



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



30th Annual Show & Ride-February 18 & 19, 2022

Inside this issue:

Show & Ride Awards Winners	2
Rear Engine Antique Trail Ride	3
Museum Youth Ride	4
Sept 2022 Museum Swap Meet	4
Remembering Greg Eno	5
Engadine/Curtis Preschool Visits	5
Ride Snowmobiles to School Day	5
Snowmobile Clean Challenge	6
Snowmobile the Mighty Mac	7
Reader's Words	7
Traveling Shirts	7
Fundraising Form	8
Advertisers	9-11



Naubinway's 30th annual Top of the Lake Show & Ride began with a breakfast at the Naubinway Pavilion, put on by our Top of the Lake Communities Association.

Soon after, a long line of 250+ excited snowmobilers were restless to head out for the ride to Cranberry Lodge on the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club property. Every year someone from the Club gets the fireplace going in the Lodge and the Club groomers keep the trail in great shape. Unfortunately, their groomer was broken down this year, but we had enough snow, so the trail was ok. Everyone enjoys the scenery, the sled talk, making new friends, and enjoying the fantastic lunch prepared by Rich & Donna (Hotz Catering.) Rich is a Suzuki guy, so he usually brings that along, too.

A few snowmobiles needed some help getting back to the Museum, but there is always someone who will stop to give them a hand.

Friday afternoon a snowstorm began, which made our Night Ride and bonfire interesting, but still fun. Riders really got the full effect of a winter bonfire in the woods!

Roughly 135 snowmobiles braved near white-out conditions on Saturday, and lined up in the Naubinway business



district. We had some beautiful Mercurys front and center as our featured sled. Even a Kitty Kat painted as a Snow Twister joined the group. There was a very nice original display of Mercs that was purchased together on the original trailer.

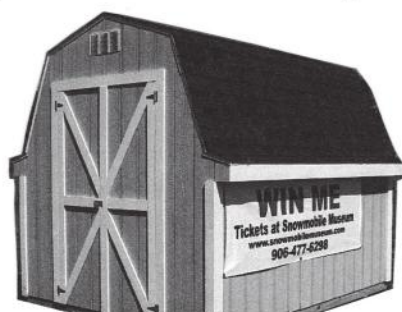
After loading up the machines, over 100 people attended the Show banquet in Engadine which included special drawings for the Communities Association, Museum raffle drawing, and the Museum's biggest fundraiser – the Auction, which was a big success again this year.

It was so good to see our youth get involved and having fun. A few were buzzing around on a mini-bike with a ski in place of the front tire. The near blizzard didn't seem to bother them.

All in all, we hope everyone had a good time and got to enjoy the Friday ride and the bonfire. It sure acted like winter should act this year....Thanks for coming!

The featured sleds for next year are the "catalog sleds" – Sears, JC Penny, Wards, Eaton Stores in Canada, and Herter's.

Written by Greg Busch & Marilyn Vallier



Sept. 2022 Swap Meet Raffle



Left: Swap Meet Raffle . 8'x10' Storage Shed;
1973 Moto Ski Zephyr (See page 4 for details)

Cont from page 1



Right: The winner of the Mercury snowmobile Raffle was Shelly Myers, from Mason, MI. She ended up selling the snowmobile back to the donor, Ben McClain, and is making a donation to the Museum and to Alger SORVA. Thank you Shelly!!

Left: Rick Mielke from Fond du Lac, WI won two awards for the featured sled, the Most Unique and the Best Restored.



Raffle Drawing Winners – Feb 19, 2022

- 1st – 74 Mercury – Shelly Myers, Mason, MI
- 2nd – \$150 Gift Cert, Fish & Hunt Shop – Larry Maasdam, Clarion, IA
- 3rd – \$100 Gas Card – Carol Hartford, Atlanta, MI
- 4th – Snowmobile Print – Russ Cromer,
- 5th – \$50 Cash – Robert White, Clarkston, MI

* Inserting of tickets in the last newsletter was very successful. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

Next Raffle-Sept 17. Tickets will be available in May.

