

**PRESIDENT’S LETTER — JOHN KNOWLTON**

**June 2024 President’s Letter**

**Kal Tour and Communication**

Sunday June 30 is a big day for Kalamazoo Bicycle Club. That’s Kal-Tour! Kal Tour is a premier cycling event showcasing great roads, parks and scenery from Kalamazoo County. There are several routes up to a metric Century (62 miles). All the routes have rest stops and aid stations. Plus sandwiches and Root Beer Floats at the end of the ride! Details are on the KBC website [here](#).

I sincerely hope you are planning to participate in Kal Tour and here are three great ways to be involved:

**Register to Ride.** We put in a lot of work to make Kal Tour happen. The efforts have been led by Mike Krischer for many years and we so appreciate his leadership on the tour. You can ride at your own pace, or with a pace group, or be a pace group leader. Registration is at <https://www.bikereg.com/kbc-kaltour>.

**Volunteer.** KBC is an all-volunteer organization. It turns out that the more you help, the better you feel: about the club, the community, and about yourself. Volunteering to help at Kal Tour doesn’t mean you can’t ride. There are volunteer slots earlier in the week. Check out the options at [this link](#). I’m signed up for the crack o’ dawn set up and registration shift, so I’ll see you there!

**Invite others to ride Kal Tour.** Share the link to the KBC page or the registration page. When you see ads on social media for Kal Tour, please re-post them.

Thanks for helping to make 2024 Kal Tour a great success!

As you know, KBC’s most visible service is to offer well organized group road rides. Our goal is that they will be safe and fun for everyone. Discord is a communication tool we are using to facilitate the flow of information. An advantage is that you don’t need to be on any social media platform to participate. But you do need to be on Discord! If you aren’t connected yet, please see the invitation link in the email that delivered this newsletter to you.

See you at Kal Tour!



**HIGHLIGHTS**

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

editor@kalamazoobicycle club.org

# KBC Business

The next KBC meeting will be **Tuesday, 11 June at 6:00 p.m. at Oshtemo Community Center (North Room), 6407 Parkview Ave, Kalamazoo MI .**

## Kalamazoo Bicycle Club 14 May , 2024

### Attendance:

Mike Krischer  
Pam Sotherland  
Matthew VanMiddlesworth  
Kathy Kirk  
Charlie Grdina  
Clark Bennett

Jacinda Roedel  
Paul Guimond  
Peter Coles  
Doug Kirk  
Joe Stephansky  
Thom Brennan

Teri Olbrot  
John Knowlton  
Paul Sotherland  
Paul Rehkopf  
Tom Hohm

Agenda:

**Kalamazoo Cycle Show:** Held in Bronson Park on May 11<sup>th</sup>, the weather was less than ideal, but people showed up.

**Bike Camp Update:** There will be a short orientation for campers at the Oshtemo Community Center on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 AM, followed by a bike ride. Follow-up coaching is offered at subsequent Monday, Wednesday, and Friday group rides. The price includes a one year membership and KalTour registration.

**KalTour Update:** We have flyers with the new logo available. Registration is on Sign up Genius. There are lots of detours due to construction, but alternates are being figured out. Road painting is the 20<sup>th</sup> of June - without a century ride will be easier to do. Hoping for a good turnout. Online publicity is the next thing. Meeting at the library went well, with a few volunteers. Paul Guimond will hit up the race team for ride leaders. The QR code on the flyer will bring you to Bike Reg.

**Marketing updates:** KBC has contracted with a marketing firm to promote Kal Tour and our other events and they're getting our messages out on social media. We are paying \$700 total for two months. The marketing firm is targeting a 100 mile radius of Kalamazoo County. We will ask the marketing company to also promote Cycling Shorts.

**Discord:** There is a lot of positive chatter on all the channels and people are using the App to connect with rides.

**Ride Leader communications:** John Knowlton reached out to Ride Leaders for the MNR recently and received a sluggish response. Better responsive communications are needed for a successful ride season. Suggestions regarding Ride Leader Communications are welcome.

**Website Ride Descriptions:** We have very specific descriptions of the rides, but they aren't always accurate, since the routes often change. We will edit the descriptions to include paces offered but eliminate specific maps on the website.

