Blue Ridge Fest ready to roll

Festival expected to break $1 million milestone for charity

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PICKENS – Organizers of Blue Ridge Fest expect to reach a milestone at this weekend's annual festival when it surpasses the $1 million mark in contributions to local charities.

"We have raised over $950,000 for charity over the past 12 years," said Liza Holder, marketing coordinator for Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative. "This year we are looking to surpass the million-dollar milestone so it's a big year for us giving back over $1 million to the local community."

Holder said proceeds from the Blue Ridge Fest, which is put on by employee volunteers of Blue Ridge Electric and its subsidiary Blue Ridge Security Systems, go to charities throughout the Upstate.

"We give back to Anderson, Greenville, Oconee and Pickens counties because that is our service area," she said. "The needs out there are just critical."

Blue Ridge Fest is set for Friday and Saturday at Blue Ridge's outdoor facility on West Main Street in downtown Pickens, Holder said.

On Friday, residents and visitors alike will find live beach music, plenty of food and a classic car cruise-in with vehicles from the year 1979 and earlier.

This year three bands will take the stage – Legends of Beach, Jim Quick and Coastline, and The Temptations with Dennis Edwards, Holder said.

YOU CAN GO

- When: May 14 event will be from 6 to 10:30 p.m.
- Where: 734 W. Main Street in Pickens
- Cost: Tickets: $20 for adults, $10 for children, ages 7 to 12, and free for ages 6 and under
Discounted ticket price available if purchased by noon May 14
To purchase tickets or for more information go to www.blueridgefest.com, call 800-240-3400 or go to a Blue Ridge Electric or Blue Ridge Security office
- Gates will open at 1 p.m. for classic cars and $20 admits a carload of four
- When: May 15
Blessing of the bikes at 9 a.m., the first bikes leave at 9:15 a.m. and the last bikes leave at 11 a.m.
- Where: Ride will start at 734 W. Main Street in Pickens and will end at Timms Harley-Davidson in Anderson
- Cost: Registration fee is $25
To register in advance for the motorcycle ride go to www.blueridgefest.com. Riders can also register the day of the event. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m.