



**NECC 2005
New England Carb Clinic
(renamed The Ontario Carb Clinic
in New England)**

**Hosts: Brad & Tracy Brad Bowen,
Arlington, Vermont**

August 12,13,14



Friday August 12

Ross Presta and I, (Cliff Andrews) departed with much anticipation at 6:30am. We met at a farmer's Fruit & Vegetable outlet just west of Pickering at 7:00am. We then launched into our Vermont adventure. We found our way down to Hwy 401 and proceeded at a "leisurely" pace to the 1000 Island Canada/US Border crossing. While waiting about 20 minutes to gain entry into the "Land of the Free", Ross wanted to ensure our stories were in concert for the US Border Guard. Ross asked me if we should stick to the truth - ie we are entering your country to visit a friend in Arlington Vt. To which I responded "Nah, let's just tell him that we're visiting to buy some guns to bring back". What made this even more humorous was the fact that both Ross and I were wearing earplugs. As you know one needs to raise ones voice a few DB to be understood - Needless to say, many of the cars that were surrounding us, waiting their turn for entry found our "chat" quite humorous. Upon arriving at the Border Gate - We stuck with the truth.....

We then followed a route partially thru the Adirondacks down to Utica, NY to meet up with Jo Foster, Tony Vercouteren and Mike Kapman. We arrived at Kitty's on the Canal (the preordained meeting place) at 1:00pm. Ross and I enjoyed the Friday special of fresh fried Haddock and Fries. At 2:00pm we paid our bill and then decided to hang around our bikes hoping to see the other Cdn contingent. Our meeting time was scheduled from 2:30 to 3:00. We were hoping that Jo and the gang might be early. As we arrived at the bikes, the sky started to open with rain. Ross & I then decided to saddle up and make our way to Vermont.





We took all secondary roads to Brad's place and arrived a little damp from the journey around 7:00pm. Compared to the other attendees, Ross & I managed to miss most of the heavy rain. We were the first to arrive and after exchanging welcomes and unpacking we were treated to a tasty dinner by Tracy of Teriyaki Chicken, fresh corn and vegetables. (Oh yeah, I forgot. Before dinner there was a need to visit the local store to obtain some gold and sudsy refreshment)

As we were just wrapping up dinner, the sound of approaching XJ's was heard. Martin Lebeau with his girlfriend Caroline, and Everett Sloan arrived from La Belle Province. Next came Bill Hanna from Pa.. Bill's girlfriend Carol arrived in her car later. (Bill was kind enough to mark the road into Brad's place with Glow Sticks for Carol) **11:30pm - Still no Jo, Tony and Mike.** But just close to the stroke of midnight, the air was once again filled with that sweet XJ sound. Harmonizing quite nicely with the XJ's was the low quiet rumble of an American two wheeler: Tony's Harley. (Low Quiet Rumble = Stock Harley Pipes) It was a relief to us that all were accounted for. Based on the heavy rain and poor visibility, it was necessary for Jo and company to stop frequently. The evening progressed until some of us straggled off to sleep: Sleeping arrangements were: Mike Kampman in his tent outside; Jo and Tony in their tent inside the garage; Cliff on his air mattress on the garage floor; Bill and Carol in a tent inside the garage; Everett in his tent outside close to Mike; Ross on his air mattress on the garage floor; Martin & Caroline stayed at a nearby Motel; (BTW: Brad's new palatial garage measures 60 x 40 feet)



Morning arrived, as I am an early riser (even though I got to bed at 1:30AM) I couldn't help but notice something amiss with Everett's tent. The front end was down, and as it had rained in the night the tent was drenched. In addition, there was no Everett to be found - Apparently Mother Nature had her way with Everett's sleeping shelter - and won. Everett managed to find his way to the very dry garage over the night to obtain some sleep. The best comment on Everett's demise came from Tony: "My tent seems to be a good one, it kept Jo and myself dry all night" (Please recheck the sleeping arrangements from above)

After a fantastic breakfast of eggs, pancakes, sausage, cantaloupe, coffee and OJ prepared by Tracey, Jo proceeded to give Brad a token of her appreciation for the weekend. Jo had a special New England Carb Clinic (NECC) banner made. (You should be able to see it in [some of the photos posted](#))

Bike Work Begins

As pointed out by some, there were very few carbs that were tuned/synched this weekend. It now appears, that the premiere reason for ones attendance at a Carb Clinic is the camaraderie with friends. (more on that later) Ross managed to carb tune / check Jo's Maxim, as well as adjusting her rear shocks. From the photo's you should be able to see the most recent Bling additions to Jo's bike. (Personally, I like the flashing taillight.) Brad also used one of his many handy tools to check and refill Jo's front forks with air.



I managed, with some trepidation to check the compression on my bike. All was well within the spec for a 23 year machine.

Bill had his front end inspected and tightened.

There was some talk about mounting a 650 Turbo unit onto a Harley, but this didn't happen.....



Tracey again came up with a very nice lunch assisted by Jo and myself - BBQ Hamburg's & Hot-dogs with seasoned tomatoes and fresh cucumber.

