



Tuesday, January 29, 2013

Traveling 108.5 mph for 200 meters Milton man breaks own ice wheelie record

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Special to the Union

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Ryan Suchanek has done it again.

The Milton motorcycle stunt rider on Sunday broke the world record for the "fastest wheelie on ice" in front of Norm's Hideaway on Lake Koshkonong, topping his previous record by completing the stunt at 108.5 mph on a 2005 Kawasaki ZX10R.

Suchanek set the original "Guinness Book of World Records" record in February 2011 by holding a wheelie on the lake ice for 200 meters at 95 mph.

"There was a ton of people that came out there and it was pretty awesome," Suchanek said.

Suchanek battled a strong crosswind and the specter of a messy mix of snow, sleet and freezing rain that began to close in on Lake Koshkonong early Sunday afternoon. The event began at 10 a.m. and originally was expected to go until dark, but the oncoming weather front pushed Suchanek to wrap up his attempts not long after setting the new record.

His speed was tracked by two GPS units and a radar gun. To qualify for the "Guinness Book of World Records," Suchanek needed the devices to confirm his speed, as well as several witnesses and extensive media coverage.

Cones were set up on a cleared strip of ice to mark when he had to begin the wheelie and when he could safely touch back down onto two wheels after 200 meters, or about 656 feet.

Next, Suchanek said, he will need to download the GPS data, collect newspaper clippings and news broadcasts and compile his documentation into a report to present to Guinness.

Joe Beavers of Fort Atkinson, Suchanek's stunt teammate who also attempted to beat the old record Sunday, struggled to get traction and eventually let the new record stand. Both motorcycles used special tires with spikes to grip the ice.

"He attempted, but his tire wasn't that great and his bike pulled worse than mine did. He was pretty scared," Suchanek said with a chuckle.

Suchanek said the wind didn't help matters, either. National Weather Service records said gusts in the area were coming out of the southeast between 12 and 14 mph around the time of the world-record attempt.

"The wind really sucked," he said. "That crosswind ... it's weird because it pulls you into the wind. You think it would go the opposite way. It pulls the bike and actually steers you into the wind. I was fighting it all day."

Despite the weather, Suchanek said beating his old record was easier than it probably looked to spectators.

"I'm sure it was scarier watching than it was riding the bike," he said. "I feel bad for my parents having to watch. It wasn't like I felt like I was going to die. I felt pretty comfortable."



FASTEST WHEELIE — Milton's Ryan Suchanek broke his own Guinness World Record Sunday of doing the "fastest wheelie on ice." He and Joe Beavers of Fort Atkinson attempted the motorcycle stunt on Lake Koshkonong by Norm's Hideaway. Suchanek passed up his original record of 95 mph for 200 meters on Feb. 5, 2011, by completing the stunt at 108.5 mph. Above, Suchanek makes a pass on one wheel as he warms up for his world record attempt. Below, he talks to reporters from WKOW and WMTV after setting the new world record.— Photos by James Debilzen of the Milton Courier.



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