

Feel the rush at MRM Raceway

By Sam Martino
Special to the Lakes Edition

The Lake Koshkonong area has been popular for years as an outdoor recreation area with golf, boating, fishing, camping and swimming on the agenda of tourists.

Now a new partner in the tourism pool has revved up its presence in the area for its first full season of activity.

MRM Raceway re-opened in April after only a few months activity in 2016.

Go-kart operator Matt McGuire said he looked forward to smooth riding this season.

The go-kart track had a bumpy road to navigate last year before gaining approval from Town of Milton officials.

Only a few miles from the I 90/39 freeway on Highway 59 at Vincent Road, McGuire's go-kart track is located on a parcel of land shared with the family landscape business.

"The track is good for the area with all the nearby campgrounds and water activities," said Matt McGuire.

McGuire is betting on attracting not only regional go-kart enthusiasts between Madison and Janesville, but also the scores of tourists who visit the area from the Chicago, Ill., corridor.

"People who go go-karting have a good time.



Matt McGuire, owner-operator of MRM Raceway in the Town of Milton, guides a newly rebuilt go-kart into place among his inventory of 22 go-karts. The track is on Highway 59 and Vincent Road. (Photo submitted by Sam Martino)

It is a good reason for people to come into the area. They will help boost tourist spending," McGuire added.

It took several months of wrangling with the Town Board over use permits before the track, on a one and three quarter acres of land, could open last year.

"I was happy with the way things turned out," McGuire said.

Despite only a few months of operation in 2016, an estimated 1,500 go-kart enthusiasts used the track.

The track operates with 22, nine-horse go-karts with six of them dedicated for use by youth and the others for

adult racing.

Old car and truck tires line the curved oval track for safety purposes. Drivers are required to wear helmets and buckle into seat belts.

McGuire said his first partial season was better than he anticipated as he had to meet a series of demands by town officials, including lighting, sound control and parking space.

Cost for a 20-minute spin around the course is \$35. Competing in a 40-lap race costs \$65.

McGuire said he plans to conduct several charitable events with competition and benefits involving the Milton Fire and Police Departments.

While fishing, Sizmic does matter

By Adam Walton of Pike Pole Fishing Guide Services

Hard & Soft Fishing may be a newer name in the fishing industry, but don't be fooled. Formally known as Uncle Josh Bait Company, the company has been around since 1922. After acquiring other brands such as Beaver Dam Ice Fishing, Acme Tackle and Kalin's over recent years, Uncle Josh Bait Company quickly expanded from their humble bass fishing roots into major players in the entire fishing industry. After acquiring these other brands, Hard & Soft Fishing now offer many baits, tackle, and gear used to target a wide variety of species, including my favorite...walleyes.

Two hot swim baits on the market are Kalin's Sizmic Grubs and Sizmic Shads. Bass anglers love them and walleye anglers are quickly jumping on-board. A fellow guide and I had the opportunity to test these baits out and see how well they really performed. Let me be the first to tell you, Sizmics lived up to all the hype and then some.

During the last few seasons, we traveled to a variety of waters throughout Wisconsin, including the Green Bay area, Lake Koshkonong/Rock River system and the Lake Winnebago system. While fishing the Fox River in early spring, we pitched Sizmic Grubs in areas of 3' to 5' of water. It didn't take long for the action to start and it was game on from there. The water had a moderate-to-heavy stain and after trying a variety of sizes and colors, the 3.8" Sizmic Grub in the K-Shad color was the ticket. Using a slow bouncing retrieve was also the key to getting fish to bite in the cooler water. Now before you say, "Fox River walleyes bite on everything in the spring," please note we threw many other cranks, plastics and jigs while keeping at least one line rigged with a Sizmic Grub. The other baits caught fish but the Sizmic continued to out-produce all other offerings five to one.

When fishing deeper river holes found on the upper Rock River and throughout the Wolf River, we had great



A fisherman and fisherwoman enjoy their time out on the lake. (Photo submitted by Adam Walton)

results with a vertical jigging application. There was no super secret way to use the Sizmics here. We just chose the proper-sized jig weighted heavy enough for the current speed and simply bounced the bottom while drifting down river. With a swifter current, the Sizmics move well without much help. Using the current to our advantage, we simply let the swim bait briefly hit the bottom and slowly lifted it into the strike zone, holding it there for a few seconds before dropping it back down.

During the warmer months last season, Sizmic Grubs and Shads produced quite a few fish when pitching the limited rocky structure found on Lake Koshkonong. We had the best success while using faster bottom bouncing/popping retrieves. Colors and jig sizes varied day to day, so a little trial is required. Another tip: if groups of fish are found in a specific area while trolling but the bite turns tough, as hard as it may be to deviate, try switching over to casting Sizmics – they work.

The versatility and swimming action of Sizmic swim baits are phenomenal. The next time you're fishing an area where walleyes are located, try them out. You can find Kalin's Sizmic Grubs and Sizmic Shads at local retail stores and also at www.kalinsfishing.com.

Good luck this season and stay safe.
Captain Adam Walton
Pike Pole Fishing Guide Service
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