

Volume 32 • No. 8 • 2019

THE WINNING EDGE

YOUR TOTAL MOTORSPORTS MAGAZINE

**2019 One
Awesome
Season**

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RACES

- DON NIVER
MEMORIAL 100

ICE AND SNOW FLY AS AARON AHERN (#64), BOB CHURCH & NICK SEVERANCE (#7) DIVE INTO TURN ONE AT GLADWIN.



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WHAT'S HOT

Industry News

The Laura Devlin Memorial Benevolent Fund

The Michigan Motor Sports Hall of Fame Board of Directors have established the Laura Devlin Memorial Benevolent Fund in honor and memory of one of our first Board Members and a woman in Motor Sports who truly gave more to others in the sport than what the sport gave back to her.

Laura Devlin was a person who was there for others whenever they needed help or a hand up. She was there for others in their times of need, sorrow, joy, and triumph. Sadly, Laura succumbed to injuries suffered in a home fire and a giving spirit was lost.

In the true spirit that Laura Devlin lived, the



Board of Directors has established this fund to help others in Motor Sports when they are down from an injury and need a helping hand up. This fund is totally funded by donations from the Motor Sports community and is governed by a three-person committee of the President, Treasurer, and one Board Member of the Hall of Fame. It is for inductees or those involved in Michigan Motor Sports.

To contribute to this fund please send your donation to:

Michigan Motor Sports Hall of Fame
28047 Maple Forest Blvd. E.
Harrison Twp., Mi. 48045

Be sure to mark your donation to be for the "Devlin Fund". You will receive a Thank You letter for your tax records as the Michigan Motor Sports Hall of Fame is a 501 C 3 nonprofit.

We Thank You in advance for your time and donations.

THE WINNING EDGE

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Sleddin' at the Jack

OLD "SLEDDER JACK" WAS ALWAYS AT THE GATE WELCOMING FOLKS TO THE SWAP & SHOW. JACK WAS DESIGNED AND BUILT BY BERNIE BLAIN.



Comes to an end

By Steve Landon

Farwell, Michigan; -- For seven years Bernie Blain of Lake, Mich., worked with his family, friends and local merchants to produce one the best summer vintage snowmobile swap and shows in Mid Michigan Michigan – "Sleddin' at the Jack". For six of those years vintage snowmobile enthusiasts from across the snow-belt gathered on the grounds of Eagle Crest Homes /Farwell Thrift Store and Flea Market during the Farwell Lumberjack Festival in July. Following the sale of the property in late 2017 the show was moved 20 minutes south to Mt. Pleasant Speedway in Mt. Pleasant, Mich., for 2018. Sadly Old Sledder Jack will not be around in 2019. The Blain family has decided to discontinue the popular event.

"We were happy to have a successful first year... never would have dreamed we would have had seven.

Sleddin at the Jack involves hours of hard work leading up to and during the actual swap and show. While it has been a lot of fun, our obligations to family, work etc. makes it impossible for us to dedicate the hours needed to do it the way we would like to see it done.

Over the years we've met people from all segments of the snowmobile industry, Hall of Fame racers, industry leaders and everyday snowmobiler's who have come by to check us out. We're certainly going to miss hosting it, however, we'll still be active in the vintage snowmobile hobby showing collecting, racing and taking part in events around the snow-belt. We also plan to continue the "Sleddin' at the



BRENDA AND BERNIE BLAIN BATTLE IT OUT FOR COAT RACK SUPREMACY. DESIGNED BY FELLOW SLEDDER RICH LAUGHLIN OF MARION, MI THE SPECIAL RACK MADE UP OF OLD SNOWMOBILE PARTS WAS PRESENTED BY THE COUPLES FAMILY FOR THEIR 35TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY IN 2017.

Jack” Facebook page to help promote the hobby - Brenda Bain said”.

Sleddin’ at the Jack was born back in 2012, the brainchild of Bernie Blain a vintage snowmobile enthusiasts, racer and Sno-Jet snowmobile collector who dreamed of having a show in the area Working with his friends and family it was decided to hold the event during the Farwell Lumberjack festival when several visitors were in the area. Fellow sled collectors Steve and Sherry Landon of The Winning Edge Magazine came up with the shows name, designed fliers, event buttons and helped with media promotion. Bernie used some of his many talents to create an axe toting mascot called “Sledder Jack” to stick with the lumberjack theme.

During its seven year run Sleddin’ at Jack recognized individuals from snowmobile racing and the snowmobile industry. Those honored included; Racer/Team owner Tommie Bauer, Racer’s Jim Adema an Patty Adema Senneker, Brian Musselman, Grant Vermeersch, Felzke Farms Racing, Roger Britt and Innovator Robert A. Bracey father of the Roamer, Raider, Racing Manta, Trail Manta and Trail Roamer Twin Track Snowmobiles. Feature sleds recognized over the years included; Arctic Cat, Sno-Jet, Twin Tracks, ski-doo, Yamaha, Polaris and Massey Ferguson



MEMORIES FROM SEVEN YEARS OF SLEDDIN’ AT THE JACK ARE PRESERVED IN BUTTONS, TAGS AND MEMORABILIA. SHERRY LANDON OF THE WINNING EDGE MAGAZINE DESIGNED BUTTONS FEATURING PHOTOS BY STEVE LANDON.



BERNIE AND BRENDA BLAIN’S DAUGHTER CASSIE “BLAIN” BAKER PRESENTS AN AWARD TO HARRISON, MI SKI-DOO COLLECTOR CHUCK ULCH AT THE 2015 SHOW. LIKE THE REST OF THE FAMILY CASSIE WAS VERY ACTIVE WITH THE SHOW.

Since the event began Bernie, his beautiful wife Brenda, along with their children and grandchildren have worked tirelessly to produce a topnotch family fun program, one that will truly be missed.

If you see Bernie and Brenda or any of their family at an event make sure to thank them for a great show and their continued involvement in the sport.

WHAT'S HOT

Racing News

Piolette, Levi Sweep Pro Finals at Mount Southington for East Coast Snocross, Presented by Woody's Traction and FXR



PLANTSVILLE, Conn. — Multi-time race winners Mike Pilotte and Adam Levi swept the finals in their respective classes over the weekend, as East Coast Snocross (ECS) completed rounds 12 and 13 on the 15-race 2019 schedule at Mount Southington ski area.

Pilotte (Team Southside/Polaris), of Northwood, N.H., notched his 12th Pro Open win of the season on Sunday, drawing closer to his first points championship. Logan Trembley put in a career-best performance to secure second on both days, while Dalton Jacquier (D&D Racing/Arctic Cat) landed on the podium on Saturday filling in for his injured teammate, Dylan Roes.

Levi, of Inlet, NY, powered his way to victory in Saturday's 14-lap Pro Lite final. Wade Acker (Team Southside/Polaris) finished a distant second, while Tucker Kierstead (D&D Racing/Arctic Cat) filled out the podium in third. Rising star Adam Ashline (Ingles Performance/Ski-doo) and Acker finished second and third on Sunday, respectively. Levi has four wins this year overall, yet this was his first sweep.

Theresa Max has been on an amazing streak in 2019. The gifted young athlete from Ottsville, PA, claimed her 12th and 13th final round wins at Mount Southington, all but cementing her points title. Brooke Ouderkirk (Ingles Performance/Ski-doo) powered her way to second on Saturday, while Tori Max crossing the stripe in third. On Sunday, Ouderkirk chase Max over the finish line in the final.

Travis Emery kept his 2019 hot streak alive with a victory in Saturday's Sport Super Stock 600 final. The red-hot athlete held off his weekly rival Gavin Fleury for top honors, while Dylan Holmes (Holmes Racing/Arctic Cat) put in a solid effort to finish third.

A new face stood atop the box on Sunday, as Brandon Gray edged Fleury at the line by a mere .754 seconds.

In Junior competition at Mount Southington, 2019 standout racer Jake Boutwell prevailed once again. The red-hot rider from historic Keene, N.H., claimed the Jr. 14-15 and 16-17 Finals both days, bringing his double-digit win total into the stratosphere. Kolton Gillilan and Steven Max finished second and third respectively both days in Jr. 16-17 action. The Junior classes have been strong all year.

Other final round winners over the weekend at Mount Southington include Tristan Huey (Plus 30 Pro Am Sat. and Sun.); Derek Vitiello (Plus 25/35 Sat. and Sun.); Steven Max (Jr. Sport 12-15 Sat. and Sun.); Wesley Ganchou (Jr. 7-14 Stock 200); Connor Crane (Jr. 7-14 Stock 200); and Tucker Whiting (Sport Stock 600 Weekend). Congratulations to all of our winners in difficult track conditions.

East Coast Snocross would like to thank the management and entire staff at Mount Southington for hosting our series once again. The fine facility and warm hospitality make it a favored stop for each of us. We look forward to a return visit with more high-flying excitement for Connecticut fans in 2020.

East Coast Snocross, presented by Woody's Traction and FXR, is an ISR-affiliated sanctioning body for snowmobile racing in the northeastern United States. ECS maintains a regional circuit intended to keep grassroots snocross racing healthy in this part of the country, while also cultivating new talent for tomorrow's factory-backed national Pro teams.

For full results from Plantsville or for more information, go to www.eastcoastsnocross.com.

Benzie Manistee Snowbirds 11th Annual

Vintage Show & Swap Meet

Kaleva Days weekend

Kaleva, MI. at the Kaleva Park

Softball, Crafts, Food Vendors, Car Show & More!

JULY 20, 2019

8 am to 2 pm

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Benzie Manistee Snowbirds Facebook
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Design by Sherry Landon, The Winning Edge Magazine

THE MASTERS RACING CIRCUIT

Adventure Mountain Welcomes Terra-X-Racers



Adventure Mountain Results

Pat's Motorsports TOP GUN: 1) Travis Kaurala, Nissula, Ski-Doo; 2) Jordan Wolfe, Montreal, WI., Polaris.

Pat's Motorsports Pro Open

Stock: 1) Jordan Wolfe, Montreal, WI., Polaris; 2) Travis Kaural, Nissula, Ski-Doo.

Merritt's Travel Center 120 Mod:

1) Nolan Boggetto, Bessemer, Polaris; 2) Braden Rose, Harvey, Polaris; 3) Lucas Solberg, Ontonagon, Polaris.

Merritt's Travel Center 120 Stock:

1) Braden Rose, Harvey, Ski-Doo; 2) Klayton Kin, Greenland, Arctic Cat; 3) Lucas Solberg, Ontonagon, Polaris.

Ojibwa Casino Junior: 1) Kaeden Kaurala, Nissula, Ski-Doo; 2) Jordan Leonards, Gladstone, Arctic Cat.

SONCO Ambulance Trail Stock

600: 1) Jordan Wolfe, Montreal, WI., Polaris; 2) Josh Bramble, Toivola, Ski-Doo.

Pit Stop Bar and Grill Trail Stock

850: 1) Wyatt McIntyre, Greenland, Polaris; 2) Josh Bramble, Toivola, Ski-Doo.

SONCO Ambulance Trail Mod

600: 1) Wyatt McIntyre, Greenland, Polaris; 2) Kaeden Kaurala, Nissula, Ski-Doo.

Pit Stop Bar and Grill Trail Mod

850: 1) Roger Strack, Trimountain, Arctic Cat; 2) Josh Bramble, Toivola, Ski-Doo.

MOUNTAIN STOCK 120 (L-R): BRADEN ROSE, CLAYTON KIN AND LUCAS SOLBERG.

Fans and racers came out to see Terra-X racing at Adventure Mountain in Greenland on Saturday. They were treated by a lot of sunshine and snow to see snowmobilers go through a winding course up and down the former Ski Hill.

It was in the Pat's Motorsports Pro Open Stock that Jordan Wolfe of Montreal, Wisconsin thrilled the fans with an amazing move to go on to win the class.

"I got beat on the hole shot, so I held back to cut on the inside of Travis (Kaurala) on the first turn," Wolfe stated.

The move worked out so good that other racers in the 2-sled class championship shoot-out would try if they also did not get the lead when the flagged dropped. However Wolfe was the only one that would get into the lead with that move.

Kaurala would come back to win the TOP GUN feature over Wolfe.

