

JohnnyRide 2009 Breaks New Ground

The sixth JohnnyRide to raise funds for the DHF Scholarship Program broke new ground on Saturday, September 19. We enjoyed:

- A new “headquarters” for the ride at Bob and Ellen Olson’s rural home in northwestern Wisconsin
- A new route for the ride of just under 24 miles
- More riders, more new riders, and more young riders
- And (not new) a sunny, bright day
- And (not new) a scrumptious picnic meal

Jed Durand, 8-year-old son of Paul and Barbara Durand of Star Prairie, Wisconsin, won the traveling trophy for being the youngest new rider. Jed and his cousin Ellis (last year’s winner) rode the first five miles of the route together. Jed was one of four young riders this year, the most ever. For the second year in a row, Giselle Durand, 11-year-old daughter of Peter and Julie Durand of Minneapolis, Minnesota rode the entire distance. She felt new energy when her cousin, 12-year-old Ella Durand, joined her for the last several miles of the ride.

New adult riders this year included Harvey and Marie Baird of Hudson, Wisconsin, and Ella’s dad, Paul Durand. Rejoining the ride after an absence was Patricia Durand of Rice Lake, Wisconsin. Peter Keppel of Mayer, Minnesota came with his son Benjamin to enjoy the day, and ended up borrowing a bike and making the ride in quick time. Another new rider “cheated.” Patrick Durand of Ham Lake, Minnesota showed up on his motorcycle with his lovely daughter Emily perched on the back. As the bike riders pedaled, Patrick and Emily zipped here and there, snapping pictures and keeping tabs on everyone. Patrick assured us that he will be back for next year’s ride – on a bicycle. I’ll bet Emily joins her cousins on the ride also.

Other riders this year included Peter Durand of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Mike and Marilyn Durand of Burnsville, Minnesota; Chuck Fick of Plainview, Minnesota; Ellen Olson of Woodville, Minnesota; John Durand of Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

“Sag wagon” support was provided by Patrick Keppel and Bob Olson, who leap-frogged the ride to make sure everyone was on the route. For the second year in a row, Alice Keppel volunteered to make the picnic lunch a reality, and did a great job, including preparation in her own kitchen of the pulled pork. She was aided by an abundance of helpers and other “brung” food. Thanks to all of you for your hard work.

Many were happy to see Marvin and Blanche Hammer of Woodbury, Minnesota come to the picnic. A former DHF board member, Blanche withdrew from active participation after Marvin suffered health problems. Also coming for the picnic were Dan and Virginia James of rural Spooner, Wisconsin; Marvin and Sharon Utecht (neighbors of Bob and Ellen Olson), and Warren and Beth Utecht of Bayport, Minnesota. The latter two couples are distantly related.

All were delighted to see the arrival of Kara Ripley. A recipient of one of this year’s scholarship awards, Kara wore a classy, black dress and thus did not ride, but she promised to be back to join the ride next year.

Others attending the day’s events included Julie Durand and son Stuart of Minneapolis, and Jack and Anna Webber of St. Paul.

While adults enjoyed the picnic lunch and visiting, the kids enjoyed exploring the Olson's barn, where horses, hay bales, cats, and chickens provided plenty of diversions.

This year every dollar donated to the JohnnyRide scholarship fund earned a raffle ticket for the drawing that took place following the picnic. The prize winners were:

- Durand Heritage Foundation "classic" tee shirt...Ralph Lumley of Spooner, Wisconsin
- Bret Favre's 20 Greatest Plays book...Ellen Olson of Woodville, Wisconsin
- Durand Heritage Foundation "classic" mugs...Beth Utecht of Bayport, Minnesota
- \$20 Gift Certificate to Primrose Parlor Antiques in Rice Lake...Mary Edwall of Green Valley, Arizona
- French theme 2010 calendar...Gayle Breutzman of St. Paul, Minnesota
- French theme dinner plates...Kay Butke of Delavan, Wisconsin
- Autographed Green Bay Packers football...Chuck and Anne Fick of Plainview, Minnesota
- Horn-of-plenty farm basket loaded with fresh produce, donated by Dan and Virginia James...Patricia Durand of Rice Lake, Wisconsin
- American flag flown over the U.S. Capital for JohnnyRide...Patricia Durand of Rice Lake, Wisconsin

Once again JohnnyRide raised over \$3,000 for the scholarship fund. A hearty thank you to all who donated money, effort, or time to make JohnnyRide 2009 a fun success. If you intended to donate to this year's JohnnyRide but have not yet done so, please send your donation to:

JohnnyRide 2009
624 East Market Street, #103
Elkhorn, WI 53121

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