

POLARIS® HILLCLIMBERS USED POWER & STRENGTH TO DOMINATE LAST SEASON; SET THEIR SIGHTS ON 2014 RMSHA TITLES

Polaris snowmobile racers used the power and strength of their Pro RMK and Assault sleds to dominate the Rocky Mountain Snowmobile Hillclimb Assn. (RMSHA) circuit last winter. Along with dominating at Jackson Hole, the in-season Super Bowl of hillclimb events, Polaris hillclimbers last season:

- Won 10 RMSHA Pro class points titles
- Won all three Semi-Pro points crowns
- Won two Women's points titles
- Won the Pro Masters Modified title
- Won the majority of King of the Hill honors at the circuit's five points events
- Won every Stock class final except one at the first event, going 23 for 24 in Stock victories.

"It's unbelievable what those guys did," said Polaris Race Manager Tom Rager, Jr., "It's a true combination of extremely hard-working, talented riders and a great snowmobile. Plus, Darin does such a good job for us. He really rallies those guys and it's a complete team effort. They work really well together and there's a lot of information sharing, and that's not easy to do when they're all racing against each other."

POLARIS RACERS DOMINATE THE STOCK CLASSES

The sleds used in the Stock classes are extremely close to the Polaris snowmobiles consumers can purchase at Polaris dealerships. Hillclimbers are allowed to revalve their shocks, change their clutching and use traction products. But the seat and handlebars must be stock equipment, and no engine mods are allowed.

Gould said most Polaris racers use the 600 Pro RMK in the Pro 600 and 700 Stock classes, and they compete on the 800 RMK Assault in the Pro 800 and 1000 Stock classes.

Only Polaris hillclimbers had the power and strength to dominate and win in the Stock classes last winter, when they won titles in all four RMSHA Pro Stock classes.

- Polaris hillclimbers finished 1-2 in Pro 600 Stock points and claimed six top-10 spots. Keith Curtis won the title, one of his five points crowns last winter.
- In his first year racing on Polaris sleds, Luke Rainey won the Pro 700 Stock title as Polaris racers finished 1-2-3 in points and earned six top-10 positions.

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POLARIS® HILLCLIMB RECAP & PREVIEW CONTINUED »

- Polaris racers totally dominated in Pro 800 stock, which a Polaris racer won at every event, leading to Polaris hillclimbers finishing first through sixth in points, with Curtis taking the title.
- Curtis won the Pro 1000 Stock class at four of five RMSHA events to earn the class points title, and Polaris racers claimed five top-10 spots in points.

At the season's premier event, the Jackson Hole World Championship Snowmobile Hillclimb last March, Polaris Pro-class racers won four Stock titles. Rainey won the Pro 800 Stock class, then won the event's Stock King of the Hill title.

Curtis won the 600 and 1000 Stock classes at Jackson Hole, and Polaris racers totally dominated in Pro 600 Stock, finishing 1-2-3 and taking six of the top seven places. Dolan Phelps won the Pro 700 Stock class at Jackson Hole, and Les Keller finished second in both 700 and 800 Stock.

POLARIS RACERS CLAIM 10 PRO CLASS TITLES

The Polaris hillclimbers excelled in virtually every RMSHA class, winning 10 season points titles. The Polaris class champions – Pro classes and beyond – were:

- Keith Curtis: Pro 600 Stock, Pro 800 Stock, Pro 1000 Stock, Pro 800 Modified, and Pro Open Modified.
- Erin Beukelman: Pro 800 Improved Stock, Pro 1000 Improved Stock and Pro 700 Modified.
- Luke Rainey: Pro 700 Stock.
- Cole Willford: Pro 600 Modified.
- Justin Thomas: Semi-Pro Stock and Semi-Pro Improved Stock.
- Toby Shepherd: Semi-Pro Modified. Plus, he was third in Semi-Pro Stock points and was named RMSHA Racer of the Year.
- Shelley Heap: Women's Stock and Women's Improved Stock.
- Tanner Meyers: Juniors. Plus, Polaris racers finished first through seventh in Juniors points.

Plus, Tyson Thomas won the Pro Masters Modified title.

At each RMSHA event, class winners compete for King of the Hill honors, and Polaris hillclimbers had the power and strength to claim the most crowns.

Keith Curtis won Stock King of the Hill at all five RMSHA points events and won Modified King of the Hill at three of five points events, giving him eight of a possible 15 Pro King titles for the season. Erin Beukelman won Modified King of the Hill honors at two events and won Improved Stock King of the Hill once.

