

The Event

What – Raise \$10,000 for the Friends of NICU charity (501c3).

How – Ride a motorcycle 2500 miles in less than 50 hours across the country from the Pacific Ocean outside San Diego, California to the Atlantic Ocean outside Jacksonville, Florida.

Why – To raise awareness and money for Friends of NICU, an organization that supported Phil and his family during their 119 day stay for their prematurely born daughter, Amelia Grace, at Sutter Roseville Hospital NICU in Roseville, California.

Who – Phil Challinor will ride his motorcycle from the Pacific Ocean waterfront of San Diego, California to the Atlantic Ocean waterfront of Jacksonville, Florida, roughly 2500 miles. The catch, he's got 50 hours to do it.

As a current member of the Iron Butt Association (www.ironbutt.com), the certifying organization of a ride like this, Phil is accustomed to riding long distances. This ride is known as the 50CC. 50 hours, coast to coast. This ride takes riding to a new level of endurance while still providing a safe environment to accomplish the task at hand.

Motorcycles and NICUs – As a lifelong motorcycle adventurer who has lived his life from the saddle of his motorcycle, it's not a stretch to combine his two passions; motorcycles and his family, to create a way to raise awareness and raise funds for a needed cause.

Where does the money go – It goes directly to Friends of NICU, a 501c3 charitable organization for the use of providing gas cards, support, and to maintain the current RV available to families in a NICU experience and to provide funding and awareness for the expansion of Friends of NICU in the future with the addition of a second RV. The need is there. It's just a matter of funding.

Contact and donation information below;

Website – www.friendsofnicu.org

Address to send donations –

Friends of NICU
PO Box 6242
Folsom, CA 95763

Email - elanie@friendsofnicu.com

Phone number – 916-276-0373

The Charity

Friends of NICU is a 501c3 charity serving the Sacramento area.

Friends of NICU was founded by Tim and Elanie Purkis of Folsom, CA after having their own premature baby NICU experience. They found that there wasn't a lot of support available to the families going through this terrifying experience. The families of NICU babies were isolated, alone, and had no one to help support them and their families as they experienced life in the NICU.

Statistics have shown that being able to spend time with your NICU baby improves outcome and shortens the amount of time a baby needs to be in the NICU. The challenge is that there are not NICUs in every hospital as it is a highly specialized area of expertise with its own requirements in dealing with tiny premature and/or sick newborns.

Initially, Friends of NICU started off by providing support and a hand out to NICU families but this grew to providing gas cards so parents could drive to the NICU and spend as much time as possible with their NICU babies and not face the burden of expensive gas bills to do so. They have a group of volunteers who provide meals, a friend to talk to at 2 in the morning, and even Christmas presents during the holidays.

Recently, Friends of NICU has grown their ability to help families in the NICU experience by purchasing a 30 foot fully self-contained RV that can be parked in the hospital parking lot so families can be right there with their babies and maximize the quality, therapeutic time spent together as a family.

Many hospitals offer limited RV parking for long term patients so having the ability to provide this goes so far to relieving an added stress to an already stressful situation.

With the continued support and generosity of volunteers and donation support, Friends of NICU will be able to continue to provide support, relief, and services such as gas cards and a place to sleep so families can stay close to their little ones as they get the treatment and time they need to grow so they can come home with their families.

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The Story

May 5, 2010 – “Interesting”, those were the first words I uttered when I found out we were pregnant. Of course, it was around 3 AM, I was at work at the fire house, which I always am when something significant happens, and Jamie had just called me to tell me the news that we were pregnant.

After this “interesting” start there was really nothing unusual about the pregnancy, we did everything we were supposed to do. We had prenatal appointments, Jamie exercised, she followed orders, we led a happy, normal life, enjoyed every moment of it and our obstetrician saw nothing at all that was of concern. NOTHING!

Flash forward to October 13, 2010, again, I am at work at the fire house, sleeping between calls, and it's around 3 AM. I told you things always happen while I am at work!! Jamie calls me; I don't get the call so she calls my boss who is just a couple dorm rooms down from me.....sleeping. He comes down, wakes me up, and I call Jamie.

