

spoke'n word

official newsletter of the Rapid Wheelmen Bicycle Club

COLORBURST 2025



11.2025

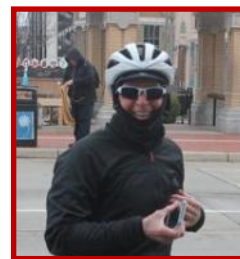
the board



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Tom Westrick
Membership Chair
membership@rapidwheelmen.com



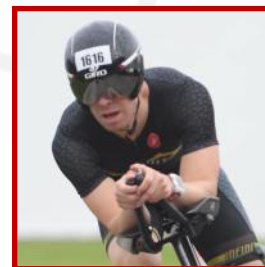
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Matt Cederquist
100 Grand
100grand@rapidwheelmen.com

club meeting

Club Meeting
Membership Meeting

Meeting: **Board Elections for 2026!**

Where: **Charley's Bar and Grill—1339 28th St. SW, Wyoming, MI**

When: **6:30 pm**

What: **Board and general meeting—come have dinner with us!**

Subscribe to the IO group chat here: <https://groups.io/g/RapidWheelmen>

Membership: <https://www.bikereg.com/rapid-wheelmen-membership>

Colorburst 2025 + Plans for 2026

With the Fall colors just starting their magical journey to a nice Winter's rest, we held our 3rd Colorburst tour at Chief Hazy Cloud Park. The riders and crew were welcomed by various amounts of liquid sunshine, but that did not deter some hardy riders to have some breakfast pancakes and sausage thanks to our grill-meister Randy Higgins. Of our 4 routes this year, the 2 road routes and the short gravel route saw some action. All the riders enjoyed the routes in spite of the weather conditions. Carolyn Chapman also baked some fantastic cookies for all to enjoy!

As most of the RW board were manning the grill and tent, we had several discussion about the purpose and history of the event started in 1983 by Craig Campbell. The ride originally started at Chief Hazy Cloud park, which is still a relatively small park with a gravel driveway. Eventually the club moved the ride start/finish to Fallasburg Park. The event grew tremendously from the '80's through the 2000's with hundreds of riders enjoying the Fall beauty and raising thousands of dollars for charity. The large indoor pavilion with the warm fireplace sent riders off and welcomed them back with an endearing embrace after the cool Fall kaleidoscope ride.

Could we do it again? Would there be enough interest in a warm, large venue to help cover the building rental? After Chief Hazy Cloud's nod to tradition, we're thinking that in order to grow the experience we need to make it more weather friendly and memorable. As we consider options for 2026, please let your voice be heard by coming to a meeting, posting something in our IO email group, or in the club's Facebook Instant Messenger discussions on the Rapid Wheelmen discussion for Colorburst. We'd love to hear from you!

Editor

Dave Durkee



This is a very interesting time of year for cyclists. You may have ridden several days a week in pretty warm dry weather, made many memories and conquered many goals, and yet it comes almost to a screeching halt in Michigan when daylight savings time ends and the temps hover in the 40s, sometimes with rain.

Well, at least for me anyway. The older I get, the less I want to “brave” the elements. However, in the mid ‘80’s when I started racing I didn’t think too much about donning the wool tights and hat and taking a spin on the road bike. There were a few cyclocross races too, so learning how to handle a squirrely back wheel and falling down properly was not such a bad thing. Made us better road riders.

Cover image: Coloburst helpers include, L to R, Mike Burden, Evan Wilson, Jack Wright, Marty Finch, Jeff Petersen, Vince Nienhuis, Randy Higgins, Tom Westrick, and Cathy Pratt.

Photo: Dave Durkee

You may say, “Well what about mountain biking or gravel riding in cooler weather?” Yeah, that would have been a good option now, but there were no mountain nor gravel bikes in 1985! The only serious adult bike was a road bike, usually made of steel.

After having a simple commuter bike with straight bars and wider tires to ride in the snow, finally donated it to a Nigerian refugee and got a “real” mountain bike: A Gary Fisher Big Sur with awesome 26” wheels!!

I still have the bike as my MTN bike. I’ve ridden Pando, Cannonsburg, Luton, and the granddaddy of them all: ICEMAN!

So then again, maybe this time of year is not as boring as one may think— ;-)

Dave

Riding the Paceline

Part 6

by Dave Durkee

We continue exploring staggered pacelines in a sideways wind this month. Always stay on the downwind side of the rider ahead and move back and forth slightly to find the sweet spot to obtain the best draft.

