

Country bike tour raises funds for charity

By Carissa Moffat
Staff Reporter

Bicyclists, both experienced and novice, will beat a path down Highway 41 for the Nebraska Odyssey bike tour on June 1 and 2.

Mary Dircks, the development assistant for the Midlands Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, said that unlike other biking events that take place in the summer, this event is not a race.

"It is a bike tour. The riders are not competing against other cyclists," she said. "We encourage people to go at their own pace."

Participants will ride 75 miles each day, Dircks said. On May 31, the riders will meet at the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District in the Chalco Hills area of Omaha. The riders and their bikes will then be transported to Crete, where they will stay at Doane College for the evening, she said.

She said most of the riders will depart from Crete by 7:30 a.m. Saturday and everyone will travel

together.

Water stops are located every 10 to 12 miles along the tour to monitor the riders' well-being, she said.

Od • ys • sey \ad-e-se\ - a journey of discovery.

"The water stops are there to provide water and other beverages, along with apples, oranges and bananas, to keep energy levels up," Dircks said.

She said ham radio operators will be traveling with the medical vehicles that follow the riders.

"If someone needs assistance we can get it to them right away," Dircks said.

Dircks, who is also the bike tour coordinator, said similar tours are run nationally. Last year, 92 of the multiple sclerosis chapters in the United States raised \$21 million and had 75,000 cyclists participate, she said.

Each rider must get pledges for \$1 per mile. Dircks said the cy-

clists generally get pledges from family and friends, and some companies even offer matching funds for employees who participate in pledge events.

Donated prizes will be awarded as incentives for raising more than the minimum \$150 per person, she said. "This is to encourage people to raise that much more," Dircks said.

Another program promotion awards a six-month membership to Prairie Life Center, a multi-recreational club, to the rider who recruits the most friends.

Last year's event attracted 215 participants, and 400 riders are anticipated this year.

"We've done a lot more advertising this year," she said.

Challenge teams were added to the tour this year along with hidden treasure hunts throughout the

ride and the Amazing Discoveries Great Give A-Way drawing.

Each challenge team must have a minimum of four members and pay a \$15 registration fee in addition to the \$150 per rider. Teams receive special prizes for the three largest teams and the teams with the most family members, the craziest name and the most team spirit.

The treasure hunts will include clues at each water stop, Dircks said. Clues might be about something of a historical nature for the bikers to look for along the trail.

The Amazing Discoveries Great Give A-Way will be held at the first overnight stop in Auburn. Several bike shops have donated various types of bicycle equipment to be used in this drawing, Dircks said.

She stressed that people should train before going on tour, even though the event is not a race.

"If you can ride 20 miles comfortably, then you should be OK," Dircks said.

People ride on all kinds of bikes,

she said, and it isn't necessary to have any special type of bike.

"In fact, last year a man and his son rode on a tandem," she said.

Bikes should be in good condition. Free safety checks will be given two to three weeks before the race at bike shop locations in Grand Island, Lincoln and Omaha.

Bill Loftis has participated in the Odyssey tour for the last six years.

Loftis said he rides because "I like the people more than anything else."

"I also believe in the particular cause," he said.

"It's a great place to meet people," Loftis said "And a challenge to see if you can make it."

Loftis said this training goes along with his training for the Lincoln Marathon in May but added that he considers himself a recreational rider.

The only drawback to the tour is Nebraska weather, Loftis said.

"No matter which way you're going, you're going into the wind," he said.

Spring trips fit all budgets

By Bryan Peterson
Staff Reporter

Outdoor Adventure student staff member Scot Davis has led more than 30 trips to places ranging from Nebraska to the Grand Canyon to Mexico.

He has taken students biking, canoeing, rock climbing and backpacking and has seen everything from a case of amoebic dysentery to a Native American ritual dance. He has even been neck deep in the cold water of a Missouri cave.

Davis, who worked for 2 1/2 years at Cycle Works, has led 10 cycling trips and one longer cycling "expedition" — a two-week trip down the coast of Oregon.