While TOP GUN and Pro Open Stock are the 'featured' classes, the excitement started in the qualifying time trials. The top 3 racers in the children's 120 classes would advance to



THE BIKINI RADAR RUN FEATURED NINE LADIES AND ONE MALE RIDER. PICTURED L-R: KALEIGH (BLAIN) ELLSWORTH, LAKE; REBECCA LENTON; ALISYN SPIRUDA, ROSEVILLE; STACIE KORBINSKI, BEAVERTON; LYNETTE LEZOTTE, WEST BRANCH; JEN FITZPATRICK, NEW BALTIMORE; CARMEN ALEXANDER, HOUGHTON LAKE; EMILY LEZOTTE, WEST BRANCH; LES JOB, HOUGHTON LAKE AND CASSIE (BLAIN) BAKER, LAKE.

By Steve Landon

Nothing in the world beats spending a relaxing day in Houghton Lake, Mich., watching people romping on the beach and racing on the pristine lake with their toys, especially in February. How about setting bundled up in a grandstand on a cold winter day in Marion, Mich., while a bunch of racers whiz by on their snowmobiles around an ice oval clad in their shorts and swim suits – Sound a bit crazy? Not really especially when doing it helps someone in a serious fight with cancer or another major disease.

On Sunday February 10th Cassie “Blain” Baker and Kaleigh “Blain” Ellsworth of Lake, Mich., put on their swimsuits, hopped on their dads Sno-Jet Thunder Jets and raced down a frozen drag strip to benefit

Sherry Landon of Farwell, Mich., in her ongoing fight with breast cancer at Fast Eddie’s Vintage and Classic Snowfest and Bikini Radar Run.

The popular snowmobile event raises funds to help cover costs for those fighting cancer and other diseases. Nine ladies and one male rider took part. Each sponsored entry raised money for featured individuals.

Sherry Landon, co-publisher/graphic designer for The Winning Edge Magazine, a former graphic designer/production manager for the Clare County Review / Marion Press Newspapers and current office manager at Michigan State University – MSU Extension Office in Harrison, Mich., has been fighting cancer since 2015. Like many others in the fight, Mrs. Landon remains busy and determined to win her battle.



STACIE KORBINSKI, FORMER MISS BEAVERTON FROM BEAVERTON, MI LAUNCHES A CLASSIC YAMAHA SRX OFF THE LINE. STACEY IS ONE OF THE EVENTS ORGANIZERS.



LYNETTE LEZOTTE, FORMER MISS MICHIGAN FROM WEST BRANCH, MI AND BIKINI RUN CO-ORGANIZER HANDLED HER SKI-DOO LIKE A SEASONED DRAG RACER.

She is still active with The Clare County Review and Marion Press submitting stories, photos, plus she does graphic design work for various events. In her free time she is active in 4-H both as a club leader and volunteer.

Being active in snowmobiling and racing is nothing new for Cassie "Blain" Baker and Kaleigh "Blain" Ellsworth – daughters of Bernie and Brenda Blain of Lake, Michigan. Over the years the girls have raced, shown and trail ridden vintage snowmobiles plus helped with "Sleddin' at The Jack" the families popular July vintage snowmobile swap and show that ran from 2012-2018.

Having done so much why would they run a sled wearing just a bikini in winter especially in one as cold as the winter of 2019?

"I've done a lot with vintage snowmobile shows over the past 10 years or so. I know a lot of the people that participate. A few of them teased me about doing the bikini run. They tried tricking me into it by telling me it was because I didn't know how to drive a snowmobile. But what really got me was that it was for Sherry Landon. I really like to help people, especially those that work supporting our community and never ask for anything in return. Steve and Sherry do so much for the communities around them. Their work impacts so many people in so many ways. They have trekked all over the countryside to be able to tell the stories that make history.

My sister Kaleigh Ellsworth was immediately on board. Our parents didn't even think twice about letting us use their Thunder Jets. As a matter of fact, they sold a snowmobile part and donated the money from it plus my friends joined in donating and helping with emotional support convincing me I could do it. I work at Members First Credit Union in Clare, Mich.; they really encourage helping the community both through work and individually. My coworkers definitely thought I had lost my mind, but they all rallied around me and personally donated.

Speeding down the drag strip on Houghton Lake and later around the Marion Fairgrounds ice oval in a bikini was Exhilarating!! I really didn't notice the cold. You're focused going fast down the track and nothing else, before you know it the run is over and you never really have time to think about anything else.

LES JOB OF HOUGHTON LAKE DIDN'T LET BEING THE ONLY GUY IN THE GROUP SLOW HIM DOWN. HE TURNED IN A FINE PERFORMANCE DOWN THE STRIP. SORRY LADIES LES WAS NOT FOR SALE JUST THE SLED HE RACED.



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RACING SISTERS CASSIE (BLAIN) BAKER, IN SNO JET TOP HAT AND KALEIGH (BLAIN) ELLSWORTH CHAT AS THEY HEAD FOR THEIR RACE SLEDS.

KALEIGH (BLAIN) ELLSWORTH KICKS UP SOME ICE DUST AS SHE EXPLODES OFF THE LINE ON HER SNO-JET THUNDER JET.



I have been amazed by our communities' generosity and the amount of support I got. I have won trophies before for different things but this one means the most to me because it reflects who I am the best. Going out in public racing on a snowmobile and having your picture in the paper takes a lot of courage, but not nearly as much as Sherry has had to face with cancer not once but three times. It was an honor to be able to do so", Cassie said.

Like her sister Cassie, Kaleigh "Blain" Ellsworth has been active in snowmobiling with her family both on and off the track. While she was unable to compete in the Marion Snowfest Benefit for Mrs. Landon on February 16th, she gave it her all in Korbinski's bikini Radar Run.

"Prior to Eddie Korbinski's event I have never participated in snowmobile bikini radar run before. I had seen Eddie Korbinski's show advertised and thought wow! That's got to be cold!

I decided to participate in this year's bikini run after I heard that the proceeds raised would go toward Sherry Landon's fights against cancer. I decided she is facing greater fears than riding a snowmobile in a bikini, that's the least I could do.

In an attempt to stay warmer I didn't sit down on the sled during the run. The seat was cold plus I was in a bikini! I had our 1971 Thunder Jet full throttle the whole race hitting a speed of went 53 mph, not the fastest I've gone on a sled but it was an adrenaline rush for sure! I was definitely cold, by the end of the track. I just felt numb I didn't really notice the cold as much. The sled needs a few more studs in to get better traction to be faster. I didn't do it for the speed I did it to raise money and awareness of cancer". Kaleigh said.

For Sherry Landon the battle continues, however, thanks to the advances being made every day in fighting cancer she is optimistic about her future. Because of friends like Cassie, Kaleigh, their fellow riders, promoters like the Korbinski's, Marion Snowfest, those who donated and the many that keep her and countless other cancer fighters in their prayers the fight is worthwhile.

"There are no words to describe the amount of love I've felt from the people who took part in these events to help out and support me in my journey," Sherry Landon said.

Racing in a bikini on a cold winter day might seem a bit insane to some people. Thanks to great promoters, big hearted participants and people willing to contribute to both cancer fighters and research many people have reason to be hopeful that they can beat the big "C". May God Bless each and every one of them.

LOOKING LIKE A LITTLE OLD LADY ON A WINTER ADVENTURE CASSIE (BLAIN) BAKER STAYS WARM IN HER ROBE WHILE HER SLED WARMS UP



28th Annual



Naubinway, Michigan

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8:00 AM TO 10:00 AM - BREAKFAST

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11:00 AM – RIDE

Ride to Cranberry Lodge, 13 miles one way.
All snowmobiles welcome

4:00-8:00 PM – GET TOGETHER
at the snowmobile museum

6:30 PM – NIGHT RIDE

Night Ride & Bonfire,
3 miles to the Millecoquins Bridge

SAT. FEB. 15

8AM TO 10 AM

Line up for Show, downtown Naubinway,
Register at Museum

10 AM TO 3 PM – SHOW

Snowmobiles on Display, downtown Naubinway

4:30 PM TO 5:30 PM

Banquet at the Engadine/Garfield Township Hall

5:30 PM TO 8 PM

Speakers, John McGuirk & Don Hamilton
Merchant Drawings, 50/50, Museum Raffle Drawing
Museum Auction - donated items accepted,
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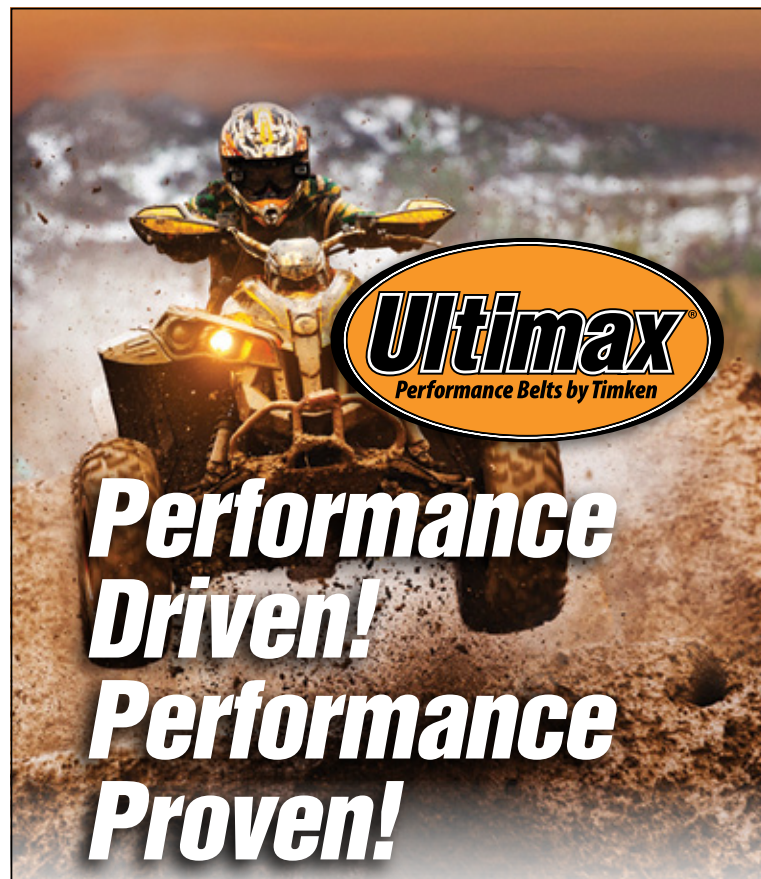
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Lots of Snow & Shine Make for Perfect Snowfest Vintage Show



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By Steve Landon

Snowmobile racing, a popular swap meet and a truly topnotch vintage snowmobile show are what draws fans from all over to the Marion Snowfest. In the last three years vintage show director Ryan Blain of Lake Michigan, has turned this popular small town show into one of those must attend events for vintage snowmobile enthusiasts from across the Snow Belt. This year was no exception.

Shortly after sunrise Saturday morning Blain and his crew were hard at work registering and helping display over 75 rare and common snowmobiles, among them this years featured make, Chaparral.

Taking advantage of the white bounty, Blain and fellow volunteers converted piles of snow into display pedestals. The elevated areas enabled owners of some of the larger collections to arrange them in away that drew attention to their display as well as the many beautiful sleds in show arena.

In addition to directing the vintage show, Blain a U.S. Army Veteran once again helped open this year's Snowfest with the most beautiful patriotic pre-race program in snowmobile racing. After the Marion VFW Post 6015 Honor Guard positioned themselves in front of the grandstand rows of colorful vintage snowmobiles with riders carrying American flags made their way around the track for opening ceremonies followed by the National Anthem. It was truly an incredible display of patriotism, loved by everyone on hand.

Just outside the arena a replica of Don Browns 1970 Soo I-500 winning Chaparral surrounded by American Flags and his 1970 I-500 winning trophy glowed in the morning light.

Chaparral Snowmobiles this year's feature make is one brand from snowmobiling's hay day that is still talked about with deep admiration. Manufactured from 1968 -1974 Chaparral snowmobiles were one of the most advanced sleds on the market. In all, over 65,000 units were built and sold across the Snow Belt from 1970-1974. A series of poor winters along with an energy crisis and a slowing economy forced the parent company to end snowmobile production in early 1974.

Unlike so many other snowmobile manufacturers of the era whose name and contributions have faded with the passage of time, Chaparral's contributions to the sport live on most notably in racing. In the early 1970's auto racing legend and snowmobile enthusiast Bobby Unser joined the Chaparral Racing department to develop a machine that would make Chaparral a force to be reckoned with on the racetrack. In December of 1971 Unser and the racing department debuted the first Independent Front Suspension (IFS) - the Chaparral Firebird SSX just in time for the 1972 oval track season. Today IFS sleds as well as more advanced designs are commonplace thanks in part to Unser and Chaparral whose early efforts led the way to today's remarkable machines. One can only imagine what might have been had the company survived.

