

Despite Its Woes, Snowmobiling Grows

Nearly one-half million persons are expected to spend a record-high \$133 million on snowmobiling this winter in Michigan, according to Automobile Club of Michigan.

"Michigan will have 205,000 snowmobiles in use by this spring, which will be more than 100,000 per capita," states Fisher. "The enthusiasm about this mushrooming sport," Fisher states.

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persons drowned when machines broke through the ice, and another death occurred when a snowmobiler hit a wire strung across the gate to a ball field.

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which lakes are frozen these machines are overrunning once removed from use.

"DESPITE complaints," states Fisher, "snowmobiles are here to stay, and the economic impact across the state has been notable."

Sales tax on snowmobiles sold in Michigan since 1965 has amounted to \$4.68 million. Last winter alone, Michigan realized \$1.04 million from sales tax on accessories and \$910,000 on taxes from gas off-highway use.

In addition, over \$900,000 has been collected by the Secretary of State in registration fees (\$5 for a three-year period).

Major snowmobile associations in Michigan, including the newly formed Michigan Snowmobile Distributors' Association (MSDA), are urging the State Legislature to spend more tax money on maintaining and creating trails.

"If Michigan spends its snowmobile-generated tax funds to create more places for snowmobiling, there will be more areas to stay off of private property and public roads," according to MSDA spokesman Ron Gamble.

AN AUTO Club map indicates that there are 29 state parks which allow snowmobiling, double last year's number. As last winter, 29 state and four national forests will allow snowmobiling.

The greatest increase in state parks allowing snowmobiling is in southeastern Michigan. Last winter, only four southeast Michigan state parks had marked snowmobile trails as compared to 12 parks open for snowmobiling this winter.

During the 1970-71 winter season, \$13.7 million will be spent by snowmobilers in Michigan.

"Last winter, Michigan residents spent \$26 million on snowmobile accessories," states Fisher. "This year, \$8.4 million will be spent on equipment ranging from special clothing to special machines."

Also, the average snowmobiling couple is expected to spend \$75 per week.

Some \$34.3 million will be spent by 165,000 snowmobiling families taking special weekend trips to resort areas this winter. This averages out to \$2.3 million spent each weekend in Michigan in the 1970-71 winter.

Clothes that are warm for skiing, hunting or ice fishing are usually inadequate for snowmobiling. It is recommended that the novice consider these items and costs:

THE AVERAGE cost of a snowmobile is \$900, although inexpensive models cost about \$600. The more luxurious model, with sliding canopy, room for two on a front seat, variable-speed transmission, heater and even a hood or cap with ear flaps for \$10 is adequate; goggles, \$4; face mask (wool), \$4; thermal underwear, \$12; socks, \$3, and sweater, \$25.

(Children's clothing is between one-third to 50 per cent less, depending on quality.)

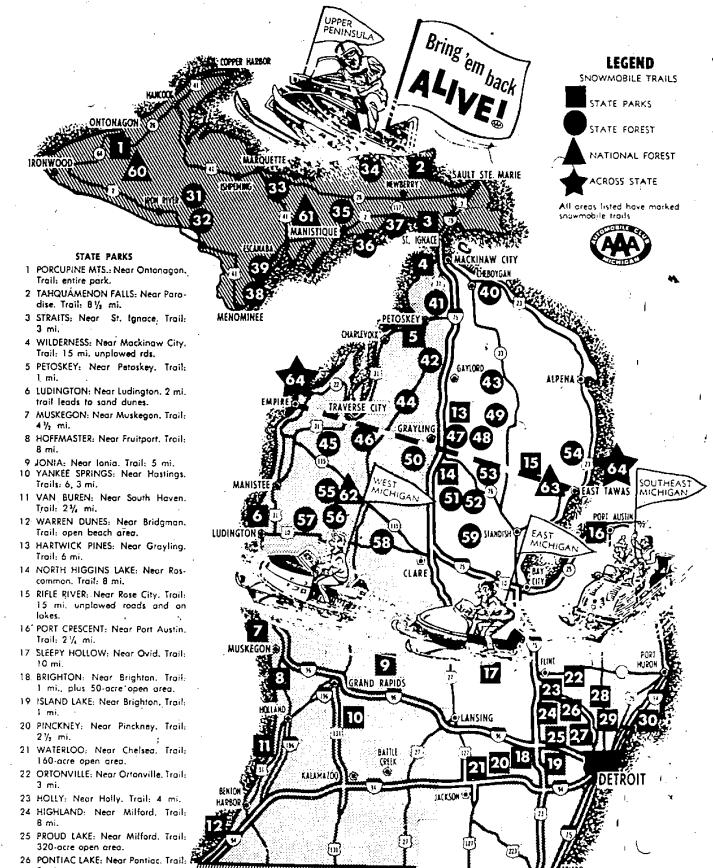
SNOWMOBILERS should keep these simple safety rules in mind during the winter before starting out on any trip:

- Avoid illegal use of roadways where most snowmobile deaths occur.
- Know trails and stay on marked trails.
- Carry area maps plus a compass.

