



Museum Hours: 9—5;
906-477-6298
W11660 U.S. 2, Naubinway, MI 49762
E-mail: info@snowmobileMuseum.com
Webpage: www.snowmobileMuseum.com
Facebook: Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum

31st Annual Show & Ride-February 17 & 18, 2023

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Naubinway's 31st annual Top of the Lake Show & Ride is in the history books and what a great show it was!

Friday, Feb 17, began with a delicious breakfast

cooked and served by the Top of the Lake Communities Association. Unfortunately, they ran out of food, but our local Cove Bar serves a great breakfast, so people were able to go there. This is definitely a community event.

The Ride began at 11:00 with 225 snowmobiles running and ready to take off on the 13 mile (one way) ride to the Cranberry Lodge. We do want to let the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club know how much we appreciate them letting us use their property for this fun event!

The weather pulled a fast one on us Tuesday night and Wednesday with rain. Luckily, the Curtis and Hiawatha Club groomers did a fantastic job on the trails, making them much better than expected. I heard some comments that the trails were some of the best ever! Sleds ranged from 1960's rear engine antiques to modern sleds.

Those with newer sleds may have to tow someone back to the Museum. Our caterer, Rich Hotz from Hotz Catering in Warren, MI, had to ditch his sled and get a ride in to the cabin (he won the Tow Strap Award.) Rich and Donna have been coming here for about 8 years, with food in tow and they cook for everyone! A donation jar is set up and the money is donated to the Museum. I think their chicken-on-a-stick is becoming quite famous!

The Night Ride participants left

Left: Fall swap meet raffle-1967 Fox Trac
(See page 4 for details)



Above: Memorial Section for Chuck Ulch



Above: Display of the Catalog Sleds

the Museum at 6:30 and traveled 3 miles into the woods to a bonfire (thanks to the Ketcher family.) It was a perfect evening and it was great to see so many kids here to enjoy the great outdoors, the bonfire, and marshmallows. Also, seeing the long stream of headlights coming out of the woods to cross the bridge to get to the bonfire is quite a sight.

The Saturday Show featured better weather this year. Almost 200 machines were on display. The Ski Doo's were in their usual spot, and featured a very nice memorial for Chuck Ulch, who passed away last year. That section of downtown Naubinway will always be for Ski Doo's in his honor.

A very nice display of 12 featured sleds, the Catalog Sleds (Penneys, Sears, Wards, Herters) was set up in front of the bank.

There was also a small swap area, and several people were walking around with blue fuel line purchased from Don Soukup.

(Cont. on page 2)



Sept. '23 Swap Meet Raffle-8'x8"shed



Cont from page 1

The winner of the 50/50 was Aleatha Scheetz who won \$250. This was very cool because her family donated a nice 1979 Arctic Cat Jag for the Saturday night auction! Karma can be a good thing!

Saturday evening featured a delicious banquet, put on by the Engadine Methodist Ladies & crew. There were record numbers of people for the meal and auction. The Top of the Lake Communities Association had the bucket drawings, with some amazing donations from our area locals. John McGuirk gave an interesting presentation about the Catalog sleds. Next was the auction, which is the big fundraiser for the Museum.

TOLCA and all of us at the Museum want to thank everyone who traveled from places such as MN, IL, OH, Canada, PA, MA, SD, WI, NY, and Florida to support this small community!

Our Show next year will be Feb 16 & 17, 2024 and will feature the Eliason Motor Toboggan, which will be 100 years old. We are hoping that an Eliason family member will our guest speaker.



