

## Organized Clubs Enhance The Fun Of Snowmobiling In Observerland

Think about it. How many winter family sports are there?

Skiing? Skating? A snowball fight? Snowmobiles are about No. 1 now, and there doesn't appear to be any way they are going to be challenged.

The trouble with most things you could do in the winter in the past is that they were either too strenuous or kind of anti-social.

Sure, you read stories about 70-year-old men on ski jumps, but you read about them because they are so unusual they make news.

And try to get a 12-year-old kid interested in sitting out on a frozen lake, dangling a grub through a hole in the ice.

Action, activity in the winter, and some competition are part of the appeal of snowmobiling, but lately it is becoming a kind of social activity too.

Clubs are a natural outlet for this social urge.

Besides the natural inclination of people nuts enough about a sport to seek out other "nuts" of similar interest, there is mechanical assistance available, and even a safety factor in groups.

ONE OF THE biggest and oldest clubs in Observerland is the Livonia Sno-Flakes. Being two years old with 48 families gives it this distinction, which gives you some indication of the newness of the whole sport.



"Almost all of our members have at least two children" said Mrs. Mary Gilbertson, 38452 Kingsbury, Livonia, secretary of the Sno-Flakes.

"They are typical snowmobile families, with a couple of kids and usually two snow machines."

They started last year with about a dozen families interested in getting together to ride their snowmobiles.

"The problems you have as a single

person become small when you go as a group," said her husband, Stanley Gilbertson.

The Sno-Flakes concentrate on family outings.

A typical weekend would be a trip to Grayling for runs through the state lands in the area.

"You need a plan to go out as a group like that," Gilbertson continued. "It takes some organization."

"We made mistakes at first, then as we organized more of these affairs, we learned what jobs had to be assigned, what we needed to bring along."

The result of the organization is called a "safari," and popular places for the Livonia club to go are Grayling, Tawas City, or sometimes areas closer to home like Wixom, Rochester or Whitmore Lake.

THE EMPHASIS for this group is on family activities.

"If you need some help, if something breaks down, or if you have trouble getting up an icy hill, there's always someone to give a hand," Gilbertson said.

But the friends brought together by snowmobiles remain friendly during the warmer weather.

"We had barbecues, picnics -- actually we have been getting together all summer," Mrs. Gilbertson said.

They meet in the Senior Citizens drop-in center in the Livonia Parks and Recreation building.

On top of their activities, they are sponsoring classes this fall to qualify minors to operate snowmobiles.

THEY ARE as large as they want to be now, and they have cut off memberships at 48, according to Mrs.

**Stereo 8 TRACKS**

Reg \$4.98 to \$6.98

NOW ONLY

**2.99**

TOP HITS  
OLDIES but GOODIES  
from the '50s and '60s

WE'LL ORDER THE TAPES YOU WANT IF WE DON'T HAVE THEM ON HAND

NO LIMIT -- BRING THIS AD!

**LARRY'S True Value HARDWARE**

26880 FIVE MILE RD.  
(Just W. of Beech Daly)

Open 9-7 Daily  
SUN., 10-12

PHONE  
**KE 2-1340**

**Before you buy... test the top 3!**

See what the '73 Scorpion's got . . .  
See for yourself who's Number One!  
Only Scorpion Stinger dares to make this challenge. Because only Scorpion offers these engineering advances for 1973:  
"Para-Rail" suspension.  
Combines the best features of both slide rails and bogeys.  
"Power-Thrust" clutch.  
Delivers more of the engine's power to the track than any consumer clutch known.  
"Power-Bite" track. All-poly track grips the snow better for more get-up and-go.

See the entire Scorpion Stinger line for 1973:  
Super Stinger 440 -- Super Stinger 400 -- Stinger 340  
Stinger 290 and 290 ET -- Super Stingerette 340.

Look out, Cat! Look out, Ski-Doo! Scorpion Stinger is comin' thru!

**Scorpion Stinger**

On display now at your authorized scorpion dealer:

**GEORGE'S** "We sell the best -- and service the rest"

**AIR COOLED ENGINES**

28118 PLYMOUTH ROAD Four blocks west of Beech Daly 538 3290  
FACTORY AUTHORIZED SERVICE CENTER Tune-Up Overhaul Shipping

**34** YEARS OF SNOWMOBILE EXPERIENCE

**SNO-TRAILS, INC.**  
The Pioneers With

**ski-doo**

"THE MACHINE THAT CHANGED WINTER"  
IF IT'S FOR SNOWMOBILING SNO-TRAILS HAS IT

- Huge selection of genuine Ski-Doo clothing, parts & accessories
- Expert reliable service
- Racing equipment

**SNO-TRAILS, INC.**

24490 Five Mile Rd.  
3 blocks West of Telegraph  
Detroit, Michigan 48239  
532-4555