



From Michigan to Russia, Sheet Metal Worker's 'Iditarod of Snowmobiling' Funds Diabetes Research

02/15/2015 [Paul Pimentel](#)



Retired sheet metal worker Bill Bradfield of Cadillac, Mich., not only isn't letting his Type 2 diabetes slow him down, he's leading a snowmobile trek through Michigan, Ontario, Canada, Norway, Finland, Sweden and Russia to raise money for diabetes research.

Throughout his career as a union sheet metal worker, Bradfield raised funds and awareness about diabetes. According to the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART) website, he said:

It is my passion of a lifetime to raise awareness of the need for future research for this dreaded disease. It gave me a tremendous feeling of gratitude being able to help people less fortunate than myself, not knowing that someday I, too, would be stricken with this horrible disease.

In 2010, Bradfield founded MichCanSka, an international snowmobiling charity ride from Michigan through Canada and to Alaska that benefits the Diabetes Research Institute. That trip carried them through five states, five provinces, 4,000 miles and four time zones and raised \$102,000.

This year's adventure began Feb. 5 in Michigan and will end Feb. 24 in St. Petersburg, Russia.

After eight days through Michigan and Ontario, the group has a day off before flying to Norway and a six-day ride through Norway, Sweden and Finland and then four days of riding in Russia, some of it above the Arctic Circle, before finishing in St. Petersburg.

Read more from SMART [here](#), and visit the group's website at www.michcanska.com to follow their activities and find out how you, too, can contribute.