

Cover Story

Burning up Cancer is a 1997, Kawasaki Vulcan 1500 owned by Jodi Roberts of Columbus, WI. The painter/artist is Lester Eveland, of Middleton, WI. Lester and I discussed the theme of this bike for 2 years before we finally brought it alive. I can't draw a stick figure so getting the image out of my head and into Lester's artistic hands took some time. I spent many afternoons at Lester's shop while he would paint what I was describing as the image I was seeing in my mind. I remember him saying, "Are you sure you want a pink bike? I don't do girly well." (Lester is known for his talented painting of skulls, fire and flames that look as though they are alive.)

Burning up Cancer is inspired by Mary Emery Weidling (1945-2012) and the courageous battle she fought with breast cancer which eventually turned into bone cancer. Mary is my mother and my mom loved to ride. Mom rode a 2005 Ridley before she passed. (picture of mom on her bike attached and picture of Burning up Cancer with mom's bike and its current owner taken September 6, 2014.) My husband, Matt and I have so many memories which were made riding throughout the upper Midwest as a family before mom passed away.

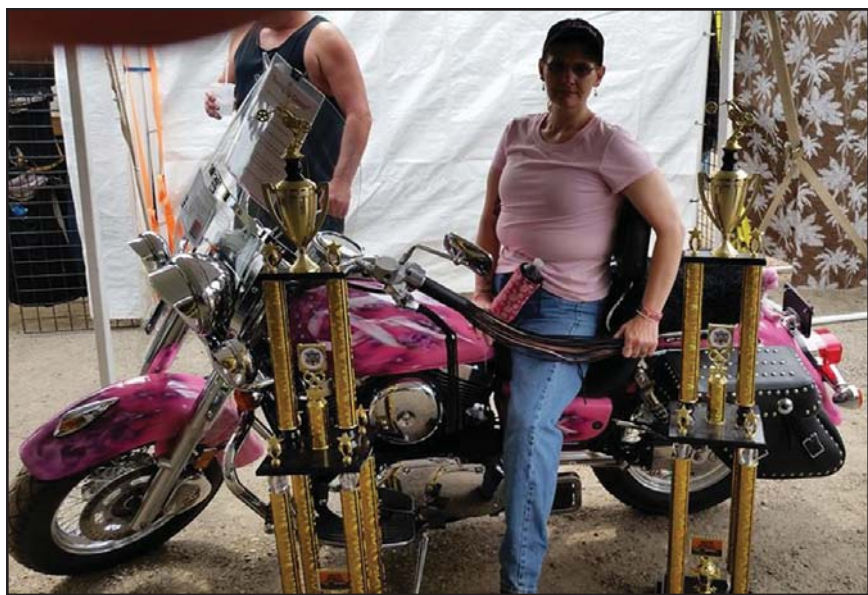
Mom will ride with us forever...in our hearts, in our tattoos and in the paint of Burning up Cancer. I was getting ready for work one morning and the idea of putting mom's ashes into the paint came to mind. I thought to myself, "If we can do it with tattoo ink we should be able to do it with the paint on my bike." I knew that I was going out to Lester's shop after work that day, so I quietly gathered a small amount of mom's ashes before heading out the door. I didn't mention my idea to anyone....Lester was the first person I told about my idea. Lester's reply was, "If the paint sprays we can do it." I personally mixed my mom's ashes in the purple paint that very night. I have a video of Lester spraying the purple paint...as he is spraying he says, "This purple candy has never sprayed so well, Thanks, Mom!!!!"

Burning up Cancer raises awareness with every ride. Everyone connects with this bike in a different way, that is very personal to them. Just last weekend my husband and I made a flying trip to Hibbing, MN on our bikes. I had promised my granddaughter a picture of us on my bike and we didn't get it done before she went back home for the school year. (photo taken of granddaughter and Burning up Cancer on September 13, 2014.) We pulled into a hotel to see if they had any rooms...an entire family, teenagers and a father, came out to look at the bike. They asked to take pictures of the bike. I learned that the mother had passed away recently after battling breast cancer. That particular hotel didn't have any rooms, but stopping there was definitely meant to happen at least for this family.

October is breast cancer awareness month. Early detection is the key to survival....Burning up Cancer will be riding in many parades and attending numerous events throughout the month as a reminder and to raise awareness.



Mary on her bike.



Jodi wins award at all the shows I have attended... Beautiful tribute bike.

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