

# 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL *Vintage* Snowmobile NATIONAL SHOW

by The 2025 VSCA National Show Committee

The 20th Annual Vintage Snowmobile National Show held in Dunkirk, NY on June 13-15, 2025 will go down in the history books as one of the largest, best organized events of its kind. It was held on the well-equipped and accommodating 43-acre Chautauqua County Fairgrounds with easy access to the I-90 New York State Thruway.

We agreed that bringing a national show of this magnitude to life would require relentless teamwork and commitment. Over the last two and a half years, our eleven-member steering committee worked tirelessly to that end. Meetings moved from monthly, bi-monthly, weekly to daily to bring our vision to fruition.

From early on, we committed to keeping costs low. Sled pre-registration fees would remain the same (despite inflation) as the 2022 National Show in Old Forge, NY. Vendors, swap-meet sellers and spectators would pay only admission costs of \$20 for a 3-day pass and \$10 for a 1-day pass. We needed affordable and spacious camping facilities on the grounds along with free vehicle parking. We knew that affordable access would pack the venue and our gamble paid off.

To get this event off the ground we needed up-front financial assistance so the steering committee team developed seven sponsorship package levels. They were marketed to businesses and individuals by using mailings, emails, texting, Facebook Messenger, social media, attending actual events throughout the Northeast through the Upper Midwest, and using our official 2025 National Show website. Through sheer determination and good salesmanship, we secured a whooping 96 sponsors from seven states (MI, MN, NH, NY, OH, PA and WI).

The steering committee worked on developing and publishing common-sense sled classes to be judged, class rules and guidelines, sled identification forms to hang on each sled, sled judging forms, judging rules and guidelines, sled placement mapping for each of the buildings to ensure ample room, and building/row IDs so we knew where each sled was. Next, we needed a great looking website and facebook group that would be filled with easy-to-comprehend information for all interested folks to view. By a chance meeting in early fall of 2024 at a local vintage snowmobile show, we met Steve and Karen Martin of Blanc Printing. We able to secure them as the developer of our official website and top sponsor.

By late November 2024, our website was up and running! ([www.2025nationalshow.com](http://www.2025nationalshow.com)) Blanc and other contributors pitched in to create a variety of event promotional items including street and sponsor banners, large sponsor boards, a

40-page Official Program booklet, a 22-page Coloring Book, Official Goodies Bag, tee-shirts, drink sleeves, decals, and more. An Excel-based spreadsheet system was developed to document all of our sponsors and our pre-registered sleds and participants. As sleds were placed in buildings, we were able to update their locations and as they were being judged, we documented the sled scores. Using Word Mail-Merge, we were able to easily produce all of the necessary sponsor and participant forms and documents to make our show run smoothly and efficiently.

In the final week, we commandeered the Chautauqua County Fairgrounds for final preparations and setup. The Fairgrounds committee was most gracious and accommodating! What a great group of people! Sleds started showing up on Wednesday with more on Thursday and all were setup by Friday night. Of course, Mother Nature helped us out tremendously. The weather was perfect; temperature highs in the mid 70's, lows in the mid 50's, partly sunny, light winds and only light rain on late Friday night.

Rain or not, seven huge well-lit buildings were at our disposal to accommodate more than 500 sleds and displays with ample room between sleds for judging. There was also limited inside space for requesting vendors. A huge mostly blacktopped midway was our vendor-swapper area and a courtesy delivery service for swap meet purchases was implemented. There was plenty of concessions and restrooms that kept everyone happy. The Hartloff Cinema offered a cozy, well-equipped retreat for vintage sled enthusiasts. One team member assembled 2.5 hours of vintage sled promotions, commercials, and ads to continuously play on a huge monitor.

Now for some sled / participant statistics: 552 registered sleds, 43 judged classes, 131 trophies awarded, 100+ sled/cutter brands, and 144 registered participants from 13 US





states (ME to WI to NC and 1 from CA) and Canadian provinces (ON and QC). Some of the more popular brands with five or more in attendance were Arctic Cat, Ski Doo, Polaris, Yamaha, Moto Ski, Massey/ Ferguson, Rupp, Skiroule, Sno Jet, Scorpion, Chaparral, John Deere, Mercury, Kawasaki, LVI Raider, Boa Ski, and Auto Ski. There were many other makes of sleds that brought back vivid memories of their heydays in the 60's and 70's. In fact, they were awarded almost 20% of the trophies!

A great draw on Super Saturday was the special guest appearances by four racing legends: Tim Bender (Yamaha), Jim Sul: aka "The Flying Farmer" (Sno Jet, Polaris Arctic Cat), Gabe and Taylor Bunke of Bunke Racing (Polaris) —son and grandson of the late legend Jerry Bunke—and Rejean Houle, founder of Skiroule snowmobiles. People were able to chat with them, sign autographs and get pictures.