2019 Marion Snowfest Vintage Show Results

Best Original – Jeff Johnson - Coleman, MI - Sears Hillary
Best Restored – Andrew Sheehan – Gladwin, MI - 1968 Boatel
Best Display – Jim Blain Sr., - Lake, MI - Polaris Snowmobiles and Memorabilia
Best Race Sled – Bernie Blain, Lake, MI - 1975 Sno-Jet Thunder Jet.
Best Featured Sled – Jacob Schroeder, Muskegon, MI - 1972 Chaparral Firebird
Best Classic Sled 86'-99' – Kim Merrill- Kalamazoo, MI - 1989 Yamaha Phazer
Best Vintage 69'-85' – Jim Blain Sr., Lake, MI - 1981 Polaris Indy Centurion 500
Best Antique 68' & Older – Larry Salo, Allegan, MI - 1964 Polaris Snow Traveler
Don Brown I-500 Trophy – Awarded to Don Brown & Steve DuChaney -Traverse City, MI commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Don's 1970 Soo I-500 victory.



Traverse City, Mich. and Mel Winnie owner of M & M Sports Center in South Boardman, Mich., along with Paul and Todd Barrett, Dan Walker, Brad Wheat, Rocko Fouch and Paul Buckler replicated Brown's winning sled, the actual machine had been stolen long ago. In addition to his lap earlier at the Soo I-500 Mr. Brown took the pre-race lap in Marion proudly carrying an American flag.

Chaparral is one of only two makes no longer produced to have won the Soo I-500. The other one, Mercury, won the Soo in 1976 with drivers Stan & Doug Hayes and Jerry Witt.

Steve DuChaney who spearheaded the project to get a reproduction of Don's winning sled ready in time for the 50th Anniversary of his Soo victory was really happy with the Marion show.

"We all had a great time at Marion, the weather was beautiful. The entire event ran very smoothly thanks to all of the friendly volunteers that make it happen.

The show was great, however it would have been nice to have

TOP LEFT: THE SHOW AND VENDOR MIDWAY WAS EXCEPTIONALLY BUSY THANKS TO THE ABUNDANT SNOW.

MIDDLE LEFT: THOSE BRINGING SHOW SLEDS WERE LINED UP BRIGHT AND EARLY TO ENTER.

BELOW: DON BROWN SHARED THE TROPHY HE WON AFTER WINNING THE SECOND ANNUAL SOO I-500 IN 1970 WITH CO-DRIVERS BILL GUNSELL AND STEVE HOLCOMB.



When the IFS design was still a few years away one group of guys from Michigan made major headlines in the snowmobile racing world with their Chaparral by winning the Second Annual Soo I-500 on February 7, 1970 in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan with a big heavy, boxy lovable red beast.

One of the drivers from that Soo I-500 winning Chaparral team, Don Brown of Traverse City, Mich., was on hand for this year's Snowfest. Brown who won the Soo with co-drivers Bill Gunsell and Steve Holcomb had just celebrated the 50th Anniversary of his victory by taking a lap around the famed I-500 mile oval at the 51st Annual I-500 February 2, 2019. His Nephew, Steve DuChaney of



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had seen more Chaparrals on display. There a lot of them still out there its to bad more people didn't bring them.

Don rode the Soo winning replica in the opening ceremony honoring all the Veterans for their service. Hats off to Ryan Blain for making it all happen.

Ryan managed to give me a chance to take the sled for a few exhibition laps around the track during a break in the action. That was a blast!

It was first time since the sled was built it actually made a left turn with any speed at all. It was very loose not having any studs but we tried to keep it as it would have been raced 50 years ago. As I passed the flagman on my last lap a bearing overheated in the top end of the chain case which blew out the bearing hub causing misalignment with clutches causing the drive belt to derail and end up on top of the secondary sheave. Unfortunately, I had to get towed back to the show area. We found another bearing hub and had it back up and running four days later.

Two weeks prior to Marion we took the machine up to the Soo I-500 where it was on display at the Kewadin Casino. On race day during pre-race ceremonies Don led the field of vintage sleds around the mile oval in another great display of patriotism with the American flag. He showed great restraint as he just wanted to open it up going down the backstretch.

It was so cool to see Don on the #40 Chaparral, 50 years later making another lap around that big mile oval. This was something I have wanted to do for many, many years. It would not have been possible without all the help we had – DuChaney said”.

Great weather, a good size crowd and beautiful old snowmobiles made the 2019 Marion Snowfest Vintage Snowmobile Show another success. Who could ask for anything more!

“This was an awesome year for weather! For the first time in three years we had a good amount of snow on the ground in the show area. Tom Dobbrastine of Blanchard and Duane Radle



DON BROWNS NEPHEW, STEVE DUCHANEY TOOK HOME THE I-500 MEMORIAL AWARD.



A CHAPARRAL SNOWMOBILE LIKE THIS BEAUTY TOOK CENTER STAGE AT THIS YEAR'S SHOW.



ABOVE: JUST SOME OF THE VINTAGE BEAUTIES ON DISPLAY.

LEFT: ABUNDANT SNOWFALL THIS YEAR ALLOWED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PEDESTALS TO DISPLAY COLLECTIONS.



LIKE CAR BUFFS SNOWMOBILE COLLECTORS CAN'T RESIST
STANDING AROUND DISCUSSING THEIR FAVORITE MODELS.



ABOVE: BEST ANTIQUE SLED - LARRY SALO, ALLEGAN, MI - 1964
POLARIS SNO-TRAVELER.

RIGHT: BEST FEATURED SLED – JACOB SCHROEDER, MUSKEGON, MI -
1972 CHAPARRAL FIREBIRD.



BEST ORIGINAL – JEFF JOHNSON - COLEMAN, MI - SEARS HILLARY.



BEST RESTORED – ANDREW SHEEHAN – GLADWIN, MI - 1968
BOATEL



and his friend Brian Davideip from Cadillac were on hand as volunteer judges for the show. They had the difficult task of picking winners out of an impressive field of beautifully restored and unrestored entries", Blain said.

The winter of 2019 is just a memory, however, during the long summer months you can bet Ryan Blain will be making

plans for the 2020 show. If you have any ideas or suggestions for next year's event or simply want to volunteer let him know.

Next up on the clubs agenda is the annual Marion Snowmobile Swap Meet set for Saturday October 12, 2019 at the Marion Fairgrounds/Veterans Memorial Park.



BEST DISPLAY – JIM BLAIN SR., - LAKE, MI - POLARIS SNOWMOBILES AND MEMORABILIA.

PAM BLAIN ACCEPTING FOR BEST VINTAGE 69' -85' – JIM BLAIN SR., LAKE, MI - 1981 POLARIS INDY CENTURION 500.



BEST CLASSIC SLED - KIM MERRILL, KALAMAZOO, MI - 1989 YAMAHA PHAZER.

BEST RACE SLED – BERNIE BLAIN, LAKE, MI - 1975 SNO-JET THUNDER JET.





DRIVERS ROAR OFF THE LINE IN ONE OF 29 RACE CLASSES OFFERED THIS YEAR.

WINTERS RETURN MAKES FOR GREAT MARION SNOWFEST

By Steve Landon

Marion, Michigan – February 16, 2019; -- Old man winter has been going through a bit of an emotional roller coaster in recent years. Snow, spring like weather and occasional winter teasers complete with cold temperatures and a few inches of white gold have become the norm. It can be downright nerve wracking, especially if you're trying to put together an event like the Marion Snowfest, the best winter vintage snowmobile event in Northern Lower Michigan. This year one of the largest crowds in its 11 year history packed the Marion Fairgrounds/Veterans Freedom Park for a day of family entertainment in Michigan's winter wonderland.

Presented by the Marion Snowmobile Club, the Marion Snowfest is one of those old-fashioned small town winter events, once commonplace in the U.S. and Canada back in the 1960's and '70's when there were over 100 snowmobile manufacturers. Today that old time tradition is alive and well for winter sports fans who love snowmobiles, history and racing at its best.

In 2018, following a pair of exceptionally mild winters Mother Nature finally released some cold air and a wee bit of snow just in time for the 10th Anniversary. Fears the winter of 2019 might be a mild snowless El Niño year were quickly erased when arctic winds plunged southward in mid January with a record

cold Polar Vortex. Thanks to the extreme cold it didn't take long for crews to build an exceptionally fast ice oval, now all that was needed was a good dumping of snow. To everyone's surprise old man winter delivered with a couple of old fashion snowstorms in plenty of time for Snowfest. After a questionable start a winter reminiscent of one many parents and grandparents knew growing up was back and people of all ages were loving it!

Thanks to an outstanding snowpack a lot of old sleds as well as newer models that had been on a long rest were suddenly coming to or trying to come back to life. For those machines not so willing to wake up, this years mid winter swap meet had just what their owners needed to get them going in plenty of time for a few rides before spring meltdown. Sledder's eager to find a rider for next year or parts for a vintage sled restoration found plenty of late season deals on used sleds, clothing parts and accessories. From the moment the first vendor opened this year's Marion Snowfest swap meet was buzzing with activity.

In race registration drivers were signing up last minute entries and getting their sleds through tech before heading off for a day of oval racing in one or more of the 29 classes offered. As usual pit row was packed with trailers as well as common and unusual race sleds from simpler times.

Dave Swiler, celebrating his 11th straight year as head flagman was honored during the pre-race drivers meeting. Race



A SMALL PORTION OF THE MANY FLAG CARRYING VINTAGE SLED RIDERS SURROUND MEMBERS OF MARION VFW POST 6015 COLOR GUARD DURING OPENING CEREMONIES. COLOR GUARD MEMBERS INCLUDE (L-R): BOB FRIEND, DICK DEPEW, PAUL BATES, MIKE BELL, CARL GEYER AND DICK REED.

VINTAGE SNOWMOBILES TAKE THE PARADE LAP DURING OPENING CEREMONIES HEADED DOWN THE FRONT STRETCH.

A COUPLE OF OLD SKI-DOO JOCKEYS RICH LAUGHLIN OF MARION, MI AND JACK ULCH OF HARRISON, MI MET UP TO TALK ABOUT SKI-DOO'S PRIOR TO THE START OF RACING.





VINTAGE SHOW DIRECTOR RYAN BLAIN PRODUCED ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL ALL AMERICAN VINTAGE PARADE LAP FOR OPENING CEREMONIES.

11th Annual Marion Snowfest Snowmobile Race Results February 16, 2019

Kitty Cat

- #54 Deegan Lickfieldt, Midland, MI – Arctic Cat
- #7 Alexis Miske, Harrison, MI – Arctic Cat
- #79 Jacob Seidel, Bentley – Arctic Cat
- #96 Ashlynn Welch, Luther MI – Arctic Cat

120cc Stock

- 1. #68 Leilynd Strehike, Buckley, MI - Arctic Cat
- 2. #3 Bailey Bear, Marion, MI –ski-doo
- 3. #45 Lincoln Furman, Shelby, MI – Arctic Cat
- 3. #7 Charlotte, Meyering , Jenison, MI – ski-doo

120cc Improved

- 1. #145 Lincoln Furman, Shelby, MI – Arctic Cat
- 2. #822 Zander Miske, Harrison, MI – Arctic Cat
- 3. #1 Cole Blain, Lake, MI – Polaris

120cc Super Stock

- 1. #111 Billy Kildee, Traverse City, MI – Polaris
- 2. #12 Easton Hess, Beaverton, MI – Arctic Cat
- 3. #88 Miranda Hess, Beaverton, MI – Polaris

Kids 8-12

- 1. #18C Tommy Davison, Montrose, MI – Yamaha,
- 2. #21 Brady Bower, Stanton, MI – Yamaha
- 3. #18 J.D. Bazuin, Marion, MI – Yamaha
- 4. #66 Joseph Stewart - Marion, MI

HR Single Stock

- 1. #21 Conner Ripley, Stanton, MI - Yamaha
- 2. #3 Rich Laughlin, Marion, MI – ski-doo
- 3. #117 Jeff Smith, Traverse City, MI – ski-doo

340 Twin Stock - Fan

- 1. #7 Ed Williams, Marion, MI – Rupp
- 2. #17 Ryan Eisenga, Marion, MI - Yamaha
- 3. #724 Don Grage, Cadillac, MI – Rupp
- 4. #1 Randy Tamlyn, Marion, MI

