



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



16th Annual Top of the Lake Swap Meet, Sept 17, 2022

by Steve King & Marilyn Vallier

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On Saturday, September 17th, the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum hosted their annual Snowmobile Swap Meet. This annual event helps raise money for the Museum winter fuel fund.

The Museum is one of the top Snowmobile Museums in the United States. They have over 185 snowmobiles on display. Each one is a very unique and interesting piece of snowmobile history. They also have a considerable amount of snowmobile related items, such as snowmobile suits, oil cans, and other related items. In addition, there is a very intensive snowmobile literature library.

While the Museum is operated by volunteers, they still have bills to pay. It costs a considerable amount of money to heat a building of this size. For that reason, many years ago, they started having a Swap Meet as a way to help pay those heating bills. The swap meet is made possible with the help of many amazing volunteers.

Charlie Vallier, one of the founders and a curator stated, "Once again, we had a real good turn out for our Swap Meet. We had people here from MN, MI, OH, WI, and IN, plus our loyal locals. We also had some people ride in on ATV's. The money raised helps us to pay our heating bill for the winter. It is also a whole lot of fun. This is becoming a way in which a lot of us start the snowmobile season. We come here and visit and talk about old snowmobiles. It is what we love to do."

Vallier finished, "But, when all is said and done, we really do need the money we make. So, I want to thank all of those who came here and helped us. Both the people who brought items to sell or trade, or just the people that stopped in and even just looked around. This all helps us to be able to continue to keep the doors open."

Also talking about this was Tony Cerne, from L'Anse Michigan. He stated, "I love this event. I've been coming here for years. I've been going to Swap Meets and Shows for years and have been to a lot of places. This one is one of the best. They have an incredible facility here, and the people are really great. That is why I keep coming back every year. It is just a whole lot of fun."



"So Cole--are you interested??"



2023 Raffle Sled: 1974 Husky Herters



Winner of the Moto Ski,
 Tammy Bicigo

Swap Meet Raffle Winners – Sept 17, 2022

- * 1st Place - 1973 Moto Ski, Tammy Bicigo, Crystal Falls, MI (donated back to the Museum)
- * 2nd Place - \$500 Cash, Tony Cerne, L'Anse, MI. (donated \$100 back to the Museum)
- * 3rd Place - \$100 Gas Card, Paul Hutchins, Muskegon MI.
- * 4th Place - Snowmobile Print, Travis Roz, Cheboygan, MI.
- * 5th Place - \$50 Cash, Jerry Kaziak, Wausau, WI.

Jim Adema's Thunder Jet - Now in the Museum

Oct 15 was an awesome, historic day and our special Museum visitors were Dana and Jannis Wiltse and Steve Landon. Dana & Jannis were here a couple months ago and Dana decided to put his 1972 Thunder Jet in the Museum that belonged to Jim Adema, the Sno Jet racer who knew how to make a Thunder Jet go faster than anything else!

Jim was the first person to move the engine farther forward and to the left on the race sleds and this machine is famous for the water-cooling jacket he made around the engine. This was a first for engines in 1972. Dana has owned this machine for 20+ years and found it in the back of a machine shop.

We had been looking forward to them coming back with the sled. Charlie had a spot waiting for the Thunder Jet and it turned out to be perfect, especially with the large sign that Dana had made to display with the sled. To top it off, Bernie & Brenda Blain and their grandson came, too. It was so interesting listening to the guys talking about the history of this machine and Jim Adema, and of course, their stories. Steve Landon was here to take pictures.

We are so honored to have this machine here for everyone to see, and we're extremely happy that Dana is content to leave it here! Thank you Dana & Jannis!!

FaceBook Post, October 20, 2022: "Our Special Visitor for today was Patty Adema Seneker. She came up here with her husband, Bob to see the Thunder Jet that Dana Wiltse brought up here last weekend. She had signed it at the Mid-land Show a few years ago, but it had faded. Dana asked us to have Patty sign it again and she was more than willing to do that. Both Patty and Jim raced this machine that is in here,

She was the one who raced it in the women's races. The guys that were here had noticed how small the foot stirrups were and now we know why - she had small feet. She was about 23 when she started racing and was 29 when Jim was killed at the Ironwood race, Dec, 1975. She also walked around the Museum with Charlie and seemed to be impressed with what we have here. She told us she feels good that it's here. Thank you Patty, we are honored to share it!"



Above: Patty Adema Seneker on Jim's Thunder Jet



Above: Dana, Bernie, Charlie, & Steve Landon admire the mechanical work of art.



