

Ledger Independent

Doctor biking for kidney disease awareness

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For Maysville resident, Dr. William E. Barrett, biking was something he had enjoyed for many years but lost time to enjoy when he moved to the area in 2006.

“I just got really busy with moving here, business and family obligations,” Barrett said on Thursday.

Now Barrett is preparing for the bike ride of a lifetime, all to raise awareness of the need to get screened for kidney disease.

“I got up to 70 miles last weekend. The Tour DaVita challenge hard, with a century ride, that's 100 miles on the second day after a 60 mile ride,” Barrett said, “There is another 60 mile ride after the 100 mile one.”

His rides are getting longer.

“I am just riding with friends right now,” he said.

In the next few weeks he intends to push his bicycling distances toward the 100 mile goal.

“I have to know I can do it. I keep telling myself I think I can,” Barrett, said.

Barrett will be in Greenville/Spartansburg area of South Carolina Sept. 14-18 for the Tour DaVita challenge, he said.

Doctors and others participating in the event raise donations as part of the nation wide campaign.

Barrett practices medicine at DaVita /Bluegrass Nephrology in Maysville.

“Our goal is to raise funds for and awareness that the Kidney Trust is a free screening for kidney disease.

For those with severe kidney disease a kidney transplant is an ultimate goal," he said. "People need to know if they have kidney disease so it can be treated early. It is very prevalent in our area."

A deadline for donations in Barrett's name is Aug. 29, he said.

"There is a website at www.tourdavita.org," Barrett said.

By clicking on Barrett's name visitors to the site can follow his donation amount and learn more about kidney disease.

As of Thursday, Barrett was about \$300 from his donation goal of \$2,000, he said.

When the event is over, Barrett is looking forward to joining in with local bicycle enthusiasts for more regular rides.