



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



International Snowmobile Hall of Fame Inductees - 2021

Charlie & Marilyn Vallier -

Explorers & Adventurers, Naubinway, Michigan

Charlie's obsession with snowmobiling began when his dad purchased a Hus-Ski 444 snow machine for him and his seven siblings to ride. After high school Charlie went into the Army where he met Marilyn, who had never been around snowmobiles before.

In 1971, Charlie talked his dad into starting a Viking dealership. His passion for snowmobiling was clearly contagious and Marilyn soon became acclimated to the sport as well. When Viking went out of business, they switched to a Scorpion dealership until Scorpion's demise in the early 80's.

With a strong passion for snowmobiles, Charlie was always finding and working on old sleds and became an active member of the Antique Snowmobile Club of America where he serves as a Director. Charlie had gained a personal collection of over 200 sleds. This is where his dream of having his own Museum began. Charlie and Marilyn first opened the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum on July 4, 2007 from a rented building they remodeled that once was a laundromat. It wasn't long before they filled that space and needed to relocate.

They broke ground on a much larger new building at what is now their current location, highly visible on Highway 2 in Naubinway. It opened in October, 2013. They dedicate most of their time to the Museum so it could be open to the public seven days a week. They quickly gained notoriety and the Top of the Lake Museum was recognized by SnowGoer Magazine as being the Best Snowmobile Museum in North America.

Currently the Museum is home to 185 snowmobiles and countless snowmobile related items. Charlie and Marilyn attend numerous vintage/antique snowmobile shows and swap meets throughout the Midwest. In order to raise funding for the Museum, they sell many snowmobile related items. The most popular of which is their signature wooden snowmobile rockers that engrain the idea of snowmobiling to the youngest of toddlers.

Charlie and Marilyn have several organized events annually. One example, always keeping the youth in mind and exposed to snowmobiling, they have "The Ride Your Sled to School Day." About 30 kids will ride their snowmobiles to school and when school lets out, Charlie leads them on a trail ride to the Museum. They have dedicated their lives not only to the preservation of snowmobile history but keeping the love for snowmobiles alive and fun. For this, Charlie and Marilyn Vallier are awarded induction in the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame, Class of 2021.

(See Related Article "Induction Thoughts by a Daughter" on Page 2)



The above article is taken from the International Hall of Fame website at: <https://www.ishof.com/inductees.html>



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Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum
 Naubinway, MI

Logo created by: Kathy Sirvio



2022 Raffle Sled: 1974 Mercury 440



Above: Tom White, Marilyn & Charlie.

Thank you for the nomination, Tom!

"Induction Thoughts by a Daughter"

by Michelle Vallier Labadie

On Sept 18, 2021 I was blessed to attend the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame Induction ceremony in Eagle River, WI, of which my parents were nominated and selected as inductees. What an amazing honor for them and our family to be able to be a part of this wonderful celebration, not just to honor our parents but to be able to honor all of those who have made an impact in the snowmobile world.

The International Snowmobile Hall of Fame put together a fun weekend of activities which included several Museum tours. A highlight for me was being able to meet Jonna Eliason, who spoke to us about the first patented snowmobile which her grandfather invented. She had some great stories about the Eliason history!

The weekend concluded with an evening celebration and award ceremony to honor each inductee. The stories of how each inductee made their impact in snowmobiling were so cool and I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to hear them. We are so thankful to Tom White and Karen Jarema for taking the lead on getting Mom and Dad nominated. They would have never accepted that they deserved this honor from us. All of their countless hours of dedication to the Museum and preserving history have paid off with the highest honor by being inducted into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame. They still blush about this because they're just doing what they love, talking snowmobiles and family.

I'm pretty sure it's no secret my mom wasn't a fan in the beginning. I remember as a kid her saying, "not more junk in the yard" after Dad and I came home from an old sled hunt. Now dare I say my Mom is as knowledgeable as my Dad. The difference is she enjoys family stories about the snowmobile and friendships she's gained as much as the history. She enjoys being the greeter when you come into the Museum. Day in and day out she is there with a smile and a warm welcome.

