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## Revvng up for HIV/AIDS patients



Todd Wetherington | Daily Herald Bikers taking part in Saturday's Ride for the HIV/AIDS project prepare to leave on their 93-mile ride through Halifax County.

'They always look for a cause'

Katy Nicholson, Herald Staff Writer

They were an interesting sight - clad in lime-green T-shirts and revving their engines - but about 50 motorcyclists rode around the Roanoke Valley Saturday for a good cause.

"One thing about bike riders, they always look for a cause to ride," said Dr. Maurice Davis, who organized the Ride for HIV/AIDS as a project for the Gregory B. Davis Foundation, named after his brother, who died eight years ago. Davis and his wife, Valencia, rode the lead motorcycle.

Davis plotted out the approximately 93-mile ride, which took participants from Collier Harley-Davidson onto routes 158, 13 and 561, returning through Rich Square, Scotland Neck, Halifax and Weldon.

Riders came from all over the region, and seven members of the Spiritual Riders club even made the trip from Clinton. William Greene of Garysburg said he enjoyed the ride, and everything went smoothly, with

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the exception of one rider running out of gas.

“Everything went fine,” Greene said. “The guys stayed in position like they should. Everybody was safe. It could have been a little longer; I like a longer ride.

“I love riding, so any time something comes up, I ride and I ride,” he continued, noting he does not belong to a specific riding club but has known Davis all his life. “Any time a good cause comes up, I'm ready for it.”

Greene said he would participate in the ride again in the future. “Hopefully my wife will have a bike by then and she'll be riding too,” he added.

Funds raised from the ride, which cost \$20 per person, will be donated to Halifax Regional Medical Center's HIV/AIDS Case Management Program, and will go toward patient needs, according to Program Coordinator Misty Lane.

“This is actually an exciting event to see the community getting involved, and hopefully something that will show the patients that the community does care about HIV and AIDS,” Lane said.

Founded in 2000, the Gregory B. Davis Foundation serves Halifax and Northampton counties by assisting children in need and providing seniors access to information and resources to improve their lives, Davis explained.

The foundation also sponsors scholarships for students at Northampton County high schools East and West, and has also distributed gift baskets to patients in the HIV/AIDS Case Management Program.

The ride began at Collier Harley-Davidson in Roanoke Rapids, where the dealership provided coffee and doughnuts and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. members assisted with registration.

The route ended at River Falls Park in Weldon, where the YNV Ladee Ryderz all-female motorcycle club was holding a family fun day to benefit breast cancer research.

The event included motorcycle and horse rides, a dunking booth, guest speakers and concessions.

Davis said he would like to hold the Ride for HIV/AIDS again, possibly biennially. In the future, he would like to find additional donations from sponsors, and he would probably include a break for the riders instead of traveling the whole route without stopping.

Still, he was pleased with the way the event turned out. “It went exceptionally well ... The Lord graced us with a beautiful day; no incidents, no accidents. It went very well,” he said.

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