

Greg Lonero #14

Well, it all started in the late 60's. Back where we would play hockey on the ice, on the creek behind our house, this bulldozer of a machine broke all of our hockey rinks. It turned out it was my good friend's father's Evinrude snowmobile. Once Mr Reich started pulling all the neighborhood kids behind this machine, on our sleds, the Reichs quickly became everyone's best friend. And it was easy, they were the most generous and gracious family I've ever known. Soon, the Reich's upgraded to Arctic Cats and that is where my Arctic Cat bug started. Our family's first snowmobile was a 69 Starcraft Escort. A slow but reliable sled. The upgrade was a BoaSki, this was biggest piece of crap a kid could be tortured with. Then my parents bought the BoaSki, I spent all my paper route money repairing it....constantly. It was also the first sled I raced at Medina County Fairgrounds horse track. Everyone beat me, probably because they had EXT's and SR's, and BoaSki SS's (so you can guess, our local dealers were Cat, Yamaha and BoaSki). But it kept me working at an early age, cutting firewood and doing odd jobs around the neighborhood.

Then when I turned 16 I bought a 1977 Pantera Free Air. This sled changed my world. Now, when I raced, I was winning, albeit, it was pretty hoky small town stuff, but hey, a race is a race. This photo was in Western PA, I think I had just turned 19. It was a LeMans track and I won this race, beating everyone, including the SRX's that were there, which was huge for me back then because everyone was older than me, and pissed off but unfortunately it would be the last formal race, aside from some RMSHA hillclimbs in 1994, until XMR invited vintage ovals to their circuit. Yes, I dabbled in some grass drags where I would constantly lose and me and my buddies would shred the fields by our house doing impromptu oval races. We would run those sleds in a circle until there was no snow in the ovals we set up.



I'll never forget, our first XMR race had 6 sleds....total, now we often have 10 sleds in a class with a class for everyone one and age. So there ya have it. Been riding since I was a kid. College eventually took it's toll on riding as I had to sell my Pantera to pay for tuition, along with my 1978 Polaris Centurian, 78 el tigre and my 80 SRX's. Once I settled down in my

career, and married a gal that could tolerate my sledding, I started to collect all the sleds I had or was exposed to as a kid.



These are my two favorite sleds (1976 Z and 78 SRX). Both hand crafted chassis, with parts that don't belong in them but somehow work.

So, I've been riding for many years and wished I could have been doing ovals for all those years but sometimes life takes over and you just deal with those moments but here I am again, racing. It gives me a reason to try and stay in shape. It surrounds me with some of the most amazing people, riders, tuners and racers. And all these guys do, is push me to the next level, levels that I didn't think I had in me but I'm loving the ride, and though this photo of me below in the staging area, says it all, as I hold my head, I will keep racing until my body can't take it anymore or do it safely.



Thank you to my sponsors !