Patty Adema on Jim's Thunderjet



Welcome New Members

- ◆ John Kurkowski – Sidney, MI
- ◆ Les Klima – Canton, MI
- ◆ Kemper & Barb Freeman – Livonia, MI
- ◆ Jeffrey Martin – Angola, IN
- ◆ Jim Budzinski – Marietta, GA Lifetime member
- ◆ Rob Eberts – Whitmore Lake, MI
- ◆ Jerry Kaziak – Wausau, WI
- ◆ Mike DiPisa – Traverse City, MI
- ◆ Kevin Kane, Angola, IN

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 10, 2022Snowmobile the Mighty Mac, St. Ignace

Jan 13-15, 2023...Youth Weekend Clinic (See page 6)

Feb. 3, 2023New Show, downtown Sault Ste. Marie

Call for details

Feb 4, 2023Youth Ride at the Museum

Feb 17/18, 2023 ..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

7th Annual Snowmobile the Mighty Mac, Dec 10, 2022

The Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum in conjunction with The St. Ignace Visitors Bureau are offering a unique experience for antique and vintage snowmobile enthusiasts. On Dec 10, 2022 antique and vintage snowmobiles, equipped with wheel kits, will be driving over the Mackinac Bridge.

On Saturday, Dec 10th snowmobiles, which must be a minimum of 25 years old and have front wheel kits that have a minimum 2" wide wheels, will be allowed to drive over the bridge under their own power. They also will need a current permit or Historic Registration sticker. The cost to drive over the bridge is \$40 and includes a lunch at Little Bear East Arena in downtown St. Ignace. The cost for a passenger is \$35. Others not crossing may purchase a lunch ticket for \$15.

Participants will be lining up at the Colonial Michilimackinac parking lot in Mackinaw City. You must be there by 10am to unload your snowmobile, then drive north to the Welcome Center, where a school bus will drive everyone south again. The drive over the bridge will begin at 11am. Once you have crossed the bridge, you will load up in the Welcome Center and drive to the Little Bear East Arena for lunch and awards.

If you would like to register for the event, please register online with St. Ignace Visitors Bureau at:

<https://visitorsbureau.regfox.com/antique-snowmobile-bridge-crossing>

There will also be a commemorative shirt available at the lunch. You can pick up and pay \$20 for it at the Little Bear East Arena from the Museum staff. If you have any questions, feel free to call the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum at 906-477-6298 or email, info@snowmobilemuseum.com.



Photo courtesy of Beau Vallier



Bridge Crossing Grand Marshall, 2018

(Update from our FaceBook page on Sept 2, 2022)

Our Special Visitors today were Doug Fisher, his wife, Beverly, and their son, Scott and wife, Julia.

Doug and his brother, Dallas, are the two surviving men out of 4 who made a snowmobile trip on Yamahas from Goodrich, MI to Yellowstone National Park in 1979. Doug and his brother Dallas were our Grand Marshalls for the Mackinac Bridge Crossing 3 years ago.

Doug had never been to the Museum until today. I went in the back to take a picture of him looking through the scrapbook that Dallas had brought to us, and he was getting emotional looking through it. Scott was here in May and said his dad didn't know the scrapbook had been brought here. The whole family was a joy to talk to. He still remembers the trip, "just like yesterday". He said he will be back again and we hope he will be!



Above: "Oldest Driver, 2021" was added to Jesse's T-shirt.

Traveling T-Shirts

Left: Bridge Crossing shirt sighting at Kaleva, MI (Jesse Foster)



Left: Mark Rzyzenga in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, May, 2022

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



Novi Snowmobile Show, Nov 4-6



Fox Trac Donation

by Greg Busch

Flashback to the 2021 Ogemaw Hills Ride and Show. A lady walked up to me and asked if the Museum would like a late 60's Fox Trac as a donation. I said "sure!" and then she said there was a catch. She would like to have a shop class restore it in memory of her late husband, Bill. He was involved in training kids in automotive careers, and this would be how he would have wanted it.

So, after picking up the machine from Wendy, in steps Gene Pierce with the Tuscola Intermediate School District. He offered to have their shop class restore the sled. Now, with a fresh makeover and one of our board members picking it up, it is looking like new. We will be showing it off and using it as a possible fundraiser for the Museum. Thank you, Wendy Tuttle for donating it in Bill's name. And thank you to everyone that had a hand in making it pretty again, so it can live on.



Special Donation

written by Bruce Schoblaska



Dick and Bernie Stein of Green Bay, WI spent many days at their cabin up North in Lakewood. Along with their boys, Scot and Greg, the Steins were a very outdoorsy family. In those early days of snowmobiling, they had an Evinrude Skeeter and sleigh and although it did them well for many years, it eventually ended up in storage under the cabin. Scot and his wife, Kimberlee, own the cabin today but live in Texas. This past summer, Scot and Greg pulled the old Skeeter out and offered it to us to sell as a donation to the Museum. Eric Swenson jumped at an opportunity to own the vintage sled and off it went to Minnesota. All proceeds of the sale went to the Museum.



