



May 2024

## PRESIDENT’S LETTER — JOHN KNOWLTON

### And just like that, we’re Fully Involved!

Sometimes after a big fire, an emergency responder will describe the timeline: “We received a call at 11:15. First unit was on the scene at 11:21 at which time the structure was fully involved.” Cycling season can feel like that. We’re just dozing our way through winter when all of a sudden, it’s May and there are scads of cycling things going on! Well, bask in the glow and please jump into as many of these events you can!

In Chronological Order:

**KBC Group Rides.** Almost every day of the week!

Mondays at 6:15 p.m. from Texas Drive Park.

Tuesday women’s ride at 6:15 p.m. from Celery Flats.

Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m. from 10<sup>th</sup> St. Kal Haven Trailhead

Thursday Pedal hosts a shop ride from downtown. Check Pedalbike.com for details.

Friday morning ladies ride 9:30 a.m. in May

Saturday LGBTQIA+ at 10:00 a.m. from rotating start locations. Visit <https://www.kalamazoobicycleclub.org/rides/club-rides/> for details on all our rides.

**Kalamazoo Area Bike Week.** May 11 to 18. Scores of cool events around the area! See a separate article in this issue and visit <https://kalamazoobikeweek.org/> for nuts and bolts. Paul Selden recently handed leadership of KBW to Issac Green of Open Roads.

**Kalamazoo Cycle Show.** Saturday, May 11. This is a Bike Week event hosted by the City of Kalamazoo in Bronson Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. KBC will have a booth, so please visit, show off your bike, meet other people who ride, and encourage people to join KBC. See the longer article in this issue.

**Cycling Shorts.** Tuesday, May 14, Oshtemo Community Center. KBC Meetings have two distinct parts: business meeting from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. Then from 7:00 to 7:45 p.m. we invite a speaker to share about their area of interest or expertise. This month will be super cool: Paul Sotherland asked Priority Bicycles to send a demo bike featuring the Pinion gearbox. The Pinion is a transmission alternative to cassettes, chains and derailleurs. No limit screws, greasy chain, etc. Steve Johnson has assembled the bike and Priority donated the bike as a fundraiser to support Cycling Shorts! Come ride the bike and maybe buy it!

**Kalamazoo Commuter Challenge.** Friday May 17 to Thursday May 30. Calling all KBC members! Check out the Kalamazoo Commuter Challenge at <https://www.lovetoride.net/kalamazoo>. Then, join the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club “Group” here <https://www.lovetoride.net/kalamazoo/groups/5451>, start logging your rides on Love to Ride, and help put KBC at the top of the Kalamazoo Commuter Challenge Leaderboard.



### HIGHLIGHTS

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**Please send stories and photos of your rides to:**

editor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org

So...what is the Kalamazoo Commuter Challenge? It's a two-week event when residents of Kalamazoo County are invited to ride their bicycles for any kind of trip – to work, shop, dine, or simply to enjoy cycling – in town and throughout the County. The event is open to everyone – as a team member or individually, or in it just to have fun. Organizations (like KBC) will take part in friendly competition against similar sized groups to climb leaderboards, win prizes, and work together to create more vibrant bikeways in Kalamazoo County. And, be sure to set aside time to attend the Awards Celebration at Bell's on May 30th.

## KBC Business

The next KBC meeting will be **Tuesday, May 14 at 6:00 p.m. at Oshtemo Community Center (North Room), 6407 Parkview Ave, Kalamazoo MI .**

### Kalamazoo Bicycle Club 09 April , 2024

#### Attendance:

Pam Sotherland  
Paul Selden  
Charlie Grdina  
Mike Krischer  
Mike Boersma

Jacinda Roedel  
Rick Whaley  
Rick Morse  
Paul Guimond

Paul Wells  
Paul Sotherland  
John Knowlton  
Thom Brennan

#### Agenda:

**US-131:** During reconstruction of US 131 last year, MDOT neglected to build functional intersections for non-motorized traffic, opting instead to build J-turns everywhere except at a traffic light. John Knowlton responded by writing multiple community agencies, with no responses received to date. Paul Sotherland will contact MDOT regarding this issue. KBC is considering reaching out to other bicycle clubs to potentially share our letter as a template.

**Bike Camp:** Will be held this year on Saturday mornings in May, leaving out of Oshtemo Community Center and supported by Monday, Wednesday, and Friday rides. **Club members are encouraged to volunteer** and support the campers by joining in the rides. The cost will be \$35, or \$70 with KalTour registration.

**KalTour:** A planning session is scheduled for April 19, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Portage District Library. Our event will be promoted with flyers, QR codes, Facebook, Instagram, Discord, and Bike Reg. Sign-up will be on the KBC Website.

