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PHOTOS BY ZOE HARSON

Alix Gollomp and Emma Rubinstein of New York cooled down with some ice cream after a hot day of biking.

Bicycle tours another way to see Kent

By Sarah Holm

KENT — Warm weather draws scores of cyclists to the roads of the Northwest Corner and it's not unusual to see them riding in packs.

On Thursday, July 21, one of those packs consisted of 39 girls from Camp Ramah in the Berkshires in Wingdale, N.Y. The campers came to Kent for a 10-mile bike ride before cooling off with ice cream at Backcountry Outfitters.

Harmonie Rosenberg, one of the girls' counselors, described the trip as a "special treat." The campers typically engage in swimming, arts and crafts and outdoor adventure.

The ride was organized by Sal Lilienthal, director of the Bicycle Tour Company in Kent, which offers rentals and repairs but states its main goal is to promote

cycling through group outings and the mapping of routes.

Lilienthal and Dan Bolognani, executive director of the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area, are currently working on an application for a grant from the National Parks Service to create the Western New England Greenway, a bike route that will begin in New York City and end in Montreal.

"Bicycling keeps people healthy, it's good for the environment and it's good for economic development," Lilienthal said.

Maps and descriptions of Kent bike routes are available at www.upperhousatonicheritage.org. Lilienthal is also working on a Housatonic River covered bridge map that will be available soon.

For more information, visit www.bicycletours.com.



Sarah Davis and friends took a spin on their bikes while visiting Kent.