Drone view of the Museum Show; picture taken by Kathy Sirvio

Raffle Drawing Winners – Feb 18, 2023

- 1st – 1972 Herters – Jim Wright, Fond du Lac, WI
- 2nd – \$100 Gas Card – Jordyn Birchmeier, Manchester MI
- 3rd – Snowmobile Print – Mick Woltanski, Harrison Twp, MI
- 4th – Snowmobile Mirror – Kevin Dennis, Engadine, MI
- 5th – Easy Move Jack Stand – Jim Leider, Fredonia, WI
- 6th – \$50 Cash – Dan Millikan, Paradise, MI (Donated back to the Museum)

Right: Jim Wright, Fond du Lac, WI, won the 1972 Herters



Left: Aleatha Scheetz won the 50/50 drawing

Feb. Show Awards Winners:

Fun Ride Favorite/Antique – Cole Larson, Chatham, MI

Fun Ride Favorite/Vintage – Jeff Jones, Menominee, MI

Featured Sled, Most Original – Wyatt Anderson, MN, 1966 Foremost

Featured Sled, Most Unique – Tony Rolfes, MN, 1966 Montgomery Wards

Featured Sled, Best Restored – Lee Horton, MI, 1972 Herters

Tow Strap Award – Rich Hotz, Warren, MI

Quilt Drawing – Mark Thomas, IN

Rocker Drawing – Jen Kurtzhals, MI



Enjoying the food on the Ride

Quilt donated by the Northern Neighbor Quilters won by Mark Thomas from Indiana



Welcome New Members:

- ◆ Harold Bottolfson – Hastings, MN
- ◆ Dean Thelan – St. Cloud, WI
- ◆ Scott Wakefield – Waconia, MN
- ◆ Eric Downing – Rossville, IN
- ◆ Denis Werner – Seville, OH
- ◆ Tony Cerne – L'Anse, MI
- ◆ Darrell Lapaugh – Riverdale, MI
- ◆ Rick Spies – Au Gres, MI
- ◆ Curtis Ulch – Eaton Rapids, MI
- ◆ William Surdock – Lake Orion, MI
- ◆ Dave McCarty – Export, PA
- ◆ Mike Badgerow – Sparta, MI
- ◆ Scott Radtke – Shepherd, MI
- ◆ Kevin Brunan – Traverse City, MI
- ◆ Tom Carmody – Wetmore, MI
- ◆ Gerald & Diane Smith – Ludington, MI
- ◆ Brad & Criss Lakso – Arcadia, MI

Thanks to our auctioneers, Ted Postula and Scott Peters

Museum Upcoming Events:

- Sept 16, 2023 – Swap Meet, behind the Museum, Naubinway, MI 8:00 - 3:00 (See page 4 for more information)
- Nov 3-5 - Booth at the Novi Snowmobile Show, Novi, MI
- Dec 9, 2023 - Snowmobile the Mighty Mac, St Ignace, MI 11:00 – 3:00 (Mackinac Bridge)
- Feb 3, 2024 - Youth Ride at the Museum 10:00 - 4:00
- Feb 16 & 17, 2024 – Top of the Lake Show & Ride, Naubinway, MI

These are events we will be attending.

You are welcome to post your event on the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum Facebook page.

2023 Rear Engine Ride #8

800 Miles and Still Riding 2023 by John McGuirk

The rear engine riders returned again this year for their eighth year of riding the rear engine antique machines for a total of 100 miles over a total of three days prior to the Museum's annual winter show and ride. The goal of riding 1,000 miles is getting closer!

The group numbered 24 pusher machines including Polaris, Arctic Cat, Eliason, Snow Bug, Autoboggan, Boatel and Bosak. Mike Siler rode his 1958 Polaris prototype, and Allen Jewell rode a 1963 Bosak Super M 300 powered by a Volkswagen engine. Barrie Graham wasn't to be outdone riding his Eliason K-12. With the Canadian borders reopened we were glad to have our Canadian friends able to return for the ride.

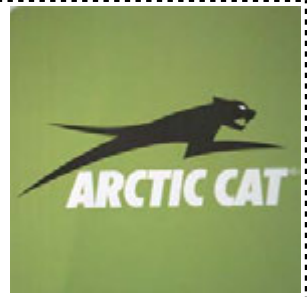
On the first day out the group appeared to be in a contest to see who could break the most stuff. Many repairs were made and everyone got home okay. Rain hit the second day and the group had just as much fun working in Charlie's barn making repairs. Day three turned out really great with some alternate trail riding and we had very few minor stops for repairs.

The group is already looking forward for their next 100 miles in 2024.



