

OMAHA PEDALERS NEWSLETTER



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Welcome to the OPBC's Newsletter!

Welcome to the Omaha Pedalers Bicycle Club's newsletter! Our next meeting will be October 17th, 6:00, at Oklahoma Joes in Aksarben Village. Everyone is welcome. Come add your ideas and thoughts.

As the year winds down, I want to thank all of the ride leaders and helpers for their help and friendship! Thank you!

And just a reminder, the Annual Club Banquet is at Oklahoma Joe's on November 12th. See the announcement later in the newsletter.

While this next is not a welcome subject, I wanted to mention, regretfully, that the last **Wear Yellow Ride** was held on May 13, 2023. The Wear Yellow Ride, a fun well organized ride, has helped cancer patients with rides to their treatment appointments. Sadly, after 20 years, the ride has ended. I rode my first and the last Wear Yellow ride and had a great time. I am sad to see a wonderful ride end.



2023's Elected Officers

Rhonda Hall: President;

Stephen Schnitker: Secretary;

Bob Mancuso: Treasurer;

Rick Stein: Web Master/Signature Ride Coordinator;

Carole Becic: Newsletter;

Kim Matney: Membership Director.



OPBC's Monthly Club Meeting

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 17 at 6:00 PM
Oklahoma Joes, Stinson Park • Aksarben Village
1912 S 67th Street, Omaha Ne. 68106





Pedaler Announcements

Passing of Jim Kirklin
Saturday September 23, 2023

We are sadly announcing the passing of Jim Kirklin. Jim died on Saturday, September 23rd. He was a long time member, over 30 years, of the Omaha Pedalers Bicycle Club. During that time, Jim led more rides than anyone else in the club. He rode his bike until approximately his 85th birthday. He will be sorely missed.



Those Fun Weekly & Monthly Rides

Saturday Morning Road Ride

Check the OPBC website for specific Saturdays and times.

<https://opbc.clubexpress.com>

Meet at: Famer Brown's
2620 River Rd Dr, Waterloo.

The Group will decide the route. No drop ride social ride.
About 30-40 miles. Average 13-16 mph.

Ride Leader: Rick Stein, rick.m.stein@gmail.com

O.P.B.C. Rusty Spokes

Thursday Morning Rides.

Easy weekday Trail Ride 10:00 AM, Weather permitting.

Meet at: Karen Park, North Parking Lot,
62nd Buckingham Ave

Ride Leaders: Ken & Carol Deman - mbeardeman@cox.net - 402-339-2069

Belleve Berry Farm Taco Ride

Ended for the season.

We are looking forward to next year's weekly Taco Ride fun rides.

Check the OPBC website for updates.

Thursday Evenings, Approximately 5:30 PM, Weather Permitting

An Easy Evening Trail Ride to the Bellevue Berry Farm for Tacos

Check the OPBC website for updates.

Meet at: Karen Park, 6288 H Street,
Or simply drive out and meet the group.

(Contact Rhonda for time estimate)

Ride Leader: Rhonda Hall - rhalltulip@msn.com

Tuesday Star Party Ride
Next Ride: October 10, 2023 6:00pm
(Second Tuesday of each month)

Ride the West Papio Trail North of Lake Zorinsky, about 15 to 20 miles.
Stay for Star Party, starting about 8:00 PM, with the Omaha Astronomical Society.

Sponsored by: OPBC and Public Star Party by the [Omaha Astronomical Society](#),
Meet at: Soccer Field Parking, Zorinsky Lake Park,
156th & F Street, Omaha, NE 68135 - (South Entrance on the West side of 156th & F Streets)
Easy Rider Pace of 10 to 12 mph - no drop ride.
Lights are recommended since this ride goes until sunset.
Ride Leader: Kim Matney, 402-651-7497

***Follow park entrance road towards the West and the parking lot we meet at is first possible Right turn.**



Hello From Iowa
By Steven Schnitker

Tom Cody and I drove to Tabor Iowa for the inaugural **Underground Railroad Ride** the weekend of September 15, 16, and 17.

In 1854 young Reverend John Todd, Samuel A. Adams, and friend and sponsor, George Gaston faced a dilemma. They had come to Iowa to establish an outpost of education and enlightenment modeled after Oberlin College. Tabor settlers met on the town square to determine plans for their developing community. The Kansas Nebraska act had left determination of free or slave state up to the people of the new states. The rivalry of pro and anti-slavers was raging in "Bleeding Kansas". Camped on the town square was a group fleeing Kansas to gain their freedom in the North. The Fugitive Slave Act had established a fine of \$5000 and time in jail for anyone harboring those escaping to freedom. Dare they help these people when it could cost them the destruction of all their dreams of establishing the fledgling Tabor College? There was a heated discussion, but their commitment to freedom and equality compelled them to defy the law and aid the freedom seekers. Tabor and Lewis Iowa became anchors of the "Underground Railroad", a system of secret refuges or "stations" and guides or "conductors" that helped fugitives evade the bounty hunters and vigilantes on their way to Chicago and on to Canada.