**Kalamazoo Commuter Challenge:** Starts this Friday and goes on for two weeks. There'll be a celebration at Bell's afterwards. The intention is to encourage every-day riding. Download the Love to Ride App and sign up for KBC. We have a contract with Love to Ride for a year and if we use it, it will create a heat map of where KBC members ride. The App will help with the crowd source mapping, and it's free. Note: Love to Ride connects to Strava but not RwGPS

**Road maintenance:** When observing dangerous road conditions take a picture of it and send it with the address to the Kalamazoo Road Commission. Look for the **Report an Issue** link on their website.

**US 131:** Doug Kirk is filing a lawsuit with MDOT regarding the lack of safe crossings at intersection on the newly updated section of US 131. Cross streets were replaced with J-turns, with no accommodation for non-motorized traffic. The lawsuit is not on behalf of KBC. He's doing it as an individual.

**Grants and Awards:** Paul Sotherland moves that the club donate \$1000 for the Commuter Challenge. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Member comments:** Kathy Kirk has offered to open the store for purchase of our current kit soon, date to be announced.

**Teri Olbrot** KBC Secretary

## June 2024 Membership

Total Memberships: 288

Total Individuals: 460

**New or Renewed Members:** Regina Alleman; Becky Argue; Albie Banner; Joanne Beverage; Jay Campbell; Gene Decker; Colleen Doonan; Kevin Douglass & Family; Cindy Gippert; Rob Grainger; Colin Greenop; John Idema; Sue Kovats-Bell; Linda & Jeff Kozacki; Molly Lacy; Ann LaPoint & Family; Frank Machnik & Family; Todd Maguire; Sean Malone & Family; Brandon Manderle; Dan Martz; Dan Murrin; Paige Phizacklea; Mary Schmidt; Shawn Sullivan; Kailey & Phillip Swanson

**June Expired Members:** Jeff Bartz; Jonathan Bolton & Family; Michael Bussey & Family; Lue Cervone & Terry Brown; Doug Chapel; Cathy Cheron; Jamie Clark & Family; R.G. Cox; Alan Dahl; Thomas Dewhirst; Ed Doctor; Hugo Galvez; Katie Grabiec; Scott Hagenbarth; Amy Heath; Brent & Phyllis Hepp; Mike Hughes; Daryl & Amber Hutson; Mark Johnson; Hershel Jude & Family; Amy Kuchta; Jason Millership; Ken Mohney; Charles Nutting; Kevin Oostema & Family; Vanessa Paragas & Lacey Vogt; Sara Reeves; Natalie Rowe & Mike Limerick; Heather Shinnars; Tom Sprinkle; Tim Stewart; Tyler Stewart; Libby Subers; Julie Terrell; Gordy Vader; Kitty Vader; Brian VanderHoff; Mitch Wilson; Wilson Xu & Family

Rick Whaley, Membership Director

## KBC Jersey & Kit Order

Time to order a KBC jersey! Maybe you need a new jersey, maybe you want to get one for a friend or loved one. They make great gifts. You'll be able to order a jersey, summer cycling gloves, and a wind vest. As in the past, Giordana will make our kit in their Italian factory. The jersey and gloves will use the same design as our current jersey. The vest, with 2 rear pockets and a 2-way zipper, will coordinate with the jersey and gloves, but will be a single color from the jersey (light blue) so it will go with other jerseys.

The jerseys and vests are “club fit” but tend to run smaller than club fit from other companies. When the store opens for ordering, there will be a link to a sizing chart, and also actual jersey measurements. To use the measurements, lay out a jersey that fits the way you like, measure it, and compare the measurements to the Giordana jersey measurements.

The vests and gloves fit kit will be available at the June 11<sup>th</sup> KBC meeting for you to try on.

Cost (before tax):

Short sleeve jersey: \$61.48

Shorts (Not bibs): TBD

Vest: \$83.84

Summer gloves: \$33.12

The **online store to purchase your items will be open mid-June**. Watch the KBC website, Facebook, and Discord for exact dates and details. Once the order is placed, items will take about 5 weeks to be delivered in bulk to one location. This shipping option is free. Again, watch Discord, Facebook, and the KBC website for details on picking up your items.