340 Twin Stock Free-Air

- 1. #407 Dan Chapel, Leroy, MI – Arctic Cat
- 2. #05 Jake Huttenga, Marion, MI – Arctic Cat

- 3. #1 Gary Eisenga, Marion, MI – Arctic Cat

440 Twin Stock Fan

- 1. #211 Todd Cole, Cadillac, MI – Rupp
- 2. #773 Derek Curtis, Cadillac, MI – ski-doo
- 3. #05 Scott Schepers, Byron Center, MI – ski-doo

440 Twin Stock Free-Air

- 1. #41 Rick Fuerst, Prescott, MI – Arctic Cat
- 2. #7x George Miske, Harrison, MI – Arctic Cat
- 3. #L25 Bob Lockhart, LeRoy, MI - Arctic Cat

59 & Over

- 1. #51 Larry Davidson, Falmouth, MI – Chaparral
- 2. #1 Kelly Bekken, McBain, MI – Arctic Cat
- 3. #1x Mike Clark, Evart, MI – Mercury

Two Man Race

- 1. #69 Jeff & Tim Fry - Alouette

Obsolete

- 1. #7 Ed Williams, Marion, MI - Rupp
- 2. #B3 Tyler Hsenga , Marion, MI – John Deere
- 3. #77 Eric Williams, Marion, MI - Rupp

Vintage Pro

- 1. #L25 Bob Lockhart, LeRoy, MI - Arctic Cat
- 2. #27 Bob Dedic, Owosso, MI – Sno-Jet Thunder Jet
- 3. #407 Dan Chapel, Leroy, MI – Arctic Cat

340 Trail Improved

- 1. #611 James VonBerg, Saginaw, MI – Polaris
- 2. #148 Brad Kenel, Saginaw, MI - Polaris
- 3. #33 Larry Decker, Dewitt, MI – ski-doo

440 Trail Improved

- 1. #77 Nick Givens, Midland, MI – Yamaha
- 2. #611 James VonBerg, Saginaw, MI – Polaris
- 3. #L25 Bob Lockhart, LeRoy, MI - Arctic Cat

340 Trail Stock Fan

- 1. #33x Andrew Jozwiak, Saginaw, MI – Yamaha
- 2. #5x Tyler Hacker, Roscommon, MI – Yamaha
- 3. #777x Jeff Smith, Traverse City, MI – Mercury

340 Trail Stock Free-Air

- 1. #777x Jeff Smith, Traverse City, MI – Mercury
- 2. #81 Jeff Webster, Whittemore, MI – Arctic Cat
- 3. #7T Ron Miske, Harrison, MI – Arctic Cat

340 Trail Stock – Liquid

- 1. #17 Josh VanBuskirk Falmouth, MI – ski-doo

- 2. #33x Andrew Jozwiak, Saginaw, MI – Yamaha
- 3. #8 James Bazuin, Marion, MI - Polaris

440 Trail Stock Fan

- 1. #E6 Devon Eisenga, McBain, MI - Kawasaki
- 2. #16 Ed Williams, Mation, MI – Mercury
- 3. #777x Jeff Smith, Traverse City, MI – Mercury

440 Trail Stock Free-Air

- 1. #979 Dan Alcock II, Saginaw, MI – Polaris
- 2. #61 Eric Sandow, Midland, MI – Polaris
- 3. #69 Dave Bohnsack – Standish, MI – Arctic Cat

440 Trail Stock - Liquid

- 1. #151 Josh VanBuskirk, Falmouth, MI – ski-doo
- 2. #4x James Gibel, Lake City, MI - Yamaha
- 3. #79 Wesley Swidel, Bentley, MI – Arctic Cat

440 Twin Fan Improved

- 1. #211 Todd Cole, Cadillac, MI – Rupp
- 2. #304 Eric Williams, Marion, MI – Rupp
- 3. #140 Ed Williams, Marion, MI – Rupp

440 Twin Free-Air Improved

- 1. #51 Jake Mattson, Cadillac, MI – Chaparral
- 2. #3 Mike VanPolen, Marion, MI – Arctic Cat
- 3. #4 Duane VanPolen, Marion, MI – Arctic Cat

340 Twin Fan Improved

- 1. #4 Cass Ripley, Stanton, MI – Yamaha
- 2. #7 Ed Williams, Marion, MI – Rupp
- 3. #600 Robert Vanderhoef, Marion, MI - Rupp

340 Twin Free-Air Improved

- 1. #407 Dan Chappel, Leroy, MI – Arctic Cat
- 2. #62 Cody Czeniak, Interlochen, MI – ski-doo
- 3. #33 Larry Decker, Dewitt, MI – ski-doo

HD Single Improved

- 1. #4 Cass Ripley, Stanton, MI – Yamaha
- 2. #17 Randy Wright, Interlochen, MI – ski-doo
- 3. #47 Jamie Weasel, Grand Blanc MI – Arctic Cat

HR Single Improved

- 1. #1 Aaron Laughlin, Marion, MI - ski-doo
- 2. #117 Jeff Smith, Traverse, MI – ski-doo
- 3. #724 Don Grage, Cadillac, MI – ski-doo

Mikuni Single

- 1. #333 James Gibel, Lake City, MI – Yamaha
- 2. #6 Ryan VanPolen – Marion – Arctic Cat
- 3. #11 Alex Roth Thompsonville, MI – Yamaha



IT NEVER HURTS TO HAVE A SPARE HOOD AFTER A HARD WEEKEND OF RIDING OR RACING. THIS SWAPPER HAD PLENTY TO CHOOSE FROM.



SHOPPERS CHECK A TRAILER FULL OF GOOD USED TRACKS LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT SPARE.



KITTY CAT TOP FINISHERS (R-L): #54 DEEGAN LICKFIELDT, MIDLAND, MI – ARCTIC CAT, ALEXIS MISKE #7, HARRISON, MI – ARCTIC CAT, JACOB SEIDEL, #79 BENTLEY, MI – ARCTIC CAT, ASHLYNN WELCH, #96, LUTHER MI – ARCTIC CAT.



KIDS 8-12 (L-R): THIRD PLACE #18 J.D. BAZUIN, MARION, MI – YAMAHA, WINNER #18C TOMMY DAVISON, MONTROSE, MI – YAMAHA, SECOND PLACE #21 BRADY BOWER, STANTON, MI – YAMAHA



120CC SUPER STOCK (R-L): FIRST PLACE #111 BILLY KILDEE, TRAVERSE CITY, MI – POLARIS, THIRD PLACE #88 MIRANDA HESS, BEAVERTON, MI – POLARIS, SECOND PLACE #12 EASTON HESS, BEAVERTON, MI – ARCTIC CAT.



120CC IMPROVED (L-R): FIRST PLACE #145 LINCOLN FURMAN, SHELBY, MI – ARCTIC CAT, SECOND PLACE #822 ZANDER MISKE, HARRISON, MI – ARCTIC CAT, THIRD PLACE #1 COLE BLAIN, LAKE, MI – POLARIS.



120CC STOCK (L-R):THIRD PLACE #7 CHARLOTTE, MEYERING ,JENISON, MI – SKI-DOO, FIRST PLACE #68 LEILYND STREHIKE, BUCKLEY, MI - ARCTIC CAT, SECOND PLACE #3 BAILEY BEAR, MARION, MI – SKI-DOO, SECOND PLACE #45 LINCOLN FURMAN, SHELBY, MI – ARCTIC CAT.

scorers Casey Baker, Suzanne Richter presented Swiler with a special print designed by Sherry Landon of The Winning Edge Magazine in appreciation for his continued service at the start finish line and beyond.

While there were a few heart pounding spills thankfully the only injuries were bruised egos and slightly damaged sleds. As in past years racing was top notch from start to finish. Prompt accurate scoring, track grooming, officiating and rapid turn around between classes made for an all around fan pleas-

ing day.

Top winners this year were; Cass Ripley of Stanton, Mich., who led his Yamaha's to victory in 340 Fan Improved and HD Single Improved. Josh VanBuskirk of Falmouth, Mich., led the way for ski-doo winning 440 Trail Stock Liquid and 340 Trail Stock Liquid. Rupp shined in the winner's circle thanks to Todd Cole of Cadillac, Mich., who cruised past the competition to take 440 Twin Stock Fan and 440 Twin Fan Improved

Racing was not the only happening on the oval. During a



ZANDER MISKE, #822 OF HARRISON, MI HEADS OUT OF TURN FOUR IN 120 IMPROVED ACTION BOUND FOR AN IMPRESSIVE SECOND PLACE FINISH.



DON BROWN'S NEPHEW, STEVE DUCHANEY OF TRAVERSE CITY, MICH., LEADS A NEWER CHAPARRAL ON BOARD THE REPLICA HE HELPED BUILD OF DON'S 1970 SOO I-500 WINNING SLED.



RACERS TAKE OFF TO START THE TWO-MAN RACE.

break in the action a special race was held for Sherry Landon of Farwell, Mich., who is fighting cancer for the third time. Throughout the day and prior to the event club members and friends of Sherry collected donations to help her with the many expenses she has and continues to incur during her ongoing battle with the big “C”.

Starting the race with pink flags drivers clad in shorts, swimsuits and Bikini’s ran a bone chilling high-speed one lap around the oval in a show of support of Mrs. Landon who has been active with the event since the second year. She designs buttons and fliers for the Marion Snowfest and October snowmo-
A TEAM HEADS DOWN THE FRONT STRETCH IN THE TWO-MAN RACE.

bile swap meet plus she is co-publisher of The Winning Edge Magazine with husband Steve.

“I can’t find enough words to express how much this means to me. This is an amazing group. I want to thank everyone who contributed especially the racers who braved the cold in their swimsuits to make this all possible”, Mrs. Landon said.

Thanks to hard working volunteers, contributing sponsors, top racers and the best winter sports fans in the Great Lakes region the 11th Annual Marion Snowfest was a success. All traces of the winter of 2019 will soon fade from the landscape, however, **#69 JEFF & TIM FRY ON A ALOUETTE WORK TO HOLD OFF A HARD CHARGING ARCTIC CAT AS THEY RACE TO THEIR SECOND CAREER VICTORY IN THE POPULAR TWO-MAN RACE.**

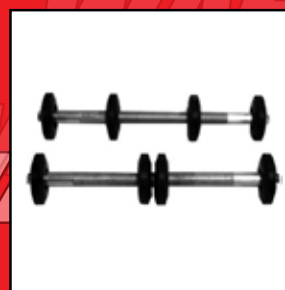




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A COUPLE RACERS MAKE FINAL ADJUSTMENTS ON THEIR RUPP BEFORE HEADING TO THE TRACK.



DAN ALCOCK II, #979 OF SAGINAW AND JAMES GIBEL, #4X OF LAKE CITY, BATTLE IN 440 TRAIL STOCK LIQUID.



CASS RIPLEY, #4 HAD A BIG DAY POSTING WINS IN 340 FAN IMPROVED AND HD SINGLE IMPROVED.



CHAPARRAL, THIS YEAR'S FEATURE SLED CAME AWAY WITH TWO WINS. JAKE MATTSON OF CADILLAC, MI TAKES THE CHECKERED FLAG ON HIS CHAPARRAL TO WIN 440 TWIN FREE AIR IMPROVED. LARRY DAVIDSON OF FALMOUTH, MI WON 59 AND OVER ALSO ON A CHAPARRAL.



BOB DEDIC, #27 OF OWOSSO MI – SNO-JET THUNDER JET WORKS TO HOLD OFF THE #407 ARCTIC OF DAN CHAPEL OF LEROY, MI IN VINTAGE PRO. DEDIC TOOK SECOND PLACE FOLLOWED BY CHAPEL IN THIRD.



ELEVEN YEAR MARION SNOWFEST HEAD FLAGMAN DAVE SWILER DIRECTS TRAFFIC HEADED DOWN THE FRONT STRETCH.



ED WILLIAMS, #7 - RUPP & RYAN EISENGA #17 - YAMAHA BOTH OF MARION, MI SWAP PAINT AS THEY BATTLE FOR THE LEAD IN 340 TWIN STOCK FAN. WILLIAMS HELD ON TO TAKE THE CHECKERED FOLLOWED BY EISENGA IN SECOND. WILLIAMS ALSO WON THE OBSOLETE CLASS ON A RUPP.



DRIVERS POUR ON THE POWER AS THEY COME OUT OF TURN FOUR.



RACE OFFICIALS WERE HARD AT WORK EARLY IN TECH INSPECTION.



