

OHSC 2021, 53rd Anniversary 9th Annual Vintage Show & Ride, Feb 27th 2021

Our 9th annual Ogemaw Hills Snowmobile Clubs Vintage Snowmobile Ride & Show was another complete success- with everyone who attended being able to enjoy the day in the great Michigan outdoors.

The workday on Friday started around 11am, with over 25 hard working club members all pitching in and getting things done in advance of the next days event. The prep work done by about 4pm and everyone had the rest of the evening to get ready for the big day!! We had several inches of fresh snow on the ground and our awesome "Ogemaw Hills" area kept our snow and trails in fine shape due to our extra elevation- especially compared to close by towns of West Branch and Rose city- who all seemed to be about 10 degrees or more warmer than us and had already lost their snow in this Feb warm up. Well not up in the Ogemaw Hills- our grounds were covered with a rock-solid base and some hard, firm fresh snow on the ground and temps staying well below freezing. We made some additions to the parking spaces in anticipation of another huge crowd this year. We also had our new to the show "food truck" show up on Friday afternoon and got all ready for the hoards of hungry show goers. (glad we did too- more on this later). We were ready for the big day and as usual team OHSC rocked it!

So the "big day" was here and we were hearing reports of horrible snow & ice covered roads all the way around us when we arrived at the show grounds at 7am. The arrival of the crowds was an hour or so delayed, but then wow- the flood gates opened between 830 and 900am- and did they ever open. Before you knew it, we had 210 registered show sleds on the ground- with many others who didn't register- ending the day at least 300 show sleds proudly on display for all to enjoy their history and the story behind each sled. We also had many new sledders stop in and enjoyed the event- many buying clothing, raffle tickets or enjoying the food at our food trailer. Many of our guests were just folks that drove up in their cars to take in the show and support our club- and we really appreciate it beyond words. All in all, we had a crowd of at least 1000 people come and share in our great day and share their stories, or just walk about and enjoy the show!

We had visitors from all over Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and even one visitor that flew up to Michigan from Florida just to attend our show. Earlier in the week, Doug got a call from Dana Wiltse, a longtime friend and Michigan Snowmobiling (and OHSC) icon from back in the "day". Dana was a champion MISA racer from the 70's, who also was instrumental in helping get our "shelter building" (south end of the lot) built as the first one of it's type in all of Michigan in the early 80's. Dana was also very active in MSA during that time frame. He had so much fun at this event, he already has next years on his calendar and will be flying up to join us again- and will be doing the ride next year too. Dana surely got our long-distance award this year- coming from south Florida to have "one of the best days in years" to quote him!

A few things were a bit different than all our prior shows- but the spirit and emotions were still there backing the mission and goal of our club. Our World-Famous Rake dogs couldn't be accomplished this year, but the talk of them was frequent and with big smiles. The roaring campfire kept many warm all day long, and surely warmed the hearts of all with the fun memory of the rake dog's and all that made that such a fun part of our show.

The crew from Cuzins Wagon, our food truck vendors from Hubbard Lake were absolutely great to have on board. They served some fantastic food, at very reasonable prices and nothing but compliments from our crew, guests and everyone who enjoyed their fare. The owners, Millie and her husband, made a very generous donation to OHSC at the end of the day.

Speaking of donations- let's highlight some great things that happened at our 2021 event;

We had many club members who helped sell 50/50 tickets and they sold \$700 worth of 50/50's. The CPA that does our club taxes sent in a nice donation, the vintage sled nut (and club member) that bought last years Raffle sled paid an extra \$50 for the sled- so \$500 rather than the \$450 we were asking- and was happy to be the new owner, and all throughout the day of the event we heard many similar stories of people putting way more in the till than what they were needed to.

Club members really hit it out of the park- with so many buying all the tickets they were mailed, and many getting more and selling them too. All in all the club members sales of tickets this year were fantastic- simply fantastic. As show host I (doug) can't say thank you enough- it really is appreciated.

Ticket sales on the day of the event were also off the hook- with people buying tickets right up to the very minute we had to shut sales down to get ready for the drawing during the mid-day ceremony. All in we sold several thousand dollars' worth of raffle tickets- and as this is our only fund raiser- these funds will be used towards our continued community and sport support.

And talk about 2 more really great success stories- the club gained another 13 new members at this years show, and also had several people renew and also pay up for their OHSC memberships and their MSA/MISORVA memberships too.

And then we had the fantastic OHSC Clothing and Gear Sales- This year the show goers bought just a couple dollars shy of \$2000.00 worth of all sorts of OHSC clothing and gear, and also placed orders for an additional several hundred dollars' worth of items that were to be custom made- such as club jackets, hoodies etc. We ran out of the smaller sizes of the Vintage OHSC t-shirts- so we had more made the next week and are all set for next years show.

One more quick story on donations, we had several local businesses step up and offer sponsorship of \$100 each. The owners and managers from Viking Marine of Hubbard Lake (who started this a couple years ago) and new supporters , Parkview Acres, Cedar Bar, Bader & Sons John Deere , Quality Inn/Lumberjack Restaurant , along with Griffin Beverage who donated the wonderful banners again this year.

