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This is part of an occasional series by the Sanpete County Travel and Utah Heritage Highway 89 Alliance on the people and places along U.S. Highway 89.

Utah Town Celebrates Snow & Cold With Snowmobile Races

By Christian Probasco

For the National Mormon Pioneer Heritage Area

FAIRVIEW, UTAH—When Fairview (elevation 5,948 feet) gets snow, it makes snowmobile race courses for its Winter Fest celebration. This Winter Fest, its sixth, will feature a mix of cutting-edge and old-time racing with a new event in the lineup: Vintage Snow Cross.

“We wanted to add another activity for local people,” says festival committee member David Taylor. “Many locals have older machines which can’t compete with the latest models.” 1981 and older, 1982-1989, and 1990-present. The vintage course will be gentler than the one designed solely for modern machines, in order to prevent launching riders of older machines into the sky.

“The vintage machines don’t have decent suspensions compared to recent ones,” says Taylor.

That doesn’t mean festival-goers won’t be able to see fast machines. At the top of the drag-race categories are the nitro-modified machines, which Taylor calls “wicked.”

“Some of them are supposed to be able to go 100 miles per hour,” he says.

As usual, local Branch Cox has volunteered his time and equipment to lay out the snow-cross courses. As such, he also gets to design them.

“We let him play around and do whatever he wants,” says Taylor, who adds that Cox’s son Kenny will do all the hard physical labor.

The public will be allowed to check out the antique snow machines and the modern nitro dragsters from the opening time of 8 a.m. until 9:30 a.m., when riders will test and tune their machines for the competitions. The races will begin at 10 a.m.

Winners in each division of the Vintage Snow Cross, the regular Mountain Sled Snow Cross and the Skyline Drag Race will each receive \$50. Runners-up will get \$20, and third-place winners will receive \$10.

Top place in the Iron Man Race will also be worth \$50.



Snowmobiles will race the Vintage Snow Cross in one of three classes during the festival on Feb. 6th. Attendees should expect to see snowmobiles like these machines from the 2008 celebration “catch air.”

The drag race and the snow-cross races will be held outside the rodeo arena. At noon, kids 8-15 years of age will drag race across the arena and also race around the oval. Every child who races will receive a trophy.

Participants will be provided several warming barrels to thaw their frozen digits, and concessions will sell hot chocolate and meals to warm their insides.

General admission is \$5 per adult 16 or older, \$3 for children 5 through 15, and \$15 for a family pass. Kids 4 and under get in free. The registration fee for the children's drag and oval race will be \$3. Adult events cost \$20 to enter, plus \$5 per pit-crew member.

Registration will be held on the day of the event from 8-9:30 a.m. All riders must use a helmet, and their machines must be equipped with a tether cord and snow flap.

Photograph courtesy Gene Chantry/Sanpete Messenger

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