I had a fraternity brother at Michigan State who used a rather unique device to find the best place to draft. He stuck one of those balsa wood airplane propellers on his handlebar stem, then found the best draft where the propeller spun the least. I mean, it makes total sense—but—really?

I’ve gotten so I can just feel the wind against my chest and face and find the place where the wind is the least. It takes practice, but you’ll find the sweet spot if you pay attention enough.

So, say we have about 8 riders and a good wind coming from our right. To be helpful, the lead rider rides as far to the right as possible, and the remaining riders start staggering behind and to the left. But what happens when every rider does the same thing? Well, the group ends up going over the centerline of the road—which of course is not a very safe way to ride on open public roads. So for practicality’s sake, we only usually stagger 3 riders at the most, and the riders behind may start another staggered formation behind the first. We could ride all day in 2 or 3 formations that way.

The big question is how the line is rotating. The lead rider really should not go left if they have someone overlapping their wheel on that side. So ideally the lead rider will signal with an elbow wave (racer tradition) or a pat on their rear (tourist), then just drift straight back as the line passes the lead rider on the lead rider’s left.

However, this puts the whole group more into the middle of the road. So don’t be surprised if you see a lead rider always going left no matter the wind direction, as only 1 rider then is in the middle.

ride calendar

November 2025

Day	Date	Ride Name	Ride Start	Ride Details	Contacts
MON	Done for 2025	Ada Time Trials	On site Registration 5:30 to 6:15 First rider off at 6:30:30	Start at Ada Park, Buttrick and Grand River. Registration in East parking lot off of Grand River. 15 mile time trial. Registration available off site at Webscorer.com . "Day of" registrations still available on-site from 5:30 to 6:15 pm	Dave Durkee TimeTrials@rapidwheelmen.com
MON	2025	GRavel Grinderz	6:30 pm	Friendship Christian Reformed Church, 190 100th St SE (corner of 100th & Division)	Tom Westrick tjwestrick@gmail.com Nick Siegel Nicholassiegel@mac.com
WED	Done for 2025	Challenger	6:20 pm "C" 6:20 pm "B" 6:30 pm "A"	Challenger Elementary School 2475 52nd St. Slow, Good + Fast paces, 30-50 miles	Tom Westrick tjwestrick@gmail.com
WED	2025	Wednesday AM Coffee	Check IO group or email Ride Leader	Usually 20 to 40 miles at a slow to moderate pace. Great for beginners or seasoned riders! Coffee meetings during Winter	Patrick Florian Check RW IO group email
Various	Mon, Wed, Saturday	Virtual Zwift Rides	Varies	Group workouts or just rides for fun and fitness. Look for "Rapid Wheelmen"	Join Rapid Wheelmen group discussions on Facebook's Instant Messenger, RW Zwift Club, RW Stava Club
SAT	2025	Saturday AM Coffee	Varies	Usually 20 to 40 miles at a slow to moderate pace. Great for beginners! See RW IO group email posts or email ride leader	Bob Ayars rsayars@sbcglobal.net
SAT	2025	Dawn Patrol	Time varies	45-65 miles at good to fast pace. Check IO group or Facebook IM "Rapid Wheelmen" for details	Mike Burden 616-915-2048 mwb@mwburden.com