RACE SCORERS CASSIE "BLAIN" BAKER, SUZANNE RICHTER AND BRENDA BLAIN MADE SURE ALL RACES WERE SCORED CORRECTLY FROM START TO FINISH.



ABOVE: A DISAPPOINTED ROSS KERSHNER OF SANFORD, MICH., PUSHES HIS MACHINE OFF THE FRONT STRETCH. THE SLED WENT DOWN JUST AFTER COMING OFF THE LINE AT THE START OF THE RACE.

LEFT: CASSIE BAKER AND SUZANNE RICHTER PRESENT FLAGMAN DAVE SWILER A SPECIAL PRINT IN HONOR OF 11 YEARS OF DIRECTING RACES FROM THE STARTING LINE. PRINT DESIGNED BY SHERRY LANDON, WITH PHOTOS BY STEVE LANDON.



CASSIE BLAIN BAKER LEADS THE PACK HEADING FOR THE CHECKERED IN A SPECIAL RACE FOR CANCER FIGHTER SHERRY LANDON OF FARWELL, MI.

SEVEN BRAVE SOULS SHED THEIR WINTER GEAR TO RIDE FOR SHERRY LANDON WHO IS FIGHTING CANCER FOR THE THIRD TIME. MRS. LANDON IS ACTIVE BEHIND THE SCENES DOING FLIER AND BUTTON DESIGNS AT THE POPULAR EVENT. L-R; DAVE SWILER – SKI-DOO, BREANNA BLAIN – SNO-JET, CASSIE BLAIN BAKER – SNO-JET, BOB RYAN – ARCTIC CAT, SARAH VANPOLEN – ARCTIC CAT, DON GRAGE - RUPP AND BETHANY VANPOLEN – ARCTIC CAT.

CLAD IN ONLY SHORTS AND SWIMSUITS DRIVERS TAKE A RACE LAP FOR AREA CANCER FIGHTER SHERRY LANDON.



it won't be long before plans begin for the 2020 Marion Snowfest. Next up on the clubs agenda is the annual Marion Snowmobile Swap Meet set for Saturday, October 12, 2019. The Marion Snowmobile Club is a volunteer organization whose efforts and hard work make the Snowfest and the October Snowmobile Swap Meet happen, without them the events would not be possible. They are always in need of volunteers, if you're looking for a fun group to work with feel free to get involved.

Snowmobile Swap Meet

MARION, MI

OCT. 12, 2019

**NEW & OLD SLEDS,
PARTS & MORE!**

**RAIN, SNOW
OR SHINE!**

GATES OPEN AT 7:00 A.M.

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Admission \$5.00
plus one non-perishable food item.
Includes Admission & Swap Fee

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
www.marionvintagesnowmobileclub.com
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Design courtesy of Sherry Landon • Photos courtesy of Steve Landon, thewinninggemagazine.com

Presented by the Marion Snowmobile Club

Marion Fairgrounds / Veterans Memorial Park • Marion, MI 49665



GLADWIN'S LEAPING FLAGMAN KEPT DRIVER FOCUSED AND RUNNING HARD ALL DAY.

AFTER DELAY, WINTER RETURNS TO OPEN GLADWIN VINTAGE SEASON

Editors Note: In the last few years, we have had requests to get a bigger variety of shots beyond traditional winners circle, yet the demand to see family and friends in winner circle shots continue. Since it is impossible to please everyone we have come up The Click Click Shoppe facebook photo page, check it out. This is page where you can review proofs and order pictures if you are interested.

By Steve Landon

Gladwin, Michigan – January 26, 2019; -- The winter of 2019 was looking pretty bleak in the beginning. Yards covered with autumn leaves mixed in with an occasional teasing of snow and spring like temperatures had many wondering if the season would be a bust as old El Niño raised its ugly head.

Attempts to build tracks across much of the Snow Belt failed forcing promoters to cancel or reschedule. Gladwin was among them. Despite the promise of falling temperatures there was not enough hours to build a quality track in time for the January 12th opener. Thanks to dedicated volunteers who spent many days and nights going in circles round the clock the big blue Gladwin County Fairgrounds ice oval came to life.

Temperatures in single digits and partly sunny skies greeted 257 plus entries bright and early Saturday morning. In hot laps bitter cold temperatures caused ice dust raising havoc with visibility as packs of drivers rounded the oval. By race time the mercury rose into the low teens, however, ice dust was still an issue. To combat the problem frequent grooming and the addition of rapidly freezing water to the track by tanker truck managed to keep dust down to a minimum. While there were a few minor spills, overall the days racing went smoothly from start to finish.

The Gladwin oval and John Wilkosz of Manistee, Mich., just seem to go together. Since making his first laps on the track years ago the mighty vintage Yama-Master has racked up countless victories over many top competitors. That tradition continued on into 2019 where he turned in an impressive three win performance with victories in 1984 & Older 340 Stock, 1984 & Older 440 Senior Stock (55 and Up) and 1984 & Older 340 Liquid Stock.

In addition to the many seasoned drivers racing at Gladwin there are some top youngsters who have been and continue fine-tuning their skills on the big blue track. Lincoln Furman of Shelby, Mich., is one of those drivers who has been on the receiving end of the checkered flag at Gladwin more times than he can count. The winning tradition continued at the opener where he scored three wins and a second place. Driving Arctic Cat entries Furman scorched concrete hard ice as he held off hard charging competitors to take wins in 120 Stock (10 & Under), 120 Mod (10 & Under) and 120 Open (10 & Under).

Beaverton, Mich., native and area favorite, Easton Hess who cut his teeth racing on big blue turned in a winning performance on his Arctic Cat in 120 Pro (10 & Under) to end Lincoln Furman's dominance of the winners circle. Miranda Hess also of Beaverton rounded out the top three on a Polaris.

Joey Burch of Mt. Pleasant, Mich., son of late enduro racer Joe Burch III of Rosebush, Mich., took advantage of an open weekend in the enduro snowmobile racing schedule to come to Gladwin. Driving for Yovich Racing, Burch wasted no time grabbing the lead at the drop of the green flag sailing untouched to victory in Champ/Sno Pro/ Twin Track over Mike Feith of Saginaw, MI and Trent Sharon of Beaverton, Mich., on a moto-ski. Burch is a regular on the pro-enduro circuit, Soo I-500 and



LEFT: RYAN BRINKMAN, #42R OF GAGETOWN, MI HAD ANOTHER GREAT DAY ON THE BLUE ICE POSTING TWO WINS AND A SECOND PLACE ON POLARIS.

at many vintage races driving sleds of all ages in a number of classes. He won the 2016 Mt. Pleasant, Mich., 251-lap Pro-Enduro with co-driver Mike Haynes also of Mt. Pleasant.

Ryan Brinkman of Gagetown, Mich., had his machines running strong all day. Driving a Polaris, Brinkman grabbed the checkered in two classes; 1984 & Older 440 Pro and 1984 & Older 440 Liquid Improved. In race 10 he saw his winning streak come to an end with a loss to Trent Sharon of Beaverton on a 1979 moto-ski Sno-Pro.

Curt Jolly had his Yamaha tuned and running fast. The Ludington, Mich., native made his trek from the sunset side of the state pay off with a couple of trips down victory lane in 1984 & Older Stock Liquid and in 1984 & Older 440 Stock.

In addition to multiple class winners there were several single class victors. Check out complete results for details.

As people get closer to retirement age it's not uncommon to hear them say; "Awe I don't to want to race, I'm to old – that's a young peoples sport". To active people over 55 and folks that don't want to retire those words are like hearing fingernails run across an old fashioned chalk board. Today guys like Bob Johnson '63 of Cedar Springs, Mich., are not relaxing in their easy chair – they are trying new things like oval track snowmobile racing for the first time. That is exactly what he did in Gladwin where he captured third on a 1980 Polaris 340 TX Free Air in a very competitive 1984 & Older Senior Stock (55 and Up). He would go on to grab a third in his heat race for 1984 & Older 340 Stock before finishing seventh in the final.

"Gladwin was my first time racing in an ice oval. Finishing third in the Senior Class final was like a win for me. #57 is lucky a number!

I was very surprised at how well my sled sticks in the corners. I have to be honest, by the time the 340 stock final came around I was tired. Oval ice racing requires a fit and strong driver. It was a bit hard to see when the sun was coming during hot laps but they got in under control once we got into racing. Track crew did a nice job maintaining the track. The event was very well organized.

I finished third in my 340 stock heat race. After running the 55 and older class I was tired. Poor sleep from the previous night and cold temps took its toll on me. I may have been able to run fifth or better in the final, however, at that time I had nothing left. I waved to the corner worker and the flagman on the way by to thank them – I was pretty happy with taking seventh.

I got into oval racing to keep busy on the snowless weekends that seem to occur more and more as time goes by. I do all my own engine work, it's half the fun for me.

Prior to racing in a competitive head to head grass drag I ran a radar run in 2015 on my Polaris 650 Indy. In 2017 I ran my 1977 Polaris 440 free air TX drag sled for the first time at the Twisting Trails Snowmobile Club grass drags in Twin Lakes, Michigan.

Family is OK with my racing. I just have to realize where I'm at in life and not take chances to win". Bob Johnson said.

Thanks to guys like Bob Johnson and countless others who refuse to let age keep them from taking on new challenges, older racers continue to thrive both behind the scenes and in the drivers seat. Come on out to the races and see these guys in action,

LEFT: VETERAN SKI-DOO SPEEDSTER CODY DECKER #13 SKI-DOO OF DEWITT, MI WORKS TO HOLD OFF GUY GUYMER #65 -POLARIS IN 1984 & OLDER 340 IMPROVED ACTION.



AARON JOHNSON, #68 OF KRUMP, MI DOES SOME AGGRESSIVE DRIVING WITH HIS ARCTIC CAT THROUGH TURN FOUR IN 1984 & OLDER 440 IMPROVED HEAT RACING ACTION.



SIXTY-THREE YEAR OLD BOB JOHNSON, #57 OF CEDAR SPRINGS, MICH., PROVED YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD TO GO OVAL TRACK SNOWMOBILE RACING. JOHNSON ON POLARIS CAPTURED THIRD IN THE 1984 & OLDER SENIOR STOCK (55 AND UP). HERE HE GETS AN INSIDE EDGE IN A HEAT RACE.





WE

ABOVE: PHIL THOMAS, #22 OF OWOSSO, MI ON A YAMAHA LEADS THE PACK IN 1984 & OLDER 440 STOCK HEAT ACTION FOLLOWED BY TYLER CURTIS OF LEROY, MI ON A YAMAHA AND JOHN MURPHY #58 OF SAGINAW, MI ON A MERCURY.



WE

BELOW: BROOKLYN NELSON, #24 OF BAY CITY, MI SAILED TO THE CHECKERED IN 1984 & OLDER POWDER PUFF 440 STOCK ON A POLARIS.

LONGTIME RIVALS, EASTON HESS, #12 OF BEAVERTON, MICH. AND LINCOLN FURMAN, #45 OF SHELBY, MICH. GO HEAD TO HEAD IN 120 PRO. HESS CAME ON TO WIN THE CLASS FOLLOWED BY FURMAN IN SECOND PLACE. FURMAN HAD A GREAT DAY TAKING THREE WINS IN THE OPENER.

you'll be pleasantly surprised to see just how competitive they are.

One safe, fun weekend of racing behind them, crews went right to work filling in the lows spots on the track in preparation for the final race of the season. Remember snowmobile racing at Gladwin and other communities is a volunteer effort. Take a moment to say Thank You when you see one of these fine folks hard at work on the track or in registration and scoring.



WE



DUE TO THE EXCEPTIONALLY COLD TEMPERATURES THE WATER TANKER MADE FREQUENT DUMPS TO HELP KEEP ICE DUST DOWN. THE EFFORT PAID OFF BY GIVING DRIVERS IMPROVED VISIBILITY DURING COMPETITION.



VETERAN ENDURO, SPRINT AND VINTAGE SNOWMOBILE RACER JOEY BURCH OF MT. PLEASANT, MICH., LAUNCHED OFF THE LINE AND NEVER LOOKED BACK ON HIS WAY TO VICTORY IN THE CHAMP/SNO-PRO/TWIN TRACK CLASS.



EZRA ARNOLD, #10 OF UNIONVILLE, MI AND TRENT SHARON, #95 GO NECK AND NECK THROUGH TURN FOUR IN 600 IFS IMPROVED. SHARON WON THE RACE WHILE ARNOLD TOOK THIRD.



#011, SAMI MITCHELL OF TWINING, MI ON A YAMAHA POWERS THROUGH THE CORNER BOUND FOR A SECOND PLACE IN 1984 & OLDER POWDER PUFF.