Kathy Kirk, KBC Member

## **KalTour 2024: Detours & Volunteer Signup**

KalTour 2024, on June 30, is fast approaching. Much remains to be done. Before I get into the details, two detours must be mentioned. First and most important is the detour on the drive to the start location. Due to the closure of southbound US 131 at U Avenue, the best route to our start location is to turn left at the U Avenue light, go about a half mile, and turn right on 14th street. At 14th and W, turn right and Wind + James. The start location will be on your left.

The other detour is at the conclusion of all the cycling routes except the 15 mile route. Few riders will miss the rough payment on 23rd St south of TU Ave and on U Avenue from 23rd to Portage Rd. The road closed signs are up in this area so we will detour via S Ave, East Shore Drive, Mandigo Ave and Portage Road on the return from Scotts Mill. The routes on Ride With GPS will show the detour as will the road markings

The period of intense KalTour preparation begins on Thursday June 20 with road painting arrows for the routes. We will meet at 6:00 pm at Wind + James in Schoolcraft. Supplies and directions will be provided; old clothes are recommended. Shopping for perishables such as fruit needs to be done one or two days before the ride. We will place signs at the start location and at the Scotts Mill sag stop on Saturday evening the 29th. Volunteers are needed the morning of the ride beginning at 6:00 am for unloading supplies and setting up registration. The inevitable post-ride cleanup and load up begins around 2 pm. Volunteers for all of these tasks can contact me directly, but it is easier to indicate your intentions on the web site "SignUPGenius."

All of the above volunteer activities can be classified as "work." However, leading a ride, although an important contribution, can be categorized as "fun." It's easy to lead a KalTour ride as long as you are a KBC certified ride leader; just add your name to your preferred distance on SignUPGenius. You can add further details such as intended pace and attract participants on the KalTour event on Facebook.

Mike Krischer  
KalTour director



# KalTour



32nd Annual  
Summer Tour  
sponsored by the

## Kalamazoo Bicycle Club

**Sunday, June 30, 2024**

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Start location: Wind + James Event Center  
555 Eliza St (W Avenue) in Schoolcraft (.3 mile east of US 131)

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Road Routes: 62, 50 31 & 15 miles

Paper maps, road markings, and *Ride With GPS*

Low-traffic, scenic country roads

Sag stops with fruit, cookies, trail mix, pb & j

Post-ride lunch with sandwiches, watermelon, root beer floats

Register online by June 27 at  
**[bikereg.com/kbc-kaltour](https://bikereg.com/kbc-kaltour)**



Cost: \$40 individual or \$75 family  
(\$5 discount for KBC members)

Day of ride: \$50 individual or \$90 family

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Kalamazoo Valley AMBUCS,  
([kvambucs.org](https://kvambucs.org)), a service organization providing therapeutic bicycles for  
mobility-impaired children and adults.

## KBC RACE OF TRUTH (Time Trial)

1st & 3rd Tuesday - June to August

Time Trial season is upon us once again. Nothing like a 10 mile heads-down, butt-up ride with no where to hide that will have you breathing like a lung shot moose praying you see the finish line around the next corner. OK,... experiences may vary. Seriously, a fun time and a sure fire way to improve overall fitness.

**Location:** Pavilion Twp Hall [7510 E Q Ave, Scotts, MI 49088](#)

**Details:** Sign up starts at 6pm, the TT starts at 6:30pm.

**Dates:** the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, Jun - Aug. That ends up being the following dates: June 4 & 18, July 2 & 16, August 6 & 20

### **Rules and such:**

- In the case of bad weather, we will post on Facebook and Discord if it is cancelled. No rain dates.
- There are separate categories for TT bikes and traditional road bikes (Merx). Skin suits and aero helmets are allowed in either category.
- Categories of timing will be Men, Women and non binary (as needed)
- The results will be posted on Facebook and Discord within a day.

Contact **Nick Hampton** via Discord or Facebook or email: [nhampton5287@gmail.com](mailto:nhampton5287@gmail.com)

If any questions.