16" square signs, made from pvc, very light-weight. We have 30 designs available with more to come.

Museum Gift Shop

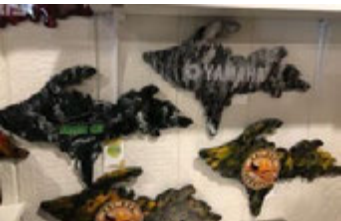


Wood Snowmobile Dish 13"x6"



Wood Flag 18.5"x10"

**All rockers need to be ordered.
Call the Museum for details.**



Acrylic UP with logos



New logo on hats & new decal



**Items in our gift shop can be sent to you. Call 906-477-6298 or email us!
Check out our gift shop online:
www.snowmobileMuseum.com
Featured are various snowmobile gift shop items.**

Youth Ride – Feb 4, 2023



Youth Group on the Hiawatha Club Campground Trail



It was an action-packed day starting off with a safety meeting in the Museum meeting room, lunch, and an afternoon of riding before they come back to the Museum for the prize drawings.

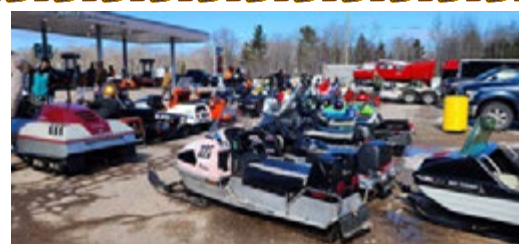
We want to thank the Hiawatha Club for giving the kids the chance to use their property and learn how they should be riding snowmobiles. We also want to thank our other important volunteers for this event – Lori Vallier, James Johnson & Melissa, Owen Labadie, Rollie Smith, AND especially the Parents!

Youth group in front of the Museum



Left: Dave Shope presents a donation from the Rapid River Relic Riders Show, Jan 2023

The White Pine Lodge Snowmobile Show in Christmas, MI, 3/11/23
(photo courtesy of Nick LeVick)



Thank you for your generous donations to the Museum!



Left: Ogemaw Hills Snowmobile Club made a donation from their February 25 Vintage Show, Ride, and Open House

Pine Stump Junction Show 3/18/23; Charlie accepts a donation from Rob Stein



Top of the Lake Museum Swap Meet Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023

- **Location:** Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum, on the North side of US 2, Naubinway, MI
- **Hours:** 8:00 am-3:00 pm. All recreational/sporting type items will be allowed
- \$5 admission fee per visitor (free with a paid Museum Membership) includes all day admission to the Museum.
- \$10 – 2-place trailer; \$20 – 4-place trailer
- Raffle drawing at 2:30 for **5 great prizes**. Purchase tickets at the Museum before 2:15 pm on Saturday 09/16/23
- For more info call Charlie 906-477-6192, email info@snowmobilemuseum.com, or www.snowmobilemuseum.com.

Swap Meet Raffle Ticket Prizes

- 1st – 1967 Fox Trac Snowmobile
- 2nd – 8x8 Storage Shed or \$500
- 3rd – \$100 Gas Card
- 4th – Snowmobile Print
- 5th – \$50 Cash

60's Fox Trac Snowmobile donated by Wendy Tuttle



At the 2021 Ogemaw Hills Ride and Show, a lady asked if the Museum would like a late 60's Fox Trac as a donation. But she said there was a catch. She would like to have a shop class restore it in memory of her late husband, Bill Tuttle. He had helped train kids in automotive careers. Gene Pierce, from the Tuscola Intermediate School District, offered to have their shop class restore the sled. After a fresh makeover, one of our board members picked it up, and it looks like new. It will be used as a fundraiser for the Museum's Fall 2023 Raffle. Thank you, Wendy Tuttle for donating it in Bill's name. And thank you to everyone who helped restore it, so it can live on.



Finland Represented

January, 2023. We had two men from Finland here and they were impressed with the FinnCat that is on display. These guys work for the John Deere logging equipment department and did not have snowmobiles but were very interested in the FinnCat. This machine was one of the 33 snowmobiles donated by the Bombardier Museum in Valcourt, Quebec in 2015.