SINGLE DIGIT TEMPERATURES CONTRIBUTED TO A PICTURESQUE FOG CREATED BY WARMING ENGINES.



120 OPEN (10 & UNDER): FIRST PLACE #145 LINCOLN FURMAN – SHELBY, MI – ARCTIC CAT, SECOND PLACE #24 ANGELICA CORLEW – GLADWIN, MI – POLARIS, THIRD PLACE #54 DEEGAN LICKFELDT – MIDLAND, MI - ARCTIC CAT (NOT PICTURED).



120 STOCK (R-L): FIRST PLACE LINCOLN FURMAN #145 – SHELBY, MI – ARCTIC CAT, SECOND PLACE - ZAYDEN KENT #26, STANDISH, MI – ARCTIC CAT, THIRD PLACE ELLA BRINGER #32, HEMLOCK, MI – ARCTIC CAT.



120 MOD 10 & UNDER (R-L): FIRST PLACE LINCOLN FURMAN #145 - SHELBY, MI – ARCTIC CAT. SECOND PLACE - LANCE PRIME #3K SAGINAW, MI – ARCTIC CAT #989 LANDON BRALEY – SAGINAW, MI – ARCTIC CAT

Gladwin Vintage Snowmobile Races Race #1 Saturday January 26, 2019

Kitty Cat - (10 & Under)

#54 – Deegan Lickfeldt – Midland, MI - Arctic Cat
#32 – Ella Bringer – Hemlock, MI - Arctic Cat Kitty Cat
#79 – Jacob Seidel – Bentley, MI – Kitty Cat

Race 2 - 120-Stock

1. #45 Lincoln Furman – Shelby, MI – Arctic Cat
2. #26 Zayden Kent – Standish, MI – Arctic Cat
3. #32 Ella Bringer - Hemlock, MI – Arctic Cat

Race 3 - 120 Mod (10 & Under)

1. #45 Lincoln Furman – Shelby, MI – Arctic Cat
2. #3k Lance Prime – Saginaw, MI – Arctic Cat
3. #989 Landon Braley – Saginaw, MI – Arctic Cat

Race 4 - 120 Open (10 & Under)

1. #45 Lincoln Furman – Shelby, MI – Arctic Cat
2. #24 Angelica Corlew – Gladwin, MI – Polaris
3. #54 Deegan Lickfeldt – Midland, MI - Arctic Cat

Race 5 - 120 Pro (10 & Under)

1. #12 Easton Hess – Beaverton, MI – Arctic Cat
2. #45 Lincoln Furman – Shelby, MI – Arctic Cat
3. #88 Miranda Hess – Beaverton, MI - Polaris

Race 6 - Champ/Sno-Pro Twin Track

1. #414 Joey Burch – Mt. Pleasant, MI - ski-doo
2. #82 Mike Feith – Saginaw, MI -

Race 7 - 1974 & Older Single Cylinder Pro

1. #333 Ron Kuripla – Houghton Lake, MI – Yamaha
2. #27 Bob Dedic– Owosso, MI – Sno-Jet Thunder Jet

Race 8 - 1984 & Older 340 Stock

1. #3 John Wilkosz – Manistee, MI – Yamaha
2. #504 Tim Wagner – Scottville, MI – Yamaha
3. #33 Andrew Jozwiak –Saginaw, MI - Yamaha

Race 9 - 1984 & Older Powder Puff 440 Stock

1. #24 Brooklyn Nelson – Bay City, MI – Polaris
2. #011 Sami Mitchell– Twining, MI – Yamaha
3. #52 Laura Stoll – Boon, MI - Yamaha



120 PRO (10 & UNDER) (R-L): FIRST PLACE #12 EASTON HESS – BEAVERTON, MI – ARCTIC CAT, SECOND PLACE #45 LINCOLN FURMAN – SHELBY, MI – ARCTIC CAT, THIRD PLACE #88 MIRANDA HESS – BEAVERTON, MI - POLARIS.



KITTY CAT (10 & UNDER) (R-L): DEEGAN LICKFELDT #54 – MIDLAND, MI - ARCTIC CAT, ELLA BRINGER #32 – HEMLOCK, MI - ARCTIC CAT KITTY CAT AND JACOB SEIDEL #79 – BENTLEY, MI – ARCTIC CAT KITTY CAT.

Race 10 - 600 IFS Improved

1. #95 Trent Sharon – Beaverton, MI – Moto-ski
2. #42R Ryan Brinkman – Gagetown, MI – Polaris
3. #10 Ezra Arnold – Unionville, MI

Race 11 - 1984 & Older 440 Stock Liquid

1. #304 Curt Jolly – Ludington, MI – Yamaha
2. #41 Rick Fuerst – Prescott, MI – Arctic Cat
3. #45 Scott Webster – Clio, MI – Yamaha

Race 12 - 1984 & Older 440 Improved

1. #51 Mason McSweyn – Saginaw, MI – Polaris
2. #611 James Von Berg – Saginaw, MI – Polaris
3. #41 Bruce Leroy – Burt, MI – Yamaha

Race 13 - 1984 & Older 340 Liquid Improved

1. #611 James Von Berg – Saginaw, MI – Polaris
2. #52 Jacob McSweyn – Saginaw, MI – Polaris
3. #42N Nathan Brinkman – Unionville, MI – Polaris

Race 14 - 1984 & Older 440 Pro

1. #42R Ryan Brinkman – Gagetown, MI – Polaris
2. #82 Mike Feith – Saginaw, MI – Polaris
3. #41 Jeff Webster – Prescott, MI – Arctic Cat

Race 15 - 1984 & Older 340 IMP

1. #18 Colby Hare – St. Charles, MI – Polaris
2. #611 James Von Berg – Saginaw, MI – Polaris
3. #52 Jacob McSweyn – Saginaw, MI – Polaris

Race 16 - 1984 & Older 440 Senior - Stock (55 and Up)

1. #3 John Wilkosz – Manistee, MI – Yamaha
2. #29X Rick Chapman – Eagle, MI – Yamaha

3. #57 Bob Johnson – Cedar Springs, MI – Polaris Race 17 - 1984 & Older 340 Junior Stock (10-16)

1. #33 Russell Fischer – Fairgrove, MI – Polaris
2. #38 Bo Kubik – St. Charles, MI – Yamaha
3. #174 Payden Griffore – Traverse City, MI – Yamaha

Race 18 - 1984 & Older Single Stock

1. #21 Cass Ripley, Stanton, MI – Yamaha
2. #11 Kelly Major – Scottville, MI – Yamaha
3. #21 Bob Hammer – Boon, MI – Arctic Cat

Race 19 - 1984 & Older 440 Stock

1. #304 Curt Jolly – Ludington, MI – Yamaha
2. #41 Rick Fuerst – Prescott, MI – Arctic Cat
3. #22 Brian Mead – St. Charles, MI – Yamaha

Race 20 - 1984 & Older 340 Pro

1. #42N Nathan Brinkman – Unionville, MI – Polaris
2. #12R Eric Churchill – Cass City, MI – Polaris

Race 21 - 1984 & Older 440 Liquid Improved

1. #42R Ryan Brinkman – Gagetown, MI – Polaris
2. #611 James Von Berg – Saginaw, MI – Polaris
3. #27A Adam Russell – Ubly, MI – Polaris

Race 22 - 1984 & Older 340 Liquid Stock

1. #3 John Wilkosz – Manistee, MI – Yamaha
2. #504 Tim Wagner – Scottville, MI – Yamaha
3. #33 Andrew Vozwiak – Saginaw, MI – Yamaha

Race 23 - 1984 & Older Junior Improved 340 (10-16)

1. #38 Bo Kubik – St. Charles, MI – Yamaha
2. #14 Randy Lucas – Horton, MI – Polaris
3. #174 Payden Griffore – Traverse City, MI – Yamaha

Race 24 - 1984 & Older Single Improved

1. #11 Chaz Major – Scottville, MI – Yamaha
2. #333 Conner Ripley – Stanton, MI – Yamaha
3. #56 Greg Bringer – Hemlock, MI – Yamaha

Race 26 - Relic Class 440 Twin Stock

1. #58 John Murphy – Saginaw, MI – Mercury
2. #140 Ed Williams – Marion, MI – Rupp
3. #16 Robert Vanderhoof – Marion, MI – Mercury

Race 27 - Relic Class 340 Twin Stock

1. #7 Ed Williams – Marion, MI – Rupp
2. #729 Don Grage – Cadillac, MI – Rupp
3. #77 Eric Williams – Marion MI – Rupp



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GLADWIN WRAPS UP ACTION PACKED SEASON



A PORTION OF THE 253 ENTRIES TAKING PART IN THE SECOND AND FINAL RACE OF THE 2019 GLADWIN SERIES LINE-UP FOR HOT LAPS.

Editors Note: Don't forget to check out The Click Click Shoppe facebook page, a photo proof page where you can now purchase pictures. Watch The Winning Edge Magazine Facebook for announcements of new postings.

By Steve Landon

Gladwin, Michigan – February, 9, 2019; -- Having survived racing in frigid temperatures at the opener January 26th, competition returned to the big blue ice oval at the Gladwin County Fairgrounds for the second and final race of the popular two race series.

Normal winter temperatures and sunny skies greeted a sizeable crowd to see 253 entries do combat at blistering speeds. From Kitty Cat, to full-blown mod and IFS classes, racing was flat out exciting from green to checkered flag. While there were some heart stopping "Ooh" and "Aah" moments, overall everything ran smooth throughout the day thanks to eagle eyed corner-men and race officials who kept the program safe and moving right along. Due to continued cold weather watering crews had no problem filling in any ruts left over from the season opener. Plenty of smooth ice provided drivers an ideal racing surface for all classes.

Arctic Cat speedsters once again ruled Kitty Cat and three of the four 120 classes. Kitty Cat throttle jockey Deegan Lickfeldt of Midland, Mich., who won the series opener, made it two straight grabbing yet another checkered flag with his sleek #54 Cat.

Arctic Cat rocket man Lincoln Furman, Shelby, Mich., who has become a regular top three finisher showed no sign of let-

ting up. Fresh off winning 120 Stock, 120 Mod 10 & Under and 120 Open (10 & Under) at the opener, Furman returned eager for a repeat performance. Back on his sleek 120cc Cat's he cruised to victories in 120 Open 10 & Under and 120 Mod 10 & Under. While he was in the hunt in 120 Stock another victory was not in the cards, he finished third.

The day didn't go so well for local favorites Easton and Miranda Hess of Beaverton, Mich., who have had enjoyed a great deal of success in Gladwin over the years. Driving an Arctic Cat, Easton won 120cc Pro (10 & under) in the series opener, Miranda finished third in the same class on her Polaris just behind runner-up Lincoln Furman on an Arctic Cat. Sadly, gremlins struck both sleds in the series finale Saturday keeping them out of the top three. One week later in Marion, Mich., Miranda would close out her 120cc snowmobile-racing career at the Marion Snowfest. Driving her faithful Polaris she finished third just behind Easton Hess who scored an impressive second place on his Arctic Cat in 120 Super Stock. At the present time she does not plan to move on up to race in other classes.

Brooklyn Nelson of Bay City, Mich., owned the winner's circle in the 1984 & Older Powder Puff 440 Stock Class. Piloting a Polaris Nelson looked impressive as she cruised to victory at the January 26th opener and again in the season finale over a very competitive field.

Two top drivers Don Leddy of Saginaw, Mich., and Scott Odom of Thompsonville, Mich., led the charge to the winner's circle to score the most wins of the day.

Don Leddy looked nearly invincible as he made his way round the oval past the competition on to not one but three checkered flags. Running Polaris, Leddy opened the day with



BOB EVANS GETS A SURPRISE AS HE TUMBLES IN TURN ONE AND TWO.



TOP RIGHT: MIKE FEICH, #82 OF SAGINAW, MI ON A POLARIS WORKS TO HOLD OFF THE COMPETITION IN 1984 & OLDER 440 PRO.

MIDDLE LEFT: ERIC WILLIAMS, #77 OF MARION, MI ON A RUPP TAKES THE CHECKERED FLAG TO WIN RELIC 340 TWIN STOCK.

