

GET SET TO Snowmobile



SNOWMOBILERS . . . THIS PAGE IS FOR YOU. SEND IN YOUR CLUB NEWS, RACE DATES, STORIES AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION. WE WILL PUT YOUR CONTRIBUTION ON THIS SPECIAL PAGE EACH WEEK IN THE JOURNAL.

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Eight Snowmobile Races For North Country

The Eastern Division of the United States Snowmobile Association, which recently divided into competitive and recreational divisions, has announced the following schedule of U.S.S.A. Sanctioned 1971-72 races to be held in Northern New York:

All events offer all classes. On Saturdays, all events will run classes 0 to 345 cc and on Sundays 346 to 800cc events will be run.

Jan. 15 and 16: At Lowville, sponsored by Lowville Fish and Game Club.

Jan. 22, 23: At Redfield, sponsored by the Redfield Fish and Game Club.

Jan. 29, 30: At Malone, sponsored by AMVETS, Malone Post No. 8.

Feb. 5, 6: At Tupper Lake, sponsored by Tupper Lake Chamber of Commerce.

Feb. 11: U.S.S.A. National Speed Trials at Boonville.

Feb. 12, 13: At Boonville, sponsored by Boonville Area Chamber of Commerce.

Feb. 26, 27: At Waddington, sponsored by Waddington Fish and Game Club.

And, March 4, 5: At Copenhagen, sponsored by the Copenhagen Civic Corporation.

The recently formed recreational division will cooperate with local and state organizations within the Eastern Division to promote all aspects of recreational snowmobiling such as legislation, insurance, ecology, trail development and youth training programs.

This division will also strive to unite and strengthen all state organizations presently in existence and aid in forming state organizations where there are none at present.

The board members of the recreational division will hold a meeting to coordinate the efforts of U.S.S.A. and the state organizations in the areas of recreational snowmobiling where they feel improvements are needed.

Individuals or organizations wishing further information concerning the recreational division may contact the U.S.S.A. Eastern Division, Boonville, 13309.

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Burned Auto Lights Could Be Hazardous

Cleveland, Ohio - Burned out lights on the family auto are often more exasperating to the other motorists than they are to you.

Some lights are specifically designed to serve as safety devices; others are for the owner's convenience. Faulty headlights and tail lights are a hazard. Dome lights or map lights which don't work often are ignored until the inconvenience becomes annoying.

Auto lights usually take only minutes to fix and are not expensive to replace. And yet, according to Dr. Robert Rightmire, director of auto research for BP Oil Corporation, "studies show that eight out of 10 cars on our roads have some kind of lighting deficiency."

"Most of the defects deal with headlights which are either burned out or improperly aimed. Other problems concern broken lenses or burned out small bulbs. In some cases, damaged wiring, bulb housings and flashers are to blame, and sometimes a burned out fuse puts light out," he said.

Reaiming headlights should be done whenever a sealed beam is replaced, but it should also be checked regularly as springs and shock absorbers begin to wear or are replaced. The area that headlights illuminate will change significantly as a car's suspension changes.

Although many service stations today have special headlight aiming equipment, parking the car on level ground and focusing the lights on a distant wall is often a satisfactory way of doing the job.

To replace a headlamp, the trim around the light is removed, the aiming screws loosened, and the old lamp removed from its socket. When the new sealed beam is inserted, it should be switched on and aimed before the trim is replaced. On some of the newer cars, head lights can be aimed with the trim installed.

Tail lights, which are equally important, can often be replaced from within the trunk. Front parking and turn signal lights are reached by removing the lens.

Other lights on the car, such as the dome lights, glove compartment light, clock light, map light, and instrument lights can be replaced easily in just a few minutes.

"Broken lenses are a driving hazard as well as a frequent cause of expensive damage to the light housings," Dr. Rightmire said. "Water seeping through a cracked lens will quickly corrode light sockets. Fixing auto lights promptly makes the car safer and more economical to drive," he said.

World Notes Astronomer Who Put Planets In Orbits

WASHINGTON — It took a prophetic science fiction writer and sometime astrologer to put the Earth in its place.

Now, in the 400th year of his birth, the world salutes Johannes Kepler as the stepfather, if not the father, of modern astronomy, the National Geographic Society says.

Kepler was born in the town of Weil der Stadt near Germany's Black Forest Dec. 27, 1571.

In the course of his 59-year life, he was variously an impoverished mathematics professor, father of 12 children, a fairly successful if skeptical astrologer, first to use the word satellite, inventor of the modern refracting telescope, dreamer, and a science fiction writer who foretold a spaceman's trip to the moon with amazing accuracy.

