

OMAHA PEDALERS NEWSLETTER



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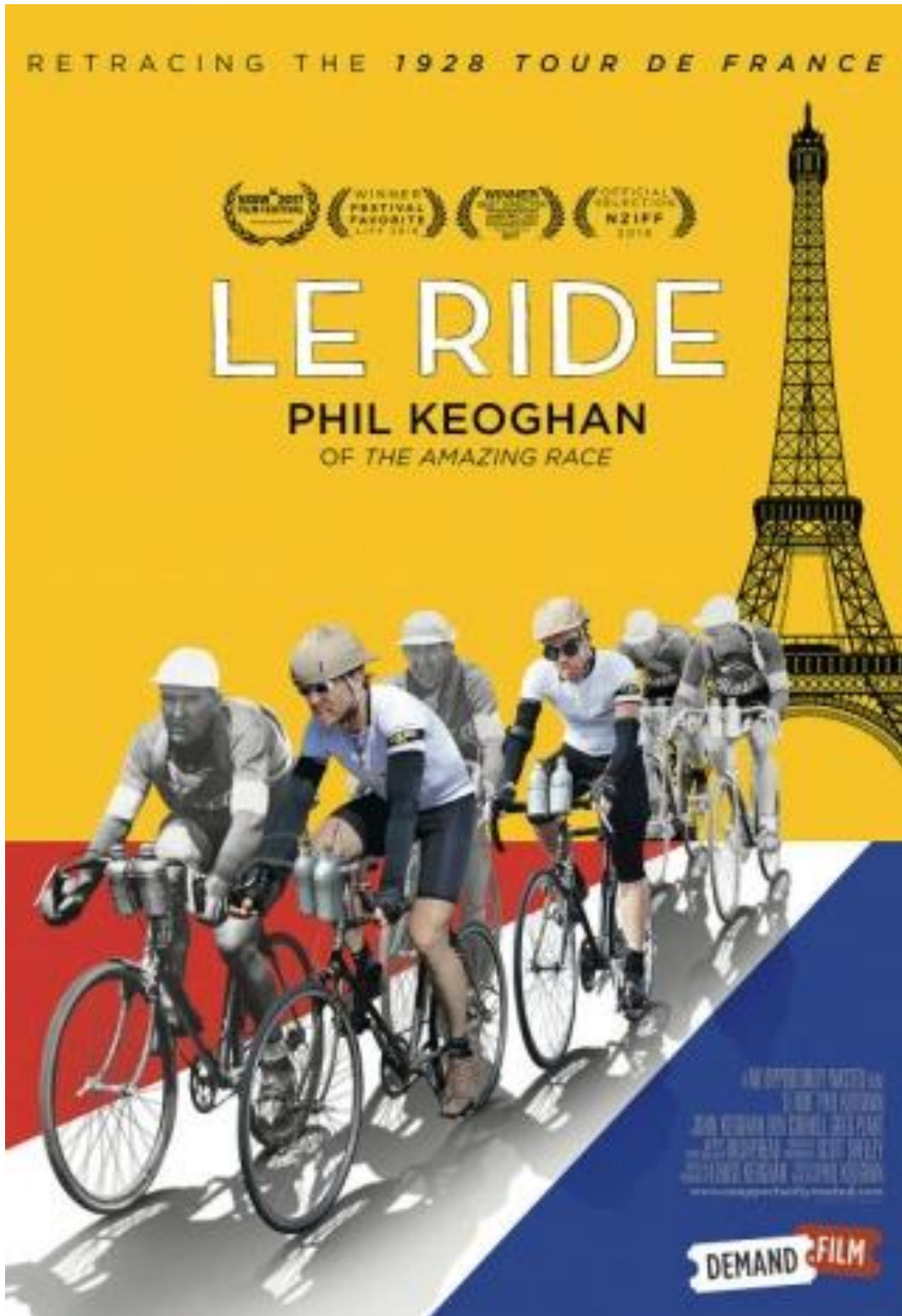
You are invited to Movie Night on
Wednesday, Feb 19, 2020 at Aksarben Cinema

Join the Omaha Pedalers Bicycle Club and fellow cyclists;
Social from 6-7 PM and then Movie at 7 PM.
2110 S. 67th St, Omaha, NE

“It’s the most brutal challenge I’ve ever faced, insane distances over the world’s toughest mountains, but this is a story I really felt I had to bring back to life,” Phil Keoghan.

