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SCORPION HOMECOMING REACQUAINTS COMMUNITY WITH ITS SNOWMOBILE HERITAGE

Crosby, Minn. – February 4, 2006

In response to the surprising success of last year's event, the Cuyuna Range Chamber of Commerce's annual ice fishing contest will once again be expanded to include a unique gathering of present-day Scorpion snowmobile collectors, former employees, racers and dealers.

Although forgotten by many area residents, the Scorpion snowmobile company once employed over 500 persons and peaked as the nation's second largest manufacturer of snowmobiles. The firm's contributions to the industry were significant, from the continuous rubber track to metal fleck hoods, the para-rail suspension and the lightweight Cuyuna engine. There is little doubt that Scorpion innovations played a pivotal role in the evolution of modern snowmobiling.

Fully twenty five years since the local firm closed its doors, many area residents are now surprised to learn that their old Scorpion may now be a collectors item, and worth a serious amount of money. In fact, racing sleds like the Super Stinger now routinely sell for over \$10,000. Seemingly obscure items like Scorpion branded lapel pins or playing cards are now in serious demand from collectors and hobbyists, each garnering surprising prices on Internet auction sites like eBay.

As early as 1976 groups like the Antique Snowmobile Club of America began forming with the express purpose of collecting, restoring and racing these wonderful old machines, including Scorpions. The hobby grew quickly and now involves thousands of people. Numerous magazines and newsletters exist along with several Internet-based discussion groups. One such group, hosted by Yahoo! boasts nearly 500 enthusiastic members, all specifically dedicated to preserving the memory of Scorpion snowmobiles.

Local residents are encouraged to clean-up those old machines and bring them down to the Homecoming's on-ice display line on Saturday, February 4, 2006. Each sled will be provided with a customizable sign and will be eligible for several trophies to be awarded at 3:00 PM.

The event is held in conjunction with the Chamber's annual ice fishing contest conducted just off-shore from Crosby's Memorial Park (Highway 210). The Scorpion portion is free but

Scorpion Homecoming ...

attendees are encouraged to support the Chamber through the purchase of raffle tickets, commemorative buttons, hats and other items.

Schedule – Saturday, February 4, 2006

- 10:00 – 11:30 AM Set-up
- 12:00 – 3:00 PM Snowmobile display
- 3:00 – 3:15 PM Awards presentation
- 3:15 – 4:30 PM Serpent Lake trail ride sponsored by the Sno-Serpents snowmobile club
- 5:00 – 7:00 PM Open house at local collection, see on-ice Homecoming booth for details and directions

For more information:

<http://www.trailasled.com/hc2006.htm>

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