**Kalamazoo  
Bicycle Club**



## **BRETT SKRABAN**

Ride with GPS  
Account Manager

CYCLING

**SHORTS**

**RIDE WITH GPS: COOL  
FEATURES OF KBC'S  
CLUB ACCOUNT**

**Tuesday, June 11th | 7PM**  
Oshtemo Community Center

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**



## Michigan's Vulnerable Roadway User (VRU) Bills (two each in the Michigan House and Senate)

VRU Bills have been a priority for The League of Michigan Bicyclists (LMB) starting in 2009. These bills “close a gap in existing law and give prosecutors more options to pursue justice when a driver hits and kills or seriously injures a bicyclist, pedestrian, wheelchair user or other vulnerable roadway user (VRU).”

On April 23, Dr. Paul Runnels, a survivor of the Chain Gang June 7, 2016 tragedy, and Matt Penniman, League of Michigan Bicyclists, testified for the Michigan House of Representatives bills 5223-5224 sponsored by Representatives Julie Rogers and Bill Schuette Jr. at the House Transportation, Mobility and Infrastructure Committee hearing. These bipartisan bills create safer roads for bicyclists, pedestrians, and other non-drivers. The bills moved from the committee after the robust testimony from Paul and Matt.



(April 23 House Committee Hearing; Runnels on the left and Penniman on the right)

On Thursday, May 2, bills 617-618 sponsored by Senator McCann and Senator Klinefelt were heard by the Senate Civil Rights, Judiciary and Public Safety Committee. (NSERT LMB VRU FACT SHEET) Critically, these VRU bills create equity for all roadway users, equip law enforcement with additional options to pursue justice when a driver hits or kills a VRU, and provide definitions for VRU which is important for federal law and corresponding funding opportunities. These new bills do not replace current laws, but provide prosecutors additional tools to prosecute offenders.

Testimony in support of the VRU bills at the Senate Committee Hearing was provided by the following:

- Matt Penniman, Communications and Advocacy Director, League of Michigan Bicyclists
- Dr. Paul Runnels, former Bike Friendly Kalamazoo Director, June 7, 2016 Chain Gang Survivor
- Jennifer Johnson, Bike Friendly Kalamazoo Director, June 7, 2016 Chain Gang Survivor, KBC member and ride leader, and LMB member and League Cycling Instructor #6638

The bills were unanimously approved in the Senate Committee and now move to the House and Senate for hearings. **Please show your support and take action** at the following link:

[https://lmb.org/current\\_issues/justice-for-vulnerable-roadway-users/](https://lmb.org/current_issues/justice-for-vulnerable-roadway-users/)

**Paul Runnels**, KBC Member



# LEAGUE OF MICHIGAN BICYCLISTS

410 S Cedar St - Suite A, Lansing, MI 48912 | 517-334-9100 | office@LMB.org | www.LMB.org

## VRU Bills Fact Sheet, April 2024

LMB supports the VRU bill package. These bipartisan, bicameral bills **close a gap in existing law** between charges that are not serious enough and charges that are too serious, giving prosecutors appropriate options. They recognize that **people who walk, bike, ride horses, and use wheelchairs (a.k.a. vulnerable roadway users or VRU)** are exposed to traffic risk but not protected by steel frames, just like road workers or farmers on tractors.

Current law provides for a felony punishable by up to 15 years imprisonment and/or a fine of \$7,500 or both for a moving violation causing death to a person operating "an implement of husbandry" (i.e. farm equipment.)

These bills would extend this felony to all vulnerable roadway users, define "vulnerable roadway user", and create an additional felony punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment and/or a fine of \$5,000 for a moving violation causing serious injury (requiring inpatient treatment at a hospital or rehab facility) to vulnerable roadway users and individuals operating an implement of husbandry.

"Vulnerable roadway user" is defined as a pedestrian; a person using roller skates, inline skates, nonmotorized scooter, nonmotorized skateboard, or a wheelchair; a person riding a horse or driving or riding a horse-drawn carriage; or a person on a bicycle, electric bicycle, electric skateboard, or electric personal assistive mobility device.

"12 states – Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington – have VRU laws that define a set of road users as vulnerable and provide specific processes and penalties for actions directed at those users."

Source: <https://bikeleague.org/bike-laws/model-legislation/model-vulnerable-user-law/>

**HB 5223** Traffic control: violations; definition for "transportation device"; add.

*Rep. Julie Rogers; Schuette, Bierlein, Roth, Mueller, Slagh, Bezotte, BeGole, Wilson, Carter, Morse, Hood, MacDonell, Steckloff, Weiss, Scott, Brixie, Rheingans*

**HB 5224** Traffic control: accidents; penalties for moving violation causing physical injury or death to a vulnerable roadway user; enhance.