Naked-eye Astronomer

As a first class mathematician he suspected the undiscovered principles of calculus and the existence of gravity and centrifugal force.

But as an astronomer Kepler set forth his ambitions in a letter in 1605:

"My purpose is to demonstrate that the heavenly bodies are not living divine beings but a complex piece of clock-work; that their various movements are governed by a magnetic and material force just as the movements of a clock are governed by a simple weight."

If perhaps not exactly heresy, those were brave words at a time when freedom of expression was hardly the rule of the day. Men had been burned at the stake for saying less.

Copernicus had recently revived the theory-labeled dangerous and ridiculous in Greece nearly 2,000 years earlier—that the planets revolved around the sun, not the Earth, as the all-powerful church believed.

It took Kepler to prove the church wrong and Copernicus correct: The sun—not the Earth—was the center of the planetary system. In doing so, he had to solve the riddle of why some planets, especially Mars, seemed to loop backwards briefly from time to time as they orbited.

Egg-shaped Orbits

Kepler used measurements on the positions of Mars made by the most accurate astronomical observer of the day, Tycho Brahe. The figures would fit only Copernicus' sun-in-the-center theory and only when Kepler abandoned another old belief: that planets orbit in circles.

Kepler concluded they must travel around the sun in egg-shaped orbits, and his writings show he suspected the existence of the two forces that govern the orbit—gravitational pull from the sun and centrifugal force.

The planets did not loop at all. This was merely an illusion discovered when Kepler learned that the planets each traveled their egg-shaped orbits at different speeds, which varied at different points in the circuit around the sun.

Confirmation of the heliocentric theory and working out the basic laws of planetary motion are acknowledged today as the foundation of modern astronomical calculations.

Birds Of Prey Approaching Danger Point Says Report

NEW YORK — At least four species of North American birds of prey continue to approach the danger point for survival, and another — the Peregrine Falcon — has already reached it, according to the National Audubon Society.

The Society's bimonthly journal, "American Birds," analyzing the reports of last summer's breeding success sent in by more than 1500 field observers, is publishing this conclusion in its October issue. The reports, coming from every state and province in the U.S. and Canada and representing thousands of hours of observation, show that, "with a few exceptions, there has been a continual overall decline in the hawk and eagle population," says editor Robert Arbib.

Declines in these species have been attributed to the effects of DDT and other pesticide residues; loss of habitat for nesting, and most recently the possibility of mercuric chloride poisoning. In addition, large numbers of hawks and owls are still being shot, despite the fact that, with a few exceptions in some states, it is against the law to shoot them. The Audubon Society has been waging a long campaign to educate hunters to the laws, and to explain that these birds, far from being "harmful," have an important role to play in keeping populations of rabbits, rats and other species in check.

Most severely threatened of all the birds of prey, and already extinct as a breeding species in the northeast, is the swift and handsome Peregrine Falcon, which is now becoming extremely scarce throughout North America. Only one or two nesting pairs are reported in the American Birds survey.

Drastically reduced in numbers are two of the long-winged forest hawks — The Cooper's and the Sharp-shinned. "Continue to decline" was the report from the Appalachians. "None breeding anywhere" from Quebec and New York state.

Also in this category is the once-familiar Red-shouldered Hawk, reported down in numbers in the upper Midwest, in Saskatchewan, in the Northeast and elsewhere. The little version of the Sparrow Hawk that inhabits the Florida Peninsula was reported to be "growing in scarcity."

The Marsh Hawk, America's only harrier, was everywhere down in numbers, reflecting the diminution of its marshland habitat and possible pesticide problems. "Now scarce in southern New England," "Disastrous in Idaho," "None reported in the Ottawa, Ontario area," "Down in the upper Midwest" were among the comments.

Species showing mixed reports - down in some areas and holding their own in others - included the Osprey, the Prairie Falcon, the Red-tailed Hawk, the Golden Eagle. The eagle, however, was subjected to illegal hunting (500-800 killed) in Wyoming this season, a loss it cannot repeatedly sustain.

Species apparently holding their own included the Bald Eagle, Broad-winged, Swainson's, and Ferruginous Hawks.

Contrarily, three species of kites, the White-tailed, Mississippi, and Swallowtailed, showed increases and range extensions, while the fourth, the extremely local Everglade Kite failed entirely to nest in 1971; this last was attributed to the drought in Florida.

today's FUNNY

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