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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Drydahl, Ekre Win At Grafton**

### **USCC sees record number of racers and entries**

Grafton, ND (January 3, 2009) - It was perhaps the USCC's best weekend ever with a record number of race entries (220), record snow for the area, the most racers at a single event and the USCC web site saw the most hits in one day. Single-digit temperatures and eight inches of fresh snow resulted in lots of snow dust and poor visibility, not to mention adding to the rough nature of the 14-mile course which consisted of river, ditch, woods and field.

Roger Gorder and Grafton Equipment put together a brutally rough, fast and challenging 14-mile cross-country snowmobile course, one that Bagley, Minnesota Ski-Doo racer Bryan Dyrdaahl conquered to claim his second straight FXR Pro 600 win of the season at the USCC Grafton 100 Presented by Arctic Cat. That win contrasted a blown engine which resulted in a DNF for Dyrdaahl earlier in the day in the RydeFX Pro Open race.

"This is the last race before the Red Lake I-500 and it's usually a good indicator of who is ready and who is not," said USCC President Pat Mach. "Roger also lays out our I-500 course and this is similar to what racers will see in there. It's a great warm up for that event and it makes Grafton a pretty intense race."

Arctic Cat rider D.J. Ekre set the pace in the RydeFX Pro Open race setting the fastest time on the first lap. As the riders came through to start the second lap word came in that Dyrdaahl was out with a blown engine. Polaris rider Corey Davidson also ran into trouble and pulled off after the first lap. Ekre took the win with a two-lap total time of 28 minutes, 20 seconds followed by Cat rider Brian Dick (28:21), Polaris rider Gabe Bunke (28:53) and Cat riders Dan Ebert (28:55) and Ryan Simons (29:13).

The FXR Pro 600 final took place in the afternoon, the snow had stopped and the light was a bit better as the clouds seemed to be thinning. The Pros ran six laps on the 14-mile course and after the 84-mile race Simons (1:27:41) was just five seconds behind Dyrdaahl's race winning time of (1:27:36) after holding the lead early in the race. Polaris rider Aaron Christensen (1:28:51) took third followed by Ekre (1:29:22) and Ebert (1:29:34).

"We're still running our suspension calibration from last season but it's working good," said Dyrdaahl. "I think we can make it better so we've been working a lot with setup. The past two weeks have been good, but hopefully we'll be faster at the 500."

Ebert clocked the fastest lap time until Dyrdaahl eclipsed it on his final lap. Ebert fell off the pace on the final lap when he lost a cylinder. "I love cross-country racing and this weekend is one of the reasons why," said Ebert. "The course was excellent and the racing was great. I can't thank D.J. Ekre and Ryan Simons enough for all the help they've given me as well as my dad Russ and Arctic Cat."

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The Stud Boy Semi-Pro 600 final was two laps and Polaris rider Ken Christensen took the first win of his career with a total race time of 31 minutes, 6 seconds. He was followed by Ski-Doo riders Sam Vandeputte (31:10), Cory Grant (31:29) and Mike Dirkman (31:35). Yamaha rider Josh Carey won the Fox Racing Shox Semi-Pro Improved race with a two-lap time of (30:16) with Arctic Cat rider Spencer Fett (30:40) taking second and Ken Christensen (30:45) coming in third.

USCC ran a total of 18 races at Grafton. Other winners were Scott Pivec in Yamalube 440, Adam Brandt in Newman's Sledbed Amateur Improved, Brad Cierzon in Recreational Salvage Fan 600, Jim Sobeck in Action Graphics Legends 50+, Cory Davidson in Scott USA Vet 30+, Cole Lian in Carver Performance Juniors 10-13, Stuart Brandt in Tekvest Juniors 14-17, Tom Clement in RV Sports Vintage, Jolene Bute in PowerMadd Women's, Adam Brandt in C&A Pro Amateur 600, Ken Christensen in Orion Sleds & Trailers Master 40+, Steve Emerson in Yamaha Sport 85, Garet Grzadzielewski in SNO-X Magazine 120 stock and SnowGoer 120 Open. Arctic Cat riders won eight races, Ski-Doo riders won four races, Polaris riders won three races and Yamaha riders won three races.

The next USCC race is the Red Lake I-500 in Thief River Falls, MN, January 16-18, 2009. For more information on the USCC and complete race results visit [www.usccracing.com](http://www.usccracing.com).

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*The United States Cross-Country Snowmobile Racing Association (USCC) is based out of Minto, ND and attracts more than 200 professional and amateur snowmobile racers to each of its events. The USCC series is North America's premier form of cross-country snowmobile racing; it is the only racing organization that sanctions events comprised entirely of terrain cross-country races. The race courses include ditch lines, frozen lakes and deep woods trails. Its 2008/2009 schedule marks the circuit's seventh season with races hosted in Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan and Maine. USCC is sanctioned by International Snowmobile Racing (ISR); ISR has been serving the racing community for more than 25 years. Visit [www.usccracing.com](http://www.usccracing.com) for more information.*