POLARIS® HILLCLIMB RECAP & PREVIEW CONTINUED »

Justin Thomas won Semi-Pro King of the Hill twice, Toby Shepherd won Semi-Pro King honors once, and Shelley Heap won Women's Queen of the Hill honors once.

STRONG LINEUP FUELS OPTIMISM FOR A WINNING SEASON

Gould said the Polaris hillclimber roster is nearly identical to last season's dominating group, and they will challenge themselves to improve on last year's results.

He said Keith Curtis should continue to run strong, especially after running an extensive off-road motorcycle racing schedule during the off-season. "He's 26 years old, so he's still a young man, he's a good athlete and he's focused," Gould said. "I think he's got a lot of good years of racing ahead of him."

Erin Beukelman spends his summers as a horse trainer and spends the winters as a cowboy and World Champion hillclimber. "He works hard at it and always shows up with his equipment as well prepared as possible," Gould said of last season's three-class champion.

Luke Rainey successfully made the transition to racing on Polaris sleds, won the Pro 700 Stock points title, won Stock King of the Hill honors at Jackson Hole, and ran well in several other classes. "There is a little bit of adjustment going from one brand to another," Gould said. "It took him a little while to get used to the difference in the chassis, but he's really, really happy with our stuff and ran well last winter."

Gould also said class champions Cole Willford and Tyson Thomas should earn multiple podium spots this season. Willford focuses on the Modified classes, while Thomas won the title in Pro Masters Modified. "He's very competitive," Gould said of Thomas. "The Masters classes are hard to win. There are a lot of fast old guys in there."

Travis Spencer ran in the Masters classes at the final two events of the season after turning 40, and he did very well. "He really came on and added a lot of competition to those classes," Gould said. "He'll run Masters Stock and Masters Improved and three Pro classes."

Gould expects Tyler Crockett and Mike Crockett to be very competitive this season. Tyler finished second in points in three classes last year while Michael finished second in Pro 700 Modified points. "Tyler is consistently a podium guy and he won quite a few times last year," Gould said. "Mike is looking for a rebound season, and he'll run in the Mod classes and some Stock classes."

Other Polaris racers Gould believes will have winning seasons include Dolan Phelps (Pro 700 Stock champion at Jackson Hole), Les Keller, Sandy Sletten - "One of our top guys," Gould said - consistently strong qualifier Brandon Titensor, and Aaron Sterck, who won the Pro 700 Modified title at Jackson Hole.

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POLARIS® HILLCLIMB RECAP & PREVIEW CONTINUED »

Two winning racers returning to compete on Polaris sleds this season are David Sharp, Sr., and David Sharp, Jr. David, Sr., won the Pro Masters Improved points title last season and was second in Pro Masters Stock, and Jr. was second in Pro Open Modified.

Two Polaris racers who were Semi-Pro champions are moving up to compete in the Pro classes this coming winter. Justin Thomas, a college student and Tyson's son, won two Semi-Pro points titles and will compete in the two Pro Stock and two Pro Modified classes.

Toby Shepherd, the circuit's Racer of the Year, will compete in the Pro 800 and 1000 Stock classes, Open Mod and 800 Improved Stock. "The big guns are in those classes, so I'd say it's like going from the frying pan and into the fire, but Toby wants to run those classes and it will be a great experience for him."

Taylor Wilkes and Tavren Rupp will race in the Semi-Pro classes again this winter and Gould expects both to run well.

ABOUT POLARIS

Polaris® is a recognized leader in the powersports industry with annual 2012 sales of \$3.2 billion. Polaris designs, engineers, manufactures and markets innovative, high quality off-road vehicles, including all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and the Polaris *RANGER*® and *RZR*® side-by-side vehicles, snowmobiles, motorcycles and small vehicles.

Polaris is among the global sales leaders for both snowmobiles and off-road vehicles and has established a presence in the heavyweight cruiser and touring motorcycle market with the Victory and Indian motorcycle brands. Additionally, Polaris continues to invest in the global on-road small vehicle industry with Global Electric Motorcars (GEM), Goupil Industrie SA, Aixam Mega S.A.S., and internally developed vehicles. Polaris enhances the riding experience with a complete line of Polaris and KLIM branded apparel and Polaris accessories and parts.

Polaris Industries Inc. trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "PII", and the Company is included in the S&P Mid-Cap 400 stock price index.

Information about the complete line of Polaris products, apparel and vehicle accessories are available from authorized Polaris dealers or anytime at www.polaris.com.