



Museum Hours: 11-5; Closed Tuesdays
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 Webpage: www.snowmobilemuseum.com



20th Annual Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum's Ride & Show

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Written by John McGuirk, Museum Board Member

The communities of Naubinway and Engadine were abuzz with antique and vintage snow machines and activities throughout the week leading up to the 20th Annual Ride & Show Feb. 17 & 18, 2012.

Heavy traffic was reported at the Museum and many excited participants showed up well before any official events started Friday morning. Returning visitors and newcomers enjoyed their time at the Museum where there is always something new to see. In fact, after Saturday's Show the only surviving Allis Chalmers prototype snowmobile was driven from the show to the Museum to be placed on display.

The weather cooperated nicely and there was a lot of white stuff for all the planned activities. Snow!! Real Snow!!!

Friday morning dawned and many folks attended a tummy-filling pancake breakfast at the Naubinway community center sponsored by the Top of the Lake Communities Association. This year's ride was a different venue and everyone was excited about the ride to the Cranberry Lodge at Cranberry Lake on the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club. The Museum would like to express their sincere thanks to the Hiawatha Club for their support and hospitality.



Around 10:30 am, Charlie Vallier gave the "Let's Go" signal and parking lots erupted with old machines ready to take on the twenty-four mile round trip on great trails in excellent condition. The final count had 148 vintage and antique machines of all colors, shapes, sizes, and brands leaving town for Cranberry Lodge. It was very exciting to see all this history in motion again and there were smiling faces everywhere. Just like the old days, a few had to have some assistance getting home.

At Cranberry Lodge, Terry Bashoor's Arctic Cat Kitchen Cutter was quickly fired up. Several hundred hot dogs and brats were served to a hearty group waiting to gobble them up. Thanks Terry! All proceeds from the cookout were earmarked for the new building fund. Thanks to cooks Billy Labadie and Sandy Ketcher-even without tongs (You can see the 1971 Kitchen Cutter in the museum.)

Ride and Show Cont. on page 2



Above: Ted in his Polar with the zippered roof escape hatch.



Saturday morning was nice and crisp with snow flurries in the air. Soon, Show and swap participants started to roll in. The swap area was one of the best in many years with many good bargains. Approximately 180 antique and vintage sleds were displayed.

This year's featured sled was the Polar with eight Polars on display, beginning with serial number XXI. This may never happen again. Pete Hydukovich of Hibbing, Minnesota made the trip here in order for Polar serial XXI to be on hand. This machine was kept for many years in Edgar Hetteen's shop. Models included XXI, 200's and 500's. I wonder if somewhere Edgar had a chuckle? Pete also brought the Hetteen Cup, the vintage Racing trophy, to spend the weekend with us. Thanks Pete!

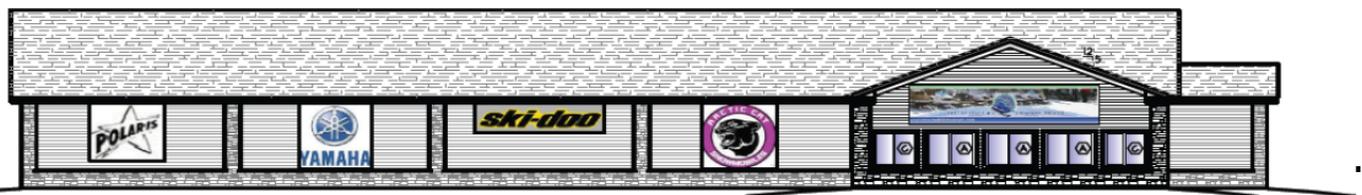
Saturday evening the annual banquet was held in Engadine's community center. After a super meal, the evening was kicked off by Ted Postula's very insightful run down on the location and history of the Polars he has been able to track down to date. Serial number 032 is the highest known number from Ted's extensive search. Serial numbers XXI, 003, 004, 005, 007, 008, 009 and 028 were at the show. The whereabouts of 18 or 19 of these machines is known through Ted Postula's efforts and he is to be thanked for all of his hard work.

