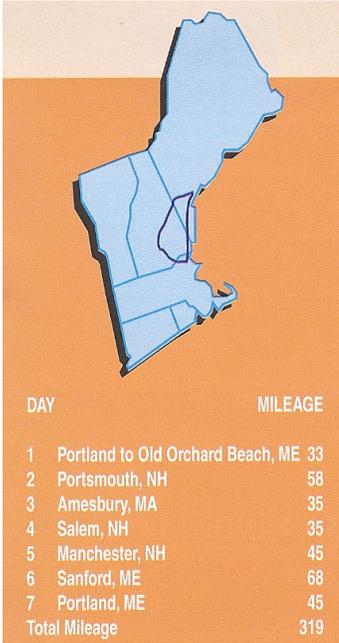


Maine Fall Foliage Tour

Oct.11 through Oct. 18, 2008
By: Mike McGeough



Karen and I rode a loop south from Portland, Maine along the Atlantic coast then inland on a return through sections of Massachusetts and New Hampshire with America by Bicycle on their Fall Foliage Classic Tour. There were 3 rookie riders besides the 2 of us. This was the perfect tour for new riders. There was little climbing, short rides, and good support. The very short first day was spent touring light houses. Amongst others, we visited Portland Head Light, the oldest in Maine dating from 1791. Arrival early at the hotel afforded us plenty of time to walk along the beach and enjoy the beautiful leaves. The 2nd day took us through Kennebunkport where we took pictures of George H. W. Bush estate. Kennebunkport is a beautiful tourist spot with plenty of ways to spend your time and money. Every language is spoken here. After a break for a short rainfall, we continued and visited Nubble Lighthouse and toured Ft. McClary.



Shortly thereafter we passed the terminus of our cross country tour which we rode 4 years earlier to Portsmouth, NH. On the 3rd day we toured Ft. Constitution, (originally Castle William and Mary), which is the location of the first U.S. victory of the American Revolution and is the location of – yes, another lighthouse, Portsmouth Light. We had a great sushi dinner in Newburyport and spent the evening strolling around the quaint little town. Day 4 took us through beautiful countryside with photogenic fall scenery. We stopped to



pet some farm animals at a corn maze and toured the internationally famous, “American Stonehenge.” It was a relaxing ride to Salem, NH. The 5th day, Salem, NH to Manchester, NH was threatening rain all day. Karen and I raced through the route getting into the hotel a little after noon. The others got drenched. It was their first experience riding in the rain and riding in the dark. They were excited about it! We were happy



we stayed dry and warm. Day 6 took us north to Sanford, ME. There was some kind of presidential



election going on. So I had to ham it up with McCain and Obama on someone's lawn. It was a chilly day, so Karen raced ahead. I dallied with the other 3 cyclists to spend a day socializing. The leaves were so beautiful, we took dozens of photos on this day. Then came the final ride. The 7th day started out a little cool, 29°F. We had our winter gear with us. Karen



gave away one of her jackets to one of the other riders. Still, the 3 of them went straight to WalMart after breakfast to buy gloves and under layers. By the time they had their warm clothes on it was fairly nice out and we were half way to Portland. We had a free evening to go to the old port and hang out at Gritty McDuff's. There is lots of history on this route, but the highlight is definitely the fall colors.