**KalTour Marketing:** To spread the word and promote KalTour, KBC is branching out with new marketing ideas, including the following: Outsourcing marketing with a budget of \$2000; Promote positive images of our scenic routes; promote our event on community calendars and newspapers; distribute flyers to businesses in Kalamazoo County.

**Webmaster:** Jacinda Roedel has volunteered to be our Webmaster now that Kathy Kirk is stepping down. Thank you, Kathy Kirk, for your many years of service, and many thanks to Jacinda for stepping into this role!

**Ride Announcers:** KBC is looking for ride leaders to help roll out the Monday Night Ride on a rotating basis. The job involves making club announcements, being available to connect all cyclists with a ride leader and sending out groups one at a time. Please show your support for KBC club rides by volunteering for this role and please be willing to step up if you are asked. Thank you!

**Discord:** There are now 90 members connected to our Discord channel. Spread the word!

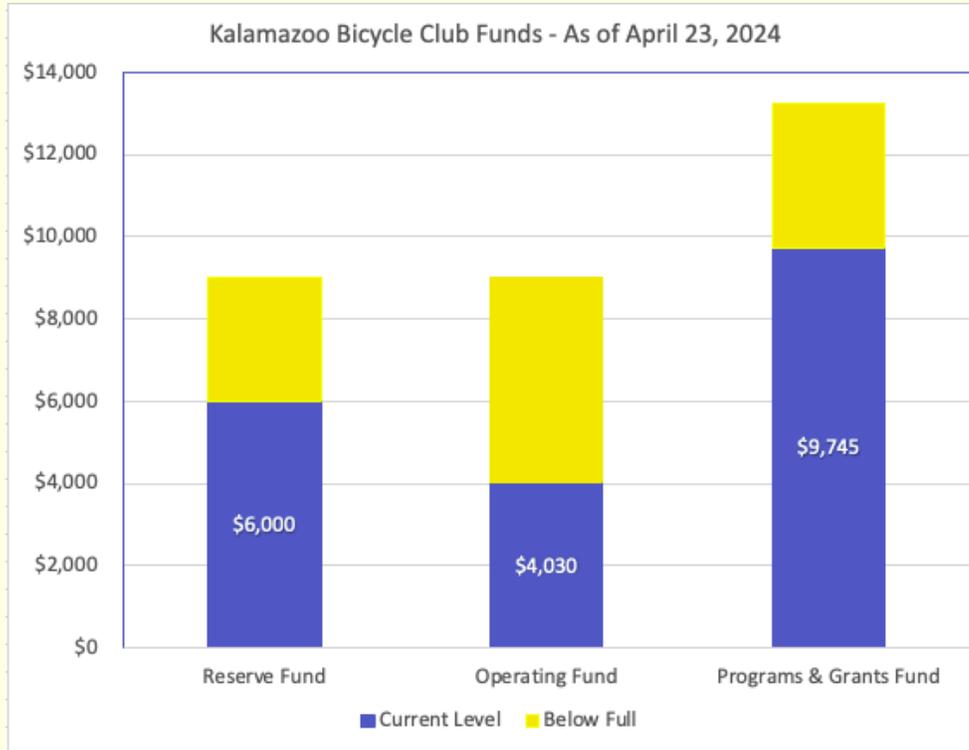
**Bike Show:** Volunteers are needed to attend the Bike Show on May 11<sup>th</sup> from 10AM-2PM, at Bronson Park. We will have brochures and yard signs available. The Mayor's Ride is at 10:30AM and involves a two mile loop. This is another opportunity to kick off KalTour – QR codes will be available for registration.

**Miscellaneous:** Paul Selden sends out a thank you to John Knowlton for writing letters on behalf of KBC regarding the US-131 reconstruction. Paul Sotherland reviewed the Commuter Challenge and the app Love to Ride.

This month's *Cycling Shorts* welcomes back Isaac Green of Open Roads, with updates on Bike Week. Next month's *Cycling Shorts* will feature Steve Johnson and the new belt drive Priority bicycle (come check it out !)

