

PRESIDENT’S LETTER — JOHN KNOWLTON

I Wish the Club...

Ever come up with a cool idea for KBC? Do you have ideas that you wish your bike club would implement? I did, and that’s why I ran for President three years ago. If you have thoughts or ideas for improvement, maybe YOU should run for an officer position. Each year we nominate candidates for four offices: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary. The nominations are made in October and we vote in November.

This year our October member meeting will be our Club Anniversary Party! Please join us to recap the riding season, eat food, swap gear, and nominate yourself or someone else for an officer position. The party will be October 19 at 6:00 p.m. at Wind + James in Schoolcraft. More details in a longer article in this issue. **Experiment: Fewer Club Meetings in 2025**

We have decided to reduce the number of club meetings in 2025. Over the past year we experimented with Cycling Shorts. This added length to our meetings while introducing KBC to other Cycling organizations and people. For 2025 we’re experimenting in the other direction. We plan just **five regularly scheduled meetings**:

- March 11, 2025
- May 13, 2025
- June 10, 2025
- October 14, 2025 – Nominations
- November 11, 2025 – Elections

These will be held at the Oshtemo Community Center starting at 7:00 p.m. There may be committee meetings or ad hoc collaborations to work on projects such as Kal Tour. Comments or suggestions? I’m all ears! President@KalamazooBicycleClub.org.

One of our goals is to offer the best group road rides around. We want them to be safe and fun for everyone. I can’t vouch for how much fun you had this year, but we have been safe on group rides! No safety incidents or insurance claims have been reported in 2024. Thanks so much for riding safely! See you at the party October 19.

-John Knowlton, President



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Please send stories and photos of your rides to:

editor@kalamazoobicycleclub.org

KBC Business

The next KBC meeting will be **Saturday, October 19** at 6:00 p.m. at **Wind+James** ([555 E Eliza St, Schoolcraft](#)).

Big Shout Out to KBC from Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS)

At the most recent [KATS Technical Committee meeting](#) Ryan Minkus (County Engineer at the RCKC) thanked the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club for providing helpful comments about the RCKC's grant proposal that landed a **25 million dollar** "Safe Streets for All" grant for the RCKC. This is the largest award RCKC has received to date.

Ryan also noted that the KBC's letter of support for the grant proposal was impactful and much appreciated. Cha-Ching and Way to Go KBC! The link above is more detailed video of the meeting.



In a conversation prior to the KATS meeting, Ryan gave Paul Sotherland a (large format paper) [map of the RCKC's non-motorized network](#) and asked for help with identifying potential additional routes that would enrich the network. Paul suggested to Ryan that we make the map available at the KBC Anniversary Party and ask folks to post their comments on Post-It notes at locations in the County where useful non-moto links could be created where they don't already exist. We will look to do so at the upcoming KBC Party so take a gander at the link above and provide some input to your local cycling transit route to the map.

Helmets off to Paul Sotherland for all his efforts in working closely with the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) and making good things happen in the community.

KBC Anniversary Party

Still some good riding left in 2024 but get off your bike seat for a few hours and get down to Wind+James ([555 E Eliza St, Schoolcraft](#)), on **Saturday, October 19th**, for the **KBC Anniversary Party**, starting at 6:00pm and wrapping up at 9:00 pm. It is a great time to catch up with old friends and meet some new ones (bonus it is free !).

Here's the lowdown on features of our Anniversary Party:

- As in the past, we will have a short program that will include our usual awards—Old Crank and Volunteer of the Year
- KBC will provide beverages and sandwiches
- We'll have the Gear Swap table again, so think about bringing gear you no longer use (NO worn out junk

please) and swapping it for gear that's on the table

- Other menu items will be pot-luck, so please prepare and bring a dish to share; a dessert would suffice if

that's what you prefer to provide.

- Raffles, Prizes and other attractions to please both the sights and senses

Mark your calendar and we look forward to seeing you there !

Reminder – What High School Did You Attend, Where Is It, and Its Nickname?

Judging from the responses to my request last month, we have a geographically eclectic group of people in the KBC. Only one member went to a high school in Kalamazoo County and 8 members went to a high school that wasn't in the state of Michigan. However, the sample size of 16 is small. So, I plan to keep gathering responses for another month and the final results will be published in the November Pedal Press.

So, if you haven't participated and would like to do so, send me your name, the name of your high school, the location of your high school, and its nickname to member-shipdir@kalamazooicycleclub.org.

And remember, your response will further the advance of KBC knowledge.

Rick Whaley, KBC Membership Director and High School Data Collector

KALHAVEN Trail - A Local Treasure

For those that ride it often it is no surprise to hear it's attractions highlighted in the article submitted by Pam Sotherland. With still a few weeks left of mild weather riding it is a stunning color tour on a crisp and sunny day. The article [by Sheri Rosenbaum from Road Bike Rider](#) will make you want to ride it again or encourage you to ride it for the first time—truly a gem of local resource and good to see it getting national acclaim.