Iowa's National Association of Social Workers, the Des Moines branch of [Black Girls Do Bike](#) and the Iowa Bicycle Coalition, sponsored the ride following a 70 mile route from Tabor to Lewis Iowa. The ride on county roads with light traffic was well sagged and included tours of the Todd and Hitchcock houses and connecting points between. Tom and I fell behind the main group, but lucked out on the Saturday thunderstorm that held us in Essex while the group on the road was drenched.

There was live music in the Tabor City Park Friday night, and singing around the campfire Saturday night at Cold Springs Park near Lewis. Pete Seiger's song "Kumbaya" originated from enslaved Central Africans in South Carolina and Georgia. Only one building remains from Tabor College that operated from 1863 to 1927, but at one time four trains a day ran from Malvern to Tabor.



Saturday, August 26, 2023

The Onabike Bike Ride, sponsored by the Onawa Chamber of Commerce and Bike Iowa, is a wonderful way to cruise the beautiful Iowa country side and Loess Hills. Onabike has two routes, a long 63 mile route and a short 29 mile route. The weather this year was great with light winds and warm temperatures. Lori Shannon, a wonderful friend, and I rode the shorter route this year. The route is mostly flat with gentle slopes and beautiful scenery. Many years ago I rode the long route. It is a bit challenging with some flat and some hilly areas. The views are fantastic from the tops of the Loess Hills. Onabike starts and ends at the Onawa Public Library. Sag stops were set up along the way with snacks and water. A lunch was provided with registration, at the Library at the end of the rides. Sadly, I didn't take any pictures of this great ride, just enjoyed the whole experience. Note: Steven Schnitker leads an overnight OPBC ride on Friday and Saturday that includes this Onabike Ride.

September 2nd and 3rd, 2023

Wabash Weekend bike trek was September 2nd and 3rd. This is a beautiful ride from the Wabash Trace Trailhead in Council Bluffs, Iowa through the Loess Hills to Shenandoah, Iowa. Rhonda Hall and I enjoyed the roughly 50 mile ride along the beautiful trail through wooded areas and some open spaces. Even though the weather was hot, the wooded areas helped shade us and block enough of the wind to keep us cool. We saw the derailed train cars, wrecked in the 1960's, at the West Nishnabotna River crossing. We had a nice conversation with couple fellow trail riders at the silo trail rest/camp stop by Coin. The stop includes a silo made into a restroom/shower facility, areas for tent camping and bike "statues". Silver City has a very nice bike shop, the Happy Trails Cycle, where we had snacks and a great conversation with the owner. The first day's ride ends in Shenandoah where we stayed the night at the Isaak Walton cabin. Rick Stein had supper for us. The second day we had lunch in Malvern.



The silo trailhead/camp area at Coin





We made it to Shenandoah!

Mickelson Trail Trek

September 15th – 17th, 2023

By Carole Becic

On September 13th, Rhonda Hall, Linda Grundman, and I made our way to Custer, South Dakota for our third time riding the Mickelson Trail Trek. This is an amazingly organized three day bicycle ride on the George S. Mickelson Trail from Custer to Edgemont, Custer to Rochford, and Rochford to Deadwood, South Dakota. The Mickelson Trail is a rail-to-trail, 109 miles long, with beautiful views and it is beautifully maintained.

Linda, Rhonda and I drove, packed comfortably into my truck, to Custer a day early to accustom ourselves to the altitude, get in a short ride and get settled into our home for three nights, the Days Inn. Thursday, we toured the shops in downtown Custer, Rhonda got a ride in on her new bike, and Linda and I stayed in, not liking the cool and wet conditions. Thursday afternoon, Rhonda and I took my truck to Edgemont for it to wait for the three of us to arrive on our bikes on Friday.

Day 1, Friday, begins in Custer and ends in Edgemont, about 45 miles. Being a slower rider, I noticed a herd buffalo lounging in a field near the trail. The trail also passes close enough for a distant but good view of the Crazy Horse Monument. Snacks were provided at the Pringle Trailhead. (including Pringles.) Lunch, a Subway sandwich, cookie, chips and a drink, was at the Minnekahta Trailhead. Pie and ice cream was available in Edgemont, provided by community organizations. We packed up the bikes and headed back to Custer. Back in Custer was the 25th Anniversary Party at the Custer Beacon in Custer.