club financial report

October 15, 2025
Cash Basis

Rapid Wheelman, Inc.
Profit & Loss Detail
January 1 through October 13, 2025

Type	Date	Account	Class	Original Amount	Balance
Income					
Event Donations					
Deposit	09/05/2025	Event Donations		100	100
Deposit	09/05/2025	Event Donations		60	160
Total Event Donations					160
Club Membership Dues					
Deposit	01/06/2025	Club Membershi...		70	70
Deposit	01/07/2025	Club Membershi...	General		70
Deposit	02/28/2025	Club Membershi...	General	704	774
Deposit	03/11/2025	Club Membershi...		125	899
Deposit	03/31/2025	Club Membershi...	General	465	1,364
Deposit	04/30/2025	Club Membershi...	General	315	1,679
Deposit	05/30/2025	Club Membershi...		35	1,714
Deposit	06/30/2025	Club Membershi...		105	1,819
Deposit	06/30/2025	Club Membershi...	General	550	2,369
Deposit	07/01/2025	Club Membershi...		35	2,404
Deposit	08/04/2025	Club Membershi...	General	250	2,654
Deposit	08/18/2025	Club Membershi...	General	60	2,714
Deposit	08/31/2025	Club Membershi...	General	175	2,889
Total Club Membership Dues					2,889
Event Clothing Sales					
Deposit	09/05/2025	Event Clothing ...		185	185
Total Event Clothing Sales					185
Total Income					3,234
Gross Profit					3,234
Expense					
Club Christmas Party					
Check	01/25/2025	Club Christmas ...	General		
Total Club Christmas Party					
Club Flyers					
Check	07/07/2025	Club Flyers		47	47
Total Club Flyers					47
Club Food					
Check	04/02/2025	Club Food	Time T...	184	184
Total Club Food					184
Club Insurance					
Check	03/05/2025	Club Insurance	General	1,263	1,263
Check	05/10/2025	Club Insurance	General	650	1,913
Total Club Insurance					1,913
Club Postage & Shipping					
Check	03/05/2025	Club Postage & ...		210	210
Check	06/04/2025	Club Postage & ...			210
Check	08/19/2025	Club Postage & ...		19	229
Total Club Postage & Shipping					229
Event Expenses					
Check	04/23/2025	Event Expenses	100 Gr...	33	33
Check	05/12/2025	Event Expenses	Time T...	120	153
Check	09/09/2025	Event Expenses	Time T...	539	692
Total Event Expenses					692
Total Expense					3,064
Net Income					170

club board meeting minutes

Rapid Wheelmen Club Meeting Minutes
2025 October 14, 6:30pm, In-Person Meeting
<attendance>

A. Call to Order

B. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting

- Cathy

C. Treasurer's report

- Randy
 - ~100\$ ahead so far this year. Last year was 591\$ in the black.
 - Clothing and merchandise can be put up for sale on RunSignUp website
 - Going forward it would be a good idea to sit down and actually make a budget for the club/events. Can trim some expenses like post season TT party
 - Quickbooks is moving away from local install to a web based monthly subscription. Its ok for no, but may be an issue in the future.
 - 75\$ for membership with LMB and 75\$ for LAB (LAW), board approved

D. Reports of officers and committees

- President (Evan)
 - Election announcement and members nominations.
 - All current board members (plus TTs and Newsletter) are intending to stay on.
 - Evan would like 100Grand to return under VP direction or possibly separated from a particular board member entirely. Similarly clothing sales (currently supposed to be purview of VP)
- Vice President (Matt)
 - Not in attendance
- Membership (Tom)
 - Mike says something in BikeReg needs updated before they will pay out for RAKC, Tom and Mike to look into
 - 1 new member through colorburst so far, 1 through challenger, 1 through RAKC
 - Payment account is set up in RunSignUp, Randy has ownership of that. Tom has ownership of club account (they are separate accounts). Good idea to have multiple people have access to both. President gets access to payment account?
 - membership.rapidwheelmen.com in the new membership site.
 - RunSignUP has a default waiver form, we have several versions of the waiver in various places. Should we merge the two? Waiver needs to be finalized before we fully switch to RunSignUp in January.
- Propose that all events are created under one account, either president, membership, or a new events account. Whichever we choose needs to have access to payment account and club account, and can then give event access to whoever is in charge of the event. Best choice is probably president, linked to rapid wheelmen president email so it can be transferred to next president easily.
- Importing current memberships will only import primary members, any family memberships will have to re-enter other family members in the new system.

club board meeting minutes

- Time Trials (Dave)
 - Not in attendance
- Colorburst (Dave) [October 18th, Chief Hazy Cloud]
- Newsletter (Dave)
- Safety (Vince)
 - on bigger group rides, need to be aware of how the group is splitting. Add more slower groups if needed, speed up more gradually from stops to keep from getting as separated, keep the groups discrete and make sure people are in the appropriate group for their speed, make sure people at the front aren't stringing the whole group out on their turn to pull, need better communication throughout the group. If the group gets strung out or split too much and ends up with cars between or weaving in and out of the group to pass, it gets unsafe. Make it a part of a brief safety reminder at start of rides. A lot of riders at Challenger are new to road riding in groups, and just need a little direction on how to communicate in a group.
 - Add a version of our old road biking 101 from 100Grand to some of our group rides? or offer it as a group ride occasionally?
- - Head Race Captain (Matt)
 - Head Ride Captain (Mike)
 - Maple Leaf (Mike) [Sept, Long Lake Park]
 - RAKC (Mike) [?, Johnson Park?]