Dad built the Simco

Facebook, July, 22, 2022: Pat O'Connor stopped in with his family to see the Simco we have because his grandfather was Jim Simco, the man who made these machines made for the ice! Jim was a butcher, Simco Market in the Detroit area, and he also put the machines together at night in the Market and sold them from there. The picture and video they had of the machine they have looked quite a bit different than the one that it is here. It was great meeting them!!



31st Annual Top of the Lake Snowmobile Show & Ride, Feb 17/18, 2023

Featured Sleds: Catalog Sleds

Schedule:

Friday, February 17 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

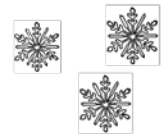
Saturday, February 18 events:

- 8:00-10:00 am - Line-up for Show, downtown Naubinway; Registration at Museum (free)
- 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 - Speaker - John McGuirk
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 18, 2023, during the February Show banquet & auction

- 1st prize – 1974 Husky Herters snowmobile (donated by Gordy Woodman)
- 2nd prize - \$100 Gas Card
- 3rd prize – Snowmobile Print
- 4th prize – Wood snowmobile mirror
- 5th prize – Easy Move Jack Stand
- 6th prize - \$50 Cash (donated by a Museum Member)



⇒ **Tickets are on sale at the Museum, \$10 for 1 and \$20 for 3. Stop in, call, or email to get tickets.**
906-477-6298/ info@snowmobilemuseum.com/ W11660 U.S. 2, Naubinway, MI 49762

- ♦ Tickets are sponsored by the First National Bank of St. Ignace.
- ♦ **One book of tickets is included in the newsletter. Return tickets to the Museum in Naubinway**

This is the second time we have enclosed books of tickets in the newsletter. Return the ticket stubs with your payment and information to the Museum, especially your phone number! We will call you when you win. If you would like more tickets, call the Museum and we will take your credit card info, fill out the stubs for you, and put them into the bucket.



The "Snowbike" from Moonbikes is an eco-friendly alternative to gas-powered, noisy snowmobiles

"Moonbike" Hopefully Makes an Appearance at the Feb. Show!

(Information taken from www.Moonbike.com)

Battery powered vehicles are not just for the auto industry. Companies around the world are developing new zero emissions recreational electric vehicles such as motorcycles, e-bikes, mopeds, ATVs and scooters. But French startup Moonbikes is the first to develop an all-electric take on the gas-powered snowmobile the company calls a "Snowbike."

It represents an entirely new way to traverse snow covered trails and explore the outdoors in the winter months. MoonBikes aims to change winter recreation with its unique electric Snowbike. The company says it takes only fifteen minutes to learn how to operate it. The Snowbike allows people to explore the outdoors with an emission-free vehicle that can help establish sustainable tourism in the mountains in the winter, according to Moonbikes. As a vehicle with the maneuverability of a bicycle and the power of a motorcycle, MoonBikes' only disturbance is the tracks made on the snow. If you are a winter and snow enthusiast looking for new ways to adventure, MoonBikes is for you."

The Snowbike is equipped with a caterpillar track on the rear wheel like a military tank. While the front wheel of the Snow Bike has been replaced by a tiny snowboard instead of a tire. The bike can travel effortlessly over snow and is designed as a more eco-friendly alternative over gas-powered snowmobiles. The electric powertrain of the Snow Bike is also silent, so it won't disturb the peacefulness of the great outdoors.

It gives users the freedom of an e-bike, with the power of a motorcycle to travel over snow. The bike has a top speed of 26 mph and can operate in temperatures as low as -13 degrees Fahrenheit. Charging the Snowbike can be done by connecting a charging cable directly to the MoonBike or removing the battery to charge it at home. Charging takes five hours and 45 minutes using a standard charger and three hours with an optional fast charger. Range is measured by time instead of distance. The Snowbike can operate anywhere from 60 to 90 minutes (up to 22 miles), depending on which operating mode the rider selects. The choices are "eco" and "sport."



Youth Ride 2023

The date is coming up fast!! The Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum and Tots n Tracks will be hosting a kid's ride on February 4th, 2023. Yes, we said kids - any kiddo with a Kitty Kat, 120, 200, 340, 440...etc. We are planning a fun day at the Museum. The kids will be split into groups according to age and riding levels. The older kids will focus on snowmobile etiquette and go on a trail ride to the Cranberry Lodge. The younger group will focus on safety and will ride closer to the Museum off the groomed trails. Cost is \$5 per kid, which includes lunch and entrance (donation) to the Museum. Kids should be at the Museum by 10:00. Extra proceeds will be donated to the Museum. Call the Museum if interested at 906-477-6298. (At least one adult needs to attend with the child.)