Feb. Show Awards Winners:

Fun Ride Favorite/Antique – Tony Rolfes, 1968 Cougar Cal Moser, Milbank, SD, 62 K-95 Polaris
Fun Ride Favorite/Vintage – Jack Olari, 120 sled, Highland, MI
Featured Sled, Most Original – Michael Allen, bought as a pair with trailer
Featured Sled, Most Unique – Kitty Kat, Rick Mielke, Fond du Lac, WI
Featured Sled, Best Restored – 74 Sno Twister, Rick Mielke, Fond du Lac, WI
Tow Strap Award – 64 Polaris K80D, John Notchick, Simpson, PA



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



Bernie Reid was our model at the Show Auction. Great job, Bernie!

Thanks to our auctioneer, Ted Postula, from Goetzville, MI

Newsletter – Regular Mail or E-mail?

We have been trying to figure out how to set up an email list for the newsletters and we now have someone who is going to help with that. What we need is for everyone who wants to receive their newsletter by email to contact us with your email address and we will get that taken care of for the Fall newsletter. Thank you!

Calendar of Events 2022

- ♦ May 29 – Show & Swap Meet, St. Germain, WI
- ♦ June 24-26 – ASCOA Summer Meet, Old Forge, NY
- ♦ September 17 – Top of the Lake Swap Meet, Naubinway, MI
- ♦ Nov. 4 & 5 - A-1 swap meet, Birch Run (New location this year)
- ♦ Nov. 4, 5, & 6th - Novi show
- ♦ December 10 - Snowmobile the Mighty Mac (contact the St. Ignace Visitors Bureau)

These are events we will be attending.

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

Welcome New Members:

- ♦ Pam Basal, Marquette, MI
- ♦ Dr. Greg Hamilton, Goodrich, MI
- ♦ Dale & Shirley Ledger, Hillman, MI
- ♦ Larry & Sandy Schmah, Denmark, WI
- ♦ Calvin & Linda Moser, Milbank, SD
- ♦ Mark Thomas, Arlington, IN
- ♦ Ross & Kim Abraham, Germfask, MI
- ♦ Bernie Reid, Ortonville, MI
- ♦ Bob & Merle Edwards, Engadine, MI
- ♦ Ted Lane, Ontario, Canada

2022 Rear Engine Ride #7

Feb 15-17, 2022 by John McGuirk

For the seventh consecutive year a group of die-hard rear engine riders met the week before the museum's Winter Vintage Ride and Show for another attempt at riding 100 miles over three days.

Several riders who missed the 2021 ride due to Covid were able to return for the event. Fifteen rear engine machines representing four states joined the ride along with the support and safety crews.

This year the group rode three different types of terrain. One on the regular snowmobile trails, one on the beautiful Hiawatha Sportsman's Club trails, and one day off trails in the deep woods.

As of 2022, the group has ridden a total of 700 miles and is already looking forward to and planning for 2023. Breakdowns are encountered and mostly fixed on the trail with the occasional tow-in. Where will they go next???

Thanks to Charlie Vallier for acting as our guide and to Karen Jarema for being the support/safety trailing snowmobile along with Roland Smith who was our emergency breakdown tow sled.



Rear Engine Riders at the Lake MI Northernmost Point monument



Cal Moser, from Milbank, SD, came for the Rear Engine Ride and stayed all week, for the Show & Ride. His two dogs kept him company that week



Above: Neil's 1980 Electric snowmobile
(Photo courtesy of St Ignace News)

Vintage Electric Snowmobile on the Show Ride, Feb, 2022

Neil Swanson, from Prescott, MI, is all about electric. His house has 40 solar panels that he and his wife installed with their do-it-yourself mounting system, generating enough electricity for all his needs including heating his house and his hot water and he heats with a geothermal heat pump that they installed.

