



**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 29th year, this weeklong sojourn provides an up-close and personal journey through the unheralded beauty and charm of Nebraska. This is a tour designed by bicyclists for bicyclists.

This year we embark on a Voyage of Discovery. We will become the Pirates of the Plains sailing through the South. Five of our seven overnight ports are situated by or near lakes and rivers. As those famous pirate spokesmen (Captains Flamingo Kid & Easy Rider) once said: A bicycle is more than gears, chain and tires – it's freedom. Freedom to explore the hidden treasures of Nebraska. May the trade winds be ever at our backs as we skim across the beauty of this great state. So

listen up all ye scurvy knaves. Study up on yer pirate talk, walk, dress and demeanor.

*BRAN is a once a year opportunity to test your stamina and enjoy the country hospitality of Nebraska. Proceeds from the ride are used to fund scholarships at post-secondary schools in Nebraska. Nebraska students attending Nebraska schools.*



Our adventure commences on the shores of Trenton in Hitchcock County. Come early to enjoy the sun, sand and water. For landlubbers, there's the Massacre Canyon Monument area to explore.

**Day 1 Trenton to Cambridge – 55 miles**

A pleasant morning ride brings us to the top of Swanson Reservoir dam. Take time to watch the hawks and turkey vultures catch the updrafts. Their soaring majesty will mesmerize you. A delightfully short, diverse day to get our sea legs under us.



**Day 2 Cambridge to Alma – 64 miles**

All good sailors offer up a prayer for a safe voyage and return to our home-port. Be sure to stop by the Our Lady of Fatima Shrine. Tranquil seas take us thru the ports of Oxford and Orleans before we cross Harlan County Lake, the 2nd largest body of water in Nebraska.



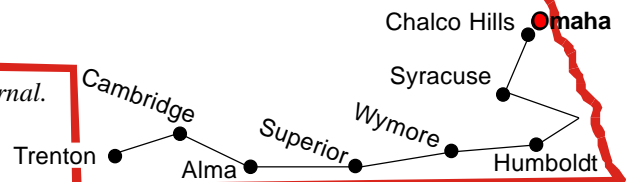
**Day 3 Alma to Superior – 75 miles**

Our diligent winter conditioning pays off today. For a respite, stop in Red Cloud for refreshments. Tour Willa Cather's home, town and the opera house built in 1885. Our kegs can be replenished at a secret superior estate.



**454 Nautical (?) Miles\***

*\*Do not adjust your charts. All mileage totals are based on a scurvy one-eyed pirate's journal.*



### Day 4 Superior to Wymore – 79 miles

Our longest day should be a breeze, the first 2/3 being fairly calm. Your mind will tend to wander and make you think about what every hardy sailor knows – a day at sea is better than a month at the old salt mines. Extra energy? A short side trip will take you to where Wild Bill Hickok's ornery reputation got started.



### Day 5 Wymore to Humboldt – 54 miles

This morning's ride truly was a highlight of the 1996 Down Under tour. A morning fog and mist coupled with the rising sun on the meadows. Quiet country roads get us warmed up for the rest of the day.



### Day 6 Humboldt to Syracuse – 78 miles

Your winter conditioning pays dividends again today. A short side trip can bring you to the Mighty Mo. A little tire dipping? When you pass Peru, you'll know it's all downhill from there. That hamburger in Lorton is looking good already.

### Day 7 Syracuse to Chalco Hills – 49 miles

Hopefully everyone got their fill of Gemutlichkeit. If not, Syracuse's Germanfest in July will bring back memories of this year's cruise. We haven't made port in Chalco Hills since 2000. As always the last day is a microcosm of all the terrains covered this week. New roads await us. Don't depart in the dark. Stay safe and until next year – may the force be with you.

*Family Friendly*



*Scurvy Maties*

### Red Sky at Night - Sailor's Delight



*Seeking the Treasures of Nebraska*

## BRAN Package

Participants on BRAN receive:

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

*available for an additional fee*

Bus Transportation to Trenton - optional

## BRAN Road Support

On-the-road support will include: a clearly marked route, Stationary SAGS (approximately every 9 to 14 miles with water, fruit and snacks), Roving SAGS, and Bicycle Shop Support and Repairs.

## 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 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, Trenton, buses have been reserved to transport you from Omaha on Saturday, June 6th. Only full buses will travel to Trenton, so reserve your space now. You are required to have your bike boxed for transport. Cost for this optional bus transportation is \$80.



You can register for the bus now (best for a guaranteed bus seat) or register for the bus after you receive ride acceptance notification.

## BRAN Tour Guide

The BRAN Tour Guide and Maps will be provided to you. It will be mailed to you in May 2009. 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 \$40 per vehicle. Each vehicle registered will receive a packet containing the vehicle pass, a BRAN 2009 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

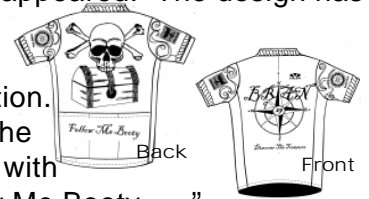
The traditional short sleeve T-shirt is part of your BRAN package. Also, you have the opportunity to order long sleeve T-shirts. All shirts will be available for you at registration.

*Make sure to mark your correct size on your registration to ensure a good fit.*

The BRAN Store will have a limited supply of shirts available for sale after registration in Trenton is completed.

## BRAN Jersey

The BRAN Jersey has reappeared. The design has been finalized. Tones of blue, yellow, black and teal are under consideration. The designer is making the final decisions. Keeping with the Pirate theme; "Follow Me Booty . . ."



*Remember: To guarantee delivery, jersey orders must be in by March 16th.*

## Shuttleguy

A new optional service for BRAN—Shuttleguy. You receive a variety of services to make your tour more comfortable and convenient with Domestique services. 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. The Hotel Domestique service delivers your luggage to hotels for a worry free tour. Other services include chair service, towel service and early out shuttle. Make life easy and let Shuttleguy be your personal Domestique.

*For more information go to [www.shuttleguy.com](http://www.shuttleguy.com), email [info@shuttleguy.com](mailto:info@shuttleguy.com) or call 608-341-6089.*



### **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 most hardy seafarers 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-Pirate 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 . . . as sailors did years ago.

*"Nebraska - - the Good Life"*

For additional Nebraska Tourism information, you may call 877-NEBRASKA or visit [www.VisitNebraska.org](http://www.VisitNebraska.org).

For additional BRAN information, write BRAN, Inc. or call Vickie Backman at 402-397-9785, email [brantour@radiks.net](mailto:brantour@radiks.net) or check [www.bran-inc.org](http://www.bran-inc.org). Visit the website for online registration.

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.