

INSIDE

Newport Music Festival includes a French twist. A5

LOCAL & STATE

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NEWPORT FOLK FESTIVAL: NOTEBOOK

For many, traveling was about the ride

NEWPORT — More than 800 bikes were amassed each day of the Newport Folk Festival on bike racks near the entrance to Fort Adams.

Bike Newport made an all-out effort to persuade people to bike to the festival. People could park their cars for free at "Park-and-Bike" lots at Newport Grand in the north end of the city and at Aquidneck School in Middletown.

"This is the second year we've done it, but the response this year was really great," said Bari George, executive director of Bike Newport.

The state Department of Transportation and the Tretorn shoe company, sponsors of the biking alternative, gave out blinking red lights in the evenings so people could ride back safely.

Tretorn also paid for a battery that allowed energy to be stored from a stationary bike that people pedaled. People could charge their cell phones at the location inside the fort.

Sarah Antaya and Kirk Cusic, both of Providence, rode bikes from the Point, following signs put up by Bike Newport.

"Biking in was fantastic," Antaya said.

"As we were biking here, we saw all the water taxis going to the fort," Cusic said. "That's also an interesting way to do it. Anything that reduces the number of cars lined up at the fort entrance."

◆ Parents attending the Folk Festival said they felt it was welcoming to children.

Ryan and Calyn Post of Little Compton came with their 10-month-old son Harlow.

"It seems like they are getting more kid-friendly," Ryan Post said. "They even have a Family Tent that's really nice."

"It's really inviting," Calyn Post said. "Parents can change diapers in there, which is great. There is really no other place."

Luke Owens, a staffer at the Newport Public Library, listened to the Felice Brothers play "This Land is Your Land" in the Family Tent with his son Ethan, 7, and daughter Eleni, 4.

"It made my daughter's day," he said.

Dan and Andrea Litvak of Milton, Mass., made their first visit to the Folk Festival with their children Ben, 3, and Julia, 1.

"We took the ferry over," Dan Litvak said. "That was a huge hit for



Bike Newport volunteers help park bikes on Saturday during the Newport Folk Festival at Fort Adams State Park. Festival-goers were encouraged to use 'Park-and-Bike' parking lots in Newport and Middletown and ride their bikes to the fort. The racks collected more than 800 bikes each day at the fort.

Dave Hansen
 Staff photographer



Michael Salerno Photography

The Felice Brothers perform Sunday at Fort Adams State Park. The band played in the Family Tent before its set on the Quad Stage.

the kids. For us, it's so much easier than driving.

"Once we got here, there was a lot of open space for the kids to play. It's like a park."

◆ Patrick Norton, executive director of The Narrows music venue in Fall River, Mass., said he came to the festival with 50 Narrows volunteers as a reward for them.

"The performers here are a great mixture of the young and the old, and it's such a great venue," he said

as he looked out into Newport Harbor.

◆ There was a freewheeling atmosphere at the festival.

There was a "Zip2 water mobile filtration tank" where people could fill their water bottles. One woman crouched below the water tap and let the water flow over her head and back to cool off.

◆ A stacked signpost inside Fort Adams on the former parade grounds, called the Quad, had the

names of "late greats" on the different signs, instead of cities and distances that once were typical of such signs. The names included Howlin' Wolf, Janis Joplin, Levon Helm, Earl Scruggs, John Lee Hooker and Mississippi John Hurt.

◆ The Avett Brothers' tour bus exited the parking lot shortly after their headlining set Saturday night amid hundreds of walkers and bikers heading out of the park. Fans were waving and cheering as the band members sat in the front window, animatedly waving back.

◆ The Lone Bellow sang their last song while standing on the chairs of people in the back of the Quad Stage, much to the surprise — and enjoyment — of fans.

◆ Toy Soldiers made an appearance with Joe Fletcher & the Wrong Reasons during the end of the "Nashville to Newport" set on Saturday on the Museum Stage. They also played at One Eighty on Broadway on Saturday night with Andrew Combs, another festival act, during one of several folk after-parties.

◆ Colin Meloy, a seasoned performer, "posed" for photographers during his set Saturday on the Quad Stage.

◆ One man was overheard in the media tent saying this was the best festival ever because servers were shucking clams for lunch.

◆ A moderator for "Nashville to Newport" singled out a couple in the first row that had been there for the entire 3½-hour set.

◆ Flamenco dancers wandered around the fort in full costume, serenading festival-goers between sets.

◆ Langhorne Slim was spotted in and around the fort all weekend. After his set on Saturday, he was happily and enthusiastically signing merchandise, even receiving a hug from one fan. On Sunday, he was seen backstage watching the Sprit Family Reunion set and, later, joined The Lumineers on stage for a song.

◆ There was increased security for The Lumineers' set. The band was nominated for a Grammy this past year for Best New Artists and Best Americana Album.

◆ Beck dedicated "Waiting for a Train" to Ramblin' Jack Elliot, whom he said he listened to as a teen and was a big inspiration to him. As he began to sing, Ramblin' Jack Elliot joined Beck on stage, and they sang together. At the song's end, Beck remarked, "Well, that was an honor."

◆ Jim Gillis, who covered the Folk and Jazz festivals for years for The Daily News, was told by one long-time festival worker that he will be a part of the folk family, forever and always.

◆ Sean Flynn and Helena Touhey