This semester, Davis will be leading Outdoor Adventure bicycling trips in Nebraska, one for a weekend and one for a day.

Davis said cyclists may ride either mountain or touring bikes, although mountain bikes might be preferred for the longer trip.

The April 12-14 trip will take participants from Lincoln to

Wilbur, on to York and then back to Lincoln.

Camping gear will be provided by Outdoor Adventure and the cyclists will carry all supplies with them, including such items as the camp stove, Davis said.

While each participant must provide his or her own bicycle, panniers, or side bags that mount on racks, will be provided by Outdoor Adventure.

Helmets, extra tubes and spokes, patch kits and pumps also should be provided by each rider, although anyone lacking such supplies might be able to borrow them from staff members, Davis said.

The trip is open to 15 students, which is higher than the usual 12-person limit on Outdoor Adventure trips.

Davis said this trip has a higher limit since it is self-contained and requires no van support. The seating capacity of the vans leased by Outdoor Adventure generally determines the number of participants for each trip.

However, a limit still was placed on this trip to help maintain a

sense of order and group cohesiveness, according to Davis.

Since all Outdoor Adventure trips are self-supporting, the trip's \$30 cost includes the price of meals, equipment, permits, insurance and logistical planning.

The only portion of Outdoor Adventure trips not covered by the published price is that of the wages of staff members. That amount is covered by student fees through the Campus Recreation budget, of which Outdoor Adventure is a program.

For those with less time or a smaller budget, Outdoor Adventure is offering a day bicycling trip on Saturday, April 27, which also will be led by Davis.

Participants will cycle to Arbor Lodge in Nebraska City for the National Arbor Day Foundation Fair and Festival. The \$12 cost includes the provision of a return trip by van and trailer.

Last fall, Outdoor Adventure sponsored another day trip to the Arbor Lodge and a weekend "Apple Cider Tour" of apple orchard country in southern Nebraska and Iowa.

This summer will see a bicycle tour in the western United States, although details will not be available until March 15, according to the Outdoor Adventure schedule.

A self-contained trip through Colorado's San Juan Mountains, in which the riders and their bicycles are driven to a "put-in" site, is one possibility, Davis said.

Davis said the program philosophy of Outdoor Adventure includes "encouraging people to look at the environment and to become environmentally aware by practicing recycling and low-impact camping."

Other aspects of the philosophy include traveling to remote locales and viewing each trip as an

Now Open

Top BMX Pro Shop

Welcome BMX Racers to Lincoln

We have everything you need.

We Proudly Feature

• TNT	• Primo	• Free Agent
• Odyssey	• Ecko	• Crupi
• GT	• Kastan	• Dia-Comp

Hours: Monday-Saturday 9-6
Sunday 1-5

400 South 9th
Lincoln, NE 68508
474-6309

Earning money in a Harris study means going through a lot of channels.

Big screen televisions, VCR's, video games, pool tables... we have all the comforts of home with only one difference-- you can make \$250 - \$3000 participating in a Harris study!

So, if you're 19 or older and you'd like to be turned on to some extra money, just pick up the phone and push the right buttons

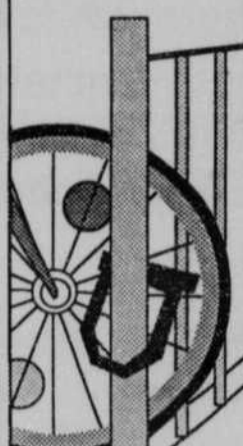


HARRIS LABORATORIES, INC. 474-0627

See study listing ad in the Sunday Journal-Star.

Please lock your bike!

<p>January to September 1989</p> <p>47 bikes stolen 15 bikes recovered</p>	<p>UNL Police report that many bicycles have been stolen on campus because their owners use improper locks, don't lock the bikes to anything, or fail to lock their bikes at all.</p> <p>UNL Police suggest using a U-bar lock, secured to a bike rack as an excellent method.</p>
<p>January to September 1990</p> <p>15 bikes stolen 4 bikes recovered</p>	



Source: UNL Crime Prevention Office

Amie DeFrain/Daily Nebraskan