



While waiting for folks to show up at Seacoast I wondered how many would brave the serious early morning chill in order to enjoy an absolutely perfect afternoon. By the time we headed to Goffstown to hook up with Skip, 12 bikes and 14 riders followed me north, including James from Toronto and Brian from Rhode Island!

At the Popcorn Stand in Goffstown another 5 bikes and 8 riders joined the group. Here is a list of all who started out on this ride!



James – FJR (Toronto)
Skip – FZ1
Chuck – FZ1
Bill and Alisa - FJR
Alan and Helen – FJR
Susan – Superhawk
Brian – BMW K1200
Chilton (Toby) – Monster
Bob – Kawasaki ZX1100
Scott & Melissa –Chuck – FZ1
Theresa – Monster
Peter – FZ1
FZ1Paul and Katy – FZ1
Zoltan – Aprilia
Don – Monster
Dave – ST2
Brian – SuperHawk (RI)

Skip led the line out of Goffstown on Rt. 13 and I rode trail at the end of a very long line! What a blast I had following the group through New Boston, Greenfield, and Bennington. From the end of the line the pace was fun and everyone was staggered nicely. It was quite a sight to watch the serpentine line of riders as they charged through the colorful trees on the wonderfully curvy roads.

This was advertised as a Covered Bridge ride and Skip delivered as he led the group south into Jaffrey and the surrounding area. I was left with the impression that a few towns got together in the late 1800's and asked the question, "What can we do to attract tourists 100 years from now?" "Lets build a whole bunch of covered bridges that you could visit in 2 or 3 days on a good horse!" We rode through six, (and I haven't got a single picture), in about 45 minutes! The bridges were cool but it was the roads, the weather, the foliage and the company that made the ride for me!

Shortly after the last bridge the group got separated. Somehow Zoltan managed to keep the laggards pointing in the right direction most of the way but eventually we even got separated from him.

Somehow, in my muddled mind, I remembered that Skip was leading the group to a Walpole Pizza Place for lunch. We were headed north on 12 and passed a sign for Walpole Business District. I jumped on the throttle and caught up to Susan and got us all turned around. We stopped on Main Street and I checked my phone. I quickly returned a call from Skip and told him where we were. He

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was on his way so we stayed put. Zoltan wasn't with the lead group then but somehow, when everyone pulled up to where we were waiting, he was with the group!

Reunited, Skip led us a few miles down the road to a find Pizza place. It was busy but everyone got seats and soon all were fed.

It was decided that we would head back toward Greenfield to try and catch the Trebuchet. Great roads the whole way. Rt. 123 and 123a are made for motorcycles. Flowing curves, good pavement, and reasonable passing opportunities, make this a favorite of mine. And, although I am normally up front, riding trail was a lot of fun too!

By now a few riders had headed home. Rhode Island was a pretty good ride for someone who promised to spend some of the afternoon with his family! And a couple others had commitments too. Peter sped North at Rt. 9 and Skip, who had been to the Trebuchet the day before, headed home from Greenfield. The rest of us pulled into this guy's hobby site to watch the World Champion Pumpkin Chunker toss a good sized green gourd (ha ha!) over 1800 feet. Whenever I watch this, the reaction from the audience is the same. Everyone gives out a sort of odd chuckle of amazement. It's not a belly laugh or a chortle. It is more of a giggle, accompanied by wide eyes and a slight shake of the head!

From here we said our farewells and headed home. For me, it was the perfect end to a perfect day. Great roads, great weather, covered bridges, good food and a giant Trebuchet tossing a pumpkin further that seems possible!

Thanks to everyone for showing up and riding well! It was great to meet some new folks as well as to see some old friends show up FINALLY for this ride! (You know who you are...!) Thanks too to Skip for leading this ride. Great job!

I have posted a few pics at <http://usera.imagecave.com/BatmanRacing/CoveredBridges2006> . If you have other pictures, (and I know some of you were taking some great shots!), forward them to me and I will post them up here as well.

Regards,

Dave

Dave Michaud
Seacoast Sport Cycle
Summer Ride Leader
(617)285-7154 (cell)
batman@batmanmoto.com (email)
www.batmanmoto.com
www.seacoastsport.com

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