She tells me that she woke up with what she thinks are Braxton Hicks contractions (false contractions and of no worry) but she is going to have our next door neighbor take her in to our local hospital (Marshall Hospital in Placerville, CA as we were living in Diamond Springs, CA at the time) as they are very uncomfortable and appear to possible be increasing in severity and shortening in time between them.

Off she goes and I stay close to the phone but remain at work. If I leave, an entire fire truck goes out of service until a replacement can be found and, at this time, we aren't sure whether I need to leave work or not.

An hour goes by and Jamie calls back saying that Marshall Hospital states that this is definitely not false labor, they do not have the ability to handle a possible 29 week premature baby and are requesting a code 3 (lights and siren) transport ambulance to come get Jamie and transport her to Sutter Roseville Hospital where they have a NICU and all the needed staff to handle a premature birth if necessary. Jamie has already had special medication used to stop the contractions and nothing is working.

What!?!?! Now?!?!? Amelia is not due until December 26 but it's only October 13!!!!

I remain at work until a replacement is contacted and arrives at work to relieve me. There really is nothing to do at this point anyway as Jamie has an hour long code 3 ride in the ambulance to get her to Sutter Roseville and I won't be able to see her right away as they have to get her checked in and figure out what's going on.

I borrow my co workers truck to go to the hospital as I rode in on my motorcycle and I don't need to concern myself with the getting dressed and undressed from all the gear I wear when I ride and the need to change. Hey, this is serious and I need to go so I stay in my uniform and leave!

Once I arrive at Sutter Roseville Hospital I talk with Jamie's obstetrician who informs me that things aren't looking good as they are unable to stop the contractions so the plan is to just do what we can to keep a delivery from happening for as long as possible until they can get some special medications on board to help “develop” our little girl's lungs a bit while she is still in Mom's womb.

The doctor just says that every once in a while, “this just happens.” There is nothing Jamie did, nothing she could do to prevent this from happening. It’s just happening. And so begins our first day at Sutter Roseville Hospital. Little did we know what our future would hold!

All the preparations are made and we go in for an emergency c-section and Amelia Grace Challinor is born at 1239 PM on October 13, 2010. She weighs just 3 lbs, 6 oz and is no larger than the size of my outstretched hand.

The NICU staff is there and immediately set about doing what they do as a highly specialized trained team. Amelia is whisked off to the NICU where she is placed on oxygen, monitors, IVs, and placed in a special isolette that maintains her temperature and provides her a quiet environment as close to the womb as possible.

Amelia is too frail, her skin hyper-sensitive, her body too under-developed for us to hold her just yet. For this, we will have to agonizingly wait. And wait we do.

Jamie is wheeled down from surgery to see our daughter as I stand, who can sit, in her room with her.

I never left for three days. I bounced between floors and rooms; Jamie’s as she recovered from her c-section and Amelia’s as she struggled to learn and survive a new world she wasn’t supposed to be a part of yet. On day two her weight dipped down to 2 lbs, 13 oz.

We were told and we knew from our NICU professionals, nurses, doctors, administrators, an amazing compilation of health care professionals that made the experience bearable, that we could expect to be in the NICU for quite some time.

Little did they or we know that this would turn out to be 119 days!!!!

What an agonizing experience to have Jamie released from hospital after giving birth to go home with balloons but no baby. How can we leave while she remains in the NICU? This isn’t how this is supposed to happen!!

My co-worker had an RV available for us to use during our stay in the NICU. We graciously accepted his family’s kind offer and set up our new “home” in the parking lot of Sutter Roseville. Several of the local greater Sacramento area hospitals have places set aside for RVs. Some have electrical hook ups, some just a place to park. Regardless of what they “offer” all we cared is that we could be close to Amelia, 24/7, for as long as we needed and as long as Amelia was in the NICU. Day in and day out as Amelia moved forward, had set backs, endured tests, etc. we lived in that RV. I commuted to work from the hospital and Jamie never left the hospital and spent all her waking time with Amelia in the NICU.

Though there are so many more details within this 119 day time frame – medical setbacks, joys, a minor RV electrical fire, fears, friendships, etc. – it is important to know that we came in contact with Friends of NICU while there and, as a result, found a group of people that not only understood what we were going through but could help out with gas cards, a home cooked meal, a listening ear, a shoulder to lean on, and to just be there as we navigated NICU life. Friends of NICU even had a group of volunteers who bought us Christmas presents!

