

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 a 50 per cent increase in the number of vehicles registered by last spring," states Jerry E. Fisher, Auto Club's touring manager.

Michigan dealers expect snowmobile sales to climb 20 per cent above last year's mark when over 60,000 machines were sold.

Currently, there are more than 130,000 registered snow-

mobiles in Michigan, and major distributors across the state expect that 75,000 new machines will be sold by spring.

"SAFETY AND shortage of areas where snowmobiles can be used will be major problems this winter despite the enthusiasm about this mushrooming sport," Fisher states.

Last winter 19 persons lost their lives in Michigan snowmobile accidents, compared with 13 who died during the 1968-69 winter, the first time official records were kept on snowmobile deaths.

Last winter, 13 persons died in collisions with other vehicles on state roads, five

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.

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

Sales tax on snowmobiles 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 for off-highway use.

In addition, over \$600,000 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 Distributor's Association (MSDA), are urging the State Legislature to spend more tax money on maintaining and creating trails.

when lakes are frozen these machines are overrunning once remote fishing spots.

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

AN AUTO Club map indicates that this winter there will be 30 Michigan 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 snowmobile season, \$133 million will be spent by snowmobilers in Michigan.

"Last winter, Michigan residents spent \$26 million on snowmobile accessories alone," states Fisher. "This year, \$26.4 million will be spent on equipment ranging from special clothing to new machines."

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

Some \$34.3 million will be spent by 105,000 snowmobiling families taking special weekend trips to resort areas this winter. This averages out to \$2.3 million spent each weekend in Michigan during a 15-week snowmobile season.

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 engine, mission, heater and even a cigarette lighter can cost up to \$2,500.

Above the cost of machines, the average snowmobile enthusiast will spend a minimum of \$100 for clothing. Snowmobilers must wear special clothes since temperatures drop dramatically at high speeds due to the "chill factor."

On a day when there is no measurable wind, the temperature is at zero (F), and the snowmobile travels 25 miles per hour, the actual temperature on exposed skin is 45 degrees below zero.

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:

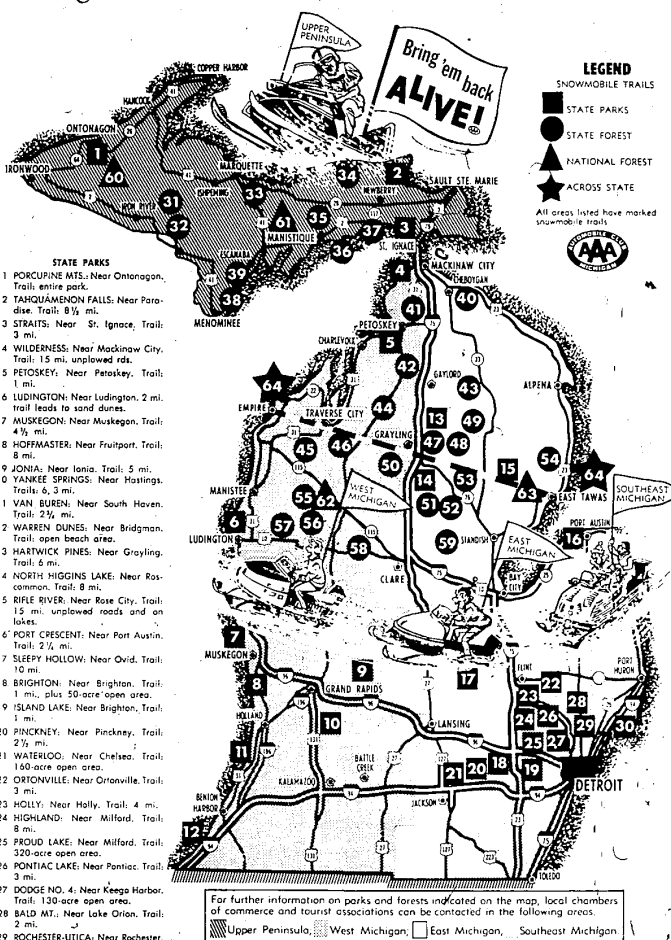
Boots, \$20; one-piece suit (avoid two-piece), \$75; mitts, \$10; helmet, \$17; to \$25 (recommended for high-speed machines), otherwise a hood or cap with ear flaps for under \$10 is adequate; goggles, \$4; face mask (wool), \$4; thermal underwear, \$12; sock, \$3, and sweater, \$25.