Fascinated by the remarkable true story of Australians Sir Hubert Opperman, Ernie Bainbridge and Percy Osborne, and New Zealander Harry Watson as the first English speaking team to compete in the Tour De France, friends and avid cyclists Phil Keoghan and Ben Cornell decide to recreate the original, punishing route of the 1928 Tour De France.

Their goal is to do 5300 kilometres (3293 miles) in 26 days up the Pyrenees and through the Alps, traversing insane inclines and treacherous tracks. Averaging 240 (149 miles) kilometres a day for 26 days, Phil and Ben traverse both the unforgiving mountains of the Pyrenees and the Alps, on original vintage steel racing bikes with no gears and marginal brakes.



In 1928 an under-resourced and untested team from New Zealand and Australia competed in what is considered to be the toughest sporting event in the world -- The Tour de France. Many considered the entry of these courageous underdogs, racing as a team of 4 against teams of 10, a joke. One French journalist called their attempt nothing short of murder. 168 riders started the more than 3,500-mile race, only 41 finished. Surprisingly this remarkable story about the achievements of these brave athletes has never been told on film, until now. Phil Keoghan - television personality, adventurer and cycling enthusiast, retraces the 1928 Tour de France route, bringing history to life. Following the original course and schedule, riding a vintage bike, Phil and his team will average 150 miles a day for 22 stages.

Tickets - \$14.50

Our unique event link is:

<https://tickets.demand.film/event/9773?ref=KbprEeod>

These bike groups are already planning to be vendors at the Movies!!

Omaha Pedalers Bicycle Club
Corporate Cycling Challenge
Omaha Health Expo
Bike Ride to the Taste of Omaha
Wear Yellow Ride
Greenstreet Cycles
BRAN

Don't be left out!! Come join fellow cyclists and enjoy a fun event and social and great movie!! We need your support to show the movie
Get your tickets in advance NOW! Invite your friends to join you!
Let's make it a fun and great evening in cycling!

Questions – Contact - Bob Mancuso Omaha Pedalers Bicycle Club

w - [402-346-8003](tel:402-346-8003),

bmancuso7@gmail.com

Bran-inc.org/wp

**Swap Meet Opens Omaha Cycling Season
A Festival of the Bicycling Community
Sunday, March 8, 2020
At College of St Mary**

Buy, sell any and all things bike. Bike shops and private sellers will all be there. Visit information and education kiosks featuring representatives from cycling related benefit rides, trails organizations, cycling clubs and urban and long distance self-supported cycling displays.

This is a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon for families, the serious cyclist, cycling commuters, urban, road, trail, BMX and casual riders. Kids under 12, free.

Conveniently located on 72nd Street and Mercy Road and adjacent to the Keystone Trail and Aksarben Village, the event location at the College of St. Mary's Lied Fitness Center is just minutes from I-80, and has easy access and **lots of free parking** right next to the building Proximity to the Keystone may allow bike purchasers to test ride before purchase, dependent on the seller's ok.

11AM–3PM

College of St. Mary's, Lied Fitness Center

7000 Mercy Road

Admission: \$5 or \$3 with a can of food to be donated to the Heartland Hope Ministry Food Pantry.

Kids under 12, free.

All proceeds from admission fees to support OPBC community efforts.

For more information – contact:

Bob Mancuso, from OPBC, 402-346-8003, bmancuso7@gmail.com.

