

# Bike-blues fest raises money to help injured

Event debuts in Newark

By MIKE CHALMERS, *The News Journal*

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Motorcyclists parade down Main Street in Newark during Saturday's Bike Show and Blues Festival. [\(Buy photo\)](#) The News Journal/WILLIAM BRETZGER

About a dozen years ago, Jim-Bob Golden and some other motorcycle enthusiasts looked around and noticed something was missing.

Biker clubs of all kinds were helping worthy charities by raising money, delivering Christmas toys and doing other work. But what about bikers injured in accidents they didn't cause? Couldn't fellow bikers help?

That was the start of the Motorcycle Accident Victims Foundation, a nonprofit organization that Saturday sponsored its first Bike Show and Blues Festival in Newark. Golden, president of the group, said he expected more than 500 bikers to come to the event, show off their bikes, participate in a parade down Main Street and enjoy a couple of bands.

"A lot of people don't know about us, so we wanted to go on a larger scale," Golden said.

Since it was formed in 1995, the foundation has raised thousands of dollars to help accident victims buy food, pay utility bills and cover other day-to-day living expenses, he

said. "It's the stuff they need to live until their insurance money starts coming in," Golden said.

Golden and other foundation members began organizing the event a year ago and were pleased to see a steady flow of bikes coming in to the Newark Shopping Center parking lot. Some were massive luxury bikes that looked more like two-wheeled cars, while others were custom-built choppers prized for their one-of-a-kind parts, paint and design.

"There's nothing else like it," said Bill Buckworth, of Newark, as he sat astride his black and red chopper. "It's like tattoos. I don't have any tattoos that anyone else has got."

Vendors sold hats and T-shirts with characteristic biker attitude -- "Sorry if my loud pipes disturbed your phone call" -- and others with phrases and images best left out of a family newspaper.

And everywhere was the low, throaty, feel-it-in-your-spine rumble of motorcycle engines.

The noise serves a purpose, said Jeff Shelton, owner of Independents Choppers Inc., a custom bike shop in Newark. Motorists -- especially the ones chatting on a cell phone, applying makeup and driving with their knees -- need to at least hear a bike coming, if they're not paying attention enough to see it, he said.

"That's why we keep the pipes as loud as we can," Shelton said. "People don't pay attention. When you're in the car to drive, that's what you should be doing."

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