Finally, February 8, 2011 arrived and we were able to bring Amelia home for the first time. Jamie had returned to work as disability had run out so she was commuting from the RV, her c-section had already healed, and Amelia was now 4 months old and on this day she would FINALLY leave the hospital for the first time. We could finally start going about the business of being parents.

I am happy to report that as of today, Amelia is perfect in every way. She has no residual effects from her early arrival or her stay in the NICU. She is going to be 20 months old on the day I start this 50CC ride and she is completely healthy and happy. She's running, starting to use words, playing, and doing everything a normal baby of her age does.

Through our experience we know that there is so much need for families to be able to spend as much time as possible in the NICU and with their baby. Friends of NICU understand this and that's why they recently acquired an RV for the same purpose as what we used the RV for, to stay close and with your child as you navigate through the NICU until it's time to come home.

This is where you come in to help with our goal to raise \$10,000 to continue the efforts started by Friends of NICU and to help increase the support we can provide families in NICUs in the greater Sacramento area.

There is no amount too little or too much. See the attached sponsor opportunities and benefits page for how you and/or your organization to benefit from your generous donation while joining us at the Friends of NICU annual gala benefit and silent auction. This year, David Garibaldi will be performing and creating a special piece of artwork on stage. This event will be held at Lake Natoma Inn in Folsom, CA on November 3rd.

I hope you will support this event, this ride, this charity, and continue to help celebrate the miracles that are NICU babies.

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Itinerary

The event will kick off with a meet and greet event alongside the Friends of NICU RV, families who have lived the NICU experience, Phil, Phil's wife, and of course, his inspiration for this, Amelia. Join us on June 11 between 4 PM and 7 PM to send Phil off on his quest in the parking lot of Sutter Roseville Hospital at the provided RV area adjacent to 3 Medical Plaza on the Sutter Roseville Hospital campus. The same place Phil and Jamie spent 119 days, in an RV, waiting for Amelia to come home.

June 12th will see Phil leave his home and family in Folsom, California and ride to San Diego, California in preparation for his departure on his 50CC quest.

Early in the morning of June 13 Phil will dip his toes in the Pacific Ocean at Ocean Beach and depart on his adventure from this point.

June 15th, 50 hours later, Phil will dip his toes in the Atlantic Ocean of Jacksonville, Florida at the end of Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach, Florida.

It is hoped that both local affiliates and national media will grasp the human interest and compelling story of Phil, Jamie, Amelia and of others who have endured NICU life to have media in all areas of the event from the Sacramento, San Diego, and Jacksonville areas as well as areas along the way as identified in the itinerary. Also, once on the East coast Phil would be available to ride to New York or any other area to help spread the word, raise money, and raise awareness. Live time satellite tracking of the ride and during the ride cell phone contact is available.

After arriving in Jacksonville, Florida Phil will be available for media interview and a hopeful connection with an East coast NICU to help drive home the idea that NICU experiences are as much an East coast issue as they are a West coast issue with no socio-economic boundaries to determine who begins their life in a NICU. Sometimes it just happens, as was the case with Phil's daughter Amelia.

A major goal in doing this ride is, of course, raising \$10,000 for Friends of NICU but also gaining local and national media attention for his efforts and for the issues faced by families of NICU babies.

Amelia spent 119 days in the NICU in Sutter Roseville Hospital after being born very premature at 29 weeks on October 13, 2010. Her due date wasn't until December 26, 2010. More details can be found in this packet under 'The Story'.

A complete itinerary is included to show the frame work of the ride out and the trip back. Changes are available to accommodate media request.