The FinnCat was first produced in 1978 in Uleaborg, Finland after five years of testing by the inventor Jorma Pohjola. It has a unique steering system. The track is made from 13 pieces of stretchable plastic and will stretch like an accordion in the front on the opposite side of the turn, which will allow more lift on the exterior side of the turn, which pulls the vehicle in the other direction. Only about 10 units were made in 1979 & 80 in a cooperation with Aktiv in Sweden, a producer of snowmobiles. The cooperation was discontinued due to quality problems.

This FinnCat is powered by a Rotax 2 stroke, 2 cyl. 496cc engine with electric start. Other engines included Arctic Spirit (Suzuki) & Hirth. It weighs 595 lbs. It has a motorcycle type throttle and a transmission with 2 speeds forward, neutral and reverse.

Engadine Consolidated Preschool Class, Feb 22, 2023

It was another eventful day at the Museum. The Engadine Preschool class was here to learn about and experience snowmobiles. They arrived at 9:15 on the school bus, had a quick lesson on snowmobiling ethics, a tour through the Museum and then they took off for the actual experience. They rode in sleighs with our staff and parents driving the sleds. The Curtis Groomers went through the night before so the trails were awesome. When the kids returned, they had lunch, and then headed back to the Engadine School to complete their day. I bet they slept well that night!



1964 SKI-DOO RD8

The story of this snowmobile is one for the books, it starts off in the snowy parts of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Its restoration journey began when my dear friend, Ron Durepo, discovered this gem stored behind a vacated building during one of his many up north snowmobile trips. Ron always had a good eye for potential with snow machines. With him being a self-proclaimed "Ski-Doo Historian", he was able to smooth talk the owner of the RD8 in to letting him buy it with plans to restore.

Ron slowly realized he did not have the time for the lengthy restoration. Putting the restoration on hold, Ron was forced to sell this treasure and abandon his dreams of a full restoration. It was sold to a local man in Owosso with the hopes that he would fully restore the snow machine. Fast forward several years later...

At breakfast, before attending the A1 Snowmobile Swap meet, we were at a table full of snow buds chatting about restoration projects that have yet to be completed. John, from Ohio, spoke of the numerous Ski-doo's he had to restore and how he needed to offload a few. He talked about a RD8 he had in original condition, needing restoration, but didn't have the time to begin the process. This got Ron very excited. Ron posed numerous questions and was amazed at how similar this snow machine replicated the one he sold. Ron asked, who did you purchase this RD8 from? John stated he bought it off a man from Owosso. At that moment you could see Ron's face light up with joy! You guessed it, this was the original RD8 that he sold years back and it had come full circle. Ron jumped at the chance to purchase this RD8 back into his possession. He lovingly restored this beauty to its original glory and that is what you see here today.



1964 Ski-Doo RD8 in memory of Ron Durepo who passed away in Sept, 2018.

A memorial sign is displayed in the Museum in honor of Ron.

In Loving Memory of Ron Durepo

Clarkson University SAE Clean Snowmobile Challenge, 2023

The SAE Clean Snowmobile Challenge is a yearly snowmobile event where Collegiate teams build and modify existing snowmobiles and compete in multiple events based on improvements in emissions and performance.

The first SAE Clean Challenge was held in 2000 at Jackson Hole, WY. The event moved to Michigan Tech University, Houghton, MI, in 2003. In 2006, a new category of "Zero Remissions" was added, supporting the need for engineering support for snowmachine vehicles in pristine areas. In 2007, another category, "Bio-Fuels" was added. In 2009, the category for "Flex Fuel" was added. In 2022, the competition was moved to the World Championship Derby Headquarters in Eagle River, WI.

The group of students from Clarkson University in Upper New York returned again this year on their way to the Clean Snowmobile Challenge at the Eagle River Derby in Eagle River, WI with their Caterpillar C1.1 diesel sled. They also stopped on their way home to inform us that they were #1 in the Diesel category again this year! They won the Best Overall CI Class, Best Design paper, Best Fuel, Best Emissions and Best Handling. Way to go guys!!

