



JIM CLARK/CITIZEN

BETTY BALLANTYNE attended Roger's Ride with her grandchildren — 6-year-old Sarah, and 4-year-old twins, Ian and Nathan. Roger's Ride is a Laconia Kiwanis Club fundraising event. About 75 motorcyclists took off from the Belknap Mill parking lot to Lake Sunapee and returned three hours later. The ride honors Ballantyne's late husband, Roger Ballantyne.

Motorcyclists turn out for Roger's Ride

By JIM CLARK

jclark@citizen.com

LACONIA — About 75 motorcyclists turned out on Sunday morning for Roger's Ride, an annual fundraising

event organized by the Laconia Kiwanis Club, which provides money to an assortment of children's charities in the area.

Kiwanis Club President John Walker said his group hoped to raise \$7,000

from Sunday's Roger's Ride.

The motorcycle run started in the parking lot of the Belknap Mill next to

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MOTORCYCLISTS are seen getting ready to leave the parking lot of the Belknap Mill in Laconia on Sunday morning to make their way to Lake Sunapee and back in the Roger's Ride event.

RIDE

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City Hall at precisely 10 a.m. The bikers made their way to Lake Sunapee before returning to Rotary Park next to Belknap Mill for a 1 p.m. lunch.

Roger's Ride honors the late Roger Ballantyne, a well-known senior bank executive, teacher and civic leader, who passed away from kidney cancer in 2008. Present at Rotary Park next to Belknap Mill on Sunday morning were Ballantyne's widow, Betty, along with her daughter and son-in-law, Andrea and Pete Cravenho, and three of her six grandchildren—6-year-old Sarah and 4-year-old twins, Ian and Nathan.

Ballantyne was a Kiwanian for 35 years. He was employed as the senior vice president of human resources at Citizens Bank for 28 years. Before that, he spent 25 years as a teacher in the Laconia School District. He served as an instructor in the adult education program at Laconia High School, and prior to that was a U.S. history and government instructor at the Middle School.

Ballantyne served in the U.S. Marine Corps from the 1960s, and later graduated from West Virginia University. He arrived in Laconia in the early 1970s. Motorcycling was one of Ballantyne's favorite recreational pursuits. He was known for his involvement in an assortment of activities and fundraisers which aided Laconia's children.

Ballantyne served on the Laconia School Board, was a member of the Lakes Region General Hospital Board of Trustees and served as a volunteer

for the Laconia Police Department's Crime Line program.

Betty Ballantyne is now employed as used car manager at Irwin Motors Ford/Lincoln/Toyota on Bisson Avenue.

Motorcyclists started arriving at Rotary Park shortly after 9 a.m., where they were treated to coffee and donuts from Goody Good Donuts on Union Avenue. The fee for participating in the Lake Sunapee excursion was \$25 for a single rider, and \$30 for a rider with a passenger.

Those who showed up purchased raffle tickets to win a two-night stay at the Wentworth-By-The-Sea hotel in Newcastle. A 50/50 raffle was also held, and there were silent auction items for sale. "Roger's Ride" T-shirts were sold for \$10 each.

When motorcyclists returned from Lake Sunapee, they were treated to a free lunch prepared by Kevin Halligan, owner of Laconia Local Eatery, at 21 Veterans Square in the former train depot downtown. Halligan also owns Local Provisions, Laconia's only butcher shop at 622 Main St. The lunch menu consisted of pulled pork sandwiches, hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, green salad and soft drinks.

The annual Roger's Ride motorcycle run raises funds through the Kiwanis Club for an assortment of children's charities in the Lakes Region. They include Central New Hampshire VNA and Hospice; the Circle Program; Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation; Kiwanis KARES; an elementary school reading program; the Camp Mayhew Program; DARE and the Rich Valasquez Youth Sports Equipment Foundation.