* (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 in ice on lakes and streams if conditions are not ideal.
- Avoid alcohol.
- Never travel alone. You usually can't walk out of snow 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



IT WAS A LONG night Tuesday-Wednesday for Livonia Mayor Edward H. McNamara as he watched election returns. The Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor didn't learn until Thursday, however, that he and Sander Levin had been defeated by the team of Republican Gov. William Milliken and James Brickley. McNamara alternately napped and watched the counting from Levin's suite in the Sheraton in Detroit.

Crowley's

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LIVONIA MALL
7 Mile at Middlebelt



- 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
1. PORCUPINE MTS.: Near Ontonagon, Trail: entire park.
2. TANQUAMENON FALLS: Near Paradise, Trail: 8 1/2 mi.
3. STRAITS: Near St. Ignace, Trail: 3 mi.
4. WILDERNESS: Near Mackinaw City, Trail: 15 mi. unimproved road.
5. PETOSKEY: Near Petoskey, Trail: 1 mi.
6. LUDINGTON: Near Ludington, 2 mi. trail leads to sand dunes.
7. MUSKOGEE: Near Muskegon, Trail: 4 1/2 mi.
8. HOFFMASTER: Near Fruitport, Trail: 8 mi.
9. JONIA: Near Jonia, Trail: 5 mi.
10. YANKEE SPRINGS: Near Hastings, Trail: 6, 3 mi.
11. VAN BUREN: Near South Haven, Trail: 2 1/2 mi.
12. WARREN DUNES: Near Bridgman, Trail: open beach area.
13. HARTWICK PINES: Near Grayling, Trail: 6 mi.
14. NORTH HIGGINS LAKE: Near Roscommon, Trail: 8 mi.
15. BIRCH RIVER: Near Rose City, Trail: 15 mi. unimproved road and on lakes.
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: 160-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 Milford, Trail: 320-acre open area.
26. PONTIAC LAKE: Near Pontiac, Trail: 3 mi.
27. DODGE NO. 4: Near Keego Harbor, Trail: 120-acre open area.
28. BALD MT.: Near Lake Orion, Trail: 2 mi.
29. ROCHESTER-LITICA: Near Rochester, Trail: 2 1/2 mi.
30. ALGONQU: Near Algonqu, 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 Rd., 1 mi. S.W. on Co. Rd. Trail: 56 mi.
32. STAGER: Iron Range State Forest: 6 mi. S. of Crystal Falls on US-2, 2 mi. S.E. on Co. Rd. Trail: 6 mi.
33. SAND PLAINS: Michigan State Forest: 5 mi. S. of Marquette on Co. Rd. 552 to the Junction of Co. Rd. 460, Trail: 17 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 BOLLWATS: Manistee River State Forest: 10 mi. N. and 1 mi. E. of Manistee on Co. Rd. 448, Trail: 15 mi.
36. SEUL CHOIX POINT: Manistee River State Forest: 4 1/2 mi. S.E. of Gulliver on Co. Rd. P432, 1 1/2 mi. S. on Co. Rd. P431, Trail: 110 mi.
37. BIG KNOB: Mackinac State Forest: 7 1/2 mi. W. of Nautawany on US-2, Trail: 17 mi.
38. CHERRY RIDGE: Menominee State Forest: 4 mi. W. of Cedar River on Co. Rd. 352, then 2 1/2 mi. S. on Jim Town Rd. Trail: 6 mi.
39. FOREST ISLAND: Bay de Noc State Forest: on Co. Rd. 535, 3 mi. N.W. from M-35 or 8 1/2 mi. S.E. from Bark and US-2, Trail: 20 mi.
40. CHEBOYGAN: BLACK MOUNTAIN: Black Lake State Forest: 3 1/2 mi. E. of Cheboygan on US-23, S. of highway, Trail: 45 mi.
41. INDIAN RIVER: Hardwood State Forest: 2 1/2 mi. W. of Indian River on M-68 to Reams or Parks Road, Trail: 20 mi.