*Rep. Bill Schuette; Rogers, Bierlein, Roth, Mueller, Slagh, Bezotte, BeGole, Wilson, Carter, Morse, Hood, MacDonell, Steckloff, Weiss, Scott, Brixie, Rheingans*

**SB 617** Traffic control: accidents; penalties for moving violation causing physical injury or death to a vulnerable roadway user; enhance.

*Sen. Sean McCann; Klinefelt, Chang*

**SB 618** Traffic control: violations; definition for "vulnerable roadway user"; add.

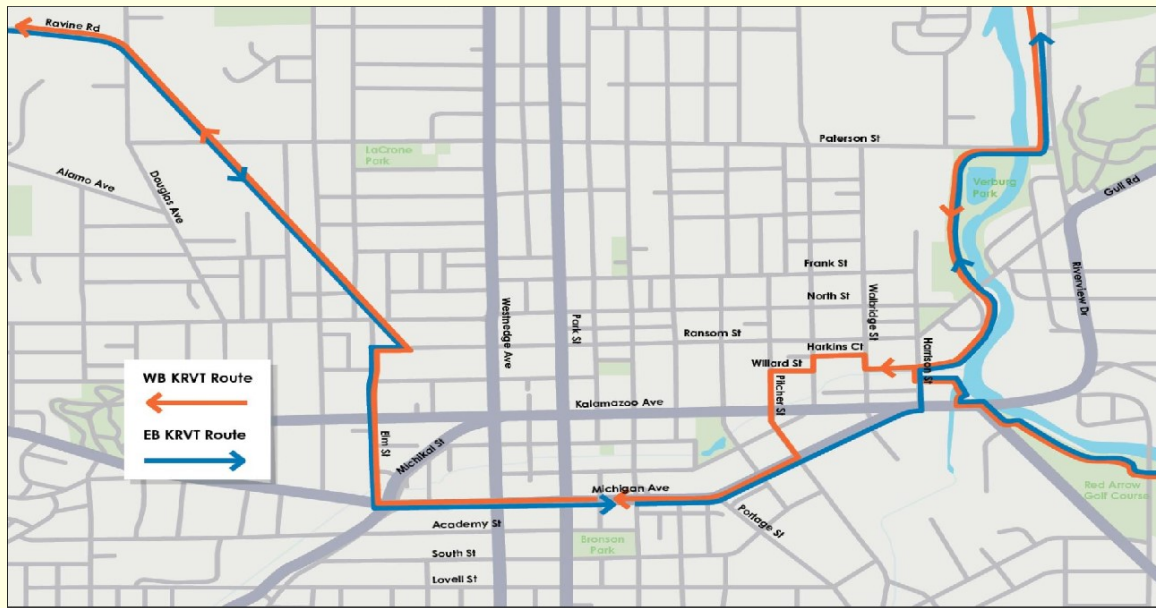
*Sen. Veronica Klinefelt; Chang, McCann*

*I'm happy to answer any questions you might have. Email matt@LMB.org or call 517-410-5499.*

**IMPROVING LIFE THROUGH BICYCLING**

# Changes on the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail

The KRVT route through downtown will change from May 2024 - Summer 2026 to use the two-way cycle track on Michigan Ave and detour around planned construction. In some areas it will share low-traffic roads, and higher-traffic areas will have additional protection and changes for a more comfortable ride. See the detour map below. Signage will be installed to direct riders along the updated route.



The KRVT route through downtown will change from May 2024 - Summer 2026 to use the two-way cycle track on Michigan Ave and detour around planned construction.

## 2024 Ride to South Haven Ride Leader Needed

After last year's Ride to South Haven, I began to think that it was time for me to step down from the Ride to South Haven ride leadership and let someone else, who would probably be faster and younger, take this over. This was reinforced by the fact that I will be taking care of some knee issues and my riding season will be cut short at the end of July in 2024. So, I'm looking for someone who would like to become the new Ride to South Haven Ride Leader.

