



Submitted photo

Nick Keller of Richmond broke the world record for most miles driven on a snowmobile, breaking the 60-day record of 12,164 miles in 39 days. He hopes to drive another 6,000 miles.

Nick Keller breaks world record

By Ellarry Prentice

Snowmobiling 12,164 miles within a 60-day period proved to be a piece of cake for mileage man Nick Keller.

On the morning of Wednesday, Feb. 3, after 39 days of snowmobiling, the Richmond resident broke the current world record for the most miles snowmobiled in 60 consecutive days, leaving him with 21 days left to set the bar even higher for this new record.

Keller's 60-day world record attempt, "Snowball Cancer Challenge," is a fundraising event intended to bring awareness and support to local people living with cancer. Sponsored by the Keller Family Community Foundation, the event — launched on Saturday, Dec. 26 in Richmond — allows other snowmobilers to ride along with Keller on his 60-day journey to raise funds for people with cancer, the true focus of the ride.

After snowmobiling 237 miles on Tuesday, Feb. 2, day #39 of 60, Keller was within two miles of beating the world record of 12,163 miles snowmobiled in 60 consecutive days, previously held by Bob

Davis of Maine.

"Tomorrow will truly be a special day, and now the rest will just be frosting on the cake from here on out," Keller wrote on his blog last Tuesday evening. "I am so excited that after a long 39 days I am so close. I have the sled patiently waiting for tomorrow's ride to make history," he added.

Witnessed by his friends, family, and members of the Ironwood, Mich., community, Keller broke the current world record at Ironwood's Hiawatha Park last Wednesday at 9:35 a.m. Not a surprise to those who know him, he then continued the day with more snowmobiling, according to a press release from the Keller foundation.

"I will continue on my cancer ride for all the cancer survivors and the ones who passed away before their time," Keller said in the press release.

Known throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan as the "mileage man," Keller has been an avid snowmobiler for the past 37 years, averaging over 5,000 miles a season.

Since Keller began the "Snowball Cancer Challenge"

fundraiser in late December, he has been riding over 300 miles per day in his effort to break the world record.

So far, Keller's record number of miles snowmobiled in a day is 450. His goal is to ride another 6,000 miles before he ends his 60-day journey on Tuesday, Feb. 23. He hopes to end the ride in Richmond, where he started.

Keller, who will turn 56 this year, has been riding in memory of his late mother, Mary Jane Keller, who died of breast cancer at the age of 56. His 2010 Yamaha Vector sled, donated to him by the snowmobile manufacturer, is named Mary Jane.

"Thank you to everyone for all of the support you have shown me!" Keller wrote on his blog last Wednesday afternoon. "Now I am off to ride for the next 21 days and see how high I can set the record."

Keller's journey can still be tracked via the Snowball Cancer Challenge website at www.snowballcancer.org. Click "Nick's Blog 2" on the homepage for up-to-date information about the ride, including daily miles driven and links to Keller's GPS tracking system.

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