Saturday night's catered BBQ dinner was attended by over 200 guests at the Clarion Hotel Pavilion along the shores of Lake Erie near the Dunkirk Pier. It was a big hit with all that attended. That night, some individuals chose to attend a massive George Strait/Chris Stapleton concert. Others spent some time visiting Niagara Falls during parts of the show. There were plenty things to occupy yourself and sights to see.

The one-hour awards ceremony, held at noon on Sunday,



**2025 VSCA National Show Steering Committee**  
 L to R: K. Schmitz, M. Mesi, J. Luther, P. Pacos, R. Hartloff,  
 J. Parisio, H. Newberry, R. Engasser, B. Brown (Missing:  
 J. Gominiak, D. Mallaber, D. McAvoy)

presented a total of 129 sled-class trophies (1st, 2nd and 3rd place). The show wrapped up with the presentation of the People's Choice trophy and the prestigious 2025 National Champion award. After the awards, participant sleds were quickly and efficiently loaded and everyone was on their way home. In the end, the 20th Annual Vintage Snowmobile National Show in Dunkirk exceeded every expectation by uniting vintage snowmobile enthusiasts, legendary racers, dedicated volunteers, and generous sponsors at the highly suitable Chautauqua County Fairgrounds.2025

## 2025 NATIONAL SHOW AWARDS

- 66 Older Front Engine Original - 1st, 1966 Sno Jet, Charles Bierce. 2nd, 1965 Arctic Cat Kitten, Fred Miller. 3rd, 1966 OMC Snow Cruiser, John Notchick
- 66 Older Front Engine Restored - 1st, 1960 Ski Doo, Bob Heighling. 2nd, 1961 Ski Doo, Bob Heighling. 3rd, 1966 Ski Doo, Bryan Lehr.
- 66 Older Rear Engine Original - 1st, 1964 Polaris, Robert Hartloff. 2nd, 1964 Polaris, Peter Pacos.
- 66 Older Rear Engine Restored - 1st, 1965 Eliason, Don Hamilton. 2nd, 1963 Polaris, Bob Heighling. 3rd, 1963 Bozak, Allan Jewell
- 67-69 Original - 1st, 1968 Arctic Cat, Fred Miller. 2nd, 1969 Arctic Cat, Ackley Family. 3rd, 1968 Arctic Cat, David Schark
- 67-69 Restored - 1st, 1967.5 Arctic Cat, David Schark. 2nd, 1969 Mercury, Bob Heighling. 3rd, 1969 Skiroule, Vance Heroth
- 70-72 Original - 1st, 1972 Yamaha, Howard Newberry. 2nd, 1972 Ski Doo, Roger Garman. 3rd, 1971 Arctic Cat, Mark Balcerzak
- 70-72 Restored - 1st, 1971 Moto-Loo, Aaron Zeoli. 2nd, 1970 Boa Ski, Josh Lupinski. 3rd, 1972 Boa Ski, Jim Lupinski
- 73-75 Original - 1st, 1974 Suzuki, Cody McVicker. 2nd, 1973 Polaris, Jeff Darr. 3rd, 1974 Arctic Cat, William Sowers.
- 73-75 Restored - 1st, 1974 Raider, CJeff Cherry. 2nd, 1974 Chaparral, James Blunden. 3rd, 1974 John Deere, Jim Van Wormer.
- 76-79 Original - 1st, 1978 Polaris, Eric and Ray Melfi. 2nd, 1978 Scorpion, David Pero. 3rd, 1976 Mercury, Josh Leviker
- 76-79 Restored - 1978 Polaris, Matthew Wagom. 2nd, 1979 Polaris, Dan Cunningham. 3rd, 1976 Mercury, William Stickney
- 80-85 Original - 1st, 1982 Polaris, Dan Cunningham. 2nd, 1985 Yamaha, Tim Rosenburg. 3rd, 1980 Scorpion, Thomas Dickerson
- 80-85 Restored - 1st, 1983 Polaris, Matthew Wagom. 2nd, 1984 Moto Ski, Evan Schmitz. 3rd, 1980 Kawasaki, John Sprague.
- 86-95 Original - 1st, 1993 Yamaha, Jeff Salerno. 2nd, 1994 Arctic Cat, Donald Zuzze. 3rd, 1990 Arctic Cat, Kyle Wilkins
- 86-95 Restored - 1st, 1993 Yamaha, Wayne Palmeter. 2nd, 1990 Ski Doo, Evan Schmitz
- Muscle 70-75 Original - 1st, 1971 Arctic Cat, Bob Torno. 2nd, 1972 Arctic Cat, David Schark. 3rd, 1974 Arctic Cat, Dave Wiedrick.
