

# MILITARY RECEIVES WARM EAGLE RIVER WELCOME

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agle River and the snowmobile community once again invited members of the military and their families for a northern Wisconsin snowmobile vacation to show their appreciation for all they do. Participating troops who arrived early enough were able to attend the World Championship Race on January 17, courtesy of the Derby Track, while the remaining troops would join the group the following day for a tour of the area.

On Monday morning, the friendly staff from Decker Tours and the Derby Track greeted everyone, assisted with necessary paperwork and the provided warm clothing for the ride. Before heading outside, an informative demonstration on sled operation and safety tips, along with a review of rules for the day, were given. After being split into the three riding groups that would be guided by Todd Weiberg, Todd Achterberg and Chris Collins, it was time to head outside to select a sled for the day before gathering for a group photo by Wayne Davis Photography. Decker Tours, Arctic Cat, Polaris, Ski-Doo and Yamaha provided sleds for the troops, while Decker Tours supplied the clothing and gear.

As our adventure began, we made our way out of Eagle River heading east along Highway 70 on Corridor 10, traveling into Forest County and the beautiful Nicolet National Forest. Several trailside



Photo by Wayne Davis

*Gathering for a group photo before hitting the trails*



*A sea of sleds awaits selection by the troops.*



*A trailside break provides the opportunity to show riders how trail signing makes exploring the trails safe and easy to negotiate.*

stops to take in the beauty of the northwoods were enjoyed by the riders. All three groups eventually arrived in Three Lakes for lunch at Bonnie's Lakeside. The lunch was a delicious roast beef sandwich with all the fixings donated by Bonnie's Lakeside and Amsoil. Col. Don Hamilton, who helped coordinate the ride, presented Bonnie and Ed Lamb, owners of Lakeside, with a medallion to show their appreciation for the lunch and genuine northwoods hospitality.

While some riders opted to head back to Eagle River via Trail 13 North, others took a more roundabout route back on Trail 15 through the picturesque Sugar Camp area to add a few extra miles to their excursion. Upon returning to Eagle River, everyone was led to the Derby Track and given the opportunity to take a spin on the ice oval and to catch a bit of air on the snocross track before turning in the sleds. The World Snowmobile Headquarters also opened its doors for all to peruse the history of the sport.

"This was a wonderful experience," said Capt. Christina Hastings. "Before this trip, I had never been on a snowmobile and I found that I truly enjoy the sport. Everyone was so gracious and hospitable; I am looking forward to returning with my family next year, maybe with my own sleds."

As the sun was setting on a fantastic day of riding, the troops gathered at the Derby Inn to share their stories while enjoying refreshments and a delicious pizza and broasted chicken dinner

provided by the AWSC and River Valley Bank. While everyone enjoyed a piece of cake, each trail boss gave their account of the best “oops” of the day within their group. Normally only one “toilet seat award” is given to one of the troops, but the best oops came from an experienced rider, Chris Cmenia of Ski-Doo Demo Rides, so it was decided two awards were necessary. Master Sgt. Stephen Larson and wife Nina were also recipients of the famous award for their minor oops along the trail.

In addition to a memorable day of riding, each guest was provided free accommodations made possible by Best Western Derby Inn, Days Inn and Wild Eagle Lodge. They also received a cap donated by Design Solutions of Wausau.

Lt. Col. John Gaedke summed up the feelings of the participants well. “I’ve never gone snowmobiling before and had a great time riding through the woods,” he said. “My whole family had fun getting introduced to the wonderful world of snowmobiling. My family and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to making this event happen, and for their generosity in taking care of the troops. We had a great time watching the snowmobile races on the ice track and the snocross events. Because of this event, and talking with my wife and kids, I think I see snowmobiles in my family’s future.”



Experienced rider Chris Cmenia entered the Hall of Shame for his “oops” on the trail.



In a show of appreciation for their generosity, Colonel Hamilton presents Bonnie and Ed Lamb with a medallion. **WSN**

# EventCalendar >>

## MARCH

**March 6: Brat Fest & Vintage Snowmobile Eat 'n' Run**, 10th annual, sponsored by the Superior Stormriders at the Boarders (formerly KS&E Bar) just south of Superior on Hwy. 105. Registration, \$5/sled, starts 10 a.m., judging at 1 p.m. 10 mile ride in Superior's City Forest follows awards presentation; another trophy presentation after the ride. Free swap space available. Food & refreshments available. Tom 715-398-6665 or John 715-364-2564.

**March 6-7: Vintage Snowmobile Races** by ProVintage Racing, Hwy. 55 Mole Lake. Racing Sleds from 1960s-82. 36 classes from junior racers, stock and modified sleds, to professional. 11 a.m. start. 715-410-1331 or [www.provintageracing.com](http://www.provintageracing.com).

**March 13: Annual Dinner Feed** sponsored by the Weyerhaeuser Snowmobile Club at Burdy's Bar, Main St., Weyerhaeuser, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Prizes, games, ATV raffle. 715-492-1075 or 715-353-2873.

**March 13: Vintage Snowmobile Show** at Mike's Motorsports in Neillsville open to all vintage sleds 1985 and older. Registration begins 10 a.m. 715-743-2712 or [www.ngti.org](http://www.ngti.org).

**March 20: Brooklyn Sno-Hornets Annual Dance & Raffle** at the Brooklyn Community Building, Brooklyn, 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Music by Electric Blue, raffle drawing at midnight, many door prizes throughout the evening. Refreshments available. [Isarndt@litewire.net](mailto:Isarndt@litewire.net).

## APRIL

**April 18: 24th Annual Farm Toy Show** sponsored by the Waunakee Winter Wanderers, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Waunakee High School. Crafts, food, NASCAR, constructions, Beanie Babies, trophies, displays and door prizes. 608-849-5621.

## JUNE

**June 10-12: International Snowmobile Congress.** Iowa State Snowmobile Association welcomes the international snowmobile community to the Coralville Marriott Hotel & Convention Center for 3 days of networking, seminars and recognition of outstanding snowmobilers. For details, visit [www.iasasnowmobiler.com/isc2010](http://www.iasasnowmobiler.com/isc2010).

## AUGUST

**August 21: 4th Annual Indoor Vintage Snowmobile Show & Outdoor Swap** sponsored by the Oakdale Area Snowmobile Association at the Snowmobile Trails of Monroe County Building in Oakdale. Classes for restored and original sleds. Call Rick 608-372-5919 or Tom 608-372-7098, or email [oakdalesnowmobileassoc@gmail.com](mailto:oakdalesnowmobileassoc@gmail.com).

**August 21-22: Annual Corn Roast, Grass Drags & Volleyball Tournament** sponsored by the Southern Door Snow Travelers at the club grounds, 3573 Cty. Tk. CC, Sturgeon Bay, across from Wave Pointe Marina. Sat. grass drags – non-studded stock, studded stock, improved, modified, vintage, Kitty Cat. DJ to follow races. Sun. volleyball tournament, live music, raffles, door prizes and all you can eat corn roast. 920-493-1707, 920-609-0513 or 920-609-1017.

**2011 Snowmobile Sneak Peek** in several locations throughout Wisconsin. Get your first look at all the new sleds in one place. View [www.snowsneakpeek.com](http://www.snowsneakpeek.com) for dates, times and locations. **WSN**