

Motorcycle ministry holds inaugural ride



HARRISON HAAS/CITIZEN

In prayer

PASTOR RUSSELL Kulisich says a prayer before setting out on the first Jesus Ride on Saturday afternoon.

Posted: Monday, June 20, 2011 6:00 am

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LACONIA — A small group of motorcyclists joined together on Saturday afternoon for the first “The Jesus Ride” put on by the Jesus Is The Answer Motorcycle Ministry.

Based out of Lowell, Mass., the motorcycle ministry held the ride as a way to unite Christians of all denominations under one banner. Heading the pack was a motorcycle flying the United States flag along with the Christian flag which traveled from Winnepesaukee Crossing in Gilford and up to Funspot where the cyclists went their own way after the ride.

It was 22 years ago that Pastor Russell Kulisich along with his wife Kathyne began the ministry. The group has been coming to Bike Week since 1989 with the intention of spreading Jesus’ word.

“We want to ride up along Paugus Bay and show some solidarity, if you will, that people can just ride for Jesus whether they are a believer or none believer,” said Russell. “It’s all about Jesus. When you get people together into one accord, it’s power.”

He said when he began his motorcycle ministry, there were only a few groups, but over the years the numbers have increased and now there are several which come to Bike Week each year.

During Bike Week last year, Russell said the Lord had spoken to him and told him to hold a ride for him and only him.

Russell has been trying to bridge the gap in motorcycle ministry by brining all people together without there being any specific denomination. He said he classifies his church in Lowell, Mass as cross-denominational, which allows a mix of different beliefs.

“He said ‘If you can’t ride for me, you ought to take the patch off your back and throw it in the trash’,” said Russell.

Kathryne rode on the back of Russell’s bike during the ride. She said the group has been reaching out all week to get people to join the ride.

“The whole concept of the ride is getting people together for a reason,” she said. “We can be unified under Jesus no matter what, it doesn’t matter where you come from or what church you’re from.”

Riding on Saturday was Jo Baro, the National Secretary of the ministry. She said she joined back in 2004 when she needed guidance in her life.

“I joined because my son needed help,” said Baro. “It has changed his life as well as my own.”

This year marked the inaugural ride, with hopes of there being another ride each year after. The group hopes more people will be able to participate next year.

For more information about the Jesus Is The Answer Motorcycle Ministry, visit Jesusistheanswer.org.