Ride Framework

June 11 – Meet and Greet – 4 to 7 PM – Sutter Roseville Hospital RV parking lot adjacent to 3 Medical Plaza on the Sutter Roseville campus in Roseville, CA

June 12 – Ride to San Diego, CA in preparation for departure on June 13 (550 miles)

June 13 – Begin 50CC from Ocean Beach, San Diego, California and ride to Kerrville, Texas for a rest break (1250 miles) – expected 6 AM local time start

June 14 – Continue on 50CC ride from Kerrville, Texas to Jacksonville, Florida (1200 miles)

June 15 – Arrive and dip toes in the Atlantic Ocean at the end of Beach Blvd in Jacksonville Beach outside of Jacksonville, FL within 50 hours from actual start time in San Diego, CA

June 16 – Ride to Albany, GA to visit with a retired co-worker (200 miles)

June 17 – FATHER'S DAY – Attend Sherwood Baptist Church (of the movies Courageous, Facing the Giants, and Fireproof fame) in Albany, GA

June 18 – Ride to Knoxville, TN via 'Tail of the Dragon', a famous motorcycling road (400 miles)

June 19 – Ride to Sterling, VA to stay with my wife's sister and her family (400 miles)

June 20 – Open days to visit, do media interviews, rest, and sight see

June 21 – Ride to Wind Gap, PA to stay and reconnect with a former Marine with whom I served.

June 22/23 – Ride to Spring Mills, PA to attend a weekend dual sport camping and riding event put on by AltRider, a motorcycle accessory company (200 miles)

June 24 – Ride to Zanesville, OH enroute to home after passing through Shanksville, PA to pay tribute to the heroic efforts of the passengers and crew of Flight 93 on 9-11-01. (350 miles)

June 25 – Ride to Overland Park, KS to meet up with a long distance NICU family and who endured the NICU experience while hundreds of miles from home (750 miles)

June 26 – Rest day

June 27 – Ride to North Platte, NE enroute to home (450 miles)

June 28 – Ride to Salt Lake City, UT enroute to home (650 miles)

June 29 – Rest day

June 30 – Ride to home in Folsom, CA. Mission accomplished!!! (725 miles)

Rider Bio

Phil Challinor is a 44 year old (August 31, 1967) father of Amelia Grace Challinor and is married to Jamie Challinor, 36 (May 14, 1976). Phil is a currently a full time professional Fire Captain/Paramedic with the City of Folsom Fire Department.

Originally born in Massachusetts but claiming Jackson, Michigan as his roots he is the first American born son to British emigrants, Brian and Anne Challinor, currently of Mesa, Arizona.

After graduating high school in Jackson, Michigan Phil entered the US Marine Corps where he served in the Marine Corps' Air Wing as an Aviation Electronics Technician for 6 years and was honorably discharged having attained the rank of Sergeant (E-5). After leaving the Marine Corps Phil worked in the motorcycle industry and then moved off to other endeavors before pursuing his present career as a Fire Captain/Paramedic.

An avid motorcyclist who has professionally road raced motorcycles, previously taught motorcycle safety training for 9 years with the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Basic and Advanced rider training programs as an Experienced Instructor, and a member of the Iron Butt Association, Phil puts over 20,000 miles a year on his motorcycles through local day rides and extended motorcycling adventures both on his own and with his family.

Several years ago, Phil began giving back to the motorcycling community that has given so much to him by putting together and teaching a Motorcyclist First Aid class which keys in on the particular issues faced with motorcyclists from both a physical, mental, medical, and injury related basis. He teaches this class three to four times a year for free through motorcycle clubs, dealerships, and several of the motorcycle specific internet forums in which he participates. This course is a natural marriage of his passion, training, and experiences of motorcycling and his professional training as a Fire Captain and Paramedic.

Phil's wife is now a stay at home mother with Amelia after living their 119 day NICU experience and being laid off from her position as a Senior Administrative Assistant with Blue Shield located in El Dorado Hills, California.

Phil currently resides in Folsom, CA with his wife and daughter Amelia Grace.

The Motorcycle

Phil will be riding the latest in Adventure offerings from Yamaha Motorcycles. His 2012 Yamaha Super Tenere is Yamaha's most recent addition to the expanding Adventure line of motorcycles.

Its 1200cc, electronically fuel injected motor along with traction control, anti lock braking and "fly by wire" throttle control with dual drive mode and 6 gallon fuel tank is up to the task of this ride.

