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Cyclists set out on ride to support young women with breast cancer



Photo by [Juan Carlo](#), Ventura County Star // [Buy this photo](#)

JUAN CARLO/THE STAR Millie Nuytkens, of New York, gets ready for the Tour de Pink West Coast Ride, which left from Giant Bicycles in Newbury Park. Nuytkens is a breast cancer survivor.

[Tour de Pink](#)

A hundred bicyclists set off from Thousand Oaks on Friday on the first leg of the 2013 Tour de Pink West Coast Ride, a three-day ride in support of a nonprofit that supports young women with [breast cancer](#). Participants departed a little after 9 a.m. from Giant Bicycles on Old Conejo Road in Newbury Park. They are riding a 200-mile route along the Pacific coastline through Manhattan Beach, Laguna Beach and Newport Beach, ending at South Ponto Beach on Sunday.

Giant Bicycles is one of the event's sponsors and donates bikes to 25 cancer survivors each year so they can take part in the ride.

"A lot of them have just gotten out of chemo and they start training for this event, and it really helps them get strong again," said Elysa Walk, general manager of Giant Bicycles.

The Tour de Pink benefits the Young Survival Coalition, or YSC, a national nonprofit organization that advocates for young women with breast cancer and the issues unique to those diagnosed under age 40.

The Tour de Pink began in 2004 on the East Coast. The West Coast Ride was added in 2010.

One of those who took part in the East Coast Tour de Pink was Giant employee Michelle Weiser, who was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 38 and succumbed to the disease in 2010 at age 42.

Weiser's fiancé, Dustin Brady, of San Clemente, along with co-workers, friends and family members, join together as Weiser's Army to support the event. They have raised almost \$87,000 for the coalition this year.

"It's given me an outlet to focus on," said Brady, who personally raised \$60,000 of the total. "Michelle would be so proud and a little bit humbled by it."

Jaymi Bader, 31, flew in from Omaha, Neb., with her husband, Troy, 39. She was diagnosed with invasive ductal carcinoma at age 27 and went through treatment. A year later, the breast cancer recurred and she underwent more treatment.

"I was lucky enough to have someone refer me to YSC to the online support group, and they really helped me and provided a lot of information specifically for young women going through breast cancer that I otherwise may not have had access to," she said.

Her husband said: "She's a fighter and she is doing really well. I am proud of her, and I'm here to support her."

Kim Becking lives in Columbia, Mo., and was diagnosed with breast cancer at 30, two years after the birth of her first child.

Now 42, she said she's doing the ride to honor a couple of friends who did not survive the disease and to celebrate the fact that she's still here.

"It's a way to remember, and it's a way also to fight for hopefully a cure someday so that my daughter won't have to go through this," Becking said.

Lois Remely, of Newbury Park, is taking part in the ride for the second year.

"I am a cancer survivor, and my daughter-in-law is a cancer survivor, and I have many friends who are either in the throes of breast cancer or have had breast cancer, so it's a cause that's near and dear to my heart," Remely said.

"This event just brings home the importance of ongoing research and support for young survivors. Hope and encouragement is everything."

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