

Xtreme International Ice Racing

By Dennis Martin



The Xtreme International Ice Racing or XiiR is an AMA sanctioned professional competition. Ice racing began in England with the first official event in 1986. Go to www.xiir.com to read more about the XiiR. I could see that there were more spectators this year than last so it must be catching everyone's attention here in Missouri and Illinois. As last year, this event was again sponsored by Doc's Harley Davidson.

These competitors and their machines can reach speeds up to 60mph. The Speedway bikes and quads are obviously modified. The most noticeable modification is in the tires, or I should say, in the tires. Most spectators think that they get their traction by simply putting sheet metal screws on the tire treads. Well it is much more than that. What is used are metal studs referred to as "Ice Cutters". At first glance it appears to be a screw, but actually the head is specially shaped to create more grip on the ice. The threads create a seal that keeps the air from escaping the tire.

Before the race, the pit area had a flurry of activity going on. Anything from changing tires at the last minute, to fine tuning the engines. After a closer look while I was there, I noticed that there were no brakes on the motorcycles, Wow! After a few races, the ice was turned into shavings in the corners. In fact it was gone, down to the concrete floor and it needs to be resurfaced. There were so many bikes in the pit area that the Zamboni had to be parked outside. If you were there, you probably noticed the temperature drop when the garage door was opened. After all it was only about 10 degrees outside. It was warmer out on the ice in the middle of the track than in the pit area. I had a great view and took as many pictures as I could so that I could share them with you. If you were there, you had a better view of the whole track.

There were a few accidents during the races. But that is to be expected while racing on ice. It is very exciting to watch and of course the kids love it.

After the event everyone had a chance to meet the racers and get an autograph or two. For about an hour the riders signed anything from programs to their very own goggles for the fans. The line was a couple hundred feet long. Be watching the calendar for next year, as you and your kids or nieces and nephews will not want to miss it.

Results from the St. Charles Family Arena

Speedway

1st place Charlie Venegas
2nd place James Mann
3rd place Anthony Barlow
4th place Ronny Kemp
5th place Jim Terchila
6th place David Meldrum

Quads

1st place Rich Schoeberl
2nd place Chris Hall
3rd place Belden Gaines
4th place Anthony Barlow
5th place James Mann
6th place Nathan Seigel

