues. Discussion followed about filling KBC leadership roles now and in the future, and the importance of attracting fresh ideas and a younger demographic to continue the important work of KBC.

MDOT 131 communication: While recently traveling on US 131 in Schoolcraft, Doug Kirk noted with dismay that the new road construction does not include intersections for non-motorized traffic. Instead, they are building "J turn" intersections for cars with the only through streets at traffic lights. Doug will draft a response to MDOT and Paul Sotherland will bring up the subject at the KATS meeting this week. John Lindenmayer noted that MDOT is mandated to follow Complete Streets guidelines in all new construction.

John Knowlton opened the General Meeting at 7:00 PM:

Nominations for Executive Committee: Our current EC was nominated to continue in their roles: John Knowlton, President; Paul Guimond, Vice President; Pam Sotherland, Treasurer; Teri Olbrot, Secretary.

Members' Announcements: Paul Selden thanked all those who helped promote and participate in Bike Friendly Kalamazoo events this year. Paul Sotherland announced that a new bike lane will be coming on Lovell Street and will probably be similar to the infrastructure on Michigan Avenue. Charlie Grdina shared the twelve photographs submitted for our Photo Contest, and distributed ballots for first, second, and third place awards. Watch the Pedal Press for the winning photographs!

Tonight's Guest Speaker, John Lindenmayer, Executive Director of League of Michigan Bicyclists (LMB):

John brought us up to date with all that is happening at the League of Michigan Bicyclists and thanked KBC for our support. Here are just a few of the many exciting projects that LMB is engaged in:

Providing grants for development of projects that benefit the bicycling community. Formerly known as Microgrants, they are now known as Better Bicycling Grants.

E-bikes: working to have e-bikes included in Michigan's Clean Fuel Incentive programs.

Promoting legislation that protects vulnerable roadway users, i.e., reform no-fault laws; reduce speed limits, promote the hands-free law to discourage distracted driving.

John encouraged people to join LMB and to take the [Michigan Cycling Census Survey](#) (membership not required) which will help guide them on issues we want to advocate for. The most recent LMB publication covered an article on Larry Bell and the awesome cycling & beer history we have in the great city of Kalamazoo.

The impressive full scope of what LMB provided for the cycling communities across Michigan can be found at LMB.ORG. A wealth of information and great organization to support.



After more than an hour of lively discussion, John Knowlton ended the meeting at 8:20 PM, while conversation continued among those who could stay.

Teri Olbrot, KBC Secretary Extraordinaire

November 2023 Membership

Total Memberships: 320

Total Individuals: 488

New or Renewed Members: Nick & Kelley Hampton; Jim Heath; Shawn Kloha & Family; Tim Krone

November Expired Members: Stephanie Kennedy & Family; Jonathan Penrod; David & Diane Riggs; Jeff Roberson; Scott Steurer & Family

Rich Whaley, Membership Director

FREE!

Le Tour de Lane

Downtown Kalamazoo Bike Lane Tour

Saturday, Nov. 4 at 11:00 am
Start/Finish: Pedal-Downtown, 611 W. Michigan Ave.

Guided 15-Minute Slow Roll · Self-Guided with Map
Family Friendly · Hot Cider & Donuts!

KBC, in coordination with other local bicycle centric businesses and organizations, is hosting this event to ride the newly installed non-motorized infrastructure in downtown Kalamazoo. It will be an eye-opening social event touring the positive changes that are making the city more pedestrian and cyclist friendly. We look forward to seeing you there.

The 2023 Ride to South Haven Report

A foggy morning greeted the riders on August 26th, but with the prospect of a clearer day. In contrast to last year, when most of the riders looked like they had been recruited from a men's geriatric ward, there was a mix of three males, only two of whom were septuagenarians, and three females this year. A picture at the start of the ride is shown below, not taken by the Ride Leader, who is incapable of taking good selfies. And then, the ride began at 8:15 AM for the South Haven Six.

Left to Right: Steve Stapleton, Brian Germain, Andrea Fore, Cathy Cheron, the RL, and Jacinda Roedel (Photo by Jacinda Roedel).



The fog abated during the ride to Lawrence and the riders stayed loosely bunched together, taking turns leading, although Steve and Cathy (who is training for a full triathlon in October), did most of the leading. Steve, the strongest rider, occasionally amused himself by seeing how long he could coast, even uphill, which didn't work particularly well. At Lawrence, the riders stopped for refreshments at the semi-official Ride to South Haven Citgo station rest stop, which included a lemon-lime Gatorade for the RL, and we bid Brian farewell, as he had planned to ride to Lawrence and back. At this point, the group was averaging 14.8 mph.

Steve continued to enjoy coasting every now and then on the ride from Lawrence to South Haven and Jacinda displayed some nice high cadence spinning while riding on the uphill sections of the route. A highlight of this section, at least for Andrea, was riding by her husband's place of employment. When they arrived in South Haven, the pace had slowed to 14.6 mph, but the group did have to fight through crowds of adoring fans while riding in South Haven. Below is a picture of South Beach, albeit with only one non-adoring fan.