He converted a 1978 vintage Kawasaki motorcycle to electric two years ago, and wanted a similar project to enjoy in the winter. Neil grew up riding snowmobiles in his early years in Northern Michigan, so he really wanted to convert a vintage sled from his youth. Although he didn't ever have a Yamaha SS440, he really liked the styling. So, his first step was finding a used sled. It was not an easy task. They were all in pretty rough condition and not inexpensive. But, in the end he found a reasonable 1980 model in late 2020 to start the project. He finished it in just two months. As you can see, the finished machine really looks nice. The color is actually the original factory red, less all the Yamaha decals. It has a range of more than 30 miles and can reach a speed of 37 mph. Neil brought his special machine to the Top of the Lake Show & Ride and made the 26-mile ride to the Cranberry Lodge. As you can guess, it drew a lot of attention.

Summary: -1980 Yamaha SS440 Snowmobile

- 4,000-watt Brushless Direct Current (BLDC) Electric Motor
- Battery: 840 Panasonic 18650 cells

Museum Gift Shop

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.



New 16" square signs, made from pvc, very lightweight. We have 15 designs available with more to come.



The Youth Ride lineup at the Museum.
24 kids of all ages rode this year.

Youth Ride – Feb 5, 2022

The Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum hosted the 3rd annual Top of the Lake Youth Ride, the second one in honor of Randy Willford, with the help of Hooligan Sledders and Northern Retreat, on Saturday, February 5th, 2022. We had another great turnout of 24 kids and their parents! Some of them had so much fun on our previous rides, they couldn't wait to come back for this one, and new families had so much fun they can't wait for next year!

The youngest rider was just 4 years old and drove his own Kitty Kat the whole way! It was super fun seeing the youngsters who had come in previous years grow in their riding skills. Riders like Sunshine Oelfke, who was nervous to climb the hills last year, went right to the top this year. The Hicks family of quintuplets and a big brother who came 2 years ago with Kitty Kats that struggled to do what the kids wanted in the snow conditions, returned this year with bigger sleds and did great! It's so much fun watching these kids grow into snowmobilers! The kids also got to climb into the Curtis Groomer. Ross, from Curtis, had made arrangements to keep the trails smooth by grooming the night before and the day of the event!

This year was a little extra special because Amramp (Brian Embick), Serving Mid and Northern Michigan, offered to cover the entry fees for the first 40 entrants! Their two boys, Wyatt and "lil" Owen, have been coming since the first event. A new little sister joined them this year.

We'd like to thank all the sponsors for the cool stuff for the kiddos: Race Driven, Sadie Rae, Cycle City, Munising Powersports, Steven's Sport Center, Michigan Sled Chix, Mater's Stop -N- Go Gas Station, Hooligan Sledders and Cozy's Polaris. We especially want to thank our volunteers for all your help; James Johnson, Kevin Dennis, Lori Vallier, Beau Vallier, Zach Vallier, Charlie Vallier, Marilyn Vallier, Ashley Williamson-Hansen, Brock Hansen, Brian S Embick, Whitney Lynn Embick, Tammy Jean Everingham, Tony Williams, Owen Labadie, and Dominic Anthony Cain. We especially want to thank the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club for the use of their property.



Hooligan's Sledders Poker Run Donation Feb 19, 2022

On Feb 12th the Hooligan's Sledders held their first Poker Run event this year. Participants registered at the Museum on Friday and rode all day Saturday collecting their cards. They ended up at Zellar's Restaurant in Newberry for dinner. Mark Noble and Michelle Labadie made the presentation of \$800 from the event to the Museum on Saturday, Feb 19.

Right: Mark Noble & Michelle Labadie present
an \$800 check for the Poker Run donation



Top of the Lake Museum Swap Meet

Saturday, Sept.17, 2022

- **Location:** Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum, on the North side of US 2, Naubinway, MI
- **Hours:** 8:00 am-3:00 pm.
- \$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**. Get your tickets at the Museum before 2:15 pm
- For more info call Charlie 906-477-6192, email info@snowmobilemuseum.com, or www.snowmobilemuseum.com.