E. Old Business

- Insurance comparison, USAC to Current.
- Randy brought a printout, Evan will go over with Matt
- 2026 ride/event calendar
- Club Events
- Maple Leaf - staying in august/sept
- Colorburst - october
- RAKC - moving to May next year
- 100 Grand (as a non-Member event!) - June/July depending on other events.
- Some of these could become official Dalmac training ride, Matt to look into
- Budgets
 - gathering data from this year to help plan next year. Mike has expenses from his events tallied, though his was a donation and isn't exactly what he would have spent if club budgeted
- Targets
- Promotion
 - when to start promoting, open reg as early as we can. Need dates for magazine/calendar entries in october. Earlier reg makes budgets easier. This year can only be as early as January when we switch to RunSig-nUp
- Non-club events? Members targeting events
 - Barry-Roubaix
 - DALMAC
 - RAGBRAI
 - Tri's
 - Other?
- Club groups talking about these upcoming events, training, etc.
- Still gathering info on new jersey ideas, need to gather into a mood board.
 - slowly working on this, maybe pushed back a year
- Record evaluation for digitization
 - Photo albums and race records, etc. Go through over the winter and work on digitizing.

club board meeting minutes

- RunSignUp/BikeSignUp platform migration
- Could be used to coordinate volunteers for events? For club members volunteering at non club events? Allow the club to coordinate volunteers for outside events? Get us seen and the name out there
- Opportunities
- Survey Discussion
- Improvement ideas:
 - instructional/orientation rides (bring back bike 101? at 100 grand, or just on it's own)
 - Need a dedicated position to manage website and social media to consolidate messaging.
 - Send out to the club results, and future goals to share the vision with the members
- Discuss next meeting: develop 2026-27 goals. What do we (individually) want to do to help the club grow? Turn bullet points into action plans. Note in the minutes so we can keep track of progress.

