

MOTORIZED REC SCOOP

Relic Riders February 1 Run for Fun gives back to area charities

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The Relic Riders annual Run for Fun snowmobile ride began about 14 years ago as the Kaye Johnson Memorial Ride hosted by the Sno-Trails Snowmobile Club. The ride originally honored Kaye, the deceased wife of Sno-Trails' Bruce Johnson, and took place on Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) and Whitefish lakes on the first Saturday of February.

The Relics used to help Sno-Trails with this ride, and eventually took it over 6 years ago, at club president Craig Bell's insistence, renaming it 'The Run for Fun.' To keep with tradition, the Relics always held the ride on LCO and Whitefish, until this year's lack of snow forced them to move it over to the Chippewa Flowage.

The purpose of this ride, although no longer memorializing Kaye Johnson, is to have fun and support local charities. Proceeds from this year's ride will be donated to the Hayward Senior Resource Center and the Hayward ALS Foundation.

Club vice president Jeff Erdmann, and Ann 'Swanie' Swanson were the organizers of this year's event, assisted by about 20 other volunteers who acted as ride leaders, ride sweeps, dead sled pick up crews, and contest announcers.

Registration began at 8:30 a.m. at the newly remodeled Chief Lake Lodge. The new, open layout was filled by our large group, but had it been the 'old' Chief Lake Lodge, we would not have been able to fit the 50-60 riders and volunteers inside at all!

We have a lot of repeat riders from year to year—some travel from Iowa and Indiana, and some from the southern part of the state, who join in on this ride. We also see quite a few vintage



Dustin Smith from Eleva WI on a 1989 Yamaha Phazer.



Charlie Smith from Eleva WI on a 1991 Yamaha Phazer.



Thomas Bauer from Eleva WI on a 2000 Polaris Indy.

sleds, and families riding each year.

The windy, cold morning on the lake greeted riders as they broke into two groups and left Chief Lake Lodge for their first destinations. Each group staggered lake riding with stops at Tree-land Resort and Big Musky, before everyone met for lunch at Johnson's Resort.

Lake riding was enjoyable, despite the snow getting thin in areas, but the short trails over roads and up to establishments were icy dirt

at best. Still, the folks were happy to just be out riding. There was a mix of newer and older sleds on this run, and a few breakdowns kept the dead-sled crews busy throughout the day.

Each stop gave riders the chance to visit with each other, while Relic Rider volunteers called out various games, and raffles to raise money for the chosen charities.

Bruce McMillin, with his usual flair, ran trivia contests and told jokes at each place,

while Bill Noonan using his arm-powered groan meter, hilariously measured the crowd's groaning at Bruce's jokes. The Alliance mascot, Sawyer, rode along and oversaw all the activities at each place, with a grin on his face. I wish this Yeti creature could talk, as I'm sure he'd have some funny stories to share!

Johnson's Resort was already filled with sledgers when the first group of Relic Riders pulled up, and I wondered how everyone was going to fit inside to eat. Luckily, most of the room cleared out soon before the second group of Relics arrived and most either found a seat or wandered around talking to others.

Brad and Becky Sander son were excellent hosts to our group—they had a nice lunch buffet set up for hungry riders, and their quick smiles made everyone feel instantly welcome. While people ate, Bruce kept everyone entertained with his next round of jokes and trivia, while Tammy Hamblin, Ann Leake, Sandy Peterson and Annette Erdmann ran more games and raffles throughout the crowd.

Near the end of the day, back at Chief Lake Lodge, the Relics put on a 'spark plug throwing contest' and raffled off a jacket before the 11 trophies were awarded to riders at the conclusion of the event. The Relic Riders are always thinking of different mementoes riders can take home—this year's trophies consisted of, youngest and oldest riders & snowmobiles, best vintage suit, hard luck award, Mr. Nice Guy award, and more.

Another successful Run for Fun, put on by a snowmobile club dedicated to making the best out of any situation and creating fun no matter what. This is what keeps us Relic Riders young, at least young at heart!