Phil has added some important features and accessories which not only enhance safety but enhance the experience of riding miles upon miles across the country. Below are some highlights;

- Live time satellite position tracking which can be viewed via the internet. You can "ride along" from the comfort of your desk chair and computer as it happens.
- GPS with Doppler radar imaging to help navigate his way and keep him aware of any weather in front.
- XM Radio. 50 hours. He needs something to listen to other than his thoughts.
- AltRider brand protection bars and guards. Primarily for use when adventuring off road, they add safety and appearance appeal to an already competent motorcycle.
- Touratech brand waterproof luggage. Everyone needs a change of clothes and a place to carry their toothbrush.
- Yamaha accessory heated grips and auxiliary lighting. It can get cold when riding and it's definitely dark at night.
- Heated clothing capability. The latest in adjustable body warmth retention from Gerbing.
- Complete communication system that allows cell phone communication while riding, communication with other near by people with FRS type radios, as well as direct voice command inputs from the GPS and XM radio interface.
- The latest in complete motorcycling rider apparel and helmet to provide comfort and safety throughout the adventure.
- These items along with complete tools, a first aid kit and prudent preparation help ensure a successful and safe trip.



BACKGROUND (from founders Tim and Elanie Purkis)

Friends of NICU started over five years ago when Matthew and Ryan (our twin boys) were born 10 weeks prematurely and spent the first 10 weeks of their lives in Mercy San Juan's NICU. Those were the toughest weeks of our lives. Ryan was so sick that he spent the first few weeks of his life on a ventilator because his lungs weren't big or strong enough to let him breathe on his own. He was on oxygen for 13 months. Matty wasn't as sick but he still needed round the clock supervision. It's tough when your babies are lying there, fighting for their lives and there is nothing you can do to help. As a parent, this is one of the most frustrating and helpless feelings ever. However, we were fortunate enough to be able to spend a great amount of time with Matty and Ryan because we had a great support team helping us with babysitting Kevin (he was 3 then, 8 now) as well as making meals, providing transportation help, etc. Without that support, it would have been unbearable.



And that is why we founded Friends of NICU – because there are so many (too many) families who go through similar (and worse) experiences like ours without much emotional or financial assistance. Many families have to travel long distances (100+ miles) just to see their baby. They often have to make tough financial decisions, like where their last \$10 should be spent. Should it be spent on putting food on the table or putting gas in the car to visit their sick baby in the NICU? Those are decisions we don't want anyone to make and because of Friends of NICU, they don't have to. There is no other program in existence that does what we do – neither health insurance nor public assistance gives immediately like we do. It fills a much needed void.

The Friends of NICU is a volunteer, not-for-profit 501 (C)3 organization dedicated to families who have children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU) in the Sacramento area. Our group helps families in a difficult, difficult time. We provide them gas cards, RV lodging, hotel stays, and food vouchers—small but greatly appreciated gestures at a time when nothing else seems to matter beside the health and comfort of your child.



On November 3rd, 2012, Friends of NICU will host the **4th Celebration of Miracles** to raise funds and recognize the amazing effort of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit staff and volunteers. The evening will take place at the beautiful Lake Natoma Inn in Folsom. The evening will include an hors d'oeuvres reception, wine tasting, a silent auction as well as an exciting performance by world renowned artist, **David Garibaldi**. After David concludes his exciting performance, we will auction off four of his paintings in a live auction format.

Wine Tasting • Hors d'oeuvres Reception • Silent/Live
Auction • Dancing
David Garibaldi Entertainment
Saturday, November 3, 2012
6:00-11:00 p.m.
Lake Natoma Inn • Historic Folsom, CA

Sponsorship Opportunities and Benefits

Bronze - \$1,000

- 2 guest tickets to the event
- Company name printed in the event program
- Company name and direct link to your company's website on the Friends of NICU website and Facebook page for 12 months
- License to use Friends of NICU logo for 12 months

Silver - \$2,5000

- 4 guest tickets to the event
- Company name and logo printed in the event program
- Additional acknowledgement in remarks and additional signage during the event
- Logo and direct link to your company's website on the Friends of NICU website and Facebook page for 12 months
- License to use Friends of NICU logo for 12 months

Gold \$5,000

- 6 guest tickets to the event
- Company display table in ballroom (table, draping and chairs provided by Friends of NICU. All other materials to be provided by your company)
- Company name and logo printed in the event program
- Additional acknowledgement in remarks and additional signage during the event
- Logo and direct link to your company's website on the Friends of NICU website and Facebook page for 12 months
- License to use Friends of NICU logo for 12 months