The riders had plenty of time to rest while waiting for their subs at Sub & More, since someone had ordered a couple boxes of subs shortly before they arrived. But after they waited their turn and ate their subs, it was time to head back to KVCC, once again. Let the record state that the manly men in the group rode to South Beach again and rode up the steep hill leaving South Beach, while the others took a shortcut avoiding the beach and the hill.

South Beach in South Haven (photo by Jacinda Roedel).



The RL had worried about the chipseal on the route between South Haven and Lawrence that had spotted when he drove over most of the course a couple of weeks before the ride, but even the chipseal portions of the route were in reasonably good shape. Shortly before reaching Lawrence, the riders took a short break, as they did not wish to compete with the procession of ATVs leaving a cemetery after a Veterans memorial ceremony. About a mile later, they took another short break at the aforementioned Citgo station, where the RL drank another lemon-lime Gatorade. (The flavor choices were limited and the RL, as a matter of principle, refuses to drink Gatorade flavors that are named after colors.) At this point, the riders had slowed to 14.4 mph.

Shortly after leaving for the last leg of their journey, Steve, who was pressed for time due to an evening engagement, left the other riders, never to be seen again (at least on that day). The effect of the lack of distance training began to weigh on the RL, as well as the cross/headwind that picked up. About 6 miles from the finish, the RL fought off a cramp and about a mile from the finish, the RL fought off another cramp with less success, easing his way to the finish, about 300 yards behind the other 3 riders. The RL finished at about 5:20 P.M. at a not-so-blistering 14.1 mph pace, riding 100.24 miles. It should be noted that this was Cathy's first Century ride.

The RL drank an orange Gatorade, because RLs do not live on lemon-lime electrolyte replacement alone, and while Gatorade turned out to be not very popular with the other riders, the pretzels were. Then after saying their good-byes, the riders headed home, the RL frittering away the rest of his evening in a not-so-energetic fashion, before getting a well-earned good night's sleep.

DA2



Soliciting the membership for their observations for improvement, things that are working well and creative ideas that would improve the overall bicycling experience for riders in the community. One paragraph or two will fit the bill. Send articles & associated photos to editor@kalmazoobicycleclub.org. Lots of good things going on out there on Da2 wheels.

Letter to KBC from the City of Kalamazoo

Dear Bicycle Friends,

I just wanted to share some good news that the bicycle signals are up and running for two-way directional traffic on Michigan Ave. I was just down there this morning, and the bike signals were working great as we opened up the lanes and swapped signs out. As you commute and enjoy the cycle track, please let us know any feedback – including any positive notes from those in your community.

Main item to note, traffic signal progression is still be adjusted for vehicles. As this went live only early this morning, there will be some delay between operation and signal timing and progression being fine-tuned for all modes of travel.

Just wanted to share the news with you all. More official notice will come from the City's correspondence and social media outlets.



Thanks,

George Waring, City of Kalamazoo, Senior Civil Engineer

Still a Steal of Deal !

The Executive Committee recently reviewed the club's annual expenses and determined that, given the increase in our insurance costs, an increase in dues is in order. According to the KBC constitution "the dues amount will be set yearly at the first meeting of the new year by the Executive Committee." It has been a number of years since the last increase. Therefore, as of mid October, individual and family dues have increased by \$10/year; an individual membership is now \$35/year and a family membership is now \$45/year.

Pam Sotherland, KBC Finance Minister

Friends of Bicycling Award

The Kalamazoo Bicycle Club (KBC) Friend of Bicycling (FoB) Award recognizes noteworthy endeavors by a local organization or individual during the preceding year that significantly advanced the interests of bicycling. Recipients of the FoB Award are selected annually at the December KBC meeting and announced shortly thereafter. More information regarding the nomination of individuals/organization for this award can be found at <https://www.kalmazoobicycleclub.org/about/grantsawards/>. Please review for upcoming submissions this month.

Paul Sotherland, KBC Grants and Awards Director

2023 KBC PHOTO CONTEST



After months of nail biting anticipation the voting for the KBC Photo contest is complete. The winners are:

#First Prize—Paul Rehkopf

#Second Prize—Paul Rehkopf

Third Prize—Jimmy Kindle (my favorite - cuz I'm in it)

Sadly, but not totally unexpected, the prize donations of the Mercedes C Class and Trek Domane E-Bikes never materialized. That being said, the KBC hats are just as good and do a better job keeping the sun out of your eyes. This is my first time conducting a Photo Contest and I learned many things. We will conduct another contest in 2024 and will submit the winners to LMB competition which may get into real prize money and further statewide acclaim.

Congratulations to Paul R. and Jimmy K. and to everyone who submitted,
Charlie Grdina, KBC Editor

2023 Cycling Events.

Not all inclusive but looking to capture the main cycling events in the immediate (50 mile or so) area. Provided for informational content only — **KalTour, W-Ride Bike Camp and KBC Recovery Party** are KBC sponsored events. Get out and ride your bike !

[RACE SCHEDULE — MGRS \(michigan gravel races series.com\)](http://michigan gravel races series.com) - Link to all gravel races



<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Link</u>
Le Tour De Lane	04 November 2023	Above Article in Pedal Press