

Midwest Ride-In Vintage Snowmobile Show Satisfies Curiosity, Nostalgia

When asked about the Midwest Ride-In's annual Vintage Snowmobile Show, Valdi Stefanson's enthusiasm is practically tangible.

Stefanson is Secretary and Webmaster for the Midwest Ride-In and said the event evokes a sentimental and carnival-like atmosphere.

"This has become a parade of colors, of sights, of sounds, and even of smells," he said, describing the distinct scent of the oil and gasoline mixture that has helped propel these machines across the frozen tundra for decades.

"You know, that smell? It's just mesmerizing," he continued. "People are brought back to their childhood and happy memories. That's the magic of our event."

GOOD OL' DAYS

This three-day spectacle, the largest vintage snowmobile show in the world, attracts thousands of spectators, participants, and fans who show up to check out the different classes of machines: antique (1968 and older), vintage (1969-1985), and classic (1986-2000).

The crowds, Stefanson pointed out, are broad selections of people that span generations. Everyone from casual riders and hard-core hobbyists to folks who are merely curious about the machines or the event and those who simply want to experience the nostalgia.

And everyone has a story from the good ol' days of snowmobiling in Minnesota.

"Individuals are attracted to machines that they owned or wanted to own when they were teenagers or young adults," he said. "There are a lot of dads and grandpas who say they want this experience for their kids or grandkids, and they want them to see it in person."

NEW LOCATION, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

This year's event, now in its 30th year, will still take place on the last weekend of January but shifts its location from Waconia to Elk River's ERX Motor Park. Stefanson said the move will provide greater access and new opportunities for growth.

"We think the ERX facility is our best opportunity," he said. "They have experience putting on large shows. We've gotten such a good reception from the ERX people."

In addition to expansive, private land and available infrastructure, the venue also has a large building that will serve as a home base area, where many of the displays will stand and where folks can warm up, if needed.

Stefanson thinks the convenience of the north metro area will draw out more snowmobile fans to this museum in motion, and he hopes the geographical shift will also appeal to a new audience.

"We very much have long-term plans at ERX," Stefanson explained. "We think we've got the right venue to extend this indefinitely, and if new people try our event, they'll become annual visitors."

Whether or not you own a snowmobile, the Midwest Ride-In is a fun weekend!



ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday Events

Kids Pro Ice Racing

11:00am Vintage Sled Trail Ride

The biggest vintage ride anywhere.
NO Minnesota trail permit required on property.

2:00pm Classic-only trail ride.

This is for 1986-2000 sleds.

2:30-3:30pm Autograph Session

Bring your featured brand memorabilia (limit 3 items) to have legends and VIP's autograph.

6:00pm Saturday Night Banquet

RSVP only. Get tickets online.

Sunday Events

Kids Pro Ice Racing

11:00am - 1:00pm World's largest
Vintage Snowmobile Show with over
45 classes and 140+ awards this year.

NEW EVENT Noon Snow Oval Racing

One lunger racers on snow! This one will be fun to watch... Person with the most laps wins!

10:30am-2:30pm Silent Auction

Great vintage snowmobile memorabilia.

3:00 Awards Ceremony

Find a full schedule and more event details at mwvss.com