The evening continued with the annual bucket raffle with many nice prizes won by banquet attendees. Finally, the winning ticket was drawn and Christy Healy of Fenwick, MI was the happy winner of the 1973 Arctic Cat vintage snowmobile. Her husband was only too happy to help her load her new vintage machine. Congratulations Christy. Other winners are listed on the museum website.

The auction of donated snowmobile related items was led by auctioneer Ted Postula. Thanks again Ted! The auction drew many spirited bids and brought in a significant amount of money for the building fund. Everyone attending and bidding is to be thanked for their help and support of the Museum.

In the end, it was a very busy week and weekend for the Museum and I believe that everyone left happy and looking forward to next year's event, which will feature the Massey Ferguson snowmobiles. Can it get any better? We'll see.

The New Museum by 'The Architect Forum' of Mackinaw City, MI



SOUTH ELEVATION

SCALE 1/8"=1'-0"

Rockers for Sale!

Rocker sales have been steadily improving. We are now posting pictures we receive on our website. The rockers have traveled as far as Connecticut, Arizona, New York, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and Canada. Santa was busy this year. Stay tuned for the unveiling of our Vintage version of the rocker, which will be coming out soon!



Natalee
from
Michigan



Bentley from
Wisconsin

Talon from
Minnesota



Website Info

The Museum's website address is www.snowmobilemuseum.com. We feature various snowmobiles in the Museum, sell gift shop items, and you can become a member online. Check out the Great Stories page which features visitors to the museum. You can advertise on the website with a banner ad for \$100 a year. All proceeds from our sales go to the Museum. Contact Marilyn for further information about the Museum or the website.



VSCA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

The Top of the Lake Museum will host the **7th Annual VSCA National Championship Show**, July 13 & 14, 2012 in St. Ignace, MI at the Kewadin Shores Casino Event Center.

All types of snowmobiles will be displayed and will be judged to determine the National Champion. The snowmobiles will arrive Thursday evening and Friday morning and the display will be open to the public Friday from 3-9 pm, and Saturday from 9am - 5pm. The banquet, trophy awards, guest speakers, and auction will be held on Saturday beginning at 7:00pm.

There will also be a Swap Meet on Saturday in the parking lot. Camping will be available with 21 RV sites (with electric and water hook-ups) and 30 sites without hook-ups. Contact the Casino to reserve a site or room at 906-643-7071 ext 0.

We are currently looking for Sponsors to be a part of this Show. The registration form, sponsor form, and other information will be available on the Museum website; Vintage National Show Page. Registrations, with payment, will need to be turned in by June 30, 2012. For more information, call the Museum at 906-477-6298 or email to: info@snowmobilemuseum.com

Building Fundraiser Report

The whole museum idea began six years ago with a group of ten getting together and brainstorming how we could make this work. We made a business plan, found a building, and opened five years ago next July with machines from nine people. We now have 40 people who own the sleds on display. We're hosting the Vintage National Show this summer, sending out 1200 newsletters, and have raised \$34,000 from our Matching Fundraiser after only one year! On March 13, 9 & 10 TV News called to see if they could do a story about our fundraising progress and they did! Thank you!!

With so much overwhelming support, we have been encouraged to apply for a USDA Loan and have the plans finalized for a new building on US 2. We are currently getting quotes from contractors, and we need you to contact us if you have anything you can offer to help make this happen! The contractors have been so generous with their labor, but we will need help with material building items. A list of what we have and what we need will be listed on our website, on the New Building page.



On Jan. 22, a group of 18 local snowmobilers of all ages fired up the old sleds with their new Historic Registration stickers, and rode to the Museum. Snow conditions were great and there wasn't one major breakdown! They did have the common plug and fuel filter problems, but as the old-time snowmobilers know, "be prepared!" That is one thing that will never change about these older sleds and they like it that way (usually!)

On Feb. 11, 2012, the Museum was presented with a Tribute signed by six Michigan Legislators and Gov. Snyder. It is recognition from them to the "dedicated members of the Museum and their efforts to preserve and showcase the history of snowmobiling." What a great surprise!