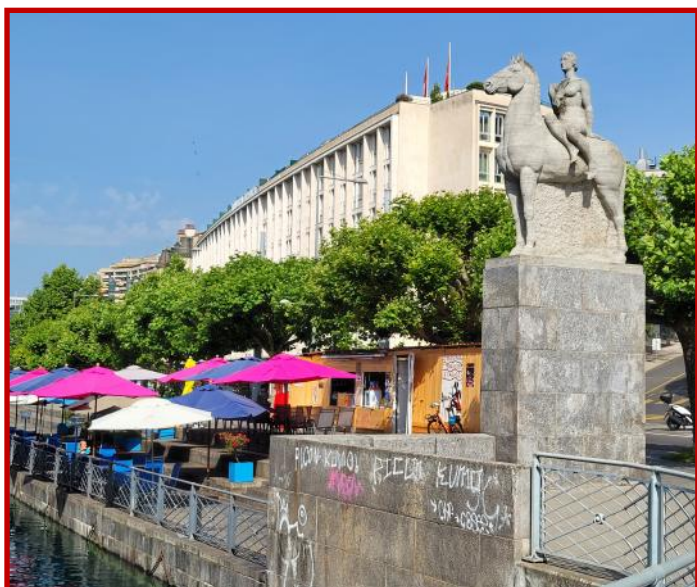
F. New Business

G. Member Input

H. Call to adjourn the business meeting

French Alps Adventure Part 3 by Dave Durkee

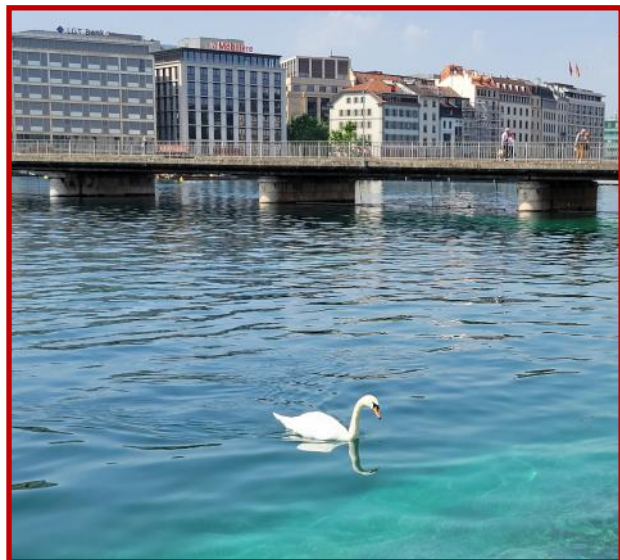
My son-in-law Tim and I were going to have to be in Geneva, Switzerland by Sunday June 15th to meet the rest of the group of riders and our tour hosts [Thomson Bike Tours](#) to start our 7 day adventure in the Alps. But I told Tim that since we were in Geneva anyway, I wanted to come a day early to spend a day touring Geneva. So we arrived the Friday before and spent the Saturday touring one of the most beautiful and historic cities in Europe. I was so glad to have taken that opportunity, as we picked a beautiful sunny day and as the following pictures show you, we had just a great time with a few surprises along the way.



This beautiful city was adorned in stately architecture and gorgeous flowers. There were many statutes with a heroine on horseback celebrating women in Swiss society.



Like many European cities, many bicycles fill the racks, in use—or not. Tim supervises from the shadows.



There were many swans and the cleanest water I've ever seen for a major city.



One of the famous landmarks in Geneva is the fountain rising many 100s of feet into the air. Later Tim would cool off in it's powerful drench.

French Alps Adventure Part 3 by Dave Durkee



This Polgliachi steel lugged bike stood out from the crowd. Later I would see the owner, a young woman in her 20s, riding away after her day at the waterfront.



We accidentally find a bike shop while looking for lunch. Here's a good example of what you cannot find easily in the US: a belt drive hub shifting commuter e-bike from [Schindelhauer](#). The foreground is the Arthur VI/IX model.



The signature dish in Geneva are fondues. Who knew? Although we could have chosen several cheese fondues, Tim and I opted for this huge plate of raw beef then cooked for about 10 seconds in hot broth. My gosh it was incredible!!



The Monument National statue of Geneva and Helvetia commemorates Geneva's entry into the Swiss Confederation. Notice the plate is written in French, the language spoken there.

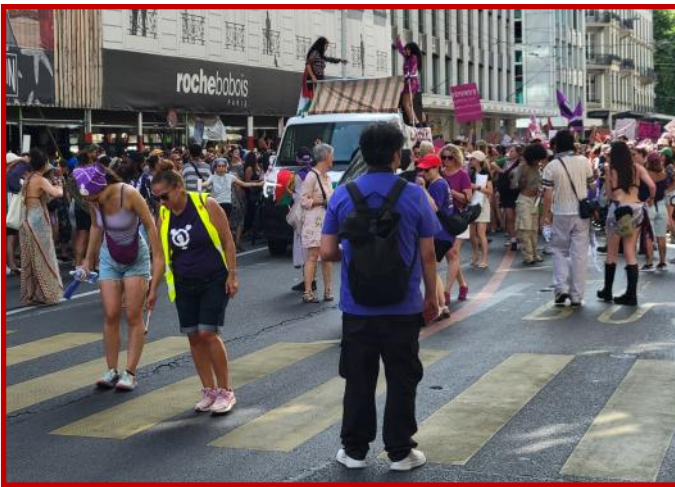
French Alps Adventure Part 3 by Dave Durkee



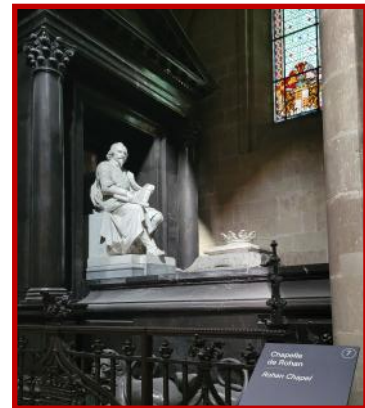
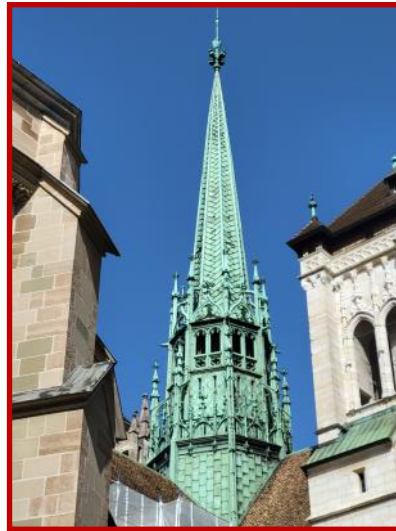
One of the many scenes of flowerboxes dotting the perimeter of Lake Geneva all over the town.