Swap Meet Raffle Ticket Prizes

- 1st – 1973 Moto Ski Zephyr (Donated by Roy Hazen)
- 2nd – 8'x10' Storage Shed or \$500 Cash (donated by Charlie's Sheds)
- 3rd – \$100 Gas Card
- 4th – Snowmobile Print (donated by the Museum)
- 5th – \$50 Cash (donated by a Museum member)





Above: A memorial was held at the Cranberry Lodge by friends and fellow Rear Engine Riders before the Show Ride.

Saying Goodbye to our friend Greg Eno

by Greg Busch

Greg Eno, age 65, of Hale, MI, passed away surrounded by family on Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022. Greg ran the Hale Show and was part of the Rear Engine Ride in February here at the Museum. He married the love of his life, Becky, and they had three daughters. He had a passion for classic cars and vintage snowmobiles and could often be found in his Monster Garage tinkering on machines with friends and solving the world's problems. He will be missedRIP Friend!



Greg Eno, 2019 Rear Engine Ride



Engadine Consolidated Preschool Class, Feb 25, 2022

Eleven Engadine preschoolers & parents came on the bus with their teacher, Diane Miller, to see some old snowmobiles, go for a ride through the woods, and finish the day with a lunch before they hopped back on the bus again. Charlie shows them some of the machines he thinks they will like. One of the machines was the Autoboggan with a canvas hood on it and he closed the hood while they were inside. A few of the kids were unsure of this at first, but they all decided to do it.

When they go on the ride through the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club, the parents drive the snowmobiles and the kids ride in sleighs. I did hear that one of them fell asleep on the trip. They all said they had fun! Our goal was accomplished!

If anyone has a child's helmet they aren't using anymore, we could use it here at the Museum for our preschoolers.



Curtis Preschool visit – March 14, 2022

Fourteen preschoolers from The Curtis Three Lakes Academy came to the Museum again this year with their teacher, Kris Nance, plus lots of parents and little siblings. I do know there were some dads here, wanting to learn about the snowmobiles from Charlie. We do let the parents take a picture of them on one of the machines.

After a great lunch, they bundled up to go for a ride through the woods. Only two of them had been on a snowmobile before. Our volunteer helpers commented that a couple of the kids fell asleep, some helmets were bobbing up & down on the kids heads, and the girl riding in front of Sandy Ketcher was making a lot of noise. Sandy asked her if she was ok (Sandy thought she might be crying) but she said she was singing! Charlie finished up their trip with a ride on a Hus Ski for those who wanted to try that out. When they left the Museum, the school bus took them to the Northernmost Point of Lake Michigan monument at the Marina here in Naubinway. I bet the bus ride back to Curtis was quiet. They had to be tired – I know the adults were!

Ride Your Snowmobile to School Day



Drive your Snowmobile to school on February 22 was a huge success!

Engadine students, under the direction of Lori Vallier and John Krenek, drove their snowmobiles to the Museum after school for a short history lesson and pizza.



Snowmobile Clean Challenge – March 1-3, 2022

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 event this year was moved from Michigan Tech University in Houghton, MI to the Eagle River Derby Track in Eagle River, WI. Seventeen teams from all over the US and Canada were involved in the competition this year.

The first SAE Clean Challenge was held in 2000 at Jackson Hole, WY. The was 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. For 2022, the competition was moved to the World Championship Derby Headquarters in Eagle River, WI.

“As the results of the 3-day competition this year are being compiled, validation and data collection is a major part of the competition. As validation of designs both in industry and competition are the standard, the CSC utilizes a tow behind emissions data collection system that taps into the exhaust stream as well as into the snowmobile’s fuel system for measurement. From there the students run through a predetermined in-service duty cycle towing the sled. Their score just like in industry is based on the quantitate results of this data collected. Although the scope of the design challenge is to optimize for reduced emissions, noise, and fuel consumption the students equally need to keep performance in mind. As the judges tested these sleds today on the subjective handling course to conduct a qualitative assessment of how the snowmobile rides, it’s safe to say fun was not compromised on these snowmobiles!” (quote on Facebook by Dan Nehmer)

The team from New York Clarkson University stopped at the Museum on their way to Eagle River February 28. Charlie had a great time talking to them and they even took their diesel machine for a spin for him. **Charlie took a video, and posted it on the Museum’s Facebook page. So far, it has 1.6+ million views!** The team contacted us after the competition to say they won a few awards, plus **Best of Show!** Great job guys and girls!!



