

# Space Cowboy Tour

**BRAN 30 - June 6-12, 2010**



**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 30th 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.

This year we launch into the unknown outer spaces of Nebraska. Experience the sense of adventure as we journey to the edge of the known world. Covering 19,000 square miles, the Nebraska Sandhills are one of the largest grass stabilized sand dune regions in the world. Formed by blowing sand over 8,000 years ago, the Sandhills contain dunes over 400 feet tall and up to 20 miles long. The world's largest aquifer (up to 1,000' thick) lies underneath, making the region prime cattle country. Spend 5 days in these beautiful surroundings and see why CBS Sunday Morning host Charles Kuralt named Highway 2 one of the 10 most scenic in the country.

On this voyage we blast off from our very own 'mile high' town of Harrison – only 9 miles from the Wyoming border. Bring plenty of oxygen and make sure camera batteries are full charged. As those famous cyclenauts (Captains Flamingo Kid & Easy Rider) once said: A bicycle is more than gears, chains and tires – it's freedom to explore.



- 481\* miles -

\*estimated mileage calculated prior to HAL's shutdown.



**Day 1 - Harrison to Alliance - 80 miles** Smooth launch after group picture. All systems go with, a must stop at 16 mile scenic overlook. Then fasten your seatbelts for 7 mile downhill (speed limit is 60 MPH). Refuel and catch your breath in Ft. Robinson/Crawford for 2 mile uphill assault, followed by 4 mile downhill as we pass Mars(land) and cross the Niobrara river. Remaining 35 miles are leisurely spinning roads.



**Day 2 - Alliance to Hyannis - 59 miles**

Isn't Carhenge awesome? Why did Antioch play a large role in WWI. Lunch stop at Ellsworth's 2 lane bowling alley. Any volunteers to hand set the pins? With renewed energy, we conquer the day's remaining Sandhills.

**Day 3 - Hyannis to Thedford - 63 miles** We are in the heart of cattle country. Grass covered dunes above, world's largest aquifer below. Kind of like the Moon with its hidden water. Enjoy a peaceful day and soak up the atmosphere. An afternoon side trip to the world's largest hand planted forest is a possibility.



**Day 4 - Thedford to Burwell - 85 miles** Our longest, yet one of our easier days. After a 26 mi warm up, we turn onto 15 mi of undulating terrain and head to Uncle Buck's. This is our last refueling station before entering the previously unexplored "Forbidden Zone" – exiting appropriately enough at Taylor and ending near Calamus Reservoir.

**Day 5 - Burwell to Albion - 64 miles** With the right weather, we'll see a bumper crop of yucca cactus plants this year. Catch some grub at the Starving Stallion Saloon, and stop by the Spalding cathedral. The last third today provides a challenge to all space travelers.



**Day 6 - Albion to David City - 74 miles** Leaving the Sandhills, we re-enter earth's atmosphere and encounter more earthly modes of transport. Stop in Genoa for some Indian history and Silver Creek for a picnic in the park.

**Day 7 - David City to Strategic Air & Space Museum - 56 miles** Glide into home port on mostly rolling county roads. We pass through Ashland – hometown of astronaut Clayton Anderson. We land at the Strategic Air and Space Museum for the annual "out of this world" hot dog reception and free admission to the Museum for all cyclenauts.

C  
Y  
C  
L  
E  
N  
A  
U  
T  
S



Space Camp



Wide Open Space



1 of 4

Land Rover Support



Strategic Air and Space Museum



***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.***

## 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 Harrison - 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 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, Harrison, buses have been reserved to transport you from Omaha on Saturday, June 5th. Only full buses will travel to Harrison, so reserve your space now. You are required to have your bike boxed for transport.



Cost for this optional bus transportation is \$90.

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 2010. 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 2010 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 Harrison is completed.

## BRAN Jersey

The BRAN Jersey will be available again. A great design for all well dressed Cyclenauts.



**Remember: To guarantee delivery, jersey orders must be in by March 15th.**

## Shuttleguy

Shuttleguy - an optional service for BRAN. 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 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 Cyclenauts 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-Cyclenaut 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.



*"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 registration forms, survival guide, frequently asked questions, 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.