



The opening Seacoast Ride of the 2007 Season was originally scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>. A small group actually set out for Vermont hoping that the weather man was wrong. (Ever notice that they're usually 'right' when you don't want 'em to be?) We got no further than Goffstown when rain and a pothole hiding in a puddle turned us back!

The weather Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> looked marginally better than the last time so a good crew showed up for coffee and donuts at Seacoast! The initial group consisted of 8 bikes and 10 riders.

Dave M – ST2  
Paul and son – ST3  
Adam S – Tuono  
Scott and Melissa – FZ1  
Joe P – Suzuki  
Bryon F – Yamaha  
Bickford J – FZ1  
Jon T - Multistrada

And we picked up  
Bob B – BMW in Goffstown  
and  
Chris S – ST3  
Adam B – ST2 in Henniker.



Our route was intended to keep us off the highway and still get us to Waterbury in as direct and interesting a way as possible! I was determined that we wouldn't get sidetracked by all the tempting twisties that we encounter on the way. And that we would make it to Ben and Jerry's safely and with enough time left in the day that we could avoid the highway coming home!

We made good time at a spirited pace following Rt. 114 to 103. Most of the ride out to Claremont was in a very fine mist. It wasn't enough to really wet the roads but our face shields got fogged so we stopped occasionally so we could clear our shields and maintain visibility. It looked to me like about half of us had good foul weather gear but the ride out didn't really soak anyone!

Just outside of Claremont, I checked behind me and noticed I was down to 3 riders. I stopped for a minute and when no one appeared behind us I turned back and rode around the corner and saw Bryon or Bickford on my side of the road and maybe Chris on the other. I pulled in next to Bryon and he shouted out that the guy on the Multistrada had a piece of his fairing fly off and get run over and had stopped to recover his bodywork! Sure enough, less than 30 seconds later here comes Jon. We all pulled out and found the rest of the group where we stopped and had a huddle to hear the story! Apparently Jon was minding his own business when he felt something tick his leg and saw a bit of red fly by. He turned in time to see his upper left-hand fairing just get clipped by a car. He managed to recover the offending piece and stick it in his soft saddlebag and was able to show us all where a bit had been knocked off a corner. After a short discussion about whether it was worth carrying, he jettisoned the nice red chunk of plastic and we headed out!



Although I had intended to bypass Woodstock, I miss-read a stream for a road on my map and we ended up passing by a large horse show in progress and coming out at the common in the center of town. As we headed west on Rt. 4 out of town we immediately came to a road-closed detour sign manned by a local gendarme. He looked over the group and walked up to me and asked where we were heading. I told him west to Rt. 100. He took another look at the 11 bikes then told me to go ahead through the barrier and gave me directions around the detour, over the hill, and across a tiny one lane bridge! It saved us a lot of time slogging through traffic and soon we were wicking our way west toward Rt. 100. For those who keep track, that was pretty typical of my interaction with the Police. It seems the older I get the less I get hassled. Wonder why that is....!?!?

As we crossed into Vermont the weather dried up and although we never really saw the sun the temperature was ideal and we stayed comfortably dry.

Looking for fuel, I led the entire group into a Citgo station only to discover that the pumps had no credit card readers. I realized it would take the better part of a day to get all 11 bikes gassed up so I pulled back out without even stopping. I am sure this had the group perplexed but I just don't have the patience for filling stations that make you go inside.



A short distance further, at the intersection of Rt. 4 and 100, we stopped to fill gas tanks and drain personal bladders. It was here that Bryon discovered that he was down to cord on his rear tire and made the wise decision to head home. Paul and his son had to get back for a baseball game and headed home too. So we took this picture of the whole group in front of Blackies!

Route 100 was good and the traffic was pretty light. We only had to pass a couple of cars and this was accomplished with no real drama. Someone on one of the boards had posted a heads up that 100 was torn up from Waitsfield to Waterbury and recommended 100b as a better choice! Great advice! I had never been on this section of 100b and it was a nice little romp that took us to Interstate 89. We hopped on the superslab northbound for one exit and arrived at Ben and Jerry's at about 1:30!

Apparently the real season hadn't started yet and they had various mini-construction projects underway. But they were selling ice-cream and, while no one opted for the \$34.00 killer Sundae, everyone one had at least a taste! And some had a bit more...! As we sat eating our frozen confection we talked about the return route. Several of us hoped to get home in time for the MotoGP and opted to take Rt.89. A few of the others planned to return via Rt. 12, 5, and other back roads. Chris S. made it back to Woodstock in time to see his daughter compete in the horse show we passed earlier in the day and earned some valuable 'karma' points. Scott and Melissa took the Ben and Jerry's factory tour

Seacoast Sport Cycle  
Ben and Jerry's Quick Report  
June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007



before wending their way home! I was one of those who wanted to see the MotoGP so I jumped on Rt. 89 and hustled my way back to Litchfield. It rained almost the whole way but I made it in time for the race. (Good for Rossi...not too bad for Stoner...but where in the world is Nicky???!!!)

This was a good ride. No tickets, no tip-overs or crashes. And a great bunch of 'spirited' but competent and safe riders. I hope everyone of 'em comes along for the rest of the rides this season!



Regards,

Dave

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Dave Michaud  
Seacoast Sport Cycle  
Summer Ride Leader  
(617)285-7154 (cell)  
[batman@batmanmoto.com](mailto:batman@batmanmoto.com) (email)  
[www.batmanmoto.com](http://www.batmanmoto.com)  
[www.seacoastsport.com](http://www.seacoastsport.com)

Ride safe.....  
.....ride often!