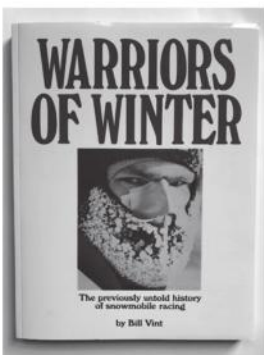
Clarkson group



Polaris diesel for competition



Warriors of Winter book



The Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum started in 2007 and from the very beginning there has been a gift shop with books for sale. The Warriors of Winter books have always a popular book, written by Bill Vint. The first edition came out in 1977 and has been used by many collectors as a great source of reference. In 2019 we started having a hard time finding the books for us to sell. We did some research and discovered that Ehlert Publishing was going to discontinue printing another edition of this book, so we bought the last 15 that they had left. Shortly after that, we were approached about buying the copyrights to the book. The Board Members discussed this and it was unanimously decided that with the Museum motto being “Where the history of snowmobiling comes to life”, the history in this book needs to be continued. We made an offer to purchase the rights to the book. Ehlert Publishing agreed and the process began. We selected Sault Printing Co. in Sault Ste Marie, MI and on January 24, 2022, we received the excellent 7th edition finished copies.

To purchase this amazing book, stop in at the Museum, order it from our website store at www.snowmobilemuseum.com, or call the Museum (906-477-6298) with a credit card and we will get it shipped to you.

Chris Wawro, who recently purchased two of these new books at the Museum had this to say about the author:

“Bill Vint and his wife Lisa have been our next-door neighbor for 25 years. He was the kind of neighbor you liked to help; kind and down to earth. As I mentioned Bill passed away from complications due to a stroke on Wednesday March 16, 2022, which coincidentally was his birthday. He was 79. He will be missed!”



Brian Gnagey comment: FUN day!!
This almost 63 year old drove across a 64 year old bridge with a 51 year old snowmobile with 75 other old sleds. The weather looked bad and it was raining as we got ready but when we fired the sleds up and ready to ride the rain stopped!! Only in MICHIGAN !!

Snowmobile the Mighty Mac

Bridge Crossing Day, Dec 11, 2021, started out with a winter storm warning and everyone waiting under the South end of the Bridge for the call to say it was a go. The adventure started with a pouring rainstorm only to clear up at the time of the start. The old sled gods were with us and away we went.

In a cloud of blue smoke, 78 sleds left the Southern side of the Mackinac Bridge followed by a recovery trailer, and yes, four sleds ended up crossing the Bridge on the recovery trailer. The timing of the event was perfect. The rain stopped at the beginning and about halfway across, the wind picked up, turning to sleet that slowly turned to snow on the Northern end.

The view from a sled was amazing and the smiles from the vehicles passing along side of us was such a thrill. The people were waving and most had video phones going so they could explain to their friends what they just saw on the Mighty- Mac. The trip ended with big smiles on our faces as we drove past the toll booth, with friends and family waving and waiting to see if we made it. It was time to load up and meet for lunch and awards and many stories at the Little Bear Arena. See you next year, you beautiful bridge! (The next Bridge crossing is 12/10/2022) by Greg Busch

Reader's Words by Jim Halfhill Jr – My First Snowmobiling Experience

"Bringing new riders into the sport is not something you're introduced to often, living in Kentucky. Luckily, my life's journey brought me in contact with a great friend and ambassador to the sport, Mr Charlie Cooper. Charlie was a family friend from when I was a kid, who always told stories of his adventures, including snowmobiling.

