Written by Janet Rohde
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CASPIAN—Due to the lack of snow at the former Caspian Ski Jump Hill, the Mid America Snow and Terrain Extreme Racers (MASTERS) Racing Circuit has changed the date of the Mid America Championship Snowmobile Hillclimb. The event was planned for Saturday, Feb. 2. The new date is Saturday, Feb. 16. __PUBLIC__

However, the MASTERS has added another event to that weekend. This will be an Uphill Snowmobile Drag Race at the Caspian Ski Hill. The Uphill Snow Drags will take place on Sunday, Feb. 17.

According to MASTERS Racing Circuit President, Skip Schulz, the council unanimously approved allowing the MASTERS Racing Circuit to hold an Uphill Snowmobile Drag Race at the Caspian Ski Hill, located right behind the city council offices. The Ski Hill is located just west of the hill where the Mid America Championship Hillclimb will take place.

Shultz added that the Iron River Snowmobile Club agreed to provide the MASTERS with groomers for the lanes that the snowmobilers will be racing for the Uphill Snow Drags.

“I can’t thank everyone in the Caspian, Iron River area for all they do to bring two major Snowmobile events to the area,” said Schulz.

“The MASTERS not only needs the support of area business’, but also the support of both local government and the snowmobile club to have the chance to bring an event and people to the area. We’re fortunate to have all this support.”

It will be at the Mid America Championship Hillclimb (MACH) that drivers from throughout the Midwest will be competing. The MACH is also a qualifying event for the World Championship Snowmobile Hillclimb in Jackson, Wyo.

Last year it was a North Dakota driver and a Minnesota driver who won the Pro Stock and Pro Mod King of the Hill. Those drivers not only qualified for the World Championship Snowmobile Hillclimb, each driver also won $500 for going the farthest up this very steep hill.

“While the hill was a challenge last year,” said Schultz, “it will be even tougher to go over the top this year. This past summer, City of Caspian and Bar Industries added another 50 feet to the top of the hill. Other improvements to the site include additional fan parking provided by Lakeshore Motel and increased parking for the drivers. The Caspian Fire Department Auxiliary will have a concession tent.”

For the first time in the racing circuit’s 20 year existence, it has added two classes for children between the ages of 12 and 17. The MASTERS has also added both a stock and a modified 120cc class in hillclimb competition for children between the ages of five and nine. The MASTERS will also run the Junior-1 and Junior-2 classes in the Drag Races.

The first Snowmobile Drag Race of the season will be the Uphill Drags at the Caspian Ski Hill on Sunday, Feb. 17. The MASTERS will also host the Chippewa Sno Kats Snow Drag at the Iron County Airport on March 2.

Those interested in competing in any MASTERS event have to pre-register. Pre-registration, along with the parental permission forms for children under 18 competing are on the Masters Website, www.mastersracing.net.

Drivers can also e-mail Schulz at sschulz@jamadots.com or call him at 906-884-9101.