

Moose Lake News

Many snowmobilers have been talking about the end of the snowmobiling season is here. We may get a good storm yet, but the lakes are looking dangerous in many areas. Several lakes I have noticed spots opening up, making it dangerous ice conditions. Many of these areas may be possible springs or moving water that has thin ice throughout the winter. This time of the year it does not take too much warm weather to open things up. We had an area like this in front of our resort when we owned Mystic Moose. In fact, Dave Sanders fell through this spot several years ago. I am sure Dave will never forget that experience.

This past weekend myself and several other Round Lake firefighters worked at the Birkebeiner Fat Tire Race. There were about 500 contestants that participated in the race. The race started at the Birkie trail head at Telemark in Cable. The contestants went south on the classic trail to OO. They then returned on the skate trail to the starting point where it ended. The first wave started at 8 AM, with additional waves following about every 10 - 15 minutes. I was stationed at Timber Trail which is the first aid station south of the starting point. The other firefighters from Round Lake were at the Boedecker aid station which is just north of the OO station. The day was a beautiful one with temperatures at 58 degrees and Bluebird skies. It was a great day to be outside enjoying the Fat Tire race. We did have one participant who had to drop out because of feeling ill. Gary was his name from Green Bay told us that he just got his second COVID shot two days earlier and felt that this was a side effect from the shot. While waiting for his transportation to give him a ride back to the starting line, we started talking about his bike. Gary told us that he loves to bike all over the state. He said he attends many of these events during the year. I asked Gary if he owned more than one bike. He said he own 8 bikes. A different bike for many different types of races. My next question was how much can a person invest in a bike like this? Reluctantly he said over \$8000.00. He told us that each wheel and tire were \$2000.00. Each tire, you may say is a fat tire with carbide studs in it for traction. He told us that the electronics on his bike costed him, \$2000.00. It measures his blood pressure, pulse respirations, speed, tire pressure & direction of travel. WOW, I guess this may be way out of my budget. I sure elsewhere in this paper you may be able to get the results from this weekend's race.

Joel Miller from Mystic Moose resort was on the ice last Saturday and he also said it is getting very questionable in many spots. The problem is not so much in the middle of the lake but how do we get on the ice safely. It is starting to melt away from the shoreline, especially on the north shoreline. It may be ok for several days but if the temperatures stay in the 40's things will change. The sun is high in the sky which really does its toll on the ice. Think of it this way. The 21st of March is like the 21st of September. The sun is in the same location and we have the same amount of daylight. Be careful especially if we get some snow and you are tempted to take that sled out for one last ride. We do not want it to be your last ride. Stay safe.

"Game fish season closed March 7, so it is now all about panfish. This is a good time to chase roaming schools of bluegills and crappies, as well as find schools of perch in shallow basins. (Reminder) Your fishing license expires March 31st.

Pool League last Thursday was a blast. We had 4 teams that really had fun. Roger Winters and Doug Muchow took home the first-place prize followed by Brad Daywitt & Dean Broberg. Yes they got second

place because of a mistake I made. Jack Brown and I were playing them to see who took second and who would end up with third place. I was shooting the eight ball in the last pocket with a bank shot when the eight ball accidentally went in the wrong pocket. All night long everyone was complaining of the pool table not being level. Roger Winters teasing us said, we got to get this fixed or I am not playing next year. Well, if the table would have been level maybe I would have made my shot. That is my excuse. Next week I will be coming early with my carpenters' level to level the table before we start playing. Tom Koehler & Joan Linahon took TP award.

Birthday greetings this week are extended to Larry Ramsel who gets a belated birthday wish. Larry's birthday was on the 16th. Fire Chief Mike Schmidt has his birthday on March 22nd, along with Betsy Vogel. Curt Richter & Bob Taticsek both have birthdays on the 23rd along with Sally Myers. Happy Birthday to all. There are no anniversaries this week.

That is all we have for this week. The only thing I forgot to mention to you last week was when you change your clocks to daylight saving time, change your batteries in your smoke detectors and CO alarms. It could be a matter of life or death. Stay safe my friends. Jim Onarheim can be reached at 715-462-4448 or jonarheim@centurytel.net