

Sun Journal

[River Valley](#)

Despite soggy Saturday, ATV club's Toy Run motors on

By [Terry Karkos, Staff Writer](#)

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RUMFORD — For the third straight year, the [Roxbury All-Terrain Vehicle Riders Club's](#) fourth annual Christmas in July Toy Run from Andover to Rumford and back on Saturday was considered a soggy success.

Although, next year, there will be no rain date. It will go rain or shine.

“The weather didn't cooperate with us,” club President Mike Worthley said.

It isn't yet known how much money and toys 60 to 70 participating riders donated to benefit children and families in Andover, Bethel, Byron, Dixfield, Mexico, Peru, Roxbury and Rumford, club President Mike Worthley said.

"We will not know (donation totals) for a week or so, because the ones that did not come on the ride and others that don't ride will be dropping off toys all week," his wife Wanda Worthley said by e-mail on Sunday morning.

Additionally, for the first time ever, an ATV participant lost control of his four-wheel Yamaha Kodiak on a trail while slowly descending a hill in woods between Black Mountain and Rumford Whitecap.

Out of respect for landowner access, toy run participants only drive 15 to 20 mph for most of the trip, Mike Worthley said.

Maine Warden Sgt. Tim Place said Saturday afternoon that David Thibodeau, 39, of Bryant Pond, collided with a rock that caused the ATV to roll over onto Thibodeau.



Early arriving participants in Saturday's fourth annual Christmas in July Toy Run, hosted by the Roxbury All-Terrain Vehicle Riders Club, suddenly realize they weren't supposed to stop amidst rescue vehicles off Route 2 in Rumford in the staging area for an ongoing search-and-rescue operation for an injured toy run ATV driver.

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He complained of pain in both shoulders, his back, an elbow, and stomach, and had difficulty breathing, Place said.

Thibodeau was rescued by Rumford and Mexico firefighters and a Med-Care Ambulance crew and taken to Rumford Hospital.

"David is OK — just bruises and sore," Wanda Worthley said.

To participate in the 26-mile charity ride through Andover, Roxbury and Rumford, riders brought toys or donated cash. They came from Turner, Livermore, Wilton, Jay, Gorham and out of state.

This year's trip departed from Andover's Park and Ride area at 10 a.m. and arrived in a field off Route 2 in Rumford near McDonald's Restaurant between noon and 1 p.m..

There, club members served participants hamburgers, hot dogs, sausages, homemade French fries and drinks as a thank-you for the donations.

"We'd also like to thank all the businesses that supported our T-shirts and donated a door prize, and everyone who came," Wanda Worthley said.

Additionally, the club continued its tradition to recognize youngsters who participate.

"We gave all the children that were at the ride a \$10 bill for a door prize," Wanda Worthley said.

"We had 60 to 70 wheelers, but we usually have over 100, so there will be plenty of food left over," Mike Worthley said. "We have enough food for 200 people.

Last year's successful run began with rain showers for 86 riders starting from Grimaldi Field in Andover, but then evolved into a decent day. More than \$2,800 was raised, which meant each charity group got a check for \$720, and at least an estimated \$2,000 in toys.

In 2008, the event attracted 215 riders and raised \$6,000.

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A participant in Saturday's fourth annual Christmas in July Toy Run stores a prize he won during raffle ticket drawings for the Roxbury All-Terrain Vehicle Riders' 26-mile charity ride from Andover to Rumford and back.

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After winning a prize during Saturday's fourth annual Christmas in July Toy Run fundraiser in Rumford by the Roxbury ATV Riders Club, 3-year-old Jayvin St. Louis of Jay reaches into a bin held by club President Mike Worthley to pull out the next raffle ticket for Worthley to read.

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"Shiloh," a 14-fourteen-month-old beagle, and owner Jeff Bachelder of Leeds wait off Route 2 in Rumford to return to all-terrain vehicle trails at the conclusion of a raffle prize drawings in the background during the fourth annual Christmas in July Toy Run by the Roxbury ATV Riders Club.

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A mud-spattered American flag attached to an all-terrain vehicle in Rumford attests to trail conditions in pouring rain during Saturday's fourth annual Christmas in July Toy Run from Andover to Rumford and back. The 26-mile ride by the Roxbury ATV

Riders Club usually raises up to \$6,000 in donations and a few thousand dollars worth of toys for River Valley-area charities.

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