I believe we all know my Dad has snowmobiles in his veins. His knowledge of every machine regularly blows people away when he's at the Museum and giving tours. Yes, sometimes his talking snowmobiles drives us crazy and his eagle eye for spotting something shiny in a random back 40 has surprised us more than once. However, his love for everything about snowmobiles cannot be denied. He has passed that love onto his wife, kids and grandkids and I am one of the lucky ones to have been able to grow up on a snowmobile and now my son is doing the same. We couldn't be more proud of them both! This is their legacy and we are beyond humbled to be along for the ride. Last weekend they were treated like the stars they are but don't see themselves as! We are so very thankful for all who supported them in being chosen as 2021 International Snowmobile Hall of Fame inductees!

We especially want to thank Dick & DeEtt Hummel for driving to Eagle River from Illinois to support mom and dad. They came to the shows in Naubinway for many years when it first began in 1993 and they are in their 80's now. It was very thoughtful of them to be there!



The Vallier family at the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Back row: Kerry, Michelle, Beau, Lori, Stacy. Front: Charlie & Marilyn

Welcome New Members

- William Priesman, Grand Marais, MI
 - Joe Austin, Naubinway, MI
 - Tony & Rosemary Bowers, Aguanga, CA
 - Bill Rosa, Traverse City, MI
 - Phil Smith, Macomb, MI
 - Mark Stenger, Newberry, MI
 - Michael Brady, Charlotte, MI Life Member
 - Brian Brady, Okemos, MI Life Member
- Museum membership is \$50 a year. It includes free admission to the Museum and related events for you and a guest for one year, a Museum decal, membership card, and the partnership with the Museum in preserving the history of snowmobiling.

Please let us know if you want to be added to, or removed from the membership list.

Museum Upcoming Events: ←

Dec 11, 2021 Snowmobile the Mighty Mac, St. Ignace

Feb 5, 2022..... Youth Ride at the Museum

Feb 18/19, 2022 . Top of the Lake Snowmobile Show & Ride, Naubinway, MI. (See page 5)

Attention Advertisers:

If you want to advertise in the newsletter, please call Marilyn at 906-477-6298 or email: info@snowmobileMuseum.com

- ♦ Place your Banner Ad on our website for only \$100/year
- ♦ Please feel free to post your snowmobile show or event on our Facebook page or Contact the Museum

15th Annual Swap Meet & Auction, Sept. 18, 2021

Fall Swap Meet (all hands on deck) by Greg Busch

On September 18th the Museum hosted its annual swap in the parking lot behind the Museum. This year was a little different. While our fearless leaders were off to their induction ceremony to the Snowmobile Hall of Fame, we gathered up extra help to keep things going. Also missing was our auctioneer so Mr. Bernie Reid pitched in and did a wonderful job. We did manage to sell just about everything and was able to raise enough funds to pay for this year's propane for the winter season.

Special thanks to everyone that showed up and special thanks to everyone that stepped up to help. We hope most were happy with the deals they made and were able to sell off some unwanted treasures.....



Jackie Busch manning the store



Always room for one more



Getting the kids involved in the drawings

2021 Swap Meet Raffle Winners:

Raffle tickets were sold during the year; drawing was held Sept 18, 2021

- 1st prize: \$500 – JoEllen Klimek, Elmira, MI
- 2nd prize: Chamberlin's B & B, 1 Night Stay – Beulah Sedlacek, Kingsley, MI
- 3rd prize: Snowmobile Rocker – Angela Kral
- 4th prize: \$100 Gas Card – Jenna Ferguson, Mt Morris, MI
- 5th prize: Snowmobile Print – Karen Jarema, Boyne Falls, MI
- 6th prize: \$50 Cash – Doug Gordon, Marquette, MI



Erik McClain-Boston



John Newman-ISC, Omaha



Dan – National Show, WI

Traveling T-Shirts

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

Traveling T-Shirts



Snowmobile Museum Becomes a Harvest Host Member

In October, 2021, some people were here to see the Museum and they mentioned that they were spending the night with a Harvest Host member. We asked the question – “What is that?”, received the answer, and before we knew it we are new members. We even had our first Harvest Host campers two weeks after we signed up!

