

ATV Minnesota
"Your Voice For ATV Recreation in Minnesota"
April 12, 2021
Newsletter

*Over 350 new members this year!
Welcome!*

Some May 1st Trail Openings May Be Delayed. Know Before You Go.

Across the state, ATV clubs and the Minnesota DNR are working hard to prepare trails for the 2021 riding season. Removing windfalls, replacing culverts, repairing bridges, hauling gravel. They give it their best, as always, then make the tough decision to open trails to the riding public or keep them closed a little longer to dry out and make sure they are safe for the riding public.

Before you head out to ride, always check out the Minnesota DNR website that shows open/closed status for State ATV Trails and State Forest roads.
Tap on this link to see it:
<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ohv/closures.html>



Trail Ambassador Numbers Back Up To 200

After a few years below 200, the number of trained, Minnesota DNR-certified Trail Ambassadors took a jump for the 2021 riding season.

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2008 - 69 | 2018 - 174 |
| 2009 - 140 | 2019 - 192 |
| 2010 - 173 | 2020 - 186 |
| 2011 - 191 | |
| 2012 - 208 | |
| 2013 - 209 | |
| 2014 - 212 | |
| 2015 - 204 | |
| 2016 - 173 | |
| 2017 - 184 | |

Save The Dates!

Details for events below are on club websites or Facebook pages. Send us your club rides and events to be listed here.



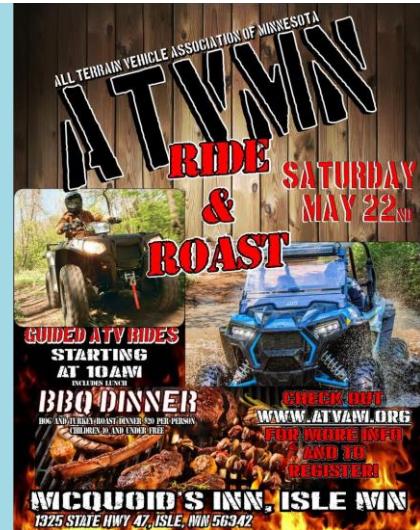
"After holding a TA training session for new participants on Feb 27th, our total TAs for the 2021 will be around 201," said Bruce Lawrence, with DNR Enforcement. This is the 14th season for the program. In 2020, Trail Ambassadors monitored the State ATV trails for a total of 4,900 hours, and

rode nearly 16,000 miles. "It is notable to see the increase numbers of data that TAs logged for 2020," said Lawrence.

Volunteer DNR TAs ride on ATV trails across Minnesota Friday, Saturday and Sunday throughout the riding season, providing maps and information to riders, monitoring the trails, and keeping them safe for the riding public by removing or reporting hazards such as downed trees, exposed culverts and washouts.

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|------------------------|--------|--------|---------|
| Monitoring Hours | 5,384 | 4,627 | 4,913.5 |
| Monitoring Miles | 14,882 | 13,705 | 15,896 |
| Verbal Contacts | 1,779 | 1,608 | 1,525 |
| Informational Handouts | 903 | 510 | 342 |
| Class 1 ATV | 5,273 | 4,602 | 5,822 |
| Class 2 ATV | 3,465 | 4,229 | 5,520 |
| ORV | 57 | 93 | 98 |
| OHM | 470 | 506 | 735 |

Heading West This Summer? Check Out The New BLM Mapping Series.



May 22 - ATVMN "Ride & Roast"

This fun annual event is at McQuoid's Inn, Isle, Minnesota. It starts with a pancake breakfast by the Isle Fire Department, followed by guided rides at 10am, with a trail-side box lunch on the Red Top, Foxy Loop and Solana trail systems. A hog and turkey roast dinner rounds out the day. All for just \$20 a rider (children 10 and under free).

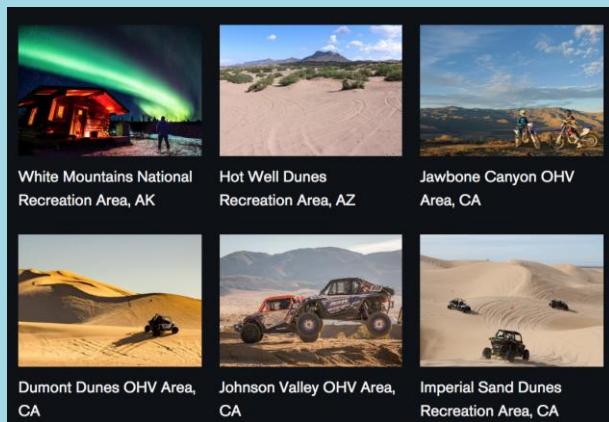
Register at atvam.org. McQuoid's Inn is located at 1325 State Hwy 47, Isle MN 320-676-3535. Rooms are sold out for this event. More lodging and camping options are listed on the Isle Minnesota Chamber of Commerce website.

April 24 - Voyageur Country ATV - Spring Ride & Fundraiser.

The BLM's Top Recreation Opportunities Mapping Series is designed to provide and promote a greater awareness of recreational opportunities on BLM-managed public lands.



The federal BLM (Bureau of Land Management) partnered with the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) to highlight some of the BLM's highest quality motorized recreation opportunities across the nation. Users can now find information to plan their next exciting ride while at home or on the road. Using an interactive web-based storymap, users can get familiar with recreation site amenities, season of use dates, camping availability, and more.