42. WOLVERINE: Hardwood State Forest: 2 mi. W. and 1/2 mi. S. of Wolverine to Peet Rd. Trail: 19 mi.
43. EKK COUNTRY: Pigeon River State Forest: 13 mi. E. of Gaylord on M-32 to Gingell Rd., N. 4 mi. and E. 2 mi. to Johnson's Crossing, Trail: 32 mi.
44. HAWK LAKE: Jordan River State Forest: 6 mi. E. of Manistee on Manistee River Rd. to Crooked Lake Rd. Trail: 14 mi.
45. BEESIE RIVER: Beesie River State Forest: 7 mi. N. of Thompsonville and 1 1/2 mi. E. Trail: 30 mi.
46. BOARDMAN VALLEY: Kalkaska and File Lake State Forest: Start at cities of Kalkaska, File Lake or Mayfield, Trail: 64 mi.
47. SKYLINE: Ausable State Forest: 1 mi. S.E. of Grayling on M-72 and 1/2 mi. S. on Camp Noble Rd. Trail: 25 mi.
48. GRAYLING-LOVELLS: Ausable State Forest: 2 mi. N.E. of Grayling on Old US-27, Trail: 45 mi.
49. MUSKRAT LAKE: Oscoda State Forest: 5 mi. N. of Mio on M-33 to Co. Rd. 108, then 4 1/2 mi. W. and 1 mi. N. Trail: 19 mi.
50. STRATFORD GRASS LAKE: Houghton Lake State Forest: Kalkaska State Forest: 3 mi. S. of Grayling on M-72 and 1/2 mi. N. to Fletcher Rd., W. 9 mi. to Moorestown Rd., 3 mi. S. Trail: 13 mi.
51. PRUDENVILLE AREA: Houghton Lake State Forest: 2 mi. W. of Pruddenville on M-55 then 1/2 mi. S. Trail: 25 mi.
52. WEST HIGGINS LAKE: Houghton Lake State Forest: 1/2 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: 5 1/2 mi. W. of Oscoda on River Rd., 2 mi. N. to Bissone Rd., 1 mi. W. Trail: 20 mi.
55. LINCOLN HILLS: Pere Marquette State Forest: 15 1/2 mi. N. of Baldwin on M-37, 1/2 mi. E. of Kodenbek's Gas Station, Trail: 24 mi.
56. TIN CUP: Pere Marquette State Forest: 1 mi. W. of Luther, Trail: 25 mi.
57. LITTLE MANISTEE RIVER: Pere Marquette State Forest: 4 1/2 mi. N. of Baldwin on M-37, 1/2 mi. E. on Dabry Rd. Trail: 45 mi.
58. OLD SHEEP RANCH: Chippewa River State Forest: 15 miles of marked trails can be obtained at the Supervisor's office in Ironwood or any of the following Ranger District offices: Bessemer, Bergland, Iron River, Keweenaw, Ontonagon and Watersmeet.
59. HIWATHA NATIONAL FOREST: Upper Peninsula: 2 mi. W. of Rapid River, 2 mi. S. on M-25, 20 miles, Manistee District (for Manistee), 20-mile-long network; Munising District (for Munising), 20-mile-long network; South St. Ignace District (for St. Ignace), 25-mile-long network.
60. MANISTEE NATIONAL FOREST: At Baldwin, 9 trails which vary in length from 22 to 50 miles, A. Caberlane Ski area near Cadillac, 1 trail, 34 miles, Uddell Hill, 4 miles west of Waltham off M-55, 1 trail, 15 miles, just west of Big Rapids (check with chamber of commerce, Big Rapids Trail, 36-miles long).
61. HURON NATIONAL FOREST: Silver Valley (near Tawas), 6 trails which vary in length from 3 to 35 miles, Golden Creek Campground (adjacent to Silver Valley trail), 13-mile-long trail.
62. SHORE-TO-SHORE TRAIL: Across Michigan Trail: Most of Michigan's 230-mile-long, shore-to-shore trail which branches from East Tawas on Lake Huron to Empire in M-61, Trail: 24 mi.
63. OITAWA NATIONAL FOREST: In Ironwood on 125 miles of marked trails can be obtained at the Supervisor's office in Ironwood or any of the following Ranger District offices: Bessemer, Bergland, Iron River, Keweenaw, Ontonagon and Watersmeet.