BRAN 40

By Stephen Schnitker

I've often said, "The only thing wrong with the bicycle is the car". Riding around Omaha, one had best be hyper vigilant, the streets are full of them. So, what's the cure for the common car? Hemingford! The 40th anniversary edition of BRAN starts on Hwy 2 in Hemingford June 7, 2020 where the cattle outnumber both the cars and the people who drive them.

In 1997, when BRAN last started there, I had an enjoyable visit with people from the host town who joined us for dinner at the school. The next days along Hwy 2 to Hyannis, Thedford, and Callaway had some of the most enjoyable riding and friendliest people in the state. I'll never forget the Cowboy Poets in Thedford and the great pot-luck dinner in Callaway. Then there was the tornado in Loup City. BRAN is fantastic at creating lasting memories.

While we can't guarantee good weather, the route through Hyannis, Thedford, Callaway, and Ord promises to be one of the most enjoyable ever.

Callaway has been a favorite BRAN stop over the years. It was the first town I recall with Boy Scouts valet bag service. Each of our stays there has been unique. I still have the little blue zippered bags in our welcome kits from 1993. I'll never forget seeing the hosts furiously scraping away the "Chicken and Dumpling Dinner" stencil from their window as they saw us coming. Once word gets out, the best food goes fast! That was also the year Rose, NE, population six (in the summer) hosted us for lunch. Who can forget the white bats and Z-bras at the Rose Zoo? Oh, then there's Democrat Hill (so-called because it's so crooked). I wouldn't admit to drafting up that hill behind a red Buick, that would be bad. We will also pass through Broken Bow. Once during a lunch stop in the town square, someone left a baggie with their money in it on one of the tables. The cry went up "Did anyone lose a bag of money?" Nobody claimed it. I think they finally turned it in to lost and found. Wednesday's lunch stop will probably be Sargent. We've passed through Sargent ten times, including best overnight town of BRAN 19. Does anyone remember the bottles of "Windmill Water" they gave away that year? - An inventive way to dispose of hazardous waste! A better memory is of riding around in their 1947 Chevy fire truck, the "cream can" supper, and the free Sargent tee shirts for every 10th rider.

Ord should not disappoint as an overnight. It was near there that I saw the '69 Shelby (Ford vs Ferrari) GT at Dolezal Ford in Pender. In 2002 we rode to and from Ord's Bussel Park campground on the horse-drawn shuttle. I don't remember the name of the rancher who brought the team but his horse, Bucky, was "new to the team and pulled a little too hard." We were all a little younger then. A tip of the hat to past BRAN riders: to the irrepressible Roger Peters, a retired broadcast engineer for KMTV, who wind-surfed and rode BRAN into his 80's; to Kermit Wright, the retired nuclear engineer from the Cooper power station; to Herb Andrews, who rode with his wife Theresa. Their daughter, Sandy Weinberg with her husband, Ray kept BRAN humming for over twenty years. To Leona Campbell, whose marriage survived and even flourished riding tandem with her husband John; to Jean Dockhorn who rode tandem with her husband Rick; to stationary sags Ron "Figman" Mortensen and Kathy "Sunbonnet" Graham. We'll be thinking of you, pedaling ahead of us, around the next bend.

The people, places, and riding on BRAN are some of my best memories. BRAN 40 promises to be another memorable event. I hope many of you can take advantage of the opportunity.

The 2020 BRAN Route



June 7-13, 2020 | BRAN-INC.ORG

Hemingford 76 miles

Hyannis 63 miles

Theadford 82 miles

Callaway 77 miles

Ord 64 miles

St. Edward 41 miles

Shelby 36 miles

Wahoo

A look back at OPBC
from the past

Sweet-Corn, Cheeseheads, and Elvis



Boy howdy the ride was sweet (corn). Donna and I traveled to Adel Iowa and rode a 42-mile Adel to Panora roundtrip on the Raccoon River Valley Trail. Joining us were Kathy Lunde and Vince Muniz. We had a great lunch at PJ's in Panora. We report that Elvis had the Wendell Whopper. Temps were about 5 degrees cooler than Omaha and humidity was less.

