

May 2025

# AI's Corner



**The Truth  
Is Out  
There....**

**Greetings and  
Salutations Fellow  
Snowmobiling  
Enthusiasts**

---

**PREPARE TO HAVE YOUR  
MIND EXPANDED...**



**Hello dear snowmobiling peeps, I feel the need to address the direction that the snowmobiling industry is heading towards, and I feel it is wrong. The average age of a snowmobiler in today's market is 54 years old! What does that mean? It means our sport is heading the way of the dodo, unless we can turn it around. I understand these \$20k machines are super fun, but you wouldn't put a 12 year old kid on one. The manufacturers are heading in the direction of full sized, super heavy sleds, but with a detuned/electronically governed engine. A 600 that can only go 60 mph. That sounds reasonable, but there are other factors to consider besides speed. We also need to look at weight, along with brake handles and throttles that are closer to the handlebars, for people with smaller hands.**

**I paid \$250 for my first snowmobile. If I would have had to shell out \$6k to get an entry level snowmobile, I most likely would have not gotten into the sport. How do we get these good used snowmobiles that are still pretty cheap? They need to start out with cheaper sleds to begin with. My proposal is this: that the manufacturers move away from a detuned, expensive, heavy 600, and start investing in fuel injected 340's and 440's. But Al, fuel injection will raise the cost of the sled! True enough, but carburetors are a giant pita (pain in the ...) No matter how good of a job you do, draining them in the spring, cleaning them, stabilizing the fuel, and throwing salt over your shoulder during a full moon, they're at best hit or miss if the sled will start and run flawlessly the next season. Fuel injection? You know it's just going to start. Now with the smaller engine, younger kids can experience the fun that we know exists. Modern equipment with multi-position hand and thumb warmers, electric start and electronic reverse, coupled with a super light chassis, and a starting price where the parents don't have to sell one of their children to afford a starter sled.**

**But Al, what about those smaller 120's? For the most part, they're a novelty item. Small kids can tootle around the yard, but they're pretty much stuck there until they're older. They can't take a family trip anywhere and ride with mom, dad, and big bro or sis. However, an 11 year old could certainly keep up with a family on a fuelie 340. Once they get used to that, they bump up to a 440. Now, you have a good used sled to sell to someone starting out again. The process continues.....However, you need those small, light, fast, affordable starter snowmobiles, to get the ball rolling. No one is asking you to give up your big iron, but little kids need little iron, and they're the future. You don't throw your 15 year old in Mario Andretti's race car to teach them driver's training, you start them out in something that they can handle. Snowmobiling should be the same way. That's my two cents anyway.**

**Thanks for reading folks, and enjoy your summer. Make it to the groomer shed on Wednesday nights for some light work and camaraderie!**