Harvest Host is a “Unique RVing Experience.” The Hosts who sign up provide a spot for a RV or camper for free (electricity is a minimal charge by the Host,) but they are expected to go into the business and spend at least \$20. The business can charge if they are spending more than one night. There are three outside outlets at the Museum, on the back of the building, and 1 on the outside of the storage garage. We do have a large parking lot, which works out great for large campers. This program has an app and there are hosts all across the United States. Here is a link with more information about the program: *Harvest Hosts featured on Good Morning America:*

<https://www.goodmorningamerica.com/travel/story/rv-coolest-off-beaten-path-spots-america-56640248>



Youth Ride, Feb 2022

The date is coming up fast!! The Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum will be hosting the 3rd annual Top of the Lake Youth ride in honor of Randy Willford with the help of Hooligan Sledgers and Northern Retreat on Saturday, February 5th, 2022.

Yes, we said kids - any kiddo with a Kitty Kat, 120, 200, 340, or bigger up to age 18. We are planning a fun day at the Museum in Naubinway, MI. The older youth riders will go on a fun trail ride through the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club and the younger kids will stay closer to the Museum for a shorter ride and fun in snow.

We will start the day with safety and split them into groups according to age and riding levels. Cost is \$5.00 per person, which includes lunch and entrance to the Museum. Call the Top of the Lake Museum if interested (906-477-6298.) At least one adult needs to attend with the child and should also bring a snowmobile.

Any extra proceeds will be donated to the Museum. The event begins at 10:00am and ends around 4:00 pm. We have a few options available if you do not have a snowmobile but would like for your child to give it a try, please call in advance. This is a fun day focused on kids getting to know other kids who love to ride snowmobiles.

If you are interested in donating anything for the kids give-a-ways, please send to the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum, W11660 US 2, Naubinway. Thank you! LET'S RIDE!!

Michelle Vallier Labadie (906-553-1298)



Snowmobile USA Show, Novi, MI, Nov. 5-7



Left and below: John & Sandy Ketcher's booth the A1 Swap & Show in Clio MI, Nov. 5-6



St. Germain Swap Meet May 30, 2021

Thanks to Charlie & Greg Busch for making this a very productive trip! Of course, they also enjoy seeing their snowmobile buddies. Thank you to the crew at St. Germain for being so good to us!! This Swap Meet/Show always has a great turnout. If there's any part you need, this is the place to find it. They also have a show going on under the pavilion. Unfortunately, the rain just couldn't hold off for the whole time and the guys had to pack up earlier than planned. Thank you to everyone who stopped by to say hi and support the Museum!



Readers Words: From Andy Wells, designer of the Lil Andy

The small snowmobile in the photo is the first "LiL Andy" prototype. As a new employee in the engineering department, Allen Hetteen and David Johnson allowed me to develop my concept for designing a small new snowmobile to use the remaining Comet parts after the Comet production was ended early.

I began developing a small and light weight machine to fill an opening in the snowmobile market to young people. To keep the first prototype machine simple, I used a centrifugal friction clutch on the 6 HP Lawson motor and a direct chain drive from the clutch to the track drive shaft. The machine worked, but was slow and like always driving in low gear. Also, the clutch was prone to chatter at starting and stopping. Indeed, a tiller steering control was used, with the other hand secured to a grip attached to the bolts of the motor. Also, to my knowledge, this was the very first time a non-metal (fiberglass) hood was used on a snowmobile anywhere in the world since fiber glass was a new product back then. After a week of testing, I built the second prototype of the "LiL Andy" which had a variable shive clutch, jack-shaft, and more standard steering handle. More design was put into the hood also along with several other small track improvements. The entire "LiL Andy" development began in December of 1963 and ended in March of 1964, where the "LiL Andy" went into production.



6th Annual Snowmobile the Mighty Mac, Dec 11, 2021

The Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum in conjunction with The St. Ignace Visitors Bureau, are again offering a unique experience for antique and vintage snowmobile enthusiasts.

On Saturday, Dec 11th, 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. Snowmobiles need to be legally registered or have a Michigan Historic Registration sticker. Drivers must be at least 12 years old, with a Michigan Snowmobile Safety Class permit.

