



2theadvocate > People > 'Virtual bike tour' helps Shrivens continue efforts for sarcoma research 07/02/03

2theadvocate People

'Virtual bike tour' helps Shrivens continue efforts for sarcoma research

By LAURIE SMITH ANDERSON
landerson@theadvocate.com
Advocate staff writer

The Shriver Family **Bike Tour** for Sarcoma Research has expanded its range from Louisiana to Denmark and, virtually, throughout the world.



Photo provided by Bruce Shriver

The People section profiled the Shrivens in a story last April. Liddy Shriver, a former Lafayette resident who now lives in New Jersey, has Ewing's sarcoma. She and her parents, Bruce and Beverly, were back in Acadiana at that time to participate as "Team Sarcoma" in Cycle Zydeco, where they raised more than \$14,000 for sarcoma research at Columbia University.

Bruce Shriver, daughter Liddy and his wife, Beverly, are the core members of ÔTeam Sarcoma,Õ now cycling in Denmark to raise public awareness about sarcoma and the need for more cancer research trials on young adults.

At that time, they were already organizing a summer **tour** to Denmark as part of their quest to raise public awareness about sarcoma and the need for more cancer research trials on young adults.

As the Shrivens' story got out through media and the Internet, interest grew to the point where the family decided to establish a "**virtual bike tour**" for people

who wanted to give their support but couldn't travel to Denmark.

Virtual cyclists committed to **bike** where they are on the same days Team Sarcoma **bikes** in Denmark, and they agreed to tell family, friends, neighbors and co-workers about sarcoma. Through this **tour**, the Shrivens have already raised more than \$56,000 for the Sarcoma Foundation of America.

Some 140 Team Sarcoma cyclists are biking today through Friday in Denmark, the United States (15 states, including Louisiana), England, Japan, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, the Ukraine, Ireland and Italy, according to Bruce Shriver.

Cyclists range from two dozen Boy Scouts biking in Portugal to a pediatric oncologist biking in the Ukraine. Some will ride tandems across flat land in Louisiana, while others will ride mountain **bikes** in the Alps of Slovenia. Some will even ride stationary **bikes** in their local gyms.

"This is a particularly important **bike tour** for Liddy as it may be one of her last multiday **bike tours** she can take because of her diminishing lung capacity," Bruce Shriver said.

Liddy was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma in April 2002. She was 35 years old at the time -- young for cancer and old for Ewing's sarcoma, which occurs primarily in adolescents and young adults. Small tumors form in the bone or soft tissue, most commonly in the arms, legs, pelvis or chest wall.

Treatment generally consists of chemotherapy and surgery or radiation. Liddy Shriver has undergone surgery, radiation and three rounds of chemotherapy. However, the cancer has now spread to her lungs, and she has a low chance of survival.

She has participated in one clinical trial and is a strong advocate for the expansion of trials to include young adults. Clinical trials for what have been classified as "childhood cancers" have traditionally excluded anyone over the age of 21, though that is beginning to change, she said.

Because most of the research on Ewing's sarcoma has been done on children, results don't always apply to adults. The lack of adult clinical trials has resulted in a higher fatality rate for adults with the disease because there isn't much data to help oncologists know what treatments will work, Liddy Shriver said.

A longtime cycling enthusiast, she is determined to make the most of her time.

"On a **bike**, I get a sense of freedom that I don't get any other way," she said. "Perhaps the best thing about the **bike tours** is that for several days, I really don't feel much like a cancer patient. My last chemo is far enough in the past that I feel good. No worry about scans and their results. It's wonderful while it lasts."

While in Denmark, the Shrivens and other members of their team will visit the islands, stay at traditional Danish inns, see 800-year-old castles and burial mounds, visit small villages with thatched-roof cottages and sail on an old wooden sailing ship.

To find out more about the **bike tour**, visit the Web site <http://www.theshrivers.us/>. To find out more about sarcoma, visit the Web site <http://www.curesarcoma.org>.

[Printer Friendly Version](#) [Send this story to a friend](#)

Search text: **virtual bike tour**

1/40



Previous Document



Search Results



Next Document