It was such an honor to meet and talk with such a great group of students!



Clarkson Clean Challenge entry



Clarkson University Team



Above: Lincoln Custeau sitting on the Boa Ski Coffin

Boa Skis for 1971 were made by Giffen Recreational Limited, based in Montreal and an office in Florida. In 1971, Boa Ski entered the race circuit with this racer, nicknamed the Coffin Racer (because of the seat) and only 30 were made. There are only three known to be left.

Gary Bogenschutz had his Coffin racer in the Museum and sold it to Marco Vachon, from Canada. Last September Marco came to pick it up. Marco knew the man who was a major part of building this machine, Lincoln Custeau. Luckily, Marco was able to get a picture of Lincoln sitting on this snowmobile before he passed away the first part of March, 2023.



Welcome to our newest employee at the Museum! Her name is Sharon Oven and she lives in Naubinway, with her 3 children and her husband, Jerry, which makes it very convenient for her and us. She has been helping us out part-time for the last few months and she recently let us know that she would be interested in working here full time.

Sharon is officially learning about everything that goes on here. Yes, it is overwhelming at first. She will be here during the week, so if you stop in, be sure to say Hi. We are very happy to have her as part of our crew! Lori Vallier still works with us on the gift shop items and Sandy Ketcher keeps our place spotless, Jane Stefanich helps with the newsletter, Garry Smith maintains and updates our computer data base, John Batchelder is our long-time Museum volunteer, and Dan Edwards is our computer wizard. It's all a team effort. We all thank everyone for your support!

We have a new addition to the Museum Newsletter! "Reader's Words" will be in each newsletter, but we need contributions from you, the readers. If you have an unusual/interesting story to share, submit it to Marilyn at info@snowmobilemuseum.com for consideration to be entered in one of our newsletters.

Newsletter – Regular Mail or E-mail?

We have set up an email list for the newsletters. If you would like to receive your newsletter by email instead of snail mail, please contact us with your email address and we will get that taken care of for the Fall newsletter.

Snowmobile the Mighty Mac



Mike Agrusa usually wears something unusual on the ride, but he out-did himself this year with the handmade Shark costume

Early morning, Dec 10, 2022, began with a cloudy, breezy, 30 degree day and 84 snowmobiles with drivers and a few riders gathered together under the Mackinac Bridge. The excitement was evident as they were pacing, checking out the wheel kits on the other machines, and talking with the other drivers. About 20 of those drivers were new to this event, which is what we love to see! Charlie Vallier and Greg Busch, from the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum, gathered everyone together for a driver's meeting a few minutes before the 11:00 am take-off. After that, everyone sang the National Anthem. Virgil Morell's sled with a flag attached was the center of attention. This was a new part of the event this year and will be continued from now on. We even had a woman in the group offer to lead the group with the singing next year. (I don't think Greg will mind giving that up.) Then it was time to head out from under the Bridge to the top for the 5 mile ride.



Photo courtesy of Beau Vallier

This event is sponsored by the Museum, the St. Ignace Visitor's Bureau, and the Mackinac Bridge Authority, which we want to give a huge thank you to for letting us use the Bridge for this special event. This was our 7th year and this time there were only 2 breakdowns. The Bridge Authority follows the sleds with a trailer, nicknamed by the group as the Trailer of Shame. We did notice a couple flat tires at the end of the ride, but they made it all the way across. It started to snow as the sleds were about halfway across. By the time they reached the toll booths on the north side, we couldn't see the towers because of the snow.

Everyone traveled to downtown St. Ignace to the Little Bear Arena East for the lunch and awards. It was a great place to get warmed up and talk with others about their adventure and eat a great lunch served by the Mackinac Grille. Charlie and Greg handed out the awards, which is always fun to see. Last year's Broken Wheel Award winner, Kolin Kurtzhals, did the traditional hand-off to this year's winner, Melissa Rogers. Mike Agrusa usually wears something unusual on the ride, but he out-did himself this year with the handmade Shark costume, which he made while recovering from back surgery this past fall! Our oldest driver, Jesse Foster (87 yrs old) has raced the Soo I-500 in his past and he continues to do the crazy stuff on snowmobiles! He asked us to hand this award out to someone else next year, but we hope he will be able to make it, too.