The cost to drive over the Bridge is \$35 which includes a lunch at the Little Bear Arena East in downtown St. Ignace. There is a smaller fee for passengers.

Participants will line up at the Colonial Michilimackinac parking lot in Mackinaw City. You must be there by 10 AM to unload your snowmobile and drive North to the Welcome Center to park your vehicles. A school bus will drive everyone South again. The drive over the Mackinac Bridge will begin at 11am. Lunch will be served at the Little Bear East Arena, downtown St. Ignace. The cost will be \$10 each for those who did not cross the Bridge.

To register online for the event, or for more information, visit the St. Ignace Visitors Bureau website at <https://stignace.com/event/antique-snowmobile-bridge-crossing/> or call (906-643-6950)

A commemorative shirt will also be available to pick up at the Little Bear Arena from the Museum staff. Cost for the shirt is \$20. You may call the Museum to reserve a shirt.

If you have questions, call the Snowmobile Museum at 906-477-6298 or email, info@snowmobileMuseum.com



Photo courtesy of Beau Vallier

30th Annual Top of the Lake Snowmobile Show, Feb 18 & 19, 2022

Featured Sled: Mercury

Schedule:

Friday, February 18 events:

- 8:00-10:00 am - Breakfast at the Naubinway Pavilion,
- 11:00 – Ride to Cranberry Lodge, 13 miles one way. All snowmobiles welcome!
- 3:00-7:00 pm – Get-together at the Snowmobile Museum
- 6:30 pm - Night Ride and bonfire, three miles to the Millecoquins Bridge

Saturday, February 19 events:

- 8:00-10:00 am - Line-up for Show, downtown Naubinway,
\$5 Show Registration at the Museum (includes Museum admission all weekend)
- 10:00-3:00 – Snowmobiles on display, downtown Naubinway
- 4:30-5:30 pm – Banquet at the Engadine/Garfield Township Hall in Engadine
- 5:30-8:30 pm - Merchant Drawings, 50/50, Museum raffle drawing
- Museum Auction – donated items accepted, proceeds go to the Museum Building Fund



The next raffle drawing will be Feb 19, 2022, during the February Show banquet & auction

- 1st – 1974 Mercury 440, donated by Ben McClain
- 2nd - \$150 Gift Certificate, Fish & Hunt Shop
- 3rd - \$100 Gas Card (donated by a Museum friend)
- 4th – Snowmobile Lighted Print
- 5th – \$50 Cash (donated by a Museum Friend)

- Tickets are \$5 for 1 and \$10 for 3.
- The tickets are sponsored by the State Savings Bank of Manistique.
- **Two books of tickets are included in the newsletter.**



Raffle Sled: 1974 Mercury 440

NEW! Enclosing books of tickets in the newsletter is a new adventure for the Museum. Please return the ticket stubs with your payment and information, especially your phone number! We will call you when you win! If you would like more tickets, please call the Museum and we will take your credit card info and fill out the stubs for you and put them into the bucket. Yours could be the lucky ticket!

Allis Chalmers Represents the Museum

This past Spring we had an unusual request from the Bobby Paulson family for the Allis Chalmers to make a trip to Hutchinson, MN for the 30th Annual Gathering of the Orange, Orange Spectacular Show, which was held the week-end of July 23-25th, 2021. It was sponsored by the Upper Midwest Allis Chalmers Club.

When the Bobby Paulson family brought it back, they were so excited to let us know they had 28,000+ people at their event over the weekend. They displayed our one-of-a-kind snowmobile, belonging to Doug Bonno, next to the very rare Allis Chalmers Fuel Cell tractor, which is on display at the McLeod County Historical Museum from the Smithsonian institute. It runs on electricity! In the early 60's Allis Chalmers worked with NASA to develop a way to power instruments on board space capsules. They also worked with the Atomic Energy Commission and experiments were done with a forklift that could lift 2,000 lbs and a fuel cell golf cart. None of the items went into production, but the research led to development of energy resources.