Museum Receives Legislative Tribute



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Traveling Museum

The History Center of Traverse City, MI had four snowmobiles on display for the Museum during the month of Feb., 2012. Where can we go next??

Welcome New Members!

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Dick Lesatz, Downers Grove, IL | 6. Dick Wilson, Indian River, MI |
| 2. R.J. "Curley" Myers, South Branch, MI | 7. Jerry Gengler, Chesaning, MI |
| 3. Gabe Camp, Lewiston, MI | 8. Rusty Anderson, Rapid River, MI |
| 4. Gary & Matt Beemer, Attica, MI | 9. ASBA Snowmobile Club, Traverse City, MI |
| 5. Dale Lypps, Hilton Beach, Ontario | |

WANTED: New Members!

If you would like to become a supporting member, or already are a member and need to renew your membership, call the Museum and Marilyn will set you up. The cost is \$50 per year, and is renewed yearly.

Mark Your Calendar!

- 7th Annual Vintage National Championship Show, July 13, 14, 2012—St. Ignace, MI - Kewadin Shores Event Center.
- Sept. 8, 2012 – 6th Annual Swap Meet & Naubinway Fall Fest, behind the Museum, Naubinway, MI.
- Fall Auction on the Museum building site, US 2, Naubinway, MI
- 21st Show & Ride, Feb. 15th & 16th, 2013



Raffle Donation:

The Museum sends a huge thank you and recognition to the Traverse City ASBA Snowmobile Club for the outstanding contribution made to our New Building



Fund. They had a raffle for a 1970 Arctic Cat Panther, 760 JLO & Montana pipes. The drawing was Saturday, March 3. The lucky winner was Jon Selvig from Hastings, MI. The Museum Rocker winner was Ron Johnson, Lakeview, OH. Mike Hinkson from Manistique, MI won the Brad Hulings poster.

Thanks to their efforts and the generous people who bought tickets for this sled, they were able to present us with a check for \$5,122!! Thank you ASBA! They want other clubs to know, "The Challenge is On!"



Left: Chad Denkins, from Raped River, MI, carved these 2 snowmobiles with a chainsaw. The Hus Ski carving is at the Museum.

Feb. 18, 2012 Raffle Winners:

- 1st - 1973 Arctic Cat Panther - Christy Healy, Fenwick, MI
- 2nd - Mackinac Bridge Tower Tour - Denise Shute, Rudyard, MI (donated back to Museum)
- 3rd - Gas Grill - Ellis Sutfin Jr, Fowlerville, MI
- 4th - Mackinac Island Golf for 2 - Tammy Bicigio, Crystal Falls
- 5th - Shipwreck Museum Overnight Stay for 2 - Carol Franklin, Ruselville, PA
- 6th - Mackinac Island Golf for 2 - Jerry Gengler, Chesaning, MI
- 7th - \$100 Gas Card - Dan Bohland, Adams, WI
- 8th - \$50 Cash - Steve Bilacic, Turner, MI (donated back to the Museum)

We raised \$1500, which went to our Building Fund. Our next raffle drawing will be held during our Swap Meet in September.



Gordy Breeding, the man in the painting by Steve Witucki, announced at the Rogers City Show, March 3, that he will be donating this 1963 Arctic Cat (and his plaid suit) to the Museum! The painting is available at the Museum.

Fundraiser Form - 501c3 Not for Profit Corporation

The Museum Board is seeking matching funding for a new building on US 2 in Naubinway. The Museum will contribute \$100,000 and is offering a challenge with 3 ways to contribute. As a business or person, donating \$100, \$500, or \$1000, your name will appear on our donor wall. You will also receive a tax-deductible receipt, and \$1000 donors will receive either lifetime gold membership or a free banner ad on the museum website for 5 years.

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

Membership includes free admission to the Museum and related events for you and a guest, a Museum decal, a member card and 2 newsletters yearly. The fundraising contribution will be used as matching funding for a new building in Naubinway, and to continue the growth of the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum.

Other \$100 \$500 \$1000 Above

Name/Business _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

Amount \$ _____ Check Cash Credit Card