



Hillclimbers selected for Copper Peak

Every year the top Snowmobile Hillclimbers in the Midwest is selected to compete at the Championship Snowmobile Hillclimb at Copper Peak. The Mid America Snowmobile Tournament of Expert Riders, commonly known as the MASTERS Circuit, limits the amount of drivers.

This year's Copper Peak Hillclimb will take place on February 14th. The one day event has drawn thousands of fans since the event was first professionally sanctioned in 1995. It is considered the most extreme Snowmobile Hillclimb east of the Rockies. While hundreds of drivers have tried to go around the 3 gates and make it through the 'timing shoot,' only a handful of drivers have ever accomplished this.

Returning to the competition is the 2007 and 2008 Pro Stock King of the Hill winner, Wyler "Wild Man" Miller of Pelkie, Michigan. Miller also won the 2007 Pro Mod King of the Hill. Miller also competed at the World Championship Hillclimb in Jackson, Wyoming in 2007. This year Miller has entered 4 Pro Stock Classes and 4 Pro Mod Classes. He will be on a Ski-Doo Summit in all the classes.



Last years Pro Mod King of the Hill, Matt "Tinger" Tingstad of Bessemer, Michigan will be defending his title again this year. Tingstad competed at the World Championship's in Jackson last year. Tinger was the first Pro Mod King of the Hill to win on a 500cc Snowmobile. "Tinger," a Professional "Freestyle" rider will be on the Excon Freeride Arctic Cat.

Coming from the home of the Polaris Factory in Roseau, Minnesota will be another driver that qualified through Copper Peak to compete at the World Championship's. This is Nick Gustafson. Gustafson will be on the Polaris Assault RMK. Gustafson will be competing in Pro Stock 800, Pro Open Stock, Pro Mod 800 and Pro Open Mod.

Advancing to the 2008 King of the Hill competition was DePere, Wisconsin's Matt Cook. Cook returns on an Arctic Cat. One of the most exciting drivers to watch every year is Yamaha Driver, Jason Sullivan. Sullivan comes from Negaunee, Michigan.

Also selected to compete are past hillclimbers, Lane Stank of Menomonee, Mi; Lance Forcia, Jr. of L'Anse, Mi; Joe Van Kalker of Levering, Mi; Chuck Robiadek of Cheboygan, Mi; and Mike Stanczak of Ironwood, Mi.

Representing the State of Illinois will be Chris Theilson. In addition to Gustafson, Minnesota will be represented by Chuck Effenberger of New Ulm. Wisconsin driver competing in addition to Cook is 1st Time Copper Peak competitor Jason Kleinschmidt of Merrill.

The Upper Peninsula will once again have a strong contingent of competitors. This includes Jeff Anderson of Bessemer; Josh Pearce and Nick Bracco of Calumet; Dylan Harju, Craig Davis and Jacob Noviscone of Ironwood; Adam Johnson of Chassell; Josh Coleman of L'Anse; and Cole Harju of Wakefield.

The most competitive class will be Pro Stock 700, where 14 drivers will compete. The winner of each class advances to the Pro Stock or Pro Mod King of the Hill Competition. The Pro Stock King of the Hill and the Pro Mod King of the Hill each wins \$1000 and qualifies for the World Championship Hillclimb in Jackson, Wyoming. This year the Jackson, Wyoming Sno Devils has offered an invite to the Pro Stock and Pro Mod King of the Hill runner-up.

Each driver runs two different courses around 3 gates located on the steep bluff of Copper Peak. The 2nd Gate is located on what is called 'The Wall,' which is the steepest part of the hill. 'The Wall' has a pitch of 41 degree's.

"This is where most of the drivers have problems," stated event organizer and President of the MASTERS Circuit, Skip Schulz. "With the Bessemer area already recording over 7 feet of snow this year, we're expecting a majority of the class winners to be decided by the highest mark on the hill," stated Schulz.

Competition will begin at 9:00 am Central Time, with the King of the Hill "Shootout" scheduled for around 3:00 pm CST. Gates will open at 7:00 am CST, with the Reserved VIP Parking at the bottom of the hill being on a first come basis. Copper Peak Ski Flying Inc also provides Regular Parking. Those that take the Regular Parking should bring a lawn chair to watch the competition from the base of the hill.