

Four decades of winter fun



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Published on: February 10, 2020 | Last Updated: February 10, 2020 2:10 PM EST



Winners in the toboggan slide competition at the Rockport Winter Carnival are, left to right, Sawyer Steacy, silver, William Riddell, bronze, and Lawrence Waddell, gold. *JPG, BT*

ROCKPORT – Sunny skies and smiling faces made the 40th anniversary of the Rockport Winter Carnival succeed like a summer breeze.

As Sunday morning stretched towards a busy afternoon of nail-driving and log-sawing for kids and adults, long-time carnival activist Meg Mallory was enjoying the toboggan races and looking forward to the redneck rodeo next on the schedule.

Mallory has volunteered for the carnival “from the beginning” and has watched four decades as it has remained a staple of Rockport’s winter lifestyle.

Many changes have taken place over the years, she said, including the lineup and location of events as well as learning to accommodate shifts in weather patterns.

The continued success over 40 years reflects not only the details but the community’s willingness to pitch in with the organization and participate in the activities, said Mallory.

“It sure does get the community involved. It’s really the community spirit that makes it successful,” she said.

“It’s a chance to get us all together for five days in the winter.”

A busy schedule of activities included many indoor and outdoor events such as cards, bingo and children’s games, as well as chicken bowling for kids and adults, snolf, an outdoor family skate at the Rockport Barn and a well-received fireworks display Saturday night



A beer can bounces off a mailbox as twins Anthony and Christopher DeWolfe compete in the redneck rodeo competition Sunday at the Rockport Winter Carnival. *JPG, BT*

Even a heavy snowfall Friday couldn't keep people away from a shuffleboard tournament for two-player teams at the recreation hall, said Mallory.

"We still had enough players for 13 teams," she said.

Another event captain, Jennifer Pauze, said the festival gives people a chance to get outside whatever the weather.

"It's just a chance to be adventurous and have some fun. We're tenants here all winter so this is a chance to get together," said Pauze.

Mike DeWolfe, a lifelong resident of Rockport, was wearing an apron festooned with 36 wooden carnival buttons proving his long-time involvement with the festival.



Mike DeWolfe displays an apron filled with all but four buttons in the 40-year history of the Rockport Winter Carnival. *JPG, BT*

"I've been collecting carnival buttons all the way back to 1986," he said, adding he's missing some of the early buttons made of popsicle sticks.

DeWolfe said he enjoys the festival every year and was happy to see his grandchildren active in multiple events, including Sunday's toboggan races, the redneck rodeo and kids' nail-driving competition.