

As late fall turns to early winter in the Midwest, many motocross racers stash their bikes away in preparation for the long, cold off season ahead. They trade in their jersey and riding pants for winter jackets and bibs for snowmobiling or a long season of ice fishing. But for a select few, they begin preparation for their second season. They trade in the knobby tires for studded ones and add custom guards. Their machines look as unique as the riders themselves. They are ice racers. A special breed of rider that endures the harsh winter elements and adapts to a unnatural riding style.

This weekend we have the privilege of following some of the Great Lakes Ice Racing Club's finest riders as they head to Cadillac, MI for the 2013 AMA Ice Race Grand Championships. The riders range from seasoned veterans to first timers, studded quads to dirtbikes. Here are some of the riders we will be following:



As a former District 16 Quad racer, Gladstone native, Dan Kujala has made the ice his home. Taking to the ice to gain more valuable seat time and pass the long harsh Michigan winters, Kujala has excelled at ice racing. Since retiring from District 16 competition, he has focused all his time and energy into his ice racing program and The Great Lakes Ice Racing Club. Since trading in his knobby tires for a studded set, he has amassed an impressive list of accomplishments. The 4-time AMA Ice Racing National Champion has 7 podium finishes at the Nationals including 4 wins, and 8 Great Lakes

Ice Racing Studded Quad Championships.

This year Dan looks to add a 5<sup>th</sup> title to his already impressive resume. With an improved motor package, a dedicated group of mechanics, and a more focused program, Kujala looks to take Cadillac by storm.

Kujala has not only made his mark on the track, but off the track as well, as Vice President of the Great Lakes Ice Racing Club. Responsible for club funding and sponsorship, he has helped the club grow financially and in competitors. Assisting up and coming riders with their programs and promoting the family fun aspect of ice racing, Dan has become an ambassador of the sport in the Great Lakes region.

Taking to the ice at a young age, second generation ice racer Kyle Meiers takes his 18 years of racing experience downstate to take on the best in the AMA Pro Kold Kutter Shootout. The quiet mild-mannered 26 year old races year round on dirt and the ice. Kyle races many different disciplines including flat track oval racing, Supermoto, and non studded quads on the ice. He competes in the AMA Grand National Singles and AMA All-Star Series as well.



Meiers' racing career has had a great deal of success, including a National ice racing championship, dirt track National championship, and numerous District 16 flat track championships. When he isn't at the track, the trained wildfire fighter is an avid outdoorsman.



While most toddlers are content playing with toys or on a playground, Tyler Livingston strapped on a helmet and took his first ride on a Yamaha PW 50 at the ripe old age of 3. With training wheels fashioned of iron and lawn mowers wheels by his father, the young boy found himself hooked. Six months later, a mere 2 weeks after turning 4, his ice racing career began. With each passing race season Tyler's motorbikes, his passion for racing and his skills continue to grow.

With 4 championships already under his belt, his future is incredibly bright. The 11 year old is making his second trek to the AMA Nationals.

Making his first trip to Nationals is another youngster, Avery Dix. The 8 year old found himself enamored with ice racing after watching several races and convinced his dad to buy him a bike. In 2010 at the age of 5 he competed in his first race. As you would expect he was the slowest kid on the track, but with each race he continued to build more courage, confidence, and skill. He became so confident in his abilities he even entered his 50cc bike in the 65cc class to attain more seat time and get better. In 2012 all his hard work and dedication paid off, with a Great Lakes Ice Racing 50cc Championship.



Interestingly enough, Avery was the first in the Dix family to begin ice racing. But soon after, his little brother Sawyer (age 6) and his father Jason took to the ice as well. The love of the sport and the time spent together as a family has grown into a sport that the Dix family has all become quite passionate about.

The second grader is not only passionate about his ice racing, he participates in numerous team sports, and loves outdoor activities with his father. His parents take a great deal of pride in his academics as he loves to read and is an avid World War II buff.

The AMA will crown it's first amateur champions of the season this weekend, February 9 & 10, at the 2013 Ice Race Grand Championships. With riders ranging from 4 years of age to 50-plus, the most hard core racers will come out this weekend to battle for the coveted No. 1 plate. Follow RACE ONE on Facebook this weekend for updates throughout the weekend.