The route, originally created by Larry Kissinger, that I have used for years with some minor variations is a good one, because there is a convenient place to take a break in Lawrence about midway between the Texas Township KVCC campus and South Haven. However, a future Ride Leader should not feel restricted by this route and is free to come up with another new route. In addition, we do not have to have this ride in late August, in years past, it has taken place as early as late July.

This ride was started in the late 1990s as a summer Century ride and for years it was led by Randy Putt. When I moved back to Portage in 2007, I took over the leadership of this ride. It would be nice to continue this KBC tradition.

So, if you are interested in continuing this aforementioned rich tradition that goes back all the way to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, let me know. My KBC email is [membershipdir@kalamazoobicycleclub.org](mailto:membershipdir@kalamazoobicycleclub.org).

**Rick Whaley**, Ride to South Haven Ex-Ride Leader

## The 24<sup>th</sup> W Ride Report

The possibility of rain might have dampened the enthusiasm for run-of-the-mill cyclists, but not for those exceptional cyclists whose burning desire for the W Avenue experience could not be extinguished by threat of a little water from the heavens above. Or maybe they just like riding in a straight line. In either case, 6 cyclists showed up at 9:00 AM at Vicksburg High School on April 27 by car (rookie W Rider Scott Powers, Tom Cross, Robin Sides, and the Ride Leader) or by bike (Paul Guthrie and Dan Kallewaard) to participate in the 24<sup>th</sup> W Ride. Dan announced that due to a hard ride the day before, he was only going to be doing a 24 mile ride, plus the ride to and from his house, but the other 5 riders were planning to do the "Full 48 W." The riders (minus the RL) are shown below.

Left to Right: Scott Powers, Paul Guthrie, Tom Cross, Robin Sides, and Dan Kallewaard



The riders began their ride at approximately 9:09 AM. (Unfortunately, the second that they left is lost to history.) The riders started in one group, although the RL knew that this would not last for very long. And, as expected, after a couple of miles, Paul decided to pick up the pace and not-so-slowly became a speck on the horizon. Scott and Dan were slowed by a pick-up truck and fell behind the three riders, but they regrouped at Schoolcraft.

About a mile west of Schoolcraft, the pace became too much for the RL and once he was dropped, he was doomed by the strong headwind/crosswind. So, by the time these 4 riders reached the Van Buren County line, the RL was about a quarter mile behind. When he reached the county line, he was averaging a not-so-torrid 13.8 mph.

The 5 riders began the ride back to Vicksburg together, but soon the RL dropped off, followed by Scott. The 6 riders began riding in 3 groups, the Paul group, the Dan-Tom-Robin group and the Scott-RL group (i.e., the Septuagenarian Two). Thanks to the now strong tailwind/crosswind, the RL was averaging a cumulative 14.9 mph by the time he got back to the high school.

After taking a short break, when the ST began their ride to the Calhoun County line, they discovered that the wind had shifted and had become a crosswind from the south. They encountered Paul, who was on the last leg of the W Ride journey about a mile west of Fulton and encountered Tom and Robin east of Fulton, also heading in the opposite direction. A 100 yard patch of damp pavement shortly before reaching the Calhoun County line was the only evidence of rain during the ride. At the county line the RL's cumulative pace had slowed to 14.6 mph.

The ride back to the high school was not a delight. The wind had shifted back in a strong headwind/crosswind direction again and it was slow going. But Scott and the RL sort of rose to the occasion and finally reached the high school at 12:50 PM. (The second that they finished the ride is also lost to history.) The RL ended up averaging 14.3 mph for the entire ride.

Scott and the RL ate some pretzels and drank some Gatorade, albeit without using the straw/W Ride map. The other riders did not share in this bounty, their penalty for being too fast. This was the RL's longest ride of 2024, smashing the 43 mile ride that he took three weeks earlier. Another semi-prepared for W Ride was over. And, thankfully, the RL didn't have nightmares about the wind that night. The versatile 2024 W Ride Map ->



Rick Whaley, Ride Leader, **W** Ride

# 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 \(michigan gravel races series.com\)](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



<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Link</u>
KBC Time Trials	1st & 3rd Tuesday June-Aug @6:00pm	<a href="#">Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - Life is better on a bike!</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>