**Jacinda Roedel**, KBC Secretary

# KBC Finance Report



Pam Sotherland, KBC Treasurer

## May 2024 Membership

Total Memberships: 293

Total Individuals: 463

**New or Renewed Members:** Keegan Adriance; Sara Burhans; Pat Cronin & Karen Halsted; Lauren Cummings; Amanda Cunningham; Andrzej Dudek; Andrea & Don Fore; Jason Gabos; Rick & Faith Huyser; Scott Kirklin; Mike Louwaert; Jeanine Michael; Dave Mitchell; Richard Morse; Kyle ODonohue; Jacinda Roedel; Pam Stinchcomb; Daniel Victor

**May Expired Members:** Albie Banner; Joanne Beverage; Theresa Bunch; Kevin Cleary; Gene Decker Phillip Fisher; Terry Florian; Lee Ann Fontaine; Colin Greenup; Kate Hamann & Family; Jeanette Holm; Linda & Jeff Kozacki; Molly Lacy; Dave Mange; Dan Martz; Autumn Monaweck; Jeremy Sikkema; Kim Tabor; Kathy Vandewalle; Flint Wiles; Jenni Willoughby; Bruce & Amy Withers

Rick Whaley, Membership Director

# Kalamazoo Bike Week 11-18 May

Kalamazoo Bike Week is almost here, Saturday May 11 – Saturday May 18, and there are many KBC events to join in the celebration. On the first Saturday, from 10 until 2, the **second annual Kalamazoo Bicycle Show** will take place at Bronson Park. KBC will have a table there, handing out our Give Them 5' to Keep Them Alive yard signs, League of Michigan Bicyclist's "What Every Michigan Bicyclist Must Know" booklets, and lots of info about KBC events, like the Commuter Challenge, the KBC monthly meeting, featuring the Bike Shorts presentation, Bike Camp, KalTour, and all the KBC weekly rides. Bring your unique, antique, special, and interesting, or "different" bikes to the show.

Up your involvement with KBC by volunteering as a ride leader, help out at Bike Camp or KalTour, join a weekly ride, and check out the Bike Shorts program at the monthly KBC meeting.

And...last but not least, put out your 5' passing yard signs again. Everyone needs to be reminded!

Paul Wells, Education Chair

# Bicycle Show

11  
MAY

10 am - 2 pm | Bronson Park

The Bicycle Show is back in 2024! Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 11 from 10am to 2pm. Have cool bicycles, tricycles, e-bikes, or other bicycle-related gear to showcase? Join us, its free!

- Mayor's Ride at 10:30am
- Food Trucks and Live Music
- 20+ Partner Organizations

Learn more and sign-up at:

[KalamazooCity.org/BicycleShow](https://KalamazooCity.org/BicycleShow)



## In Partnership With:



# KALAMAZOO

— COMMUTER CHALLENGE —

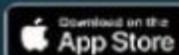
*#MakeEveryRideCount*

MAY 17th - 30th, 2024

Download Love to Ride App  
Ride Your Bike  
Join the Challenge

For more information scan QR Code or  
visit: [lovetoride.net/kalamazoo](https://lovetoride.net/kalamazoo)

LOVE TO RIDE



[lovetoride.net/kalamazoo](https://lovetoride.net/kalamazoo)





What is the Kalamazoo Commuter Challenge?

- It is a two-week event – **May 17-30** – to engage as many people as possible in riding their bikes for trips – to work, shop, dine, or simply to enjoy cycling – in and around Kalamazoo, Portage, Vicksburg, Richland, or... throughout Kalamazoo County.
- The Kalamazoo Commuter Challenge will activate our bikeways – shared use pathways, bike lanes, and bike routes – with people doing practical cycling and enlivening the areas that have bikeways.

What else will the Kalamazoo Commuter Challenge do?

- Anonymized and aggregated records of practical cycling trips, recorded with Love to Ride, will be used to generate crowd-sourced maps of where people frequently ride their bicycles.
- These maps can be used to augment planning, improving, and maintaining bikeways in the Kalamazoo region. This will enrich our bikeways and welcome, invite, and retain those who enjoy living in regions with robust active transportation amenities.

How can you get involved in the Kalamazoo Commuter Challenge?

- Go to the Love to Ride-Kalamazoo County website ([lovetoride.net/kalamazoo](http://lovetoride.net/kalamazoo)), download the Love to Ride app to your phone, register for Love to Ride.
- Be sure to explore all the tabs - including the “Info” tab - where you will learn about the Kalamazoo Commuter Challenge, Where to Ride, and locations of our Bike Shops as well as a ton of other information.
- Register for the Kalamazoo Commuter Challenge (and...maybe...join a team)
- Ride your bike to work, shop, dine, or simply to enjoy the ride
- Record your rides, check your heat maps, and watch the leader boards (on the “Results” tab) to see how your practical cycling compares with that of other cyclists in Kalamazoo County.
- 

And...remember...please keep logging your rides after May and throughout the year to help enrich the cycling map of Kalamazoo County by contributing your rides to the crowd-sourced, anonymized, and aggregated heat map.

Join in the fun...be the change...participate in the Kalamazoo Commuter Challenge!

