Story Title:
2018 Clean Snowmobile Challenge Starts Next Week

Keywords:
Emissions, Industry, Keweenaw Research Center

Intro Content:
Michigan Technological University will host 23 teams for the 19th annual SAE International Clean Snowmobile Challenge March 5-10, 2018.

Main Content:

For the 16th year running, the Keweenaw Research Center at Michigan Tech is bringing talented student engineers to compete for the quietest, cleanest snowmobile. There are several events to this SAE International competition-- from endurance runs to noise tests.

"With 23 teams competing it is always amazing to see 23 different solutions to the same question," says Jay Meldrum, director of the Keweenaw Research Center. "How can we make snowmobiles clean and quiet and still fun to ride? After all, they are recreational vehicles."

Cleaner and Quieter

The teams are comprised of engineering students from all over the northern US and Canada, and they come to test and showcase their quieter and cleaner designs in the Keweenaw Peninsula, where the average snowfall totals reach more than 200 inches. The teams start with a standard modern snowmobile, then take them apart, modify and build a sled with reduced noise and emissions.

This year, there will be only two categories in the competition: internal combustion--gasoline and diesel utility. Internal combustion sleds are the most common, so their designs are important for recreation and other uses. Diesel utility sleds could never win a race if held to the same noise and emission levels, but they are tested for pulling heavy loads.

Laws passed in 2006 define emissions and noise standards for snowmobiles, which the students are challenged to surpass. With the chance to collaborate with industry experts, the educational opportunity has a real-world connection.

"TKquote from Faurecia."

Endurance Run

The six-day competition starts on Monday March 5 and ends Saturday March 10 with an awards banquet to honor the winners of the many categories. The first day of the competition is dedicated to technical inspections, which make sure all of the teams comply with the rules--The rulebook has 66 pages and to mix things up, the rules change slightly every year. The main event on the second day is a 100-mile Endurance Run from the Keweenaw Research Center to Copper Harbor. The third day and fourth day include technical presentations, which will be done in the Keweenaw Research Center itself this year, along with noise measurements, emissions measurements and subjective handling evaluations, as well as a draw bar pull for diesel sleds. The fifth day continues with emissions testing, but is also used as a break for the students and the volunteers to enjoy what the Keweenaw has to offer--skiing, snowshoeing and, of course, snowmobiling.

The final day's events are open to the public, starting with an early morning cold-start test followed by lively acceleration and handling events. Saturday night, and the competition, concludes with a banquet where the week's scores are tallied and rewarded.

Social Media Seeds

Instagram

Over 200 inches of snow annually may seem crazy, but it makes the Keweenaw Research Center a #crazysmart choice for the #CleanSnowmobileChallenge-- an engineering competition to make a cleaner, quieter #snowmobile.

Twitter

With over 200 inches of snow annually, the Keweenaw Research Center is the perfect place to hold the SAE #CleanSnowmobileChallenge-- and we've done it 16 years in a row.

Facebook

With over 200 inches of snow annually in the Keweenaw, snowmobiles are almost as common as cars. The Keweenaw Research center is the perfect place to host the Clean Snowmobile Challenge--a competition to make a cleaner, quieter snowmobile.

LinkedIn

With over 200 inches of snow annually, the Michigan Tech Keweenaw Research Center is no stranger to testing vehicles in the snow and ice. For 16 years running, the Keweenaw Research Center has hosted the SAE Clean Snowmobile Challenge, a competition dedicated to designing cleaner, quieter snowmobiles.