Day 2, Saturday, begins in Custer and ends in Rockford, about 38 miles. In Rockford, we leave our bikes for the night in a meadow. The bikes are hung on ropes and guarded overnight to make sure cattle don't chew on the tires. 🚲 (I was told that it is a real concern.) A very nice lunch and entertainment was provided in Rockford. A bus ride took us back to Custer and a drive to our motel in Deadwood ended our day. This was my challenge day. On our first two Treks, I was not able to finish or even start the second day due to breathing problems. (Maybe it was because of the altitude?) This year though, was third time the charm! I was able to finish all 38 miles with no breathing problems! It was great!

Day 3, Sunday, begins in Rochford and ends in Deadwood, about 25 miles. We rode the bus back to Rochford where our bikes were anxiously waiting for us. The trail ride to Deadwood is a beautiful ride. Several original railroad tunnels were fantastic experiences. The trail has a gentle 12 mile climb of about 2% – 4%. And then there is the thrilling roughly 12 mile downhill descent. Wow!! That was fun!

Our whole adventure had wonderful weather, after the rain on Wednesday; cool mornings, warm but not hot afternoons and light winds. We had a great time and are excitedly looking forward to next year!



We couldn't resist a picture of the Lost Sock Laundromat.



The first day beginning: Custer to Edgemont



Buffalo Sighting!



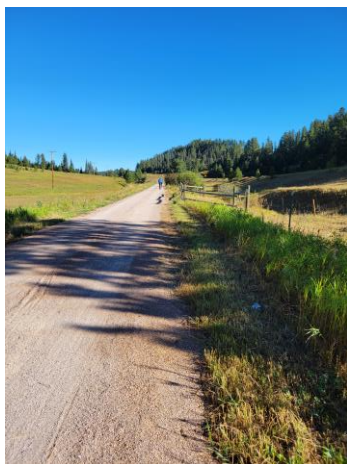
The Crazy Horse Monument viewed from the trail



One of several tunnels on the Mickelson Trail



You never know who you'll see on the trail. This man is playing bagpipes.



Beautiful scenery and trail



Our bikes, ready for the night, in the meadow in Rochford



The end of our fantastic ride!

Pedaler's Pasta Pigout

October 7, 2023

By Carole Becic

The **Pedaler's Pasta Pigout** ride was held on October 7th. A new route was added to the original ride. The original, led by Rick Stein, is 24 miles of rolling hills from the Omaha Public Safety Train Center, on Rainwood Road, to Elk City. The new route, led by Steven Grunberg, is a gently rolling paved trail around Glen Cunningham Lake. The new route is 12 to 18 miles, depending on the number of times ridden around the lake.

Rhonda, Linda, and I rode the Glen Cunningham Lake route. We met Jose for the first time. Hopefully, we see him many more times in the future. We had wonderful weather, a little cool, light winds and gorgeous blue sky. We were able to ride two times around the lake before heading to Villagio's for supper. We had a great time and I'm ready for next year!



Steve, Rhonda, Jose, Linda,
Carole



There was a pelican with a
goose on the lake



Geese lounging on a sand bar



There were lots of geese



A view of the lake from the
north bridge

Do you have great biking experiences to share?

Please send me your cycling adventures.

Then see them in our next newsletter.

My email: clbecic@gmail.com.



BRAN 42
Coming in June 2024

June 2 - 8 June 8, 2024
<https://www.bran-inc.org>

Excitement is building!

Plans for BRAN 42 are in the oven and cooking!

Stay tuned for the Route Reveal party date and time.



Omaha Pedalers Club
Omaha Pedalers Club



Annual Club Banquet

Sunday November 12, 2022

5:00 PM

Oklahoma Joe's
1912 S 67th St. In Aksarben

Join us for the election of officers
and a review of the past year.
Buffet Meal provided by the club.

More information & Register at:
www.OmahaPedalers.org
[Facebook.com/OmahaPedalers](https://www.facebook.com/OmahaPedalers)
Or Contact
Rick Stein at
402-679-6595
Rick.M.Stein@gmail.com





OPBC Signature Rides

ONABIKE XXXI Weekend Tour

When: Friday, August 2024

Wabash Weekend

When: Saturday and Sunday September 2024

Magnolia Fall Classic

When: Saturday September 2024

Annual Corporate Cycling Challenge

When: Sunday August 18, 2024

Pedaler's Pasta Pigout (P3)

When: Saturday October 2024

