



PHOTO BY BRANDON WESTPHAL, USED WITH PERMISSION

Brandon Westphal and his wife, Stacy.



PHOTO BY AMANDA WILSON, USED WITH PERMISSION

Winners of the first RAVEK drawing.



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Tim Davison and Amanda Wilson before the ride commenced.

Musky Sno & ATV Country fall color fundraising ride with RAVEK off road

CATHY LAREAU
Sawyer County Snowmobile & ATV Alliance, weekly column

On Friday, Oct. 4, I was excited to join a fall color ride put on by Musky Sno & ATV Country, sponsored by RAVEK off road accessories and several of the club's business members, on trails through the east side of Sawyer County.

The weather was forecasted to be on the cool side and keeping with the trend that started in September, bone dry as well.

The morning of the ride started on an ominous note, and I wondered how the rest of the day would go. A little before 5 a.m., I was jolted awake by an eerie sound — a WHOOSH, CLICK, followed by a hissing, drawn-out HOOOOO. I spent a few groggy minutes trying to figure out what the noise was, until I realized it was only my boiler firing up in response to its 45-degree threshold I set last spring.

I trudged through my chilly kitchen to start the coffee pot, feeling crabby and robbed of that last hour of sleep. My steaming cup of coffee was trying its best to wake me up when I noticed a sudden movement in my darkened living room and reached for my glasses just

in time to see a mouse scurrying under the TV.

Well, that woke me up faster than any strong cup of coffee ever could. I darted out to the garage, gathering all the barren mousetraps I could find, and then spent the next half hour baiting and strategizing placement of each trap. A while later I heard the sudden SNAP of a trap, and felt relieved because there was no way I could leave with that critter running around my house.

I was still rattled from the 'year of the mouse' episode (I've had others) when I left my house for the ride.

The drone of my engine finally relaxed me as I motored down County Hwy. B on my way to Deerfoot Resort. Amanda Wilson, Deerfoot's owner, had a tempting array of donuts and coffee ready as people gathered early in the morning for the ride.

The theme of the ride was twofold: highlight RAVEK off road UTV accessories and fundraise for the local Musky Sno & ATV Country club.

The club members planned a variety of games and drawings at each stop so riders could win RAVEK accessories, door prizes and donated gift baskets.

Brandon Westphal, and his

wife, Stacy, had a nice display of RAVEK products set up at Deerfoot, ready for the first drawings before we hit the trail. I was able to talk with Brandon, RAVEK's Head of Sales and Customer Service, who gave me a lot of interesting information about RAVEK off road products:

RAVEK was born out of Big Bike Parts, a family-owned motorsports company located in Rice Lake, Wisconsin. The original company has been in business for over 40 years supplying motorcycle accessories. Brandon explained that in response to the fast-growing sport of side-by-side riding, the company branched out to form RAVEK off-road accessories and UTV upgrades. Their company offers quality plug-n-play lighting, storage solutions, comfort and safety accessories for all major UTV manufacturers, and each product is backed by an unlimited lifetime warranty.

RAVEK employs a full range of experience developers, engineers, technicians and support people — and most of them ride off road year-round! All accessories are developed in Rice Lake and rigorously field-tested across the United States before the product is released for use.

Brandon explained that their products are designed to be easily installed by the vehicle owner, and they offer concise installation videos. A full turn signal kit — including turn signals, a horn, and hazard lights for a UTV — takes about 3 hours to install, and their Apex Running Lights generally take 20-30 minutes to install.

They can help with unique installations or direct owners to resources through dealers and local shops if needed.

Visit their website for a lot more information on their products and how to get them for your machine — <https://www.ravek.com/>

Back to the ride — after the first drawings at Deerfoot for door prizes and RAVEK accessories, we got ready to hit to trail. Musky Sno members, Tim Davison, and Amanda Wilson riding shotgun, led about a dozen machines to Christina's Y Pine near Moose Lake, where riders drew for more RAVEK prizes, and a nice gift basket donated by Y Pine.

Two more machines joined our group when we left Y Pine for our lunch destination, Trap N Fish Lodge on Barker Lake Road.

ATV/from A13

Tim took us through winding Trail 5 — and I must admit, it was about the driest and dustiest I've seen in a long time—there was no way to enjoy the rich fall colors when I could hardly see the machine in front of me! Being in the middle of the group put me right in the eye of a choking dust storm, which caused me to momentarily wish I had an enclosed cab, like many others on the ride had.

Trap N Fish did a great job feeding close to 30 hungry riders, and while I visited with riders, my chicken bacon ranch wrap really hit the spot.

The club ran more fundraising games for RAVEK accessories, and a shirt/hat gift donated by Trap N Fish, before we went outside to clear windshields in preparation for the next long leg of the journey.

The plan from here was to ride through a portion of the Deadhorse Trail in the Chequamegon Forest, and over to Loretta where we'd pick up the Tuscobia Trail, stop in Winter for gas, then ride up to Shady Nook on the Chippewa Flowage, one of my favorite places to visit.

Shady Nook Resort never disappoints — this tiny, rustic log cabin bar has a colorful history and personable bartenders

who welcome everyone as if they were family. Here, I ran into many old friends from when I lived nearby, on the flowage.

Soon, the group was anxious to get back to Deerfoot for a southern style shrimp and crawfish boil that evening — but I ducked out for home once we reached Cty. Hwy. B.

Despite the dust, it was really a great ride to be part of — I met a lot of interesting folks and learned more about the RAVEK products that so many riders have been talking about.

Hopefully they will plan another ride soon.

And don't forget to check out the RAVEK website!



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A photo from the trail.