- Muscle 70-75 Restored - 1st, 1973 Boa Ski, Jim Lupinski. 2nd, 1972 Arctic Cat, David Schark. 3rd, 1972 Ski Doo, Danny Carruthers.
- Muscle 76-85 Original - 1st, 1979 Arctic Cat, Dennis Johnson. 2nd, 1981 Yamaha, Jamie Dynarski. 3rd, 1981 Arctic Cat, Ackley Family.
- Muscle 76-85 Restored - 1st, 1976 Ski Doo, James Dunphy. 2nd, 1978 Polaris, Marc Harbon. 3rd, 1976 Ski Doo, Mark Mesi.
- Race, 1970 and Older Original - 1st, 1970 Arctic Cat, Mark Money. 2nd, 1970 Arctic Cat, Anthony Perlino. 3rd, 1967 Ski Doo, Danny Carruthers.
- Race, 1970 and Older, Restored - 1st, 1970 Dauphin, Steve Becker. 2nd, 1970 Arctic Cat, Fred Miller. 3rd, 1970 Polaris, Mike Kempfer.
- Race 71-75 Original - 1st, 1973 Moto Ski, Bob Osborn. 2nd, 1973 Arctic Cat, Fred Miller. 3rd, 1973 Sno Jet, Scott Stoll.
- Race 71-75 Restored - 1st, 1971 Skiroule, Adam Paulson. 2nd, 1973 Sno Jet, Mark Bristol. 3rd, 1973 Arctic Cat, Josh Leviker.
- Race 76-85 Original - 1st, 1977 Moto Ski, Eric and Ray Melfi. 2nd, 1976 Mercury, Paul Bellefeuille. 3rd, 1976 Yamaha, Paul Bellefeuille.
- Race 76-85 Restored - 1st, 1978 Arctic Cat. 2nd, 1982 Moto Ski, Herbert Yancey. 3rd, 1977 Arctic Cat, Zeke Brown.
- Mini Sled Original - 1st, 1972 Arctic Cat, Fred Miller. 2nd, 1978 Arctic Cat, Ackley Family. 3rd, 1972 Arctic Cat, Scott Petschke.
- Mini Sled Restored - 1st, 1973 Arctic Cat, Fred Miller. 2nd, 1973 Arctic Cat, Marc Harbon. 3rd, 1974 Alouette, Steven Eichman.
- Cutter Original - 1st, 1967 Care-Free, Tom Beaser. 2nd, 1972 Sno Pac, Josh Lupinski. 3rd, 1967 Care-Free, Terry Wellman
- Cutter Restored - 1st, 1970 Sno Leopard, Anthony Perlino. 2nd, 1972 Mush Sleigh, Terry Wellman. 3rd, 1967 Arctic Cat, Ackley Family.
- Forgotten Wonder Original - 1st, 1973 Kohler Sno Pro, Stephen Dickinson. 2nd, 1972 Sno Pac, Josh Lupinski. 3rd, 1974 Bear Cat, Steve Becker.
- Forgotten Wonder Restored - 1st, 1968 Sno-Squire, Jim Lupinski. 2nd, 1973 Brut, Keith Schmitz. 3rd, 1969 Sno-Flite, William Sowers.
- Youth 85 and Older Original - 1st, 1978 Yamaha, Levi & Brian Drake. 2nd, 1977 Yamaha, Levi & Brian Drake. 3rd, 1976 Yamaha, Callen & Brian Drake.
- Youth 85 and Older Restored - 1st, 1977 Yamaha, Callen & Brian Drake. 2nd, 1976 Yamaha, Levi & Brian Drake. 3rd, 1978 Yamaha, Callen & Brian Drake.
- Trail Modern 96-05 - 1st, 2004 Polaris, Jonathon Draves. 2nd, 2002 Yamaha, Bob Hamm. 3rd, 2000 Polaris, Kyle Wilkins.
- Active Race Sleds - 1st, 1977 Moto Ski, Edward Young. 2nd, 2003 Arctic Cat, Dean Bedgar. 3rd, 1972 Chaparral, Scott Stoll.
- Clone Sleds - 1st, 1970 Arctic Cat, Fred Miller. 2nd, 1974 Arctic Cat, Zeke Brown. 3rd, 1970 Arctic Cat, David Schark.
- Custom/Resto-Mod - 1st, 1977 Arctic Cat, Fred Miller. 2nd, 1973 Moto Ski, Dave and Mary St. John. 3rd, 1973 Arctic Cat, Fred Miller.
- Custom Mini Sled - 1st, 1977 Arctic Cat, Fred Miller. 2nd, 1973 Moto Ski, Dave and Mary St. John. 3rd, 1973 Arctic Cat, Fred Miller.
- Most Unique - 1st, 1974 Raider, John Gruini. 2nd, 1968 Ski Doo, Danny Carruthers. 3rd, 1970 Arctic Cat, Stephen Dickinson.
- Utility/Work Sleds - 1st, 1968 Ski Doo, Bob Heighling. 2nd, 1964 Ski Doo, Dennis Czarniak. 3rd, 1970 Ski Doo, Rick Thomas.
- Best Display - 1st, Yamaha, Jamie Dynarski. 2nd, Ski Doo, Bryan Lehr. 3rd, Yamaha, Callen, Levi and Brian Drake.
- People's Choice - 1970 Arctic Cat, Anthony Perlino

**2025 National Champion - 1971 Skiroule RTX 800, Adam Paulson.**







