

Seacoast Sport Cycle  
Loudon Classic Ride - Quick Report  
June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007



The last weekend of this year's Loudon Classic was fantastic. The weather cooperated all day Saturday and Sunday and the paddock was full of enthusiastic spectators. I spent Saturday leading demo rides for the Big Red Ducati Truck. This was a lot of fun. They had set up a dedicated track behind the NHIS facility which was essentially a 1.4 mile road race course. I got to ride everything from the 695 Monster (what a hoot) to a 999. Every session was full and I think a lot of folks left the demo surprised at the range of bikes that Ducati offers. I know I saw a lot of huge smiles at the end of each session.



On Sunday 12 riders and one passenger showed up at Seacoast for a very nice ride up to the track. Included in the group were 4 Ducatis, 3 Aprillas, 1 Guzzi, 1 Yamaha FZ1, 1 Honda F4, 1 Busa, and I think there was a GSXR in there too!

We all agreed that the pace would be quick. However, given that we were likely to see lots of radar traps and no one was interested in contributing to County or State coffers, we opted to stay on the conservative side of 'spirited'!

It was a perfect day for a leisurely ride. We were in no real hurry and we didn't have that far to go. We poked our way through Derry and took 102 west into Chester. From there we rode Rt 121 north, past Lake Massabesic and jumped on 101 east for one exit where we eventually got on Rt 43/107. On 101 I caught site of a bird heading from right to left across my path. I flinched and maybe blinked but it disappeared so all was good!

Everyone stayed together very nicely and somehow we even picked up another rider en-route! We passed lots of bikes heading the other way and, as is my habit, I waved to everyone. Usually I get about an 80% return when waving to Japanese and Euro bikers and maybe a 20% return from the Harley and big V-Twin crowd. I also wave to folks on the side of the road, cars that I pass, cars that let me in, and anyone that offers a friendly gesture. I don't care if they acknowledge my wave. I just like being a good-will ambassador for the sport!

On Sunday however, I did notice, that the wave return rate was about 3% across the board. In fact, I got more smiles and returns from pedestrians than from fellow bikers. I attribute this to 'wave fatigue' caused by the more frequent intersection of bikers during Bike Week and assume it will pass as riders resume their normal ride routines!

We crossed Rt. 28, staying on Rt. 107 and turned left on 129. This road was a bit chopped from the winter but at our pace created little problem except for Bob on the F4. Apparently he experienced a minor head shake that almost became a tank slapper. It all settled down however and everyone rode really well. I led the group on to Loudon Ridge road which is a right off of 129. I discovered it on my ride home from the track on Saturday and it's a really nice, mountain field and farm ride, that leads over a high point from which you get a nice view of the Grandstand at NHIS about five miles away.



The road has a couple of tight turns and near the north end some sand on the road encourages caution and vigilance. But it is a really nice 5 mile section that is nestled secretively between 129 and 106.



We arrived at the track at about 11:00, paid our fare, and parked at the far north end of the Paddock. As I stripped off my riding gear I noticed a couple of feathers stuck in between my upper fairing and the frame on the right side of my Ducati. I pulled them out and discovered they were attached to a small bird. Apparently when I blinked on Rt. 101 what I missed was the impact of the suicidal sparrow! Could have been worse....a seagull for instance!

I took the group for a short tour of the garages where we met several racers and got a nice up close look at some fantastic race bikes. The NCR New Blue

Ducati was sitting in the first set of garages which was a real treat! I think Jeff Wood rode New Blue in one of the later races!

After lunch at the Paddock Restaurant we continued our walk around the track stopping occasionally to examine various race bikes, including these Sidecar Rigs that would be running in the first race of the day!

We looked at a couple of places to watch the races and eventually decided to start at Turn 1 for the sidecars then move to the front straight for the Super Motard race.

The sidecar race was fun to watch...especially the 'monkey' in the SpiderwoMan leathers clambering from side to side as they ran through the transitions of turn 1, 1A and 2.

After the sidecars finished we hustled over to the front straight and made two discoveries. First, because I still had my silver wrist-band identifying me as a pit member and could have gone inside the fence and watched from the barrier, the rest of the gang only had tickets and would have had to stay inside the fence. No problem though, because we also discovered that the 'jump' we thought would be on the front straight, had been for Saturdays Motard race and wasn't there on Sunday.



So we worked our way back to turn 3 where we watched the next 5-6 races. The Experts MW and Unlimited were great to watch and the racing was clean and mostly incident free! Eventually we went

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back to our bikes and headed out through the tunnel and up to the bowl to watch the 250 Expert/Amateurs. Those 2 strokes are really quick and fun to watch!

After the 250 race we all geared up and headed home our own way! It was a great day and everyone really seemed to enjoy the ride and the racing!

For a few more pictures point to <http://www.batmanmoto.com/photo.htm> and select Seacoast/LRRS!

Hope to see you at the Hurricane Mountain ride!

Regards,

Dave

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