

Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation's RIDE FOR KIDS

<http://www.pbtfus.org/rideforkids/history/>

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Illinois / Wisconsin Biker Information Guide

Started at Nielsen's in Lake Villa on July 20th, 2008

This was an early Saturday morning with the threat of rain that encouraged even the hardcore riders to reconsider hitting the road. But we did and they did.

This was the first year

Shawn and I participated in this event. A national effort, with organized rides scheduled across the country, locally riders from our area have been gathering early in the morning in the parking lot of Nielsen Enterprises in Lake Villa for a number of years. About 6 am we gathered, here we wiped the sleep out of our eyes, enjoyed coffee and donuts, donated by Larry Mondri at Dunkin Donuts in Antioch, bought raffle tickets to aid in the fund-raising, with prizes donated by local banks and businesses like Alligator Bob's. We met new friends, took pictures for our "Gotcha" album on the website and shared in a community prayer before heading out on a 46 mile, police escorted ride to Elgin.



The wonderful people, who year after year participate in this ride to raise money for the treatment and cure for Pediatric Brain Tumor's; know that their efforts make a difference.

When I had an opportunity to speak with Jeff Nielsen regarding our participating and covering the event, he said "be careful, you are going to fall in love with these kids". Well of course he was right! After reaching our destination we were introduced to the Task Force Leader for Chicago, Dr. Vito Racanelli (bikerdoc@dls.net). He in turn introduced us to some of the children. These survivors and their family's came to Elgin to thank their supporters by sharing in our sport. The children and their families rode with volunteers on the backs of

their bikes and in side cars for the hour long parade route. The weather contributed to a decline in riders this year but the results of this years fund raising were record numbers.

During the ceremony following the parade and lunch, we met more of the children and recognized the accomplishments of the many volunteers and contributors to this event. We learned that Chicagoland has the largest contribution of the national rides and among the many corporate and community supporting efforts, Ted Nielsen and his team are the number one dealer supporter again this year. It's only my opinion... but, Nielsen's has set the bar high as a dealer committed to this cause. Dealer Groups from all over Chicagoland attended the event and I'm sure Ted wouldn't mind a challenge to better their fund-raising efforts for next years ride. Check out their web site for a link to the Ride for Kids at www.nielsens.com . We are proud to have them as an advertiser and they're from my home town!

To learn more about becoming a volunteer and the Ride for Kids benefiting the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation go to their web site: <http://www.ridforkids.org>

Gotcha pictures

<http://www.wibig.com/extra/gallery/814210/index.htm>