- Be aware of state regulations in the snowmobile law.
- Stay off ice on lakes and streams if conditions are not ideal.

- Never travel alone. You usually can't walk out of forests in an emergency if snow is deep.
- Carry safety gear such as snow shoes, flare gun, first aid kit, axe, extra fuel, new spark plugs, tools for minor repairs and rations.

Michigan's Marked State, Federal Snowmobile Trails



For further information on parks and forests indicated on the map, local chambers of commerce and tourist associations can be contacted in the following areas.

Upper Peninsula, West Michigan, East Michigan, Southeast Michigan

STATE PARKS

- 1 PORCUPINE MTS. Near Ontonagon. Trail: entire park.
- 2 MICHIGAN CEDAR FALLS: Near Paradise. Trail: 0.9 mi.
- 3 STRAITS: Near St. Ignace. Trail: 3 mi.
- 4 WILDERNESS: Near Mackinaw City. Trail: 15 mi. unplowed rds.
- 5 PETOSKEY: Near Petoskey. Trail: 10 mi.
- 6 LUDINGTON: Near Ludington. 2 mi. trail leads to sand dunes.
- 7 MUSKEGON: Near Muskegon. Trail: 4 1/2 mi.
- 8 HOFFMASTER: Near Fruitport. Trail: 8 mi.
- 9 JONIA: Near Jonia. Trail: 5 mi.
- 10 YANKEE FLATS: Near Hastings. Trail: 6 mi.
- 11 VAN BUREN: Near South Haven. Trail: 2 1/2 mi.
- 12 WARREN DUNES: Near Bridgman. Trail: open beach area.
- 13 HAWTHORN PINES: Near Grayling. Trail: 6 mi.
- 14 NORTH HUGGINS LAKE: Near Roscommon. Trail: 8 mi.
- 15 RIFLE RIVER: Near Rose City. Trail: 15 mi. unplowed roads and on lakeshore. Trail: 2 1/2 mi.
- 16 PORT CRESCENT: Near Port Austin. Trail: 2 1/2 mi.
- 17 SLEEPY HOLLOW: Near Ovid. Trail: 10 mi.
- 18 BRIGHTON: Near Brighton. Trail: 1 mi. plus 50-acre open area.
- 19 ISLAND LAKE: Near Brighton. Trail: 1 mi.
- 20 PINCKNEY: Near Pinckney. Trail: 2 1/2 mi.
- 21 WATERLOO: Near Chelsea. Trail: 150-acre open area.
- 22 ORTONVILLE: Near Ortonville. Trail: 3 mi.
- 23 HOLLY: Near Holly. Trail: 4 mi.
- 24 HIGHLAND: Near Milford. Trail: 8 mi.
- 25 PROUD LAKE: Near Millford. Trail: 320-acre open area.
- 26 PONTIAC LAKE: Near Pontiac. Trail: 3 mi.
- 27 DOUGIE NO. 4: Near Keweenaw Harbor. Trail: 130-acre open area.
- 28 BALD MT.: Near Lake Orion. Trail: 2 mi.
- 29 ROCHESTER-UTICA: Near Rochester. Trail: 2 1/2 mi.
- 30 ALGONAC: Near Algonac. Trail: 3 mi.