Paul Sotherland, Grants & Awards Director

## Bike Camp 2024

### What is Bike Camp?

During June 2024, the KBC Bike Camp will help cyclists get ready to participate in a KalTour group ride at the end of June. Though in some ways similar to Run Camp, which prepares participants for running in the Kalamazoo Marathon, Bike Camp also helps cyclists become more familiar with and comfortable on their bicycles while learning group-riding skills that lead to safer, more effective, and enjoyable cycling. Designed for adults and minors (12 and up, who must be accompanied by an adult), Bike Camp provides many opportunities for new and returning cyclists to develop abilities on their bicycles and learn that “life is better on a bike.”

### The Details:

Bike Camp 2024 will begin on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, with an “instructional” and group-ride segment from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm at the Oshtemo Community Center, 6407 Parkview Ave.

This first meeting will be followed by (optional, yet recommended) group rides on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday every week in June, leading to a Bike Camp group ride at KalTour on Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Saturday morning segment will include a brief Bike Fit, ABC Quick Check, Rules of the Road, Group Riding Etiquette, and a Drills’n’Skills session followed by a short group ride, primarily on Parkview Ave, to the WMU BTR Park and back. We will wrap up with post-ride refreshments and a debriefing.

Weekly Bike Camp group rides will be on Monday evening (part of the KBC Monday Night Ride, a club ride that starts and finishes at Texas Township Park), Wednesday evening (starting and finishing at the Oshtemo Grange Hall Park), and Friday morning (starting and finishing at Texas Township Park).

KBC Monday and Wednesday rides in June start at 6:15 pm; Friday morning rides start at 9:00 am.

These rides will help Bike Campers practice their cycling skills while developing endurance to prepare for the KalTour group ride.

### How much does Bike Camp cost?

\$70 for individuals - this includes a one-year membership in the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club (\$35) and a KBC member registration for KalTour (\$35)

\$115 for families (no more than 2 adults with or without children aged 12 to 18) - this includes a one-year family membership in the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club (\$45) and a KBC member family registration for KalTour (\$70)

Note: see <https://www.kalamazooicycleclub.org/members/> for the many benefits of belonging to the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club.

### How do I register for Bike Camp?

Registration for Bike Camp is on BikeReg through Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023:

<https://www.bikereg.com/kbc-bike-camp>

### Bike Camp Videos

[How to shift gears on a bike - Liv Cyclng](#)

[How to shift gears on a bike - Trek](#)

[ABC Quick Check](#)

[Cleaning and maintaining your bike](#)

[Pedal Bicycles - fixing a flat tire](#)



## Cycling Shorts - 14 May 2024



### Steve Johnson (Johnson Cycle Works)



The May Cycling Shorts will feature Steve Johnson at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, 14 May, at the Oshtemo Community Center. Steve will give us his review of the Priority 600X and its Pinion Gearbox <https://www.prioritybicycles.com/products/600x>

Priority donated the bike Steve will showcase to KBC so that we could use it as a fund-raiser to support Cycling Shorts. Everyone attending the May Cycling Shorts will have an opportunity to test ride the 600X (and to consider purchasing the bike). Bring your helmet but you can leave your chain lube at home.

**PRIORITY BICYCLES**

**PRIORITY 600X ADVENTURE**

**\$ 3,500.00**

**\*\*EARTH DAY VIBES ARE STILL GOING!\*\* 25%-OFF THE LARGE 600X WITH CODE: EARTH25 - ENTER AT CHECKOUT!**

Our belt drive Pinion hardtail designed for cross-country and bike packing adventures.



Giddyup little doggies, Bike Corrals have arrived



# WHAT IS A BIKE CORRAL?

A bike corral is a type of on-street Bicycle Parking for commercial areas shifting parking from the sidewalk to on-street. Located close to intersections a bike corral can act as bump-outs reducing motorist speeds.



Bike corrals can be permanent or mobile and can be designed to meet the needs of a certain area. They are great tools to understand demand for bike parking.

