# Snow makers save Troy Snowmobile Derby

By MARTY BUDNER

There was hardly a trace of snow, but that didn't stop the Troy Rotary Club from staging its 13th straight Southeast Michigan Soowmobile Perby over the weekend.

Determined to avoid a second-straight postponement, the Rotary Club, which sponsors the annual event at Troy's Boulan Park, borrowed two snow-makers from Pine Knob. The magical machines produced instant snow, much to the delight of more than 250 snowmobiling enthusiasts who participated in the two-day affair.

"We ran the snow-makers from noon Friday until about seven o'clock Saturday, morning," said Derby chairman Roy Bemis. "There was plenty of snow for everyone.
"We had talked about cancelling the

derby at one of our meetings, but there were a half-dozen suggestions to get a snow-maker. We made the right connections, and we went from there. We'll do the same thing for future races it will be a superstantial to the same thing for future races it will be a superstantial to the control of the same thing for a superstantial to the control of the same thing to the same thing to such a fast track. The said. There were a few spills, but nothing major. We had some very good, close races on a fast track. The snow-makers werent the only addition to this year's derby. The Rotary Club also utilized a traffic light loaned by the Oakland County Road Commission for the starts. Instead of the conventional start by a flagman, racers waited for the green light a la automobile drag racing.

Bemis said the light seemed to work

Machines were registered in more simple engine categories, which accounted for the better overall competition. Snowmobiles were basically divided by model years.

In the lightest categories, for instance, there was a race for fancooled machines under and over the 1975 model year.

All totaled, there were 14 different classes for both the drag and oval races — including three women's (Powder Puff) races and a Kitty Kat race for relidiren. The most powerful engine race was the Open Event for machines above 650 cc.3. Puff) races and a Kitty Kat race for children. The most powerful engine race was the Open Event for machines above 650 ccs.

Most of the racers — such as Randy Jackson of Troy and Zig Rudnicki of Rochester — were Troy Derby veter-

were registered in more

ans. How ever, there were a few derby novices.

"I come out here and race every year," said Rudnicki, who took third place in an oval race on Suday, "I let my son (Ron) race the drags this year because it get pretty crazy in there sometimes. Besides, he's lighter for that type of raced and the younger Suday wall race, took first place in the fan-cooled driston. He responded with a third place in other oval race later that aftered driston. For Troy's Randy Jackson, the derby provides a once-a-year winter race outlet.

"I come out here once a year to race—not for money, but just for trophics," said Jackson, who has been a two-time derby winner. "I've been racing here for the past five years, and sometimes you see people get carried away out on the track.

"But, most of the time, people are out here just for the fon of it," he said. better than the hand signal.

"We always had a little problem with
the start since we aren't professionals
at doing this," said Bemis. "We talked
about it several times, and decided to
rea!" use it.
"Some of the racers might have started with it before, but I heard no criticism at all about it," he said. "We didn't have any false starts, and I think it worked fine."

and mostly I just go trailriding," said Youngblood, a graduate of Royal Oak Dondero High School. "I just decided to come out here with a few other guys and try it out." In the Saturday drag races, some of the local placers included Harold Koe-

In the Saturday drag races, some of the local placers included Harvid Koe-nig (Farmington, second place), Ronald Paulsell (Troy, second place), Wayne Brown (Rochester, second place), Mark Trudell (Troy, second place), Dan Brown (Rochester, second place), Dan Brown (Rochester, second place), Debie Wiles (Troy, second place), Dan Walsh (Bloomfield Hills, second place). There were a few local winners in the Sunday ovals.

Rochester's David Jackson took first in the Stock-Free Air (S-FA) class in his Yamaha. He also repeated his top hon-or in the fan-cooled race. Rochester's Richard Straper won the hand-cooled modified class in a Mer-

liquid-cooled modified class in a Mer-cury.
Birmingham's Jack Lipar and Troy's David Thomas were second and third, respectively, in the Kitty Kat races.
Other second places were to Richard Wiles (Troy) and Keith Worden (South-field), Third places were taken by Andy Bijansky (Rochester). Zig Rudnicki (Rochester), James Barnthouse (South-field), and Ron Rudnicki (Rochester).

## **Derby Summary**

1 Tom Cameron 2 Bob Kenney 3 Entr Seelman Milford Farmington rling Heights George Schepar
 Ron Schulze 1. Henry Meyer 2 Ed Pelkey 3. William Klems 1. R Hippler 2. Bob Pecky 1. Ron Cullimore 2 Scott Waggoner Algonac Brighton 1. Tom Smith 2. Craig Smith 3. Henry Meyer 1. Jim Pierce 2 Honald Paulsell 3. Mark Wisniewski Warren Troy Novi 1 Gary Skiora 2 Mark Trodell 3 July Bosco Bill Gregory
 Mert Kesselring
 Richard Hehn 1 Mike Lamagna 2. Tun DeLamiell 3 Dan Brown Rochester
SSL-C (449)
Sterling Heights
Pontiac
Royal Oak
der Paff-B (30)
Jeo
Pontiac
Highland
Royal Oak Dennis Fabinski
 Mark Purks
 Rob Falorior

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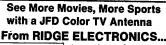
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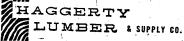
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