

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Point Pleasant Beach](#)

JettRiders cruise into Point Pleasant Beach

By Colleen King

A team of 14 cyclists will parade down Arnold Avenue to the beachfront next Friday, Aug. 5, on the last leg of their half-country cycling tour to raise money and awareness for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

The cyclists go under the name JettRiders, part of the Jett Foundation, founded by Christine McSherry after her son Jett was diagnosed with Duchenne in 2001 when he was just 5 years old.

"Duchenne muscular dystrophy [DMD] is the most common lethal genetic disorder diagnosed during childhood. It is a progressive muscle disorder that causes loss of muscle function and independence," according to the Jett Foundation's website. "No known effective treatment or cure currently exists for Duchenne."

For Ms. McSherry, the Jett Foundation was formed by necessity.

"When a parent is given this devastating diagnosis — it's not just the child who is affected, but the siblings are too," said Ms. McSherry. "For me, it was a lifeline I could give my kids as teenagers and help them cope with what is going on. This ride empowers them to talk about it with other families and give them the skills to cope."



JettRide is a part of the Jett Foundation where teens participate in a cross-country cycle tour to raise awareness and money for a DMD cure.

In 2007 JettRide was a complete cross-country trip, but was scaled down because of how hard it was on the teens.

This year, the group of cyclists is made up of 10 active cyclists, including two of now the now 15-year-old Jett's siblings: Jordan, 18, and Jackson, 14, and four leaders who are over 30 and have extensive cycling experience.

The cyclists will travel the 1,500 miles from Minnesota to Point Pleasant Beach, staying with families who also have been affected by Duchenne.

At the end of each day of cycling, the group has the chance to meet with a family who has been affected by Duchenne.

"It is an opportunity to bring people together because of Duchenne," said Ms. McSherry.

Families who live within 200 miles of the cycling route are contacted and they reach out in whatever way they can, whether it be housing the team or providing them dinner.

In order to participate, the teenagers have a \$4,000 fundraising minimum.

"It was one of the most intimidating factors [for the riders] but the parents could not believe how quickly the kids were able to raise the money," said Ms. McSherry.

Training for a 1500-mile trip is also a big feat. Ms. McSherry explains that training is very similar to marathon training, where most workouts consist of smaller increments and then a big one right before the actual event.

"It is a lot of ten-mile rides and then one big ride," said Ms. McSherry. "The big ride was really able to build their confidence."

Along the route, the teens are encouraged to continue fundraising and solicit members for next year's ride in order to keep the momentum of the mission going.

On Aug. 5 the 14 cyclists will, once again, end their journey by riding into Point Pleasant Beach and be escorted

down Arnold Avenue.

They will ride all the way to the beach and as a symbol of the end of their journey, dip their tires in the ocean and then celebrate with lunch at Jenkinson's.

"The welcoming [in Point Beach] was so amazing – they were so accommodating. We knew we had to go back there," said Ms. McSherry. "It was a natural choice to go back there."

Reader Comments

[Leave a comment](#) on "JettRiders cruise into Point Pleasant Beach"

© 2011 Star News Group. All rights reserved. Any copying, redistribution or retransmission of any of the contents of this service without the express written consent of Star News Group is prohibited.

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Visitor Agreement](#)