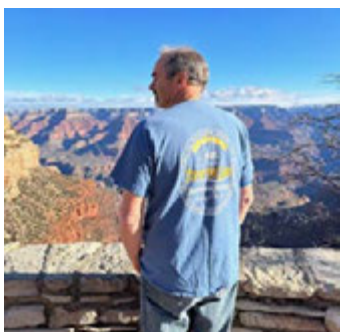
Here are the winners:

- Oldest Snowmobile - 65 SkiDoo, Mark Noble, Curtis, MI
- Youngest Driver - Grayson Hubert, Marinette, WI
- Oldest Driver - Jesse Foster, Fenton, MI 87 yrs old
- Most innovative Wheel Kit - 1969 Rupp, Jerry Gengler, Chesaning, MI
- Best Costume - (a shark) Mike Agrusa, Mancelona, MI
- Farthest Traveled - Jim Budzinski, Atlanta, GA
- Broken Wheel Award - Melissa Rogers, Howell, MI

The next Snowmobile the Mighty Mac will be Saturday, Dec 9, 2023. Snowmobiles which must be a minimum of 25 years old and have front wheel kits that have a minimum 2" wide wheels and no studs or cleats, will be allowed to drive over the Bridge under their own power. They also will need a current permit or a Michigan Historic Registration sticker. The driver must be at least 12, with a Youth Snowmobile Safety Class Certificate. Passengers are allowed for an extra fee. The cost to drive over the bridge is \$40, which includes the cost of lunch and all other fees involved. You may register online with the St. Ignace Visitors Bureau (906-643-6950)



Travis Fate got his first deer wearing his lucky Museum sweatshirt near Leelanau, MI



Bob Winkler wearing his traveling t-shirt at the Grand Canyon

Send us a picture of you, or someone you know, wearing Museum apparel!

Traveling T-Shirts



Sandy and John Ketcher enjoying the sunshine in Christmas, FL!

Amazon Smile Program:



Amazon permanently shut down the AmazonSmile customer donation program on Feb. 20, 2023. If you'd like to continue supporting AmazonSmile charities, you can still donate to the organization's wish list. We want to thank everyone who made this special donation to the Museum from their orders. We received approximately \$1700.00 in Amazon Smile donations in the past six years.

If you wish to advertise your show or business, you can submit a business card in our newspaper, or advertise on the website with a banner ad for \$100 a year. All proceeds go to the Museum. Please contact Marilyn for information about the Museum or the website.

Visit us on Facebook: "Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum" or on our website: www.snowmobileMuseum.com

Snowmobile Museum is a Harvest Host Member

Harvest Host is a "Unique RVing Experience." Hosts who sign up provide a spot for a RV or camper for free (electricity is a minimal charge by the Host.) There are three outside outlets at the Museum. We do have a large parking lot, which works out great for large campers. Call the Museum for more details.

***If you would like to become a supporting member, or need to renew your membership, call the Museum.
The cost is \$50 per year.***

Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum Fundraiser Form

501c3 Not-For-Profit Corporation

- ◆ The Museum Board is seeking funding to support the Building Operation Fund.
- ◆ A business, snowmobile club, or person who donates will have their name on the Museum donor wall.
- ◆ Donors will receive a tax-deductible receipt, upon your request.
- ◆ \$1000 donors will also receive either a lifetime membership or a free Corporate sponsor ad on the Museum website for two years.

***Return form to: Top of the Lake Museum
P.O Box 2
W11660 US 2
Naubinway, MI 49762***



TOL Museum Fundraiser Form

The fundraising contribution will be used to continue the growth of the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum.

☐ Other ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1000 ☐ Pledge

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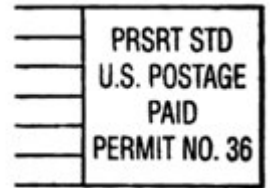
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