

## PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES IN WINTER

### **Bikes on Ice at the Hamilton Rod and Gun Club in Sturbridge, MA:**

Bikes on ice include quads, motor cycles, and sidecars that race most Sundays during the winter. To be sure they are running you need to call A1 Parts at 508-867-9640 around 7 p.m. the day before you plan to attend.

Ideal conditions for photography of the bikes are with snow on the ground and a sunny day. Do not bother going if there is no sun. There is a fee of \$10 to attend the race.

It is cold standing in the snow so be sure to wear good boots and dress warm. The club house serves hot dogs and hamburgers and soft drinks. There are restrooms in the club house and port-a-lets around the grounds.

Trials usually start around 11:00 a.m. but there may be bikes on the ice earlier warming up. The actual races start around 1:00 p.m.

The bikes run on the pond. A zoom lens that goes to 300 or 400mm is excellent. While you can use a tripod, a hand held lens with vibration reduction or stabilization is easiest to use with the fast action.

Directions: Take I 84 East to Exit 3-B Rt. 20 West (Palmer)

Stay Right on Exit towards Rt. 20 **.8 miles**

Right on New Boston Road and continue on this road over the highway.

Follow signs for Hamilton Rod & Gun Club **1.8 miles** on New Boston Road.

First Left after going over the highway (sign for Hamilton Rod & Gun Club). Gun club is **.3 miles** down the Road on Right.

### **Ice Boats on Bantam Lake in Bantam, CT:**

When conditions are right which means little snow, but good solid ice there are usually ice boats running on Bantam Lake on the weekends. They can be fun to photograph. There is no guarantee that they will be running at any given time so it is catch as catch can.

The same dress code applies here as to the Bikes on Ice. It can be cold. The same size lens is appropriate as well. On a sunny day you will have strong back lighting against the boats.

There is a wooden outdoor restroom across the street which belongs to the Water Ski Club. The restroom is usually open.

Directions: From Litchfield, CT take 202 West towards Bantam. A short distance after the road to White Memorial there are several stores and Patty's Restaurant on the left. Start watching for North Shore Road on the left. Take a left on North Shore Road and

continue until you come to the north shore of Bantam Lake. You will see ice boats tied or going across the lake. This is the spot! There is parking along the shore.