

www.carowinterfest.com

(810) 569-6856

Mailing Address: 11181 Snow Road, Bridgman, MI 49106

Event Location: Tuscola County Fairgrounds, 188 Park Drive, Caro, MI 48723



MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mother Nature Wins Again, Caro Winter Fest Cancelled for 2nd Year

Caro, MI – January 29, 2020 – When it comes to planning a seasonal event, especially in the wintertime, there's no beating Mother Nature. For the second year in a row, the Caro Winter Fest (CWF) has been cancelled due to above normal temperatures and inconsistent weather patterns. The event was slated to be held at the Tuscola County Fairgrounds on February 8 and 9, 2020, which was three weeks later than normal.

"We've held this event on the third weekend of January since 2009 but changed the date when MIRA had an opportunity to race that weekend in Gaylord," said Kris Reinelt, CWF Board President & Marketing Liaison. "The Board agreed to move the event when it was determined after much discussion and analysis of Caro's weather for the past seven years that we had a 50/50 chance either weekend."

The main feature of the two-day event is snowmobile races overseen by the [Midwest International Racing Association \(MIRA\)](#) and includes a full sprint racing program on Saturday and 250-lap pro-enduro on Sunday.

Teams come from all across Michigan, Canada, and the Midwest. On average there are a couple dozen teams that show up with their pit crews, family members, and fans; along with close to 3,000 spectators in the grandstands and Warming Tent.



The biggest misconception surrounding the event is that snow is required. Of course, snow is always wanted as it adds to the ambience of a wintertime festival but it's not necessary. What is necessary is consistent below freezing temperatures for ideally several weeks in advance of the event. This allows the ground to be well frozen and plenty of time for building a solid ice race track with between 7 to 10 inches of ice, more is always better.

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“The mild temperatures and crazy up and down weather never allowed us to get started on the track this year,” stated Charlie Wiltse, MIRA Vice President. “As we got closer to the event the forecast kept getting warmer, lessening our chances of building an adequate and safe race track.”

This is the third time the CWF has been cancelled due to weather since 2009. Caro isn't alone in their battle with Mother Nature. MIRA had to push their Kinross (Upper Peninsula) race out two weeks and Gaylord moved out a week. Lucky Thumb Motorcycle Club, out of Deford, has cancelled races this season. And the granddaddy of snowmobile racing events in Michigan, the I-500 in Sault Ste. Marie had to alter their race schedule this week to preserve the track for the big race on February 1.

CWF was founded in 2008 to organize the festival side of the event, which includes a Warming Tent with live entertainment, food vendors, Penelope's Beer & Wine Ice Bar, and an all-day chainsaw carving competition on Saturday, and more. The CWF Board works in conjunction with MIRA to bring together this event. MIRA manages everything on the track and infield, and CWF handles things from the grandstands to the road.

“To say this is disappointing is an understatement,” shared Reinelt. “It's a blow to the teams, especially those who consider Caro their hometown track, and for the community and local businesses who miss out on the increase in traffic flow and revenue during the slow winter months.”

An ongoing priority for the event is to tap into using local sources as much as possible. They had a new food vendor lined up – [Zachzilla's](#), which is a food truck owned by Caro native Thomas Ewald. There were new entertainers booked as well, including [The Whiskey Bottle Blues](#) band with roots in Cass City and Mayville, and [Whiskey Fixx](#) from the Flint area. Several other new vendors from the Thumb Area were hired for the event as well.

As the CWF Board now moves on to planning the 2021 event, they wish to extend their thanks for the community's ongoing support; especially, from the [City of Caro](#), [Tuscola County Fair Board](#), and their many sponsors and volunteers.

For more information about the event, visit their website at www.carowinterfest.com or follow them on [Facebook](#). Any questions, contact Kris Reinelt at (810) 569-6856.

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Caro Winter Fest is a nonprofit 501(c)4 corporation founded to organize and manage the Caro Winter Fest and Snowmobile Races with the added goal of increasing traffic flow to the local community and to support economic growth for the area as well.