STATE FORESTS

- 31 BRULE ISLAND DAM: Iron Range State Forest: 4 1/2 mi. E. of Crystal Falls on M-69. 3 1/2 mi. S. on Lake Mary. Trail: 1 mi. S.W. on Co. Rd. 26. Trail: 26 mi.
- 32 STAGER: Iron Range State Forest: 6 mi. S. of Crystal Falls on US-2. 2 mi. S.E. on Co. Rd. Trails: 6 mi.
- 33 SAND PLAINS: Michigan State Forest: 1 mi. S. of Marquette on Co. Rd. 152 at junction of Co. Rd. 152 and Co. Rd. 153. Trail: 32 mi.
- 34 FIRE LINE: Lake Superior State Forest: 21 mi. N. of Newberry on M-117 and Co. Rd. 407. Trail: 30 mi.
- 35 HIGH CLOUDS: Manistique River State Forest: 10 mi. N. and 1 mi. E. of Manistique on Co. Rd. 448. Trail: 10 mi.
- 36 SEUL CHOIX POINT: Manistique River State Forest: 4 1/2 mi. S.E. of Gulliver on Co. Rd. P432. Trail: 20 mi. S. on Co. Rd. 448.
- 37 BIG KNOB: Mackinaw State Forest: 7 mi. N. of Newberry on Highway 2. Trail: 17 mi.
- 38 CHERY RIDGE: Menominee State Forest: 4 mi. W. of Cedar River on Co. Rd. 352. Trail: 22 mi. S. on Jim Town Rd. Trail: 10 mi.
- 39 FOREST ISLAND: Bay de Noc State Forest: 9 1/2 mi. S. of Ironwood on US-2. Trail: 20 mi.
- 40 CLEVER: Menominee State Forest: 3 1/2 mi. E. of Cheboygan on US-23. Trail: 45 mi.
- 41 INDIAN RIVER: Hardwood State Forest: 2 1/2 mi. W. of Indian River on M-68 to Reems or Park Roads.
- 42 M-32: MANISTEE: Hardwood State Forest: 2 mi. W. and 3 1/2 mi. S. of Wolverine to Peet Rd. Trail: 19 mi.
- 43 EK COUNTRY: Piney River State Forest: 13 mi. E. of Gaylord on M-32 to Gengell Rd., N. 4 mi. and trail to Johnson's Crossing.
- 44 HAWK LAKE: Jordan River State Forest: 6 mi. E. of Crooked Lake on M-10. Trail: 14 mi.
- 45 BETISIE RIVER: Betsie River State Forest: 1 1/2 mi. E. of Crooked Lake on M-10. Trail: 30 mi.
- 46 BOARDMAN VALLEY: Kalkaska and Pine Lake State Forests: Start at cities of Kalkaska, Pine Lake or Mayfield. Trail: 44 mi.
- 47 SKYLINE: AuSable State Forest: 1 mi. S. of Grayling on M-72 and 5 mi. S. on Camp Schleibach Rd. Trail: 25 mi.
- 48 GRAYLING-LOVELLS: AuSable State Forest: 2 mi. N. of Grayling on M-72 and 5 mi. S. on Camp Schleibach Rd. Trail: 25 mi.
- 49 MUSKARE: Luce: Oscoda State Forest: 1 mi. N. of Oscoda on M-33 to Co. Rd. 608, then 4 1/2 mi. W. and 1 mi. N. Trail: 19 mi.
- 50 STRATFORD-GRASS LAKE: Houghton Lake & Kalkaska State Forests: 1 mi. S. of Houghton Lake on M-10 to Military Rd. 1 1/2 mi. N. to Fletcher Rd. W. 9 mi. to Moorestown Rd. 3 mi. S. Trail: 13 mi.
- 51 PRUDENVILLE AREA: Houghton Lake '01 Rapid River District. Trail: 20 mi. to Pruden Rd. on M-55 then 1/2 mi. S. Trail: 10 mi.
- 52 M-32: HIGGINS LAKE: Houghton Lake State Forest: 5 mi. W. on Co. Rd. 104 off US-27. Trail: 18 mi.
- 53 OGEMAW HILLS: Ogemaw State Forest: 3 mi. E. of St. Helen on Beaver Lake Rd. Trail: 13 mi.
- 54 SEVEN MILE HILL: Oscoda State Forest: 2 1/2 mi. W. of Oscoda on M-32. Trail: 20 mi. N. on Bissell Rd. Trail: 10 mi.
- 55 LINCOLN HILLS: Pere Marquette State Forest: 15 1/2 mi. N. of Baldwin on M-32. Trail: 14 mi. to Bear's Gap Station Trail: 24 mi.
- 56 TIN CUP: Pere Marquette State Forest: 1 mi. W. of Luther. Trail: 10 mi.
- 57 LITTLE MANISTEE RIVER: Pere Marquette State Forest: 4 1/2 mi. N. of Baldwin on M-32. 1 1/2 mi. E. on Dubry Rd. Trail: 45 mi.
- 58 HAWKINS: Manistique State Forest: 1 mi. N. of Hawkins on M-32. Trail: 10 mi.
- 59 MOALASSA RIVER: Tittabawasee State Forest: 1 mi. N. and 3 mi. W. of Tittabawasee on M-61. Trail: 18 mi.
- 60 OTTAWA NATIONAL FOREST—Information on 125 miles of marked trails can be obtained at the Supervisor's office in Ironwood or any of the following Ranger District offices: Beaver Creek, Big Bay, Ironwood, Keweenaw, Munising, Ontonagon, and Watersmeet.

MANISTEE NATIONAL FOREST — Rapid River District. Trail: 20 mi. to Pruden Rd. on M-55 then 1/2 mi. S. Trail: 10 mi.

HAWKINS NATIONAL FOREST — Cobden 9 trails which vary in length from 22 to 50 miles. At Cobden Shire area near Cadillac, 1 trail: 34 miles; Uddall Hill, 4 miles west of Wellston off M-55, 1 trail, 13 miles; just west of Big Rapids (check with manager of commercial, Big Rapids Trail, 36 miles long).

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MANISTEE NATIONAL FOREST — Silver Valley Ranger District. Trail: 20 mi. to Silver Valley Campground (adjacent to Silver Valley trail), 13 miles long.

SHORE-TO-SHORE TRAIL

ACROSS MICHIGAN TRAIL. Most of Michigan's 230-mile-long, shore-to-shore trail which stretches from East Tawas to Lake Huron to Empire. The trail is open to snowmobilers. This marked trail has numerous entrances and exits allowing users to cover short stretches. Information may be obtained from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Forestry Division, Stevens T. Mason Bldg., Lansing, Mich., 48926.



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