Back to Bike Work

There was ONE machine that did require some TLC and mechanical attention: Everetts "Rat Bike" (BTW he is extremely proud of his ride) The following is what I recall, Old chain cut off, new Chain installed. Steering bolts were finger tight - This was corrected by Brad. After a short test ride, the bike started to run very poorly. It was discovered that a couple of cylinders were not functioning well. After a spark plug inspection, two cylinders were running rich. As Everett has a Jet/Needle kit installed, Brad thought it best to richen the needles by 1 slot. After another test run, the bike started off well, but then sank into its' own funk. ie: 1 or 2 cylinders were still off.



Dinner Time:

Another great meal! This time we all dined on: - BBQ Ribs, BBQ Teriyaki Chicken, BBQ Shrimp and Veggies, Mashed Potatoes, Tomatoes, Fresh Corn

Back to the Bike Work:

By this time it was thought to go the other way with the jet needles ie Lean the mixture by one clip from the original setting. Along with a plug cleaning, Everett once again set off for a test run. This time it was much better, however there was an intermittent problem with the bike firing properly and then not. At this time the experts went to work: - TCI was removed and inspected - Numerous Voltage and resistance measurements were made to the coils, wires etc. All appeared to be within spec. It was getting late into the evening and Everett's bike would wait testing until morning.

The Cannon



Sunday August 14

This was the departure day excepting Ross and myself. Bill & Carol were heading off home. Jo and Tony were heading out to Laconia, New Hampshire to do some camping. Mike Kampman who was considering staying another day, felt that he had to leave. Martin, Caroline and Everett were heading back to Quebec. Last year I was fortunate to do a weekend ride with some friends to New Hampshire. The route had taken us thru some of the northern part of Vermont. One of Vermont's most famous roads is Highway 17. Martin confirmed this as he said many Quebec riders will ride down and back in a day to do this VERY twisty road. As Ross and I were staying an extra day, and Martin, Caroline and Everett were planning on routing their return via Hwy 17, we had an excellent plan. Best of all, Brad was able to join the group. After saying our goodbyes, the Hwy 17 troop headed off to NY state, and then up Hwy 22 north to cross Lake Champlain and on to Hwy 17. The weather was mostly grey with some on/off light rain. We managed a 10 minute stop at Fort Ticonderoga. Everett's bike was running nicely. Prior to crossing back into Vt, we gassed up and got onto Hwy 17. The roads were wet, but there was no rain falling. About 10 minutes into Hwy 17, a rear mirror check showed no Everett and Martin. We all sped back and found them heading in our direction, we all managed to pull off onto a side road and found that the Gremlins had returned to Everett's ride. The bike was missing on #1 and #4 cylinders. Again, out came the voltage testers. The coils checked out ok, however the bike was starting to blow the main fuse - it did this twice. However, the XJ Gods seemed to appear and after some plug swaps all returned to normal. At this time Brad made a comment to Everett something to the effect of "Well, I hope that bike holds together so Sparky can get home" (This new handle for Everett may just stick) We managed to continue on Hwy 17 up the long winding and twisty mountain road, a brief rest at the top, and then down the other side. At the end of the highway Brad, Ross and myself bid our farewells to Martin, Caroline and Everett (aka Sparky). They ended up going north at the next intersection and we headed south back to Arlington. Our trip back to Brad's was a great ride along Hwy 100. We did have a 5 minute downpour to ride thru. After returning, Ross and I insisted that we pick up dinner. We had a large feast of Chinese food. After dinner, Ross and I called it a night and went off to bed.

Monday August 15

I hate packing, but the NECC adventure was coming to a close. Tracey was off to Boston at 7:00am to attend an Education course, Brad was off to a moving job in New Jersey. Ross and I managed to have a quick coffee, pack our belongings and left at 8:00am. We took a different route home. Up highway 22 along Lake Champlain and then west to Lake Placid. We were blessed with sunshine from 9:30 until the end of the ride. This route was full of great scenery and some nice twisties. Ross and I made it to Markham Ont. around 7:30 and managed to cap off our NECC adventure at a local watering hole prior to heading to our homes. Ross and I managed to travel just under 2,300kms (approx 1400 miles)

Memorable Moments - Not mentioned Above

Swimming in the Trout River

Mike Kampman's "sharing"

ATV Rides - Brad has at least 6 Polaris ATV's

Brad's GARGANTUAN Bike collection

The Cannon

Martins Riding ability - especially 2 up





Jo's Laughter

Bill Hanna's quirky sense of humor (similar to mine)

The view of the mountains surrounding Brad & Tracey's home

Sammy (the Bowen's Dog) playing in the stream

Ross Feeding Sammy Breakfast scraps - Bad Ross!!

Will Everett buy Brad's Seca 650?? - Time will tell



Tracey leaving the "Garage Crew" fresh water and snacks at bed time



As mentioned previously, there was very little carb tuning over the weekend. So why the get together?? I believe it was a result of the previous Carb Clinics where we all had a chance to get to know one another, and make real friends. It also had a lot to do about "The Ride". Vermont is full of great scenery and roads. Most of all the weekend was such a great success due to the openness, hospitality and generosity of the Bowen's. Thank you Brad and Tracey. You need to know that should you host another Clinic in the future, you will need to build an additional 2400 sq ft garage.

The word is out, this was the best XJ Carb Clinic EVER!!



L to R - Carol, Bill Hanna, Tony Verouteren, Brad Bowen, Jo Foster, Cliff Andrews, Caroline, Martin Lebeau, Everett Sloan, Ross Presta

Thanks Again!

Written by Cliff Andrews
Pictures by Mike Kampman