



• BRAN 33 • The Historic Highway Tour June 2-8, 2013



BRAN stands for **Bicycle Ride Across Nebraska** – a community service project of the Rotary Club of Omaha Northwest, with the assistance of the Omaha Pedalers Bicycle Club. In its 33rd year, this weeklong journey provides an up-close and personal expedition through the unheralded beauty and charm of Nebraska. This is a tour designed by bicyclists for bicyclists.

It turns out that 2012 was not the End of the World. So we live to enjoy another adventurous journey across the “Good Life” state – Nebraska.

Come with us to explore new areas of Nebraska on the 100th Anniversary of this Historic Highway as we trace the paths of covered wagons, Pony Express, the UP railroad, and cars that populated the Western parts of the United States. For four plus days, we will travel north, south, east and on the Lincoln Highway.



We will be close to the highest point in Nebraska (5,424 feet), see the giant US flag in Chappell, go to the top of Lake McConaughy, take a picture of the Keystone Church, patronize Ole’s, visit Buffalo Bill’s house and ranch, view the world’s largest train yard from a tower, respectfully pass by the only National Cemetery in Nebraska, drop in to one of a few remaining Pony Express stations, tour the Arch over I-80, shop at Cabela’s in two towns, classic car collections in Kearney & Brainard, and explore the Edgerton Museum in Aurora.

Day 1 Kimball - Chappell: June 2nd • 64 miles

We start at the foothills of the Sand Hills. An easy day to start our journey, with some hills and easy flats to wake up the body.

Day 2 Chappell - Paxton: June 3rd • 57 or 72 miles

Today you have a choice. Slightly higher hills 1st half, then flat. Or, for a more challenging ride, go to the top of Lake McConaughy - followed by a fast descent, and after stopping at the Keystone Church, get ready to climb back out of the valley. Another downhill takes you back to Hwy 30 by Roscoe. The short route takes you through Ogallala, the Gomorrah of the cattle trails (1870-1880s).



Day 3 Paxton - Gothenburg: June 4th 77 miles

Today is your spinning day. The biggest hills will be the various overpasses we encounter along the Platte River and canals. Time to enjoy places like Buffalo Bill’s home and ranch, or a Pony Express station. Please be respectful as we pass the National Cemetery.

Day 4 Gothenburg - Kearney: June 5th • 76 miles

Have a golden arch breakfast and head south/east. We'll be riding along the edges of Nebraska's Loess Hills and the Platte River. Only 16 miles on Hwy 30 today, so we can make good time to enjoy all the things Kearney has to offer.



Day 5 Kearney - Aurora: June 6th • 72 miles

After the morning rush out of Kearney, another spinner with some easy hills thrown in, mostly on quiet county roads. Kearney is one of the largest communities BRAN has visited in a long time. It is a different experience for the veteran riders.

Day 6 Aurora – Brainard: June 7th • 72 miles

Did you go Exploring yesterday? Once we pass the Fourth of July city, Seward, you'll put your hill climbing skills to good use. Another classic car and motorcycle collection awaits you in the Best Host Community of 2007. Maybe Elvis can make another appearance.



Day 7 Brainard - Strategic Air & Space Museum: June 8th • 49 miles

Today is the day to conquer the Bohemian Alps, enjoy the ups and downs of the county roads, look at some furniture at Ernie's, finish on Hwy 66 and descend into the Strategic Air and Space Museum. Check out the planes that went faster than Easy Rider's fellow museum piece.



BRAN Overnight Support

In the host communities, riders can expect:

- Designated School or Park Campgrounds
- Shower Facilities
- Restroom Facilities
- Baggage Transfer Between Towns

Each host community will have designated camping areas. Since the camping areas will be on school grounds or public parks, alcohol and illegal drugs are prohibited, and will not be tolerated in these areas. Remember, we are guests in these communities.

BRAN Package

Participants on BRAN receive:

- T-shirt — Tour Guide & Map Book —
- Water Bottle — Poster — Baggage Tags —
- Northwest Rotary End of Ride Celebration —

Available for an additional fee Bus Transportation from Strategic Air & Space Museum to Kimball - optional



BRAN Road Support

On the road support will include a clearly marked route, Stationary SAGS (approximately) every 12 to 15 miles with water, fruit and snacks), Roving SAGS, and Bicycle Shop Support and Repairs.

BRAN Expectations

On BRAN, it is expected each rider will:

- Ride Safely and Obey the Laws of the State
- Wear an ANSI approved Bicycle Helmet
- Follow the Instructions of the BRAN Crew
- Be Prepared to Complete BRAN
- Respect the Rights of Other Riders
- Respect the Areas Where We Are Guests
- Pick Up After Ourselves
- Have a Great Time on BRAN!

