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**PRESS RELEASE
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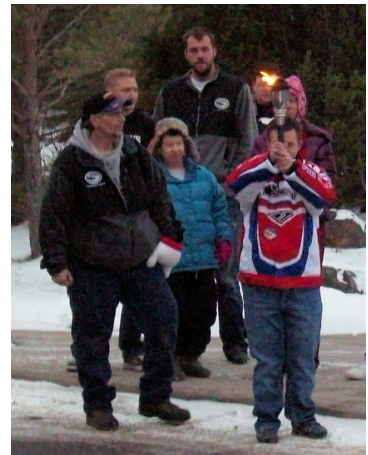
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“SPECIAL” RIDERS FOR A REASON!

Two participants of the World’s Largest Truck Convoy took part in their first ever Northland 300, a 3-day, 300 mile snowmobile ride to benefit Special Olympics Minnesota.

Truck Driver Dana Drinkman (and wife Christy) and Casey Heller (friend Helonna Dullea) who both participate in the World’s Largest Truck Convoy to benefit Special Olympics Minnesota participated in the 24th Annual Northland 300 Snowmobile Ride to benefit Special Olympics Minnesota on January 25-29, 2012.

Opening Ceremonies on Thursday, January 26 took place at 8am where Dana Drinkman walked with Special Olympic Athlete (and Northland 300 participant) Steven Eull to carry the “Flame of Hope” for the first time in 2012.



Dana Drinkman (far left)
with Steven Eull (carrying the torch)

Weather conditions didn’t stop the Northland 300 event from taking place. Snowmobilers trailed from Two Harbors to Tower where they



Casey Heller (Support Vehicle, Walters Recycling & Refuse)

rode on the lakes and trails where snow was present. Dana and Christy (wife) rode the lakes with the White Team and Casey Heller participated on the support team where riders are met at check points and assisted with possible broken down sleds.

Saturday evening’s banquet awarded Casey Heller with the “CJ Ramstad Unsung Hero Award” (for the participant who does quietly good for the ride).

Special Olympics Minnesota provides year round sports training and competition for people with intellectual disabilities that contribute to life-long physical fitness, personal growth and achievements.

For additional information, visit www.northland300.org or www.specialolympicsminnesota.org or contact Kathy Karkula at 612-789-2081 or karkulak@hotmail.com.