You'll find the new BLM mapping series at this link:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/dbb7817408a84788a9a24dfd850705cc>

Raffling a Recteq Stampede 590 Smoker/Grill.

May 8 - Roseau/LOW Sportsman Club - Fish Fry & Membership Drive, 4-8pm. Details on club Facebook page.

May 8 - Woodtick Wheelers ATV Club - Spring Meeting & Club Ride, 10 am Hackensack Theater parking lot. Ride to Whipholt Beach.

May 21 - South Metro ATV Club - Spring Ride, 10 am at Pine Center Trails. See club website for details.

May 22 - Carlton County Riders - Vintage Ride, 10 am at Docs Bar & Grill, Sturgeon Lake.

June 19 - 5th Annual Pig Roast, 3pm, Nemadji State Forest. Details for both on club Facebook page.

May 22 - Lake Country ATV Riders - Spring Ride at Spider Lake Trails. See Facebook page for details.

May 22 - Northern Traxx ATV Club - Spring Ride on Chisholm Trail. See Facebook page for details.

Wanted: Scenic Trail Ride Photos For The New Explore Minnesota 2021-22 Trail Riders Guide

Pro Print, our new publishing partner, will be designing, printing and mailing this year's Explore Minnesota offroad magazine. We are looking for trail riding photographs from each ATVMN Region for use in the magazine. Action and scenic spots are preferred and need to be hi-res from a digital camera or "actual size" from a smartphone. Drivers and passengers must have helmets on. Photo credits will be given. Please send questions and photos for consideration to d.halsey@atvam.org. Thanks!



In July of 2020, 60 people from 8 ATV clubs in the Southern Region and board members of ATV Minnesota met near Stockholm, MN for an outdoor meeting. State Senator Mike Goggin, representing State Senate District 21 also attended.

June 9-13 - High Lifter Mud Nationals

July 7-10 - ERX Off-Road National ATVMN
members will be invited to help again this year with parking; a fun ATV Minnesota fundraiser. Details coming soon.

June 26-27 - Minnesota ATV Riders - "Ride The Shore", 10 am, Silver Bay. Details on Facebook page.

September 17-19 - ATV Minnesota State

Convention. This year our "Ride & Rally" returns to the Ely area with a fun 3-day schedule, guided rides, our banquet, raffles and the ATV Big Air Tour. It's hosted again this year by the Prospector ATV Club. Details, sponsorship opportunities, and registration now open at atvam.org.

Topics included connecting local towns to existing trails, and the process to build new trails. Following the meeting, the group had lunch and rode together on a 65 mile trail ride.



Question from a member:
Are there any discussions or thoughts of future trail development in Southern Minnesota?
Gary B

We get that question often, especially from new riders and new ATV Minnesota members. The short answer is "Yes."

There are current trail projects in Houston, the Chatfield Expansion, and a Goodhue County/Hay Creek area project. We have a bill in this year's

Legislative Session asking for appropriations from the State ATV Dedicated Account to begin work on a statewide Master Trail Plan (HF 1259), which would include a Master Plan in the southern administrative region of the Minnesota DNR and ATV Minnesota. A Master Plan will help identify opportunity areas for trails or Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) parks.

**<<< *More on
Southern MN***

As you know, constructing trails is difficult in the southern part of Minnesota due to the large amount of private property, typically agricultural land. It's not an impossible task but it does take some motivation and perseverance from ATV clubs that are in southern Minnesota.

Neighbors talking to neighbors about trails on private lands works much better than a total stranger or the DNR approaching them. We are fortunate to have the Grant-in-Aid trail system, that helps fund clubs to maintain a public trail on private land, and that program provides

excellent liability coverage for the landowner. It's the same program snowmobile clubs have been successfully using for decades.

The Master Plan will help kick start some trail projects. However, at the same time, we really do need more clubs to form and be active in their communities to help develop and push trail proposals. ATV Minnesota is glad to help. Thank you for your question!

*Perry May
ATV Minnesota Director-at-Large*

The Story of the MA'AM Group **Moose Lake Area ATV Management Group** *(A great example of problem-solving by an ATV Club)*



By Eric Senarighi, president, Carlton County Riders Club
In the spring of 2020, during the height of the lockdown, my friend Dean Weske reached out to me about some issues regarding ATV and dirt bike traffic in his residential neighborhood, along the old Highway 8 outside of Moose Lake, Minnesota. I have known Dean for 15 years, through some of the extreme motorsports he has been involved in, such as the Kettle River Mud Bog and coordinating the "watercross" (snowmobile racing on open water) in Moose Lake. This relationship made me realize the severity of the issue in his neighborhood.

Moose Lake is unique in the fact that it has ATV trails coming into town from all directions. Riders head to Moose Lake businesses from the Soo Line North and Soo Line South, General C.C. Andrews, Soo Pits and the Nemadji State Forest. There are also hiking and biking trails in the area, and in winter the State snowmobile trails. The majority of businesses are located along the main drag of State Highway 27. This raises issues with access to and from needed services for

all the outdoor sports in Moose Lake. Increased traffic of off-highway vehicles brought complaints from long-time residents about dust, speed and noise.



I reached out to our County Land Commissioner, Greg Bernu, spoke to the Carlton County Board in July, and had conversations with local residents of this area. We came up with some possible solutions, which were well received. Moving forward with implementing these plans and discussing their feasibility, I assembled "The MA'AM Group." Members included the Moose Lake Chief of Police, