

Half Moon Bay Review

Published/Last Modified on Wednesday, Jul 30, 2008 - 02:28:37 pm PDT

McClellan mounts up again to raise Thunder, awareness

Local motorcyclist raises funds toward breast cancer support

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Once again this year, Half Moon Bay resident Ginny McClellan is revving up her Harley to hit the road and raise funds and awareness around breast cancer.

It's the second year she has joined a group motorcycle ride through Amazon Heart Thunder, founded in 2004 by two young breast cancer survivors to encourage peers with a unique approach to support and a message of living fully. Involving riders who are survivors or currently dealing with the disease, Amazon Heart addresses three areas: the isolation of survivors, the stereotypes of breast cancer, and the need to raise funds.

The movement began with a ride from San Diego to San Francisco and since has spread in scope and purpose, with rides in Australia and the United Kingdom that generate money toward building structures for those in need, and bolstering peer support projects of Amazon Heart and the Young Survival Coalition. Harley-Davidson sponsors the event.

The ride in which McClellan, a native of Germany, is taking part is scheduled for Sept. 6 through 13, and will follow the California coastline from Los Angeles to San Francisco. While other rides are planned in England and Australia, this is the only one currently scheduled for the United States, and will involve about 25 riders, all of whom raise a minimum of \$1,500 to participate.

They ride their own Harleys or loaners provided by Harley-Davidson. Along the way, they will take part in events and awareness-spreading media opportunities.

The ride is scheduled to pass through Half Moon Bay between 2 and 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10.

The riders will have a unique experience, said McClellan. Last year, "I just saw how everyone got out of themselves — the closeness they got, leaving everything behind, being there for the ride and for themselves," she said. "It was like a retreat. You do something for yourself, with others who really understand what it is to go out there. There was a lot of bonding."

Donations can be made online, through www.amazonheartthunder.org. For more information, you can contact McClellan at (650) 430-0590.



Review file photo Ginny McClellan of Half Moon Bay is revving up her Harley-Davidson again for the Amazon Heart Thunder motorcycle ride from San Diego to San Francisco.