LOCATION 1: APRIL 10 - MAY 10

LOCATION 4: JULY 10 - AUGUST 15

LOCATION 2: MAY 10 - JUNE 10

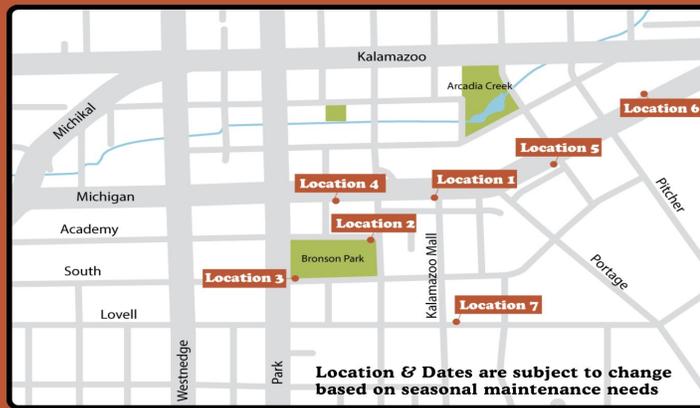
LOCATION 5: AUGUST 15 - SEPTEMBER 15

LOCATION 3: JUNE 10 - JULY 10

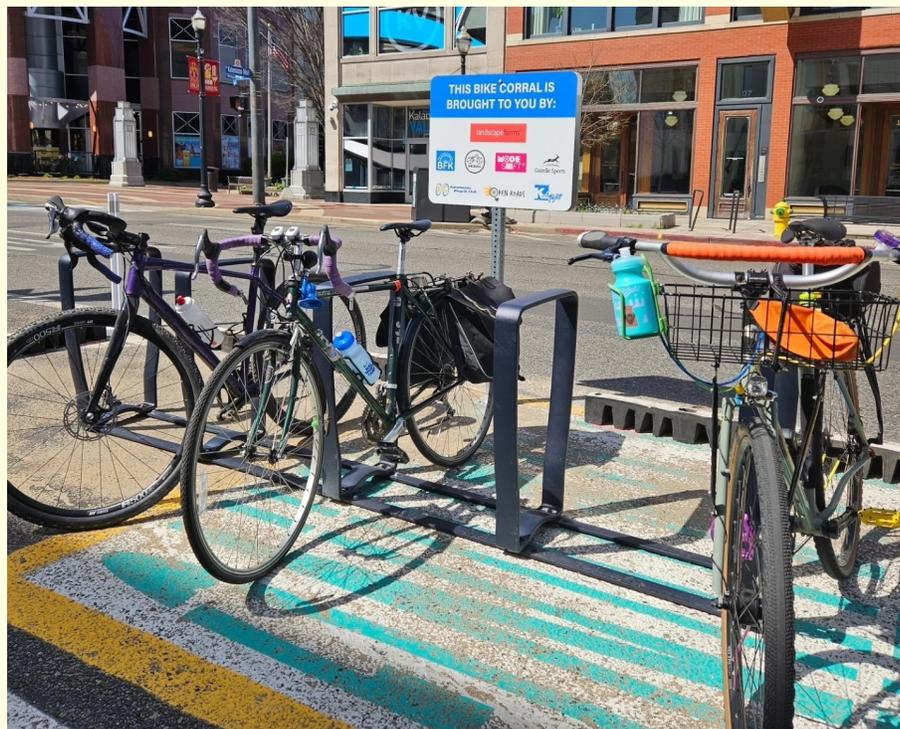
LOCATION 6: SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 15

LOCATION 7: OCTOBER 15 - NOVEMBER 15

Locations



Debut Bike Corral in Downtown Kalamazoo



# 2024 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. Opportunities to volunteer for the club abound.

[RACE SCHEDULE – MGRS \(michiangravelraceseries.com\)](https://michigan gravel races series.com) - Link to MI gravel races

[Michigan Bike Events | Bicycle Races in Michigan - Michigan Bicycle Law](#) - Link to MI Road & Gravel events

[Events – Bike Friendly Kalamazoo](#) - Link to many local cycling events



<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Link</u>
Willow Time Trial	11 May 2024	<a href="#">Willow Time Trial Registration via BikeReg</a>
<b>Bike Week</b>	11-18 May 2024 ** <b>Volunteers Needed</b> **	<a href="#">Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - Life is better on a bike!</a>
<b>Bike Camp</b>	01 June 2024 ** <b>Volunteers Needed</b> **	<a href="#">Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - Life is better on a bike!</a>
Bike-a-Palooza	19 May 2024	<a href="#">Bike-a-Palooza</a>
Dirty Donut	15 June 2024	<a href="#">Dirty Donut</a>
<b>KalTour</b>	30 June 2024 ** <a href="#">Volunteers Needed</a> **	<a href="#">Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - Life is better on a bike!</a>
100 Grand	TBD	<a href="#">Rapid Wheelmen Bicycle Club</a>
Holland 100	20 July 2024	<a href="#">Holland 100</a>
<b>KBC Recovery Party (Wind &amp; James 5:30-8:00)</b>	19 October 2024	<a href="#">Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - Life is better on a bike!</a>
Lowell Classic	20 October 2024	<a href="#">LOWELL CLASSIC GRAVEL ROAD RACE - Home (thelowell50.com)</a>