BOTTOM LEFT: BOB DEDIC, #27 OF OWOSSO, MI AND GREG BAILEY #66T OF ZEELAND, MI SWAP PAINT WHILE TRYING TO HOLD OFF A CHARGING FIELD GOING INTO THE CORNER.

an impressive performance in the Champ/Sno-Pro Twin Track 600 Max where he finished second to veteran enduro and sprint racer Andy Shoemaker of Pinconning, Mich., on ski-doo. From that point on he ruled the winners circle. Back on Polaris, Leddy would go on to take wins in 1984 & Older 440 Pro, 1984 & Older 340 IMP before closing out the day with a win in 1984 & Older 340 Pro.

Scott Odom had a great day on his Polaris taking wins in 1984 & Older 440 IMP and in 1984 & Older 340 Liquid Improved. The winds of victory failed to blow in his favor in 1984 & Older 340 IMP and 1984 & Older 340 Pro classes keeping him from another set of checkered flags. Don Leddy who was having a superb day was on a roll. Despite some excellent driving, Odom was unable to catch the Leddy Express and ended up taking second in both classes.

Thanks to some openings in the enduro circuit schedule a few more current and past enduro drivers came to race on big blue. Ezra Arnold of Unionville, Mich., Andy Shoemaker of Pinconning, Mich., Adam Meihls of Sterling, Mich., Tim and Scott Havercroft of Greenbush, Mich., Joey Burch of Mt. Pleasant, Mich., and Eric Churchill of Cass City, Mich., were just a few who came by. Gladwin's class structure allows for champ, twin tracks and other machines that may not be able to run on other vintage tracks a chance do some competitive racing plus get some much needed ice time before the next enduro or sprint race. Fans love hearing the roar and seeing the sleek lean mean racing machines in action at close to 100 m.p.h.

Despite dealing with many weather related ups and down throughout the winter of 2019 the Gladwin race crew put together a fantastic series. If you have not been to their races make plans to bundle up and head on over January 11, or February 8, 2020. You'll be rewarded by seeing great old sleds and top drivers in action on the big blue oval at the Gladwin County Fairgrounds.



WHILE THEY PLAY A BIG ROLE MARKING THE CORNERS AND PORTION OF THE TRACK FOR SAFETY, THE OLD ORANGE CONES CAN BE A PAIN WHEN THEY GET IN THE WAY. DEREK CURTIS, #773 OF BRIMLEY, MI ON A SKI-DOO FOUND THIS OUT WHEN HE CAUGHT ONE COMING OUT OF TURN FOUR.



MIKE SEVERANCE, #7 OF ROSCOMMON, MI GOES FOR A WILD RIDE ON HIS KAWASAKI.

DON LEDDY #33, OF SAGINAW, MI ON HIS POLARIS BOUND FOR THE CHECKERED FLAG. LEDDY SCORED THREE WINS.

BROOKLYN NELSON #24, OF BAY CITY, MI LOOKS ON AS HER CREW MAKES SOME FINAL ADJUSTMENTS PRIOR TO POWDER PUFF 440.





ELLA BRINGER, #32 OF HEMLOCK, MI TAKES THE CHECKERED FLAG TO WIN 120 STOCK ON HER ARCTIC CAT.



TOP RIGHT: IN A BIT OF A FAMILY FEUD SCOTT HAVERCROFT, #92 OF GREENBUSH, MI ON A SCORPION AND PAUL HAVERCROFT, #98 OF MIKADO, MI ON A ARCTIC CAT FIGHT FOR POSITION IN 1984 & OLDER SINGLE STOCK.



ONE OF THE BEST PARTS OF VINTAGE RACING IS HAVING A CHANCE TO SEE FORGOTTEN BRANDS COMPETING. HERE DEREK MICHAEL, #C007 OF HART, MI ON A SUZUKI AND CHRIS HENDON, #43 OF PINCONNING, MI BATTLING RIGHT IN THE THICK OF THE HUNT.

BOTTOM LEFT: IF YOU SKIP THE YOUTH CLASSES THINKING THEY WON'T BE AS EXCITING AS CLASSES WITH BIGGER MACHINES YOU'RE REALLY MISSING OUT. HERE THE TOP THREE DRIVERS CHARGE NECK & NECK FOR THE CHECKERED OUT OF TURN FOUR IN 1984 & OLDER 340 JUNIOR STOCK (10-16). WYATT WILKINS, #62 OF ST. CHARLES, MI WON THE RACE FOLLOWED BY PAYDEN GRIFFORE #174 - TRAVERSE CITY, MI CAME IN SECOND AND TOMMY DAVISON, #18C OF MONTROSE, MI IN THIRD.

BOTTOM RIGHT: MIRANDA HESS #88 OF BEAVERTON, MI ON A POLARIS HEADS DOWN THE FRONT STRETCH FOR THE LAST TIME IN GLADWIN AS A 120CC RACER. HESS ENDED HER SUCCESSFUL 120 RACING CAREER ONE WEEK LATER IN MARION, MI.





TOP RIGHT & TOP LEFT: 120 PRO (10 & UNDER) - FIRST PLACE, #29 KYRON DESHANO OF KAWKAWLIN, MI, SECOND PLACE, #111 BILLY KILDEE – TRAVERSE CITY, MI – POLARIS.

MIDDLE LEFT: EVA LYNCH, #1 OF PINCONNING, MI., GETS A LITTLE LAST MINUTE COACHING BEFORE TAKING THE GREEN FLAG.

BOTTOM: SCOTT ODOM#22X OF THOMASVILLE, MI ON A POLARIS LEADS THE PACK HEADED FOR ONE OF HIS TWO VICTORIES.





DIVERS EXPLODE OFF THE LINE IN CHAMP/SNO-PRO TWIN TRACK 600 MAX. ANDY SHOEMAKER, #42 OF PINCONNING, MI ON A SKI-DOO WON THE CLASS.



MIDDLE LEFT: 120 OPEN (10 & UNDER) (L-R): - THIRD PLACE, #822 ZANDER MISKE, HARRISON, MI – ARCTIC CAT, SECOND #88 NOAH KUKLA, KAWKAWLIN, MI – POLARIS, FIRST PLACE, #145 LINCOLN FURMAN – SHELBY, MI – ARCTIC CAT.

MIDDLE RIGHT: 120-STOCK (L-R) - THIRD PLACE, #45 LINCOLN FURMAN, SHELBY, MI – ARCTIC CAT, SECOND, #68 LEILYND STRETHLKE, BUCKLEY, MI – ARCTIC CAT, FIRST PLACE, #32 ELLA BRINGER, HEMLOCK, MI – ARCTIC CAT.



BOTTOM LEFT: 120 MOD 10 & UNDER (L-R) - THIRD PLACE, #3K LANCE PRIME, SAGINAW, MI – ARCTIC CAT, SECOND, #822 ZANDER MISKE, HARRISON, MI – ARCTIC CAT, FIRST PLACE, #45 LINCOLN FURMAN, SHELBY, MI – ARCTIC CAT.

Gladwin Vintage Snowmobile Races - Race #2 Saturday February 9, 2019

KITTY CAT (10 & UNDER) PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE

#54 - DEEGAN LICKFELDT - MIDLAND, MI - ARCTIC CAT KITTY CAT
#32 - ELLA BRINGER - HEMLOCK, MI - ARCTIC CAT KITTY CAT
#79 - JACOB SEIDEL - BENTLEY, MI - ARCTIC CAT KITTY CAT
#0 - WESTON MCGUIRE - TURNER, MI - ARCTIC CAT KITTY CAT
#65 - RYKER DONAHUE - STANDISH, MI - ARCTIC CAT KITTY CAT
#7 - ALEXIS MISKE - HARRISON, MI - ARCTIC CAT KITTY CAT
#1 - EVA LYNCH - PINCONNING, MI - ARCTIC CAT KITTY CAT

RACE 2 - 120-STOCK

1. #32 ELLA BRINGER - HEMLOCK, MI - ARCTIC CAT
2. #68 LEILYND STREHLKE - BUCKLEY, MI - ARCTIC CAT
3. #45 LINCOLN FURMAN - SHELBY, MI - ARCTIC CAT

RACE 3 - 120 MOD 10 & UNDER

1. #45 LINCOLN FURMAN - SHELBY, MI - ARCTIC CAT
2. #822 ZANDER MISKE - HARRISON, MI - ARCTIC CAT
3. #3K LANCE PRIME - SAGINAW, MI - ARCTIC CAT

RACE 4 - 120 OPEN (10 & UNDER)

1. #145 LINCOLN FURMAN - SHELBY, MI - ARCTIC CAT
2. #88 NOAH KUKLA - KAWKAWLIN, MI - POLARIS
3. #822 ZANDER MISKE - HARRISON, MI - ARCTIC CAT

RACE 5 - 120 PRO (10 & UNDER)

1. #29 KYRON DESHANO - KAWKAWLIN, MI - POLARIS
2. #111 BILLY KILDEE - TRAVERSE CITY, MI - POLARIS
3. #48 TUCKER FEITH - SAGINAW, MI

RACE 6 - CHAMP / SNO-PRO TWIN TRACK 600 MAX

1. #42 ANDY SHOEMAKER - PINCONNING, MI - SKI-DOO
2. #33 DON LEDDY - SAGINAW, MI

- POLARIS

3. #95 TRENT SHARON - BEAVERTON, MI - TWIN TRACK

RACE 7 - 1974 & OLDER SINGLE CYLINDER PRO

1. #173 STEVEN TOWN - TRAVERSE CITY, MI - YAMAHA
2. #27 BOB DEDIC - OWOSSO, MI - SNO-JET THUNDER JET

RACE 8 - 1984 & OLDER 340 STOCK

1. #99 MITCHELL HAVERCROFT - GREENBUSH, MI - YAMAHA
2. #13 JOSH VANBUSKIRK - FALMOUTH, MI
3. #33 TYLER FOSTER - FAIR-GROVE, MI

RACE 9 - 1984 & OLDER POWDER PUFF 440 STOCK

1. #24 BROOKLYN NELSON - BAY CITY, MI - POLARIS
2. #409 BECKY YOUNG - SPRING LAKE, MI - YAMAHA
3. #87A MELISSA CORLEW - GLADWIN, MI

RACE 10 - 600 IFS IMP

1. #414 ADAM MEIHLS - STERLING, MI - SKI-DOO
2. #4R DAN ROGERS - DELTON, MI - POLARIS
3. #686 JOHN PROCTER - TRUFONT, MI

RACE 11 - 1984 & OLDER 440 STOCK LIQUID

1. #979 DAN ALCOCK II - SAGINAW, MI - POLARIS
2. #41 BRUCE LEROY - BURT, MI - YAMAHA
3. #78 JUSTIN SEIDEL - BROHMAN, MI - ARCTIC CAT

RACE 12 - 1984 & OLDER 440 IMP

1. #22X SCOTT ODOM - THOMPSONVILLE, MI - POLARIS
2. #70 JORDAN LAFRANCE - ST CHARLES MI - POLARIS
3. #994 DAN SMITH - HEMLOCK, MI

RACE 13 - 1984 & OLDER 340 LIQUID IMPROVED

1. #22X SCOTT ODOM - THOMPSONVILLE, MI - POLARIS

2. #33 RUSS OTTO - ALMONT, MI - MOTO-SKI

3. #66T BRAD BAILEY - GLENN, MI - POLARIS

RACE 14 - 1984 & OLDER 440 PRO

1. #33 DON LEDDY - SAGINAW, MI - POLARIS

2. #12 EZRA ARNOLD - UNIONVILLE, MI - POLARIS

3. #84 MIKE STEVENSON - BAY CITY, MI - POLARIS

RACE 15 - 1984 & OLDER 340 IMP

1. #33 DON LEDDY - SAGINAW, MI - POLARIS

2. #22X SCOTT ODOM - THOMPSONVILLE, MI - POLARIS

3. #33 RUSS OTTO - ALMONT, MI - MOTO-SKI

RACE 16 - 1984 & OLDER 440 SENIOR - STOCK (55 AND UP)

1. #29 RON KURIPLA - HOUGHTON LAKE, MI - SNO-JET

2. #59 MARK SEVERANCE - ROSCOMMON, MI - MERCURY

3. #14 MIKE PAUSTIAN - POLARIS

RACE 17 - 1984 & OLDER 340 JUNIOR STOCK (10-16)