There were several cyclists coming in and out of the city the whole day on a large variety of bikes. Like most European cities, there is a robust road infrastructure designed with cycling in mind. These five young riders enjoyed the day.



On our way to our last destination, we found ourselves engulfed by some sort of street parade with loud music and vibrant colors. After mingling for awhile, we finally realized it was a gay pride event. They sure know how to party!



We finally get to our last destination, the highest point of the city where the Cathedrale Saint-Pierre Geneve is located. Opened in 1150, it was the home church of John Calvin after which Calvin University is so named.

For Sale

2022 Cervelo Caledonia 5, 56cm Ultegra 12speed DI2 Dura Ace Crank w power meter Disc Brake

Only 1003 miles — perfect

\$ 4000



Stock image

2010+- Cervelo P3 56cm TT bike 10spd Ultegra

Set of Alloy Clincher training wheels



Similar image

And a Zipp 909disc and Zipp front wheel these are tubular with excellent tires

A great introductory TT bike

\$900.00 obo

Various rim brake wheels

And a bunch of parts/ seats components etc. Call let me know what you need to finish your build

Pictures available on request

Tim Fox: cfoxkennels@gmail.com

PH # 616-520-5151

For Sale

Posting on behalf of Matt Mead.

Cervelo P3, circa 2003 or 2004. Campagnolo cranks and chainrings, Ultegra shifters. Disc rear wheel and tri spoke front.

Hoping to find someone who will put this to good use for time trials and triathlons, so it won't collect dust in Matt's garage!

Email or message me directly if you are interested.

mwburden@mwburden.com



For Sale

Wheelset #1 for Sale — Bontrager front, Stay True rear—10 speed. \$100 for both or \$50 each



Wheelset #2 for Sale — Bontrager Front, Bontrager Rear 10-speed
\$110.00 per set



For Sale

Wheelset #3 : Zipp Super 9 disc wheel, no imperfections, 10-speed hub

Zipp 909 Front

Comes with Continental Tubular wheels.

I can glue on your tire for \$30.00 a tire

\$800 for the set



For more information or photos, contact
Matt Cederquist: matt@mcederquist.com

For Sale

From a parts reservoir of Randy Higgins:



Bontrager shoes are \$75.00

Selle Anatomica saddle \$60.00

Avenir saddle with carbon rails \$25.00

Carbon Profile Design arm rests \$75.00



Fenders are \$10.00 apiece

For Sale



Bar mitts are \$25.00 for both.

Contact Randy Higgins at:

randyshiggins@gmail.com

bike shops

1. Alger Bikes

120 - 28th St. S.W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49548
(616) 243-9753
www.algerbikes.com

2. biked.

2312 28th St SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
(616) 234-0134
https://www.biked.app/