BRAN Bus Transportation

If you require transportation to the starting point, Kimball, buses have been reserved to transport you from Strategic Air & Space Museum on Saturday, June 1st. Only full buses will travel to Kimball, so reserve your space now. You are required to have your bike boxed for transport. Cost for this optional bus transportation is \$100.



BRAN Tour Guide

The BRAN Tour Guide and Maps will be provided to you. It will be handed out at the ride check in on June 1st. It is designed to provide useful and interesting information about the route. It is paid for in part by the advertisers — host communities and businesses.

BRAN Vehicle Registration



Vehicles accompanying BRAN riders are **required** to be registered to have access to the parking areas at the host community campgrounds. A

limited number of vehicle passes will be issued at a cost of \$50 per vehicle. Each vehicle registered will receive a packet containing the vehicle pass, a BRAN 2013 Tour Guide, vehicle alternate route maps, private vehicle responsibility guide (**recommended reading**) and one (1) BRAN T-shirt.

ALL Private Vehicle Passengers are required to be registered and sign an Agreement, Waiver and Release of Liability. You may copy the registration form for any passengers, or forms will be available at the beginning of the ride.

Law enforcement personnel will be patrolling the campgrounds to ensure only BRAN participants have access to the facilities. Also, BRAN crew will monitor drivers' adherence to the courtesies expected of private vehicles.

BRAN Shirts

The traditional short sleeve T-shirt is part of your BRAN package. Also, you have the opportunity to order long sleeve T-shirts. All shirts will be available for you at registration. **Make sure to mark your CORRECT size on your registration to ensure a good fit.** The BRAN Store will have a limited supply of extra T-shirts available for sale, after registration in Kimball is completed.



BRAN Jersey

The BRAN Jersey will be available again. A great design for all well dressed cyclist. **Notice: Design and order form will be available on the website - www.bran-inc.org**

Youth Group Special Pricing

BRAN is encouraging recognized non-profit youth groups by offering special group rates. So get your Boy Scout, Girl Scout, 4-H or other youth group on the move by joining BRAN this year. Contact BRAN, Inc. at (402) 397-9785 or email brantour@radiks.net for more information.

Creature Comforts

Shuttleguy an optional service for BRAN. The Camping Domestique service includes tent rental and setup, air mattress, towel service, chair service, shade canopies, refreshments and more, so you can enjoy your vacation in comfort. Make life Easy and let Shuttleguy be your personal Domestique.

For more information:

www.shuttleguy.com

[email info@shuttleguy.com](mailto:info@shuttleguy.com)

or call 608-341-6089

Anytime Showers an optional service for BRAN. Have you ever had to stand in line at a campground, waiting for an hour to take a shower in a barren, cold, WAY-too-public shower? Anytime Showers created a portable shower system on a semi trailer that has up to 21 individual bays, each with its own private dressing area, and they GUARANTEE hot water!

For more information:

www.anytimeshower.com

email anytimeshowers@onawave.net

or call (712) 251-2993

Online Registration

— Go to the **BRAN** website & register —
www.bran-inc.org

BRAN Food

Grandma's apple pie and other home-cooked treats will be your diet this week. Although food is not part of the BRAN package, you will find the host community cafes, churches and service groups will be cooking up excellent fare.

BRAN Showers

In Nebraska that could be referring to the ever changing weather or the possible cold shower that you will get if you're the last one into camp. Just a couple of reminders: We can organize many things for the ride, but Nebraska weather is not one of them. Be prepared to ride in whatever conditions a Nebraska June may offer.

BRAN Soft Beds

The BRAN experience is camping in the campgrounds with your fellow riders, but occasionally even the hardest cyclist may succumb to the temptation of a soft bed during BRAN week. Look in the BRAN guide or on the BRAN website for participating Host Communities that will be offering Bed-A-Biker programs.

BRAN Host Communities

Some host communities will offer entertainment in the evenings. This can be a great way to get the local flavor of the community life. You may find a chat with a local citizen to your liking. Or just lying back and watching the stars come out in the big Nebraska sky.

For additional BRAN information, write BRAN, Inc. or call Vickie Backman at 402-397-9785, email brantour@cox.net or check www.bran-inc.org. Visit the website for registration forms, survival guide, safety tips and more.



Remember, this is a volunteer effort and funds go towards funding over \$28,000 in annual scholarships for Nebraska high school graduates. Donations towards the BRAN Scholarship Fund is always welcomed and appreciated.



4205 N 101 Street • Omaha, NE 68134



"Nebraska - - the Good Life"

For additional Nebraska Tourism information, you may call 877-NEBRASKA or visit www.VisitNebraska.org.