

## NSA off-season interview with Kevin Zucco

Kevin Zucco has been racing in the NSA Pro Stock asphalt snowmobile series since its inception in 2005. We had an opportunity recently to learn more about Kevin, his background and what drives him to be successful in the series.

Born in 1978 and currently living in Agawam, MA, Kevin has been involved in some form of racing his entire life. His father, Jim Zucco, began racing motorcycles in AMA amateur hill climbing in the late 70's and it was not long before Kevin and his older brother David, were racing in the same hill climbing events as their dad. It was in 1994, at the age of 16, that Kevin began competing against his father in the AMA professional hill climbing class. They raced modified Kawasaki KX500's using 100% alcohol fuel and traveled to several states for competitions through 1999.

In 2002, after watching Ed Armstrong and Bob Girrior test their asphalt sled at Lebanon Valley Dragway, Kevin knew that snowmobiles on asphalt was something he wanted to try. Beginning in 2002 with a stock 700, Kevin quickly worked his way up to running in the Pro Stock ranks. He is currently racing a 1000cc sled and has produced a personal best E.T. of 8.70 at 148 miles per hour.



A lifetime working around modified engines, in addition to his background in machining (working for American Saw & Manufacturing in East Longmeadow, MA for the past eleven years), has helped Kevin succeed in different types of racing. It is however the support and assistance he receives from his family that he credits for his ability to compete in the NSA at the Pro Stock level. "Without the help of my parents and brother I don't think I would be able to race at the level the NSA series is at now. My family is very important to me and my racing," says Kevin.

During the off-season, Kevin will be making some changes to his Yamaha SRX 1000cc Pro Stock asphalt sled. He will be converting from a 121" track and suspension to a 136" with the purchase of a new Camoplast track and PCS Performance suspension. He will also be installing new 10 tooth drivers in the chassis while the sled is apart. Kevin and Jim have also rebuilt the top end of the engine so it will be fresh for the beginning of the race season.



Like many asphalt racers, Kevin also likes to trail ride during the winter months. He and his father, Jim, will travel to Eagle Lake in northern Maine to trail ride their Ski-Doo Mach Z 1000s. "It's a long way but well worth the trip to ride the railroad beds and groomed trails that are as flat as glass in Aroostook County," says Kevin. Over the course of the winter they will make three or four trips and usually ride about 2000 miles a winter. Kevin also enjoys lake racing against his friends at the local lakes, Otis Reservoir and Lanzi's in New York.

We asked Kevin what keeps him passionate about asphalt racing. "I am driven to race because of the thrill I get out of drag racing a quarter mile on a snowmobile at close to 150 mph." Kevin likes to work on his sled and said it is very satisfying to be able to make changes to the setup and see positive results at the next test session or the next NSA sanctioned race. "I like the NSA series because I think it has brought snowmobile drag racing to a whole new level that keeps raising the bar every race season. The NSA is operated by a great group of people who have a great passion for the sport. Kristin and Phil (Stanley) are two people that have put enormous time and effort into making the series what it is today. They want to see all of the competitors succeed and will help out in any way they can".