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, MI 49762. Thank you! LET'S RIDE!!

Michelle Vallier Labadie/906-553-1298

Youth Weekend Snowmobile Clinic

Top of the Lake Youth Riders are heading to South Range, MI, **January 13-15, 2023** to the Wildlife Refuge Cabins. We're putting together a fun weekend for our youth to learn and improve backcountry skills and proper trail and land use etiquette. They also will learn how to cook out in the woods and have a fun snowmobile experience. Our goal is to build the next generation of sled-heads who will be making friendships to last a lifetime.

- Approximate age range is 10 – 15.
- Child needs to have a capable sled and a parent in attendance.
- Matt Downey – Backcountry guide and Ski Doo Ambassador, and Owen Labadie will be our instructors with a possible surprise guest instructor from out west.
- Limited number for clinic but others can come and play/practice in fields.
- Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum Youth Riders.
- The Museum is a non-profit and that is why I am reaching out to the snowmobile community for help and support in sponsorship and /or donations.

⇒ For information contact:

- In the Fox Valley, Rory Kaddatz email – Rkaddatz1@gmail.com (920) 791-0707
- Or in the U.P. Michelle Vallier Labadie email - mlabadie89@gmail.com (906) 553-1298
- Local point of contact in South Range area is Lori Sleeman email – lori.wlrc.1001@gmail.com (906) 281-0801



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



Molly Denali puzzle, a TV kids show about a girl who lives in Alaska



16" square signs with 30 different designs, several beer signs



New In our Gift Shop



New thermometers

We are always looking for homemade items to sell!



In Memory of Chuck Ulch

On May 29, 2022 we lost a wonderful snowmobiling legend, Chuck Ulch.

Chuck was from Harrison, MI and he loved his Ski Doo snowmobiles! He and his wife, Sue, were married seven years ago and she became Chuck's partner in snowmobiling, too. She came to us at the Museum about four years ago and asked to have a Ski Doo rocker made without the rockers on it. When he passed away, we were at the funeral home and there was the rocker bearing the box with Chuck's ashes. Chuck was buried with the rocker, which was his wish.

Everyone at snowmobile shows will miss his smiling face, his generosity, his pipe, and his wonderful hugs. He was a happy man and it showed in everything he did.



Engadine Senior Receives Museum Scholarship 2022

Our selection for the \$1000 scholarship for an Engadine High School graduate this year went to Hana Belonga. Hana is attending Lake Superior State University. We are glad we are able to help Hana achieve her goal of graduating with a Business/Early Childhood Education degree.

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: Hana Belonga accepts her Museum scholarship from Charlie



Donation from the Kaleva, MI Show:

On August 6, Charlie loaded up the car and made the trip to Kaleva, MI for their annual show and swap meet. Charlie's granddaughter, Sydney, tagged along to help sell Museum items.

This was only the second time we have been able to take our new 16" square signs out for the people to see, and several of them were sold. One of our graphics guys took some old patches and made signs of those designs. They were a hit for this show & swap meet.

At 2:00, Brad Lakso made a presentation to Charlie, donating \$750 from the Benzie Manistee SnowBirds Club and the proceeds of the show to the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum! Thank you so much for the generous donation!



Hubert Ice Sled family story

Facebook, August 1, 2022:

Our Special Visitor today was Andy Hubert. He had heard that the ice sled that two of his uncles made was here at the Museum. It now belongs to Dan Heatherington, who did a nice restoration of it, which Andy was glad to see.

Andy's uncles, Bernie and Vincent, made the first one and had 10 year old Andy test it out. That didn't go real well (he ended up in the ditch) so they went back to the drawing board and made one more, which is this machine.

They used a lot of Model A parts from cars they had sitting in the back field, including a used bus seat, making it available for Uncle Vinnie to ride, since he had polio. They enjoyed ice fishing and this machine was a joy for them. We're so glad Andy was able to see it, and I do think he was too!



Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum Fundraiser Form

501c3 Not-For-Profit Corporation

- ◆ The Museum Board is seeking funding to support the Museum 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 _____

Business _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

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

Receive a donation receipt _____

Thank you!



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 October, 2022, we have received over \$1,820.21. 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.



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?”, and before we knew it we were members!

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 one 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>



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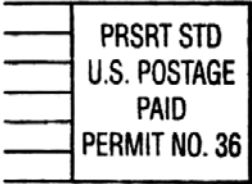
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