A few years after college in the fall of 2004, I called Charlie and told him I wanted to take him up on his offer to experience snowmobiling. I had never seen a snowmobile in person until I arrived at Charlie's house in February, 2005. He outfitted me with everything I needed and we drove from Dayton, OH to Bruce Mines, Ontario. This trip of 3 days was just the beginning of many trips to come. I was able to become the proud owner of a barely used 2005 Polaris Indy 600. If it wasn't for Charlie Cooper, I would probably never have experienced snowmobiling, which I fell in love with instantly. He took the time to nurture a newcomer, loaned equipment, and showed me the ropes. Every year after that, Charlie and I made our own adventures. Unfortunately, Charlie went to heaven in November, 2019, but his legacy lives on through people he introduced to the sport he loved so dearly."

****Marilyn's comment:** The Museum part of this story is when Charlie Cooper came to the Museum in 2008 and saw a suit, exactly like his, hanging on the wall. His bibs were ripped and he asked me if he could trade them for the ones we had on the wall. I figured I would probably be in trouble, but I did make the exchange. He told me he would be back and would donate his jacket one day. A few years ago, he kept his promise. He delivered his suit with all the cool patches and his wife's suit for us to display in the new museum. Still today, they are displayed side-by-side.



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.



Right: Doug Burd in Cancun

Traveling Shirts

Left: Tom Wenlick in Hawaii



Right: Sandy Ketcher
at Mayo Clinic



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



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The Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum is designated on Amazon Smile as a 501c3 Charity. The Museum will receive .05% of your order if you register to have the money donated to the Museum.

We set up this program five years ago and as of March, 2022, we have received over \$1,645.75. The money is directly deposited into our bank account from Amazon Smile.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed! Go to smile.amazon.com for more information.

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



***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
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TOL Museum Fundraiser Form

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

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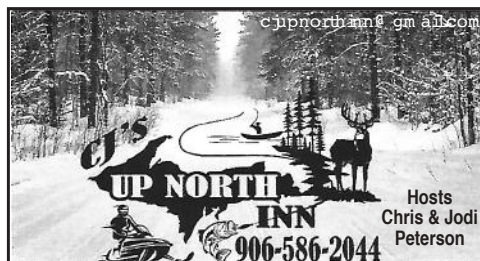
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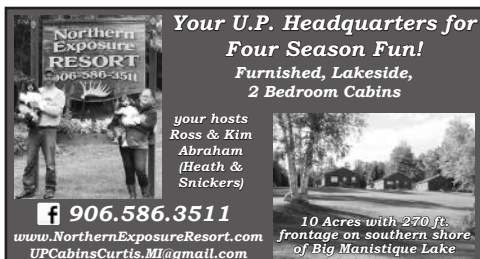
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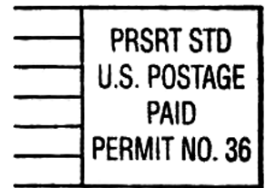


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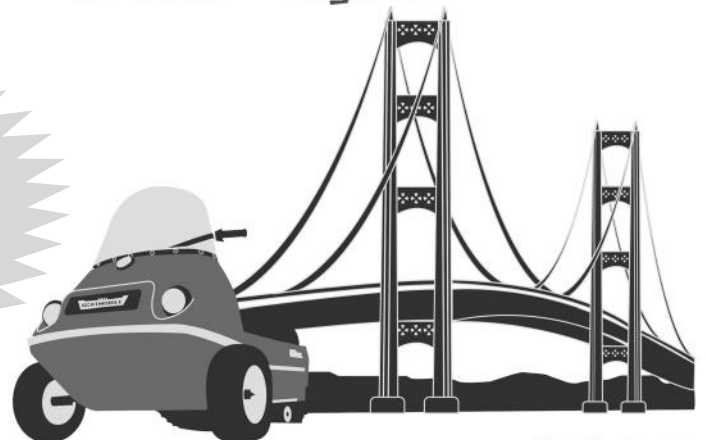


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