At 1230, everyone gathered around for the short presentations and ceremony, and the drawing of the winning tickets for the 50/50 and the raffle sled. OHSC made donations of \$400 to The Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum in Naubingway MI, \$400 to the ASCOA (Antique Snowmobile Club of America) , \$100 to Fast Eddies Show of Houghton Lake MI for Cancer benefit. Greg Eno the show host for the Hale Vintage Show, was given a thank you gift from OHSC for letting OHSC sell raffle tickets at their event

every year for the last 4 years and giving us front/center placement and supporting us all the time. We sold \$1200 worth of tickets at their show this year and started the effort with a bang! Doug noted during the talk that proudly there were at least 9 show hosts in attendance from most of the larger shows in our great state.

The “in memorial” portion of this year’s event was postponed due to the uncertainty of our event due to current times and will be held at our 2022 event on 2-26-2022.

One young show goer got to come up and draw the winning 50/50 ticket, with the winner was Corinne Baldwin, she donated back all but \$75 of her winnings to the club. She and her dad have come to nearly every one of our shows and said she loves our event and what our club does in the community and hobby.

So then with the excitement building as everyone wanted to win the beautiful little bright red 2005 Arctic Cat ZR120 youth sled. Another youngster was selected to draw the winning ticket. The tickets were so many this year, that we had to get a 5-gallon bucket & lid from Home Depot to hold and shake up the tickets. So they were shook up many times and the young fella reached in and drew one ticket- with the name Ed Jurow from southeast Michigan was drawn and his name called. Nope not here- so Doug tried to call him with no answer- but he quickly answered the text saying he surely wanted the Sled not the \$500. Ends up that he bought his tickets with a \$40 purchase of tickets at the Saturday event held at Fast Eddies in Houghton Lake- and that he has an 8-year-old daughter who loves winter and snowmobiling. They will be taking possession and photos soon.

After everyone came to grips with not winning the little sled, they got their rides ready for the 2021 OHSC Vintage ride. We did our traditional 2 “warm up parades laps” around the parking lot- running 2 rows side by side – and the front pretty much touched the back of the line up with nearly 110 sleds participating in the great ride.

Our vintage trail boss, Dan White took us out to an awe inspiring “overlook” in the oil fields and many were heard commenting that this can’t be Michigan- looks more like the hills of Penn or NY- just beautiful views of the great Ogemaw Hills. After about 15 to 20 mins there, we hopped back on and headed to the next stop further out on trail 6. As it was a bit warmer, some of the sleds were a bit harder to start- but eventually everyone got on their way. Even one fella that found an empty gas tank in his John Deere spitfire was not going to get him down the trail very far- until others donated some of their fuel via our well equipped OHSC rescue teams siphon hose.

The next stop was another gorgeous location where everyone stopped and enjoyed the views again. This time many took photos, many told stories, everyone laughed and smiled – and all were enjoying the great day in Ogemaw Hills! When it was time to rally up and head back to the club house, there were a

few sleds that again did not want to start- but true to the hobby everyone pitched in and got all of them started and off we went.

But not to disappoint our rescue sled drivers- there were many sleds that were not able to make the full trip – so our crack rescue sled team were kept quite busy on both ends of the trip – but they all had a blast doing it. And even the ones being “towed” all came back with big smiles and fun stories to share. Big thanks to the whole rescue sled team.

We did have a first this year that really demonstrates the spirit of our club and the real purpose of hosting these events. Doug had met a vintage sledder named Casey and his young sons a couple years ago up at the Naubinway show. They were enjoying Michigan winters on a frugal budget with an adventurists spirit- as they camped in their pickup camper in the parking lot in the UP's Naubinway. So they had tried to come to our event a couple prior years but just didn't work out. So this year it was the year, when we arrived at 7am on show day- low and behold they had their rig parked in the SE corner of the lot- having spent the full night in their camper. When they got up and around, soon as the other sledders started showing up, they unloaded all their vintage sleds, and the smiles began. They had a long drive over and didn't get to our lot until nearly midnight- but the boys were ready to offload the sleds and go explore. They lost that battle and had to get some shut eye for the morning.

Mid-morning, Casey came up to me and introduced his wife and daughter to me– they had decided to join in the fun of the day too. They had 6 vintage sleds on display and all of them were excited for the ride too. Well, the ride could have gone better for them, but their smiles, laughter and total enthusiasm were nothing short of awesome. On the way out, one of the boy's sleds had the brakes lock up and nearly set the sled on fire. This did it several times- until they just parked it on the side of the trail and doubled up to stay in the pack. Another of their sleds overheated and melted down the motor- needing a full rebuild. So they got the family deal and were towed back by a few of the OHSC Rescue team - But none of these things stopped them all from coming up and thanking us profusely for hosting this great event and laughing about all their “stories” – and wanting to know next years date so they could mark it on the calendar.

The last of the riders from the Vintage ride, and the rescue crews were all finally back to the club grounds about 4pm. Many folks were loading up and getting ready to leave, but there were also many still putting around and enjoying the club parking lot, and there were countless small gatherings of people talking, laughing and sharing in the day's stories- along with stories of yesteryear too I am sure.

As the sun was starting to tuck in behind the western tree line and casting it's evening long shadows- most of the chores were getting done and the OHSC workers were doing their normal awesome job of “pitching in”. The food truck packed up and left, we finished the last of the tidying up and everyone

said their goodbyes. Everyone had a great day in Michigan's wonderful winter and enjoyed another awesome day at our 9th Annual OHSC Vintage Show & Ride!

Check out our club website at www.ohsconline.com and our facebook page for 2 fun videos done by our members – they are worth the time to watch (over and over).

Mark your calendars for our 10th Annual OHSC Vintage Show & Ride, with our 54th Anniversary on Saturday Feb 26th, 2022. See you all then.