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Sportsmen's News & Views

By KEN SPRENGER

PCB's—This fall we first heard about the PCB's. At first there was only a smattering of information but since then more has come to light. It isn't pleasant reading, bit it is important that people understand the PCB problem.

The chemical compounds known as polyclorinated biphenyle, or PCB's, have become the subject of national concern. The United States has sponsored a national conference on PCB's in Chicago.

As a result of the conference, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is expected to lower the five parts per million PCB tolerence level in fish destined for human consumption. At the Chicago meeting, Canadian authorities announced they were lowering the allowable levels to 2 parts per million.

PCB's are widely used in the manufacture of capacitors and transformers and do not readily degrade in the environment. The compounds can be toxic to a wide range of life, including humans, where they have caused stillbirths, acne, nausea, and bone and joint deformities. PCB's have also caused liver cancer in laboratory rats.

PCB's have been detected from Massachusetts to California in fish, duck, starlings and other water fowl.

In an exceedingly strong speech that closed the conference, Nathaniel Reed, Assistant Secretary of the Interior of Fish and Wildlife, called for the elimination of the purpose of PCB's in the environment within three years.

SNOWMOBILES—The Niagara County Federation of Snowmobiles would like anyone with any ideas or suggestions for the promotion and betterment of this winter sport to contact them.

Ken Young, an officer in the Federation, says anyone interested in joining a club in their area, or in locating good, safe trails to run in the county, should contact him by calling 297-7210. They can also contact secretary-treasurer Michelle Danylah from the Olcott Club at 778-9805.

The federation is going all out to promote snowmobiling and to make it a safer winter sport. Don Sears, of the Olcott Breezy Riders Club, has been attending a series of meetings in Rome, N.Y., and has brought back some valuable information. Dave Schultz of the Niagara County Sheriff's Department is also quite active in snowmobile safety hints.

The federation would like to announce that, conditions permitting, there are to be oval track snowmobile races held in Hyde Park Stadium this winter. They are to be held at 7:30 each Friday evening.

The federation is asking for support of these races by the area sledders.

All meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at Wally's Tavern, Wrights Corners, at 7:30 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

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