

Rolling Through Vermont

BY DON GOMO
PHOTOS COURTESY BILL DUTCHER

So how about this for a combination: Take Labor Day weekend, add in riding the back roads of Vermont's high peaks, plus cruising the northern islands of Lake Champlain, toss in some added local attractions, base the event in Burlington, Vermont, with its beautiful downtown shopping and restaurant district, and have the best weekend weather the Northeast has had all

summer. Now, include having the folks that put together Americade plan and coordinate everything for you, along with keeping the registered total to less than 300 attendees. Sounds like a good mixture? It certainly was, and if you missed Rolling Through Vermont you lost out on a fantastic weekend of riding.

One thing Americade is known for is myriad activities. The staff, led by Christian Dutcher, didn't let anybody

down with that tradition. Right from the start, Rolling Through Vermont provided options, from registration packages including a la carte to premium lodging choices, gondola rides and various lunch stops to a sunset cruise on Lake Champlain with a fantastic dinner and music from an eighteen-piece big band, there would never be a dull moment.

The event started Friday evening with a cocktail, dessert hour, and information presentation regarding the weekend's events, plus door prizes from sponsors Cardo Systems and Tour Master. Saturday morning arrived with clear sunny skies and waves of riders being led through Vermont's high peak region. By



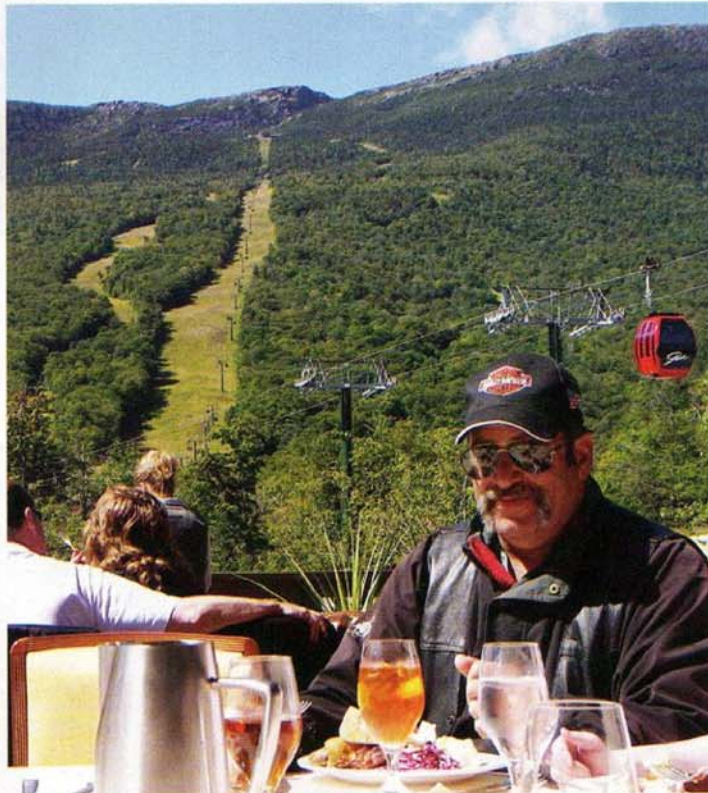


lunchtime, we were meandering through Smuggler's Notch, heading for a savory lunch at Stowe Mountain with vistas galore.

Now what would lunch be without dessert? The short ride down the road after the meal led to the Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream factory for a tour and treats sure filled that void. The day's riding was wrapped up with some more laid-back, picturesque cruising. This could fill many a rider's agenda, but there was more to come. Saturday evening had everyone enjoying coffee and dessert on a 100-year-old, 220' steamship, which was set up as a VIP lounge for our group.

Hold it, that's not all. We also had a private tour of the Shelburne Museum's Full Throttle motorcycle display: An old, three-level Shaker barn filled with custom, vintage, and racing bikes. There was to be an evening hot air balloon glow event as well, but it was rescheduled for Sunday evening due to wind conditions.

Sunday had us once again basking in beautiful weather with the rides heading to the northern islands of Lake Champlain. With great roads, colorful scenery, and sun, one couldn't ask



for better riding. Toss in a picnic lunch, a stop at a local apple orchard for a taste of fresh cider, and more riding, and the day was full. But it didn't stop there. The evening had folks enjoying fine cuisine with cruises on Lake Champlain topped off with breathtaking views, as the sun gently set over the Adirondack and Green mountains.

The event ended Monday with a farewell breakfast at a country club, with more door prizes and for those interested, guided rides toward their homeward-bound destinations. The fact that everyone went home looking forward to next year's event is definitely proof that the RTV staff "put their hearts into making this something special, true to Americade's style." **RB**