1. #62 WYATT WILKINS - ST. CHARLES, MI - ARCTIC CAT

2. #174 PAYDEN GRIFFORE - TRAVERSE CITY, MI - YAMAHA

3. #18C TOMMY DAVISON - MONTROSE, MI - YAMAHA

RACE 18 - 1984 & OLDER SINGLE STOCK

1. #01 DAVID SMITH, HART, MI - YAMAHA

2. #429 CHRIS YOUNG - SPRING LAKE, MI - YAMAHA

3. #22 GREG BRINGER - HEMLOCK, MI - ARCTIC CAT

RACE 19 - 1984 & OLDER 440 STOCK

1. #4X JAMES GIBEL - LAKE CITY, MI - YAMAHA

2. #979 DAN ALCOCK II - SAGINAW, MI - POLARIS

3. #737 EYLER CURTIS - LEROY, MI - YAMAHA

RACE 20 - 1984 & OLDER 340 PRO

1. #33 DONALD LEDDY - SAGINAW, MI - POLARIS

2. #22X SCOTT ODOM - THOMPSONVILLE, MI - POLARIS

3. #173 STEVEN TOWN - TRAVERSE CITY, MI - SNO-JET

RACE 21 - 1984 & OLDER 440 LIQUID IMPROVED

1. #77 NICK GIVENS - MIDLAND, MI - YAMAHA

2. #70 JORDAN LAFRANCE - ST. CHARLES, MI - POLARIS

3. #994 DAN SMITH - HEMLOCK, MI

RACE 22 - 1984 & OLDER 340 LIQUID STOCK

1. #17 JOSH VANBUSKIRK - FALMOUTH, MI - SKI-DOO

2. #2 COLE SEVERN - BURT, MI - POLARIS

RACE 23 - 1984 & OLDER JUNIOR IMP 340 (10-16)

1. #38 BO KUBIK - ST. CHARLES, MI - YAMAHA

2. #14 RANDY LUCAS - HORTON, MI - POLARIS

3. #333 CONNER RIPLEY - STANTON, MI - YAMAHA

RACE 24 - 1984 & OLDER SINGLE IMP

1. #33 TYLER FOSTER - FAIR-GROVE, MI

2. #01 DAVID SMITH - HART, MI

3. #429 CHRIS YOUNG - SPRING LAKE, MI

RACE 26 - RELIC CLASS 440 TWIN STOCK

1. #59 MARK SEVERANCE - ROSCOMMON, MI - MERCURY

2. #X69 MICHAEL NASH - GLADWIN, MI - JOHN DEERE

3. #29 RICK CHAPMAN - EAGLE, MI - SNO-JET

RACE 27 - RELIC CLASS 340 TWIN STOCK

1. #77 ERIC WILLIAMS - MARION MI - RUPP

2. #92 SCOTT HAVERCROFT - GREENBUSH, MI - YAMAHA

3. #724 DON GRAGE - CADILLAC, MI - RUPP

MICHAEL SEVERANCE, #69 DIVES OFF THE OUTSIDE OF TURN ONE AS BOB EVANS, #213 OF ALANSON, MI ON A SKI-DOO PULLS A HARD LEFT TO AVOID A TUMBILING INTO BRAD BAILEY, #66T OF GLENN, MI. NO ONE WAS HURT IN THE ACCIDENT AND RACING CONTINUED AFTER A BRIEF BREAK.



VanPolen Wins Don Niver Memorial 100



2019 DON NIVER MEMORIAL 100 ENDURO TOP THREE; WINNER RYAN VANPOLEN, SECOND PLACE RYAN EISENGA AND JAMES BAZUIN, THIRD PLACE DAVE SWILER.

By Steve Landon

Marion, Michigan; -- Exhausted from the 11th Annual Marion Snowfest held February 16, 2019 the last thing on the minds of most volunteers was going back to the track for another round of snowmobile racing, but that's just what they did. On Saturday, February 23rd members of the Marion Snowmobile Club and their guests got together to do some racing of their own in the annual Don Niver Memorial 100 Enduro.

Brian Niver and his late father Don, members of the popular 1970's, 1980's "Team Highland" pro-enduro snowmobile race team had always dreamed of doing a 100-lap vintage enduro race. In March 2015 the race became a reality.

"That year we made some quick calls to see how long it would take to run 100 laps with single cylinder sleds, since they were the slowest. In the event we decided to run a real race someday, we wanted to know if we could figure time for a possible 100-lap twin class enduro. The single cylinder race took under two hours to run from start to finish leaving plenty of time for an additional race in the future", said Rich Laughlin following victory on his 1970 335cc ski-doo Olympic in 2015.

Since that first race the engine sizes have increased and racing has gotten even more exciting. Out of five scheduled races only 2018 has been cancelled due to poor track conditions following a major meltdown after

Snowfest.

An eerie silence fell over the Marion Fairgrounds bright and early Saturday morning as drivers and team members began arriving. It's hard to believe just one week earlier (February 16th) the place was packed with racers and snowmobile enthusiasts. The track showed little wear from the pounding it took from 240 race sleds in 29 Classes of intense racing. While the days of the 1970's Marion 150 pro-enduro are long gone the spirit of enduro racing still lives on in the hearts of the area's vintage race teams who pulled out their finest race sled and sent their drivers on a 100-lap quest for the checkered.

Dark overcast skies and a threat of rain greeted drivers as they lined up for the drop of the green flag. At 10 a.m. they exploded off the line with James Bazuin of Marion roaring into an early lead on his 1980 Polaris 340 TXL followed closely by Ryan VanPolen on a 1977 440 Rupp Nitro liquid and 2016 440 class winner Dave Swiler of Marion, on a 1973 ski-doo 400 F/A.

Pushing their 40 plus year old machines to the their limit, drivers raced neck and neck for victory lane, their only break coming during a mandatory pit stop. Bazuin would hold the number one slot for the first five laps before relinquishing it for good to VanPolen who would go untouched to the checkered flag finishing one lap up on Bazuin and co-driver Ryan Eisenga. Dave Swiler who like Ryan VanPolen ran the whole race solo, finished third with 93 laps under his belt.



THIS YEAR'S RACE FEATURED A COUPLE OF SPECIAL AWARDS (PICTURED L-R); RACE WINNER RYAN VANPOLEN, BRIAN NIVER, MARK ELLSWORTH - "1ST OUT" AWARD AND DUANE VANPOLEN - "BEST OF SHOW".

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Fresh off a second place finish in "Mikuni Single" on his Arctic Cat a week earlier at Snowfest, Ryan VanPolen '26 of Marion hopped on a 1977 Rupp owned by Don Williams and went to work. Looking like he had raced the sled all his life VanPolen cruised around the oval with ease.

"My sled ran clean and handled like it was on rails all day. I didn't have a co-driver; I was having too much fun riding the race by myself. Ryan Eisenga and James Bazuin on the Polaris gave me a good run, they were right in the thick of the hunt from start to finish, it was a good race I had a lot of fun", VanPolen said.

Forty year old James Bazuin of Marion has scored several top three finishes on his 1980 Polaris TXL 340 since getting it in 2013. Going into the Don Niver Memorial with co-driver Ryan Eisenga hopes were high for victory, however, it was not to be.

"This was our first enduro so we really didn't know what to expect. I led the first five laps the sled was really running strong until my secondary clutch started coming apart with 20 laps to go. I could only run about half speed to the finish. The secondary is definitely what took us out



#67, CHAS RYAN LEADS #5, TERRY HUTTENGA AND DAVE SWILER, #082 ALL OF MARION, MI, INTO TURN ONE, RYAN FINISHED FOURTH.

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BRIAN NIVER PRESENTS THE DON NIVER MEMORIAL AWARD TO 2019 WINNER RYAN VANPOLEN.



PAST WINNER DAVE SWILER WAS IN THE HUNT RIGHT TO THE END, HE TOOK THIRD ON HIS SKI-DOO.



PIT ROW WAS NOT A GOOD PLACE FOR BLAIN RACING, #4 AND ELLSWORTH RACING, #61, BOTH TEAMS WENT OUT WITH MECHANICAL ISSUES EARLY ON.

of first place. Overall, the 2019 season has been a big success for me, I really got my sled handling good this year.

Co-driver Ryan Eisenga is my cousin we have been racing vintage sleds together since 2008. Beyond the clutch issue we're pretty happy with the way the race went. We're looking forward to next year", Bazuin said.

Dave Swiler is no stranger to the track at Marion, for most of the last 11 years he has been the person drivers see at the beginning and end of each race waving a variety of flags from green to checkered. He is also an occasional vintage racer when he not serving as head flagman. On Saturday the diehard ski-doo driver dusted off his 2016-winning sled and went to work trying to out doo the competition. Despite running an incredibly fast race in the top three all day another victory was not in the cards.



WINNER RYAN VANPOLEN BATTLES IT OUT WITH ROBERT VANDERHOOF, #16. VANDERHOOF FINISHED SEVENTH ON MERCURY WITH CO-DRIVER BRIAN NIVER.



DUANE VANPOLEN, #0 ROUNDS TURN #1 WITH ERIC WILLIAMS #7.

"My machine is like the one my grandpa Dick Swiler, past owner of Swiler Sports Center raced. It ran good at the start but it was fading a little as the race went on, it was dropping a cylinder. I am a 50-year old man so I have to admit I was a little tired, it was a good work out.

I love being on track flagging, I try to do a good job. I also like to race as well, it's a great feeling to get on a sled and have a little fun at times. I had a good race today", Swiler said.

In addition to having a local dealership Dave Swiler's grandfather Dick Swiler was a member of "Team Highland" pro-enduro team. He was inducted into the Michi-



DRIVERS
CONRAD BLAIN
#4, RYAN
VANPOLEN
#140 AND
ERIC WILLIAMS
#5 DIVE INTO
TURN ONE
TO START THE
DON NIVER
MEMORIAL 100
ENDURO.



#140, RYAN VANPOLEN (LEFT) TAKES THE CHECKERED FLAG TO WIN THE DON NIVER MEMORIAL 100 ENDURO RACE ON HIS RUPP.

gan Motor Sports Hall of Fame with the rest of the team in 1992.

Enduro racing history may have been made in Marion had an old 1975 Suzuki Fury 440 held together for more than 18 laps. The husband and wife duo of Mark and Kaleigh (Blain) Ellsworth of Lake, MI just couldn't get the old Zuk to run right despite giving it their all to work out the bugs prior to the start of the race. While Kaleigh and Mark both had time in the drivers seat neither one of them could get the sled to perform to its full potential. Running on only one cylinder the sleek machine finally seized up forcing the couple to call it a day in 10th place.

Not ready to call it a season Kaleigh (Blain) Ellsworth moved over to help her brother Conrad and father Bernie Blain drive the family's ever-faithful Sno-Jet SST. At the drop of the Green, Conrad had little ole blue running right in the thick the battle. Once on board, Bernie and Kaleigh kept the sled flying smoothly around the finely groomed ice oval. Was a victory or top three finish in the cards this year? Nope! While the sled ran strong, the tired old track and front drive sprockets were not up to the task, lasting only 40 laps. The trio finished ninth.

This years Don Niver Memorial was once again a good old-fashioned hometown snowmobile race in memory of a special person who dearly loved the sport of snowmobile racing – Don Niver.

Thanks to a great track, normal winter weather and excellent racing the day went smooth from start to finish. If Mother Nature cooperates you can bet everyone will be back to do it again in 2020.

Next up on the Marion Snowmobile Club agenda the 2019 Marion Snowmobile Swap Meet, Saturday, October 12, 2019 at the Marion Fairgrounds/Veterans Memorial Park. Followed by the ever popular Marion Snowfest, February 15, 2019.



JAMES BAZUIN CHARGES INTO TURN ONE ON HIS POLARIS. BAZUIN AND CO-DRIVER RYAN EISENGA CAME UP JUST A LAP SHY OF VICTORY.

Don Niver Memorial 100 Results February 24, 2019

1. #140 Ryan VanPolen, Marion, MI – Rupp Magnum -100 Laps
2. #8 James Bazuin, Marion, MI/Ryan Eisenga – Polaris – 99 Laps
3. #082 Dave Swiler, Marion, MI – ski-doo - 93 Laps
4. #67 Chas Ryan, Marion, MI – Arctic Cat - 90 Laps
5. #7 Eric Williams, Marion, MI – Rupp – 89 Laps
6. #5 Terry Huttenga, Marion, MI – Arctic Cat - 86 Laps
7. #16 Rober Vanderhoff/Brian Niver, Marion, MI – Mercury - 69 Laps
8. #0 Duane VanPolen, Marion, MI – Arctic Cat - 61 Laps
9. #4 Conrad Blain/Bernie Blain and Kaleigh Ellsworth, Lake, MI - Sno-Jet – 40 laps
10. #61 Mark and Kaleigh Ellsworth – Lake, MI – Suzuki - 18 laps

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