3. Freewheeler Bike Shop

915 Leonard Street NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(616) 451-8011
www.freewheelerbikeshop.com

4. GRBC (Ada Bike Shop)

597 Ada Drive
Ada, MI 49301
(616) 682-2453
www.grandrapidsbicycles.com

5. GRBC

1311 Fulton St E
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 458-2200
www.grandrapidsbicycles.com

6. West Michigan Bike and Fitness

2830 East Paris Ave, SE
Kentwood, MI 49512
(616) 942-1880
www.westmichiganbike.com

7. Rockford Bike Shop

169 Marcell Dr NE
Rockford, MI 49341
(616) 951-7181

8. Village Cycle & Fitness

450-A Baldwin Jenison, MI 49428
(616) 457-1670
www.villagebikeshop.com

9. Village Cycle & Fitness

5991 Kalamazoo Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
(616) 455-4870
www.villagebikeshop.com

10. Village Cycle & Fitness

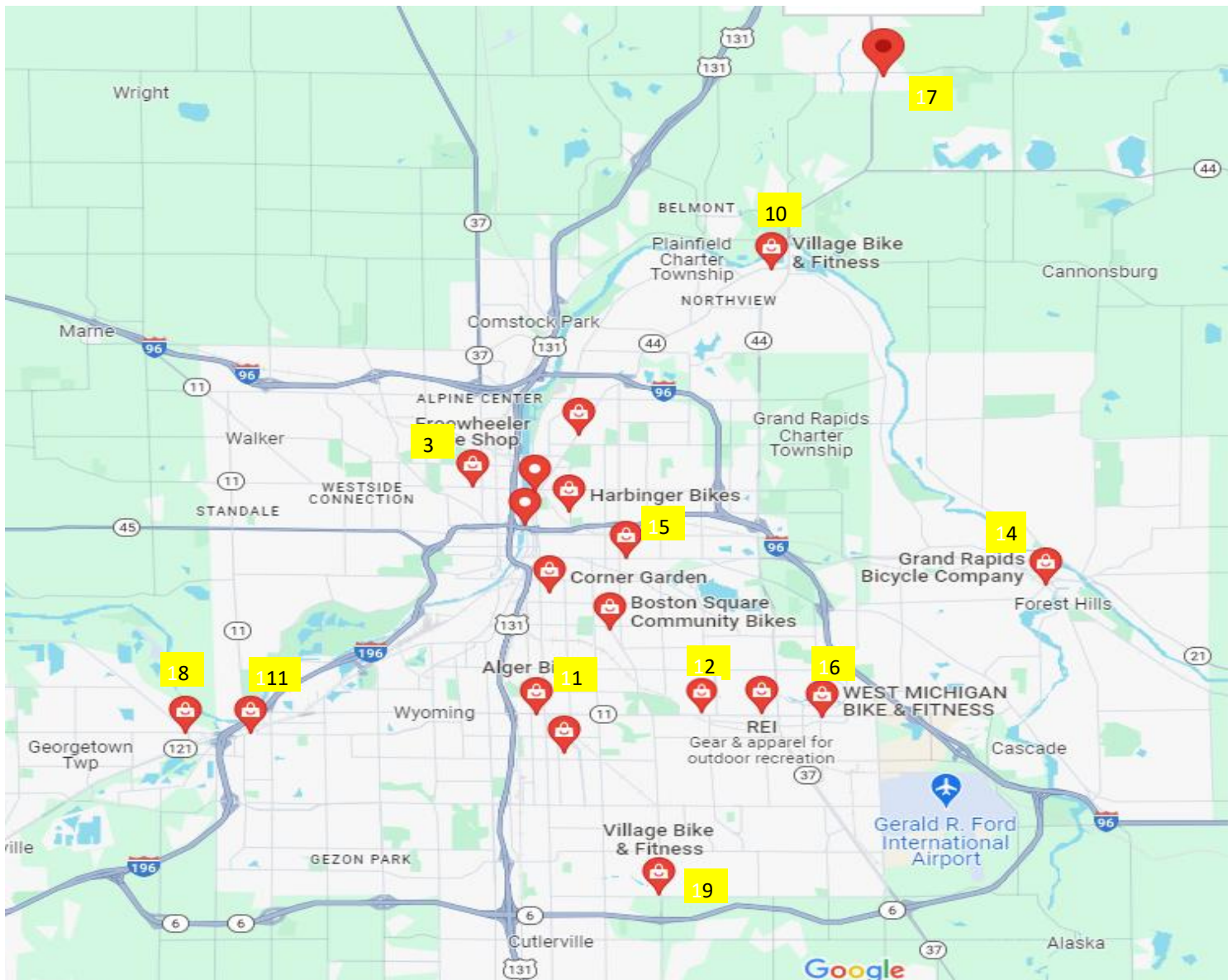
5278 Plainfield Ave NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
(616) 361-3661
www.villagebikeshop.com

11. West Michigan Bike and Fitness

4300 Chicago Dr. SW
Grandville, MI 49418
(616) 531-9911
www.westmichiganbike.com



Click [HERE](#) for GGRBC's List



Rapid Wheelmen
PO Box 1008
Grand Rapids, MI 49501



Support your club, ride in club colors! Items will be available for purchase at club meetings and events.



t-shirts - \$12
shorts - \$65
bib shorts - \$70
jersey - \$60
water bottle - \$10

To arrange a purchase, contact:

Randy Higgins: treasurer@rapidwheelmen.com

IO Groups

Join the Rapid Wheelmen IO Group!

<https://groups.io/g/RapidWheelmen>



Like us on Facebook!

@RapidWheelmen

@RapidWheelmenTimeTrials