Below is our information about the one and only Allis Chalmers snowmobile submitted by owner, Doug Bonno:



Above: Allis Chalmers Fuel Cell tractor on display at the McLeod County Historical Museum from the Smithsonian institute

"This Allis Chalmers was built by Roy Stewart in 1965, one of three prototypes. Two were identical with the LLOYD OHV 4 stroke, 4 speed with reverse. The third one was built with a small cc 2 cycle engine and "didn't have enough power to pull itself." Allis was thinking about the work/utility sled market, not a sport machine. All of the mechanical components came off the assembly line, from various farm equipment, and the sleds were built during "down time".

After testing, it was decided that the sleds were not practical, and they were put in a disposal/scrap area. The gentleman I acquired it from and another employee from the Copper Country "rescued" both of the 4 cycle sleds from the scrap. The third sled was definitely scrapped out. The sleds were hauled to the U.P., one to Copper Country and the other one to his father's farm in Iron River, MI. The Copper Country sled was used for a short time, then junked, with the engine/trans given to the Iron River sled owner.

I was buying hay from the farm around 10 years ago, and the owner told me about the sled while my crew was loading hay. At the time, I was not into vintage sleds but I never forgot about it. I returned 2 years ago to find the owner suffering from Alzheimer's. He and his lovely wife agreed with me that it should be placed in a Museum, so I was able to purchase the Allis on that condition! I also have the engine out of the scrapped sled from Copper Country. I did contact Allis Chalmers for possible history on the sled, but was told, "We are a forward-thinking company and do not dwell on the past," so I was unable to get official documentation."



Above: 1965 Allis Chalmers Prototype in our Museum

If you're looking for a Christmas gift for the snowmobiler in your life, we just might have what you need! We have a great selection of books, coffee mugs, snowmobile legos for the kids, puzzles, plus other items listed on our website, Museum Store. Check out our gift shop online at: www.snowmobileMuseum.com



Left: U.S. 2 Scenic Byway T-shirts

New In our Gift Shop

We are always looking for homemade items to sell!



NEW! Clear etched glass cutting board (8" diameter)



In Memory of John Matchinski

We are very sad to say that our local friend, John Matchinski, who graduated from Engadine High School with Charlie, passed away on July 8, 2021.

John owned and operated John Matchinski Builders, and did so much for us and the community. When we built the new Museum, John donated his crew for two weeks to set the trusses and finish the roof, plus he did the sidewalk for us. He put the signs out to mark the trail to the cabin for our ride during the snowmobile show and he always went on the ride. He also made snowmobile dollies for our auction.

John served in the United States Army in Germany during the Vietnam War, was a former Sergeant of Arms of the American Legion Post #290 in Engadine, and a member of the Garfield Township Fire Department.



In Memory of Sherry Landon

A very special friend of the snowmobile community, Sherry Landon, passed away May 27, 2021 at Covenant Hospital in Saginaw, MI. She had been fighting breast cancer since 2015. Sherry and her husband, Steve, publish The Winning Edge Magazine. She also designed countless fliers, ads and promotional material. In addition to The Winning Edge Magazine Sherry loved 4-H, and her dream job of office manager at the MSU Extension Office in Clare County. Sherry was also active at the Soo I-500 and other events.

Engadine Senior Receives Museum Scholarship 2021

This was our second year to award a \$1000 scholarship for an Engadine Consolidated High School student. This year the scholarship was awarded to Hannah Bigelow. Hannah will be attending Northern Michigan University in Marquette, MI and is enrolled in their welding program. It is a goal of us here at the Museum to encourage advanced education for one of our local students and to be a contributing factor in their advancement.

Right: Hannah Bigelow accepts her Museum scholarship from Charlie



New Monument in Naubinway

written by Kath Usitalo

The waterfront in Naubinway is home to a new marker recognizing the Northernmost Point of Lake Michigan. The Top of the Lake Communities Association (TOLCA) conceived and created the sculptural tribute that stands at Garfield Township Marina in Naubinway. Although the actual point is about two miles West of town, the marina is the most accessible and scenic location for the marker.