The trail from west of Linden to Panora has been repaved with concrete – no more tree root infested asphalt. Of course, the main reason for the trip is sweet corn. This year's Easy Rider sweet corn eating champ is Kathy Lunde at 4 ears although she was considering more when Donna and I left. We think Vicky's 8 ear all-time record is still intact. See photo of "Cows in Water". Who said Iowa wasn't scenic? As for the rest of the Easy Riders who didn't ride – like the Cub's fans say "wait till next season"

The same week as Ragbrai, Donna and I made our third trip to Door County Wisconsin for a week of morning tandem rides, afternoon naps under shade trees, and some outstanding local food. We stay in a 4-story converted silo in Fish Creek. We ride 50 to 60-mile loops which can take us to the top (Northport) or the bottom (Sturgeon Bay) of Door County. The county roads are lightly traveled with low speed limits. The winds are usually light. Food - we of course started the week off with the Weisgerbers Cornerstone Pub & Restaurant's



Monday night- pot roast special (full order) and a frosted mug of Leinie Red. Other outstanding treats were cinnamon rolls and cherry turnovers from Grandma's Swedish Bakery, Corsica Bread and braided mozzarella infused with olive oil,

sun dried tomato from the Door County Bakery washed down with some sangria, cow pies at the Dairy View dairy store, and fresh picked (same morning) Door County sweet cherries. If you think Door County is just trees, water, and light houses, feast on the sunflower photo. No, it's not France. It's not even Iowa. It's Door County bicycle riding at its best! Next trip back is tentatively summer of '09.



Since August is Elvis month, we again reprint a former fast breaking OPBC Newsletter story. For the last spoke let me remind you of the story this rag broke in the summer of 2001, which was never picked up by the UP, AP, or A&P either. Elvis was personally sighted in Cassis France driving a Renault taxi. He was wearing a Hawaiian shirt, had chop sideburns, and his trademark sunglasses. His taxi was in traffic at the harbor just 5 feet from us. Before we (that's right, my stoker can verify stopped the sighting) could get the camera out of the backpack he had left the harbor area. Elvis is alive.

You should be proud that the OPBC mutton Newsletter had the courage to print this back in 2001. That's reason number 1 for being a member of the club – you get stories you won't see in print anywhere else.

Thank you, thank you very much. John Walter.

The Omaha World Herald has given us permission to reprint this article on Ron Mortensen.

He was a burning and shining light, and we rejoiced in his light”. He was one of those who couldn’t walk through a restaurant without stopping at several tables to say hello. Whose warm smile and encouraging twinkle of eye rose the human spirit. Who handed out Fig Newtons and lots of other BRAN support as stationary sag “Figman”. He was a motivating force behind Bikeable Communities! the bicycle advocacy movement that first applied for bicycle friendly status for Omaha. As board member, treasurer, and OPBC president, he grew the ride leader program through the liberal distribution of OPBC swag.

Thanks to Nancy Gaarder, long time OPBC supporter, for her words, reprinted with permission, from the Omaha World Herald:

“Ron Mortensen was one of those people who steadily, but quietly, went about making the world a better place.

And his favorite vehicle for helping out? The bicycle.

Mortensen, 82, died Dec. 13. A memorial service was held Dec. 19 at at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in the Elkhorn neighborhood.

Mortensen was key to getting Omaha’s police bike patrol off the ground.

And he rebuilt used bikes — more than 1,500 — and gave them away to kids whose families couldn’t afford to buy them. He didn’t stop with a child down the street in Omaha; he was willing to drive a load of bikes to places as far as the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

But he wasn’t just a hub in Omaha’s bicycling community. He was active in a number of civic organizations, and generally believed in helping others, his family said.

Need a ride? Your car broke down? Hop in. Back when hitchhiking was common, Mortensen routinely picked up people along the side of the road.

“He was a humble guy who just wanted to do good,” said his son Dave. “Growing up, I always had to sit next to a hitchhiker. We never left anybody on the road. We stopped for every car that was broken down. He was a fellow who never knew a stranger.”