

# Kiwanis Blackhawk Golden K

## **Brief History of Truck on Ice**



Bob Johnson, a former Guidance Counselor at Craig High school, and longtime member of Golden Kiwanis, came up with the idea of placing a truck (*empty shell on chassis*) on ice, and selling guesses when it would sink as a means of raising money for our projects. He had gotten the idea from his father, who was in Lions in Menomonie. His dad had placed a *car* on ice as a fundraiser.

Bob started in 2002, laying the ground work for this project. He consulted with the city of Janesville, the DNR, the Kiwanis Board and went to General Motors for a Chevy body.

In 2003, General Motors supplied a damaged body plus all the pieces such as doors, bumpers, lights, door handles etc. which made a complete enclosed shell. Art Knilians had a frame with wheels to put the completed body on. Why Art Knilians? Because Art's son was a student who was assigned to Bob at Craig High School. Art, who repaired vehicle bodies and also was a welder, said he would help build this truck. Fagan Chevrolet painted this multi colored vehicle the bright red it is today.

On Thursday, January 22, 2004, the Suburban was placed on the Traxler park lagoon for the first time. Steve Davis from Davis Citgo has been involved since the very beginning. He stores, hauls and moves the truck from venue to venue during the ticket selling stage of the contest, and helps put the truck out on the ice and retrieve it when it falls through. He also drives the flatbed truck which displays the Truck on Ice during the Janesville Holiday Parade.

The city determines if the ice is safe. In the years when there is not enough ice on Traxler Pond to safely put the truck out, each guess is a valid entry for a drawing that is held in March.

In the beginning, Kiwanis men pulled the truck onto the ice by hand. Pete Kealey was the only person to ever get injured in the process when he slipped on the ice and hit his head.



A long cable is attached to the truck before it is hauled out onto the ice, and a clock is secured in a locked box, low on the firewall in the engine compartment. The cable is attached to a post on shore so when the ice melts, we can retrieve our truck and find out when the clock stopped, because it shorts out when it hits the water.

The clock was built by Pete Kealey and is rebuilt every year with a new clock and new battery.



Each year, we have succeeded in raising around \$15,000. After the 15 prizes are awarded, the proceeds funds our scholarships and contributions to youth organizations located in the Janesville area.

**We are grateful for the support received by the community each year.**