This Northernmost claim geographical fame is a point of pride and a way to celebrate Naubinway's long history as a fishing village. The stainless steel marker was fabricated locally and received the support of a matching-funds mini-grant from The Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA,) a grant from Graymont Community & Economic Fund, and donations from Cloverland Electric Co-Op and individuals. A Go Fund Me page has been set up to help with the completion of this project also. (gofundme.com/f/northernmost-point-of-lake-michigan) or by check to TOLCA, PO Box 132, Naubinway, MI 49762. Donations of \$100 or more will be recognized at the TOLCA website, topofthelake.org.

TOLCA is a non-profit organization of volunteers that is dedicated to enhancing the community through events and a variety of other programs in the area. They meet at the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum the first Monday of every month at 5:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend! Together we can make these communities even better!

9&10 News video: <https://www.9and10news.com/2021/10/06/northern-michigan-in-focus-naubinway-monument/>

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

Name _____

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Amount \$ _____ ☐ Check ☐ Cash ☐ Credit Card (Please call with card info)

Receive a donation receipt _____

Thank you!



Museum friends & ASCOA reps,
Jennifer & Kolin Kurtzhals & Andy

National Vintage Show - Aug 6-8, 2021

Charlie, Marilyn, and granddaughter, Sydney traveled to Marshfield, WI Aug. 6-8 for the Vintage National Show. Sydney was spending the summer with us, along with her mom and brother, Blair. Sydney had been helping us at the Museum and was great at interacting with the visitors and sharing what she has learned about the machines. She's a great salesperson, too, so we knew she would enjoy going to the National Show. This show was amazing with approximately 500+ snowmobiles on display.

A very special thank you to the Honda East Show crew, Dan Cunningham and sponsors for their \$1000 donation from the Silent Auction at the Sept 25, 2021 show at the Honda East Sports location in Maumee, OH. We also want to give a huge shout-out to our Board Members, Greg Busch, Tom Hammond and Bernie Reid for filling in for us.



HusSki Celebration, 60th Anniversary

For reservations to the banquet or if you have other questions, please contact Barrie Graham (husskibarrie@gmail.com). Barrie also mentioned that this is Ski Country, so accommodations around the area will be limited and you should book your lodging early. Website: <http://diablrouge.ciphr.net/>



Above: Bernie Reid at the Honda East Show checking out a sled he used to own

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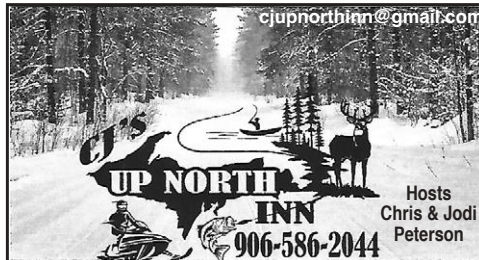
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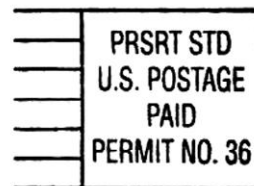
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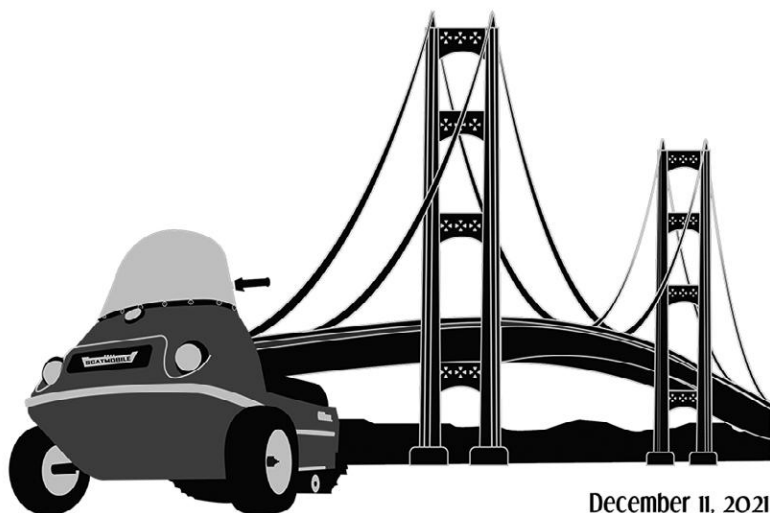
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