



BARABOO RIVER RUNNERS CLUB NEWSLETTER



TEXT "GROOMER" TO: 608-200-8400 FOR TRAIL UPDATES!

March 2023



NEXT & LAST MEETING:

WHEN: Wednesday, April 12th, 2023

WHERE: Pete & Darcy Filus House (3888 Mountain Road, Baraboo, WI)

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

Please bring a dish to pass or any thing you would like Pete to throw on the grill! It is potluck style! Also, bring your drink of choice.

Hello members!

Happy St. Patrick's month! I hope everyone enjoyed some corn beef and cabbage!

Hope to see everyone at the gun raffle party this Saturday, March 25th, 2023 at Zeman's Old Highway House. Remember our club appreciation dinner starts at 6:00 p.m.

We have done a great job on selling the raffle tickets and there will be some left to buy on Saturday too!



ATTENTION!!

There will be a combined ATV/UTV/Snowmobile Safety class for youth or adults!

Dates & Times: Wednesday, April 26th, 2023 (5-8 p.m.)

Saturday, April 29th, 2023 (8 a.m.-2 p.m.) * YOU MUST ATTEND BOTH SESSIONS

Location: Gateway Powersports in Baraboo

Please register online at gowild.wi.gov

Deadline for registration is April 12th, 2023 Hurry!! Only 16 slots available to anyone that needs certification. \$10.00 per class.

Course materials will be handed out to those who registered on Tuesday, April 4th, 2023 from 5-7 p.m. at Gateway Powersports.

If you have any further questions, please contact Randy Benson at 608-963-1688.

Our next meeting will be our last one for the season 😞 Thank you to Pete and Darcy Filus for hosting! Please come and share your riding experiences that you were able to enjoy this year!!

It is a sad day when the season comes to an end and you have to put your sled away until the snow flies again. Here is an article on a checklist of things to remember when putting your baby to bed for the summer! 😊 Credit to SnowGoer Magazine.

How To Prep for Off-Season Storage

Many owners let their snowmobiles coast to a stop at the end of a season's last ride, and there they sit in the yard all spring, summer and fall for the world to see. Unprotected from the elements, they degrade. Fuel hoses harden, seat fabrics crack and rust forms on internal engine components. Corrosion forms in the rear suspension, which causes parts to bind. Decals crack and peel, and the shiny finish on the tunnel slowly turns into a dull, chalky layer of 'blah.' Snowmobiles deserve better.

Even if you are not so negligent, simply parking your sled in a garage and dumping a little fuel stabilizer in the gas tank isn't enough to ward off sled wear. Spending about an hour in the spring to prep a snowmobile for the off-season will keep it reliable and fun to ride, not to mention help retain its value. You will need a can of storage fogging oil, a few ounces of fuel stabilizer, grease, simple hand tools, aerosol lubricant and a protective place for the snowmobile to rest until fall. Services explained here apply to snowmobiles with two-stroke or four-stroke engines that have carburetors or fuel injection.



Treat the gasoline with fuel stabilizer to help achieve an easier start-up in the fall and to reduce the chance that carburetors will be plugged with gunk.

Snowmobile Off-Season Storage: Treat the Fuel

Gasoline contains solvents that make it volatile, but when those solvents evaporate, the vapors rise from the carburetor bowl and might cause some metals to corrode. The green gunk that you might have seen in the bowl of a carburetor is remnant of fuel and corroded metal that ran down the inside of the carburetor and settled at the lowest point. Fuel injected engines do not usually suffer from this condition because throttle bodies, typically, are airtight.

Fuel stabilizers are designed to reduce evaporation of solvents that make gas volatile. While using too much stabilizer won't necessarily harm the fuel system, fuel additives inherently reduce the octane rating of fuel by reducing the concentration, so follow the directions on the container to add the correct amount of stabilizer in relation to how much fuel is in the tank. After you pour fuel stabilizer in the tank, slosh it around and run the engine for a few minutes so treated fuel flows through the system.

Snowmobile Off-Season Storage: Fog the Engine

Talk to someone from just about any crankshaft repair shop and they will say that coating the inside of a snowmobile's engine with storage fogging oil is essential to prevent engine failure. This thin layer of oil protects parts like connecting rods, rod pins, cylinder walls and crankshaft bearings from air and moisture, which will otherwise work together to cause corrosion that makes those parts susceptible to failure.



You need to get to this point in order to fog an engine. Oil sprayed into the air box will get trapped within the foam where it will not protect the engine.

You might know someone who fires up his or her snowmobile every few weeks during the summer to keep the fuel moving and spread a little oil through the engine, but that is not adequate to ensure good crankshaft protection. Revving an engine or letting it idle for a few minutes probably will not get it hot enough to burn off moisture inside either, and it could promote even more water vapor to collect on the crankshaft and within the exhaust system.



Gain access to the engine's carburetors or throttle bodies by removing or disassembling the air box and pulling out the foam or air horns. In some cases, you might be able to peel back the carburetor boots in order to give the fogging oil an unobstructed path from the can to the intake. Removing the air box varies from brand to brand and model to model. It is fairly easy to access the throat of carburetors or throttle bodies on older sleds, but many newer machines are tricky due to tight spaces that are packed with wires, hoses and cables. Work carefully as you remove parts and make note of their orientation.

With the engine running, spray fogging oil into the engine. Spray the oil at each intake for a few seconds at a time, and then switch to the other cylinder while simultaneously pushing the throttle lever to keep the engine running slightly above idle speed. Continue to spray oil into the engine – alternating cylinders every few seconds – for about a minute, or until thick, white smoke comes out of the exhaust. Let it sputter and shut down. If the engine has carburetors, turn off the fuel switch and remove the drain plugs to let the gasoline flow out. This, in addition to adding fuel stabilizer, helps reduce the chance of problems with the fuel system in the fall.



Engine storage fogging oil is available just about anywhere, and it's made by many companies.

Spraying storage fogging oil through the intake of a four-stroke engine will help protect the cam shaft, valves and other components in the cylinder head, but Arctic Cat, for example, specifically says not to fog its 1100cc engines. If you're prepping a four-stroke engine for the off-season, check the owner's manual to find out whether you should do this step. The manual might also suggest that you change the oil and filter. Two-stroke Ski-Doo sleds with E-TEC direct injection have a self-fogging feature.

Snowmobile Off-Season Storage: Grease the Chassis

To help keep the suspension and steering systems working smoothly, pump a few shots of grease into each zerk on the chassis. This pushes out water from within the small shafts and suspension tubes, and fills those small voids with grease so moisture won't collect inside the tubes during the temperature cycles of early spring and late fall.

Snowmobiles built within the past few years generally have fewer grease zerks than earlier machines. You might find two or three in the rear suspension and a couple on the front end, but a sled from the mid-1990s, for example, could have six zerks in the skidframe and more than four on the front suspension. Use light from a bright flashlight to look under the engine for zerks on the steering system.



Put fresh grease in every zerk of a snowmobile's rear suspension before off-season storage.

You can't over-grease a zerk on a snowmobile suspension. Pump grease into the zerk until you see fresh grease come out of the tube or shaft. Look closely and you might see water come out, proving that this is an important step of snowmobile off-season storage preparation.

Snowmobile Off-Season Storage: Protect Precious Metals

If you are ambitious, wash the snowmobile with soap and water to restore its showroom shine. Washing is a must-do if the machine was hauled on an open trailer in order to remove corrosive salt and road grime. Spray WD-40 or similar, lightweight oil on metal surfaces: the exhaust, A-arms, rear suspension

rails, chaincase cover, cylinders and cylinder head. Liberally apply the oil on those parts to put a barrier against corrosion, but make sure it doesn't contact the clutches or drive belt. When you pull the sled out of storage in the fall, wash it with a light degreaser like Simple Green to remove the oily glaze.



Storing a snowmobile in a dry building and under a cover will help keep it looking like new.

Snowmobile Off-Season Storage: Where to Park It

The specific location of where you park a snowmobile during the off-season can affect how well it weathers the humid summer air. Under a tarp in the front yard is probably the worst place to store a sled because that cover doesn't provide real protection from the elements and it traps moisture, which can accelerate corrosion. A sled set on top of a sweaty, concrete floor isn't good either.

Find a dry place indoors like a garage or the loft of an outbuilding, and put a soft cover over the machine to protect it from dust. A few mothballs scattered under the hood and on the tunnel will help keep rodents away so they won't chew the seat or other foam on the hood or air box.

Elevate the rear end of the machine by placing a jackstand under the rear bumper, and then unhook the springs. This relieves tension from the springs and helps them last longer, not to mention it takes weight off the track lugs so the tips don't fold over. Lift the sled and set the chassis on a wooden box or milk crate so the front suspension hangs freely, too.

Please thank our sponsors by supporting them even in our off season!