September/October 2024 Membership

Total Memberships: 276

Total Individuals: 449

New or Renewed Members: Jason Badders; Gautier Debyser & Family; Joshua Murphy

September Expired Members: Kerri Chapel; Cody White

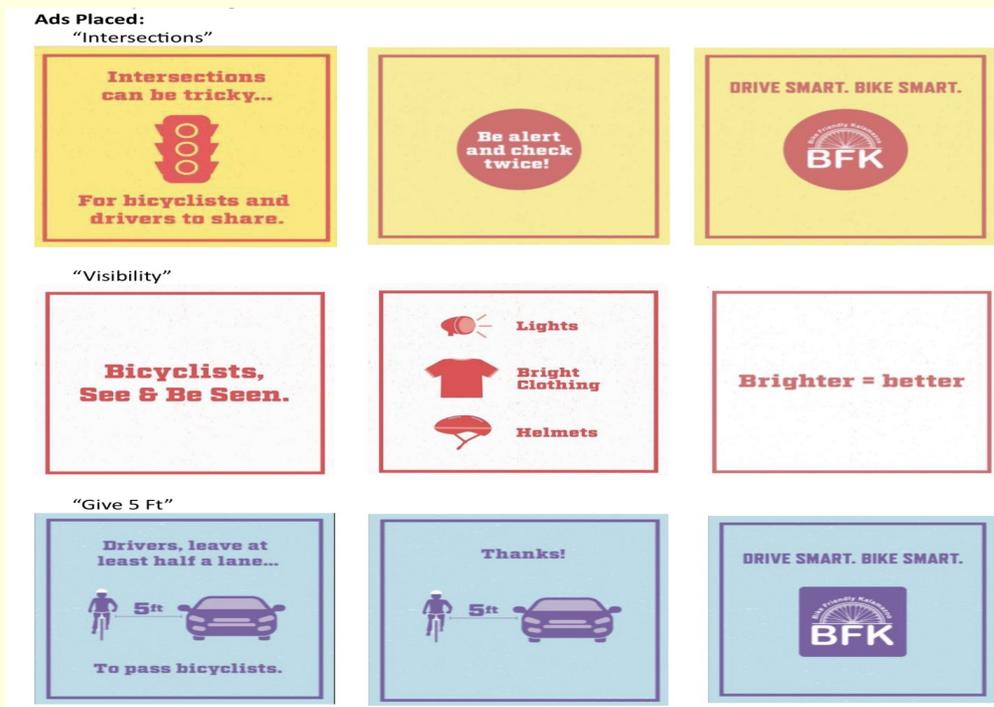
October Expired Members: Nick & Kelly Hampton; Joe Shorb

Rick Whaley, Membership Director

Bike-Motorist Public Safety Campaign Running Through October

The warmer than usual temperatures in October have lengthened the traditional fair weather cycling season, prompting long-time KBC supporter Bike Friendly Kalamazoo to again run its bike-motorist safety campaign on social media. The campaign was developed by Gud Marketing based on a detailed crash analysis conducted by the Transportation Research Center For Livable Communities at Western Michigan University. Specific incident reports and crash data were studied and guided creative development. Lansing-based Gud Marketing applied their knowledge gained after analyzing more than 75 bicycle safety campaigns across the country and using their experience in designing the [demonstrably successful](#) \$600,000+ multi-media [Driving Change campaign in Grand Rapids](#). Bike Friendly Kalamazoo's budget was vastly constrained by comparison, so is limited to on-line information and social media.

The three awareness-building ads focus on explaining ways to avoid the most frequent causes of severe bicyclist-motorist crashes. \$3,500 budget is intended to reach all of Kalamazoo County Facebook and Instagram users a total of four times for each of the three ads over a 30 day period.



As any teacher knows, repetition is a key to learning and consequent behavior change. However, the appearance of "spamming" is something we also want to avoid. We hope to raise enough funding to support updating the campaign to offer a balance between variety and repetition in the coming years

Paul Selden, KBC Member / Bike Friendly 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, Fall Foliage and KBC Recovery Party** are KBC sponsored events. Opportunities to volunteer for the club abound.

[RACE SCHEDULE – MGRS \(michigan gravel races series.com\)](http://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

[West Michigan Trails \(wmtrails.org\)](http://wmtrails.org) - Link to Michigan trail network

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Link</u>
KBC Recovery Party (Wind & James 6:00-9:00)	19 October 2024	Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - Life is better on a bike!
Lowell Classic	20 October 2024	LOWELL CLASSIC GRAVEL ROAD RACE - Home (thelowell50.com)