

Breast cancer survivor rides to help others

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by Sue Austreng

Staff writer

Lynnda Laubach strapped on her helmet and straddled the Harley for a 100-mile ride Sept. 26.

The event was the fifth-annual Lynnda Laubach Breast Cancer Awareness Ride, established shortly after Laubach was diagnosed with infiltrating ductal carcinoma.

Breast cancer survivor Lynnda Laubach rides with husband, Steve Laubach, in the 2009 Lynnda Laubach Breast Cancer Awareness Ride Sept. 26. (Photo courtesy of Mark Christofferson)

She fought the cancer with a rigorous treatment regimen, including surgery, chemotherapy and radiation.

And then she was determined to fight for other cancer victims, as well and so the Lynnda Laubach Breast Cancer Awareness Ride was born.

This year, 259 cyclists rode along with 109 passengers for the ride.

By ride's end, more than \$50,000 had been raised.

The 2009 ride had cyclists starting at Zylstra Harley-Davidson in Elk River, then stopping at Captain's on Long Lake in Isanti and Bailey Ray's in Santiago before crossing the finish line and enjoying a pasta party at Rockwoods Grill and Backwater Bar in Otsego.

The Breast Cancer Awareness Ride operates fueled by this mission statement, "Bikers riding together with the goal of helping breast cancer patients and survivors improve their quality of life today and into the future."

The Lynnda Laubach ride did just that, selling tickets for 80 different baskets packed with donated items, staging a live auction, and then drawing the winning ticket for the 2009 Harley-Davidson Fat Bob motorcycle.

All told, 6,506 \$5 raffle tickets were sold for a chance at winning the Fat Bob.

Money collected during the Lynnda Laubach Breast Cancer Awareness Ride will be disbursed to the breast cancer centers at Regions, Mercy and Unity hospitals.

For information about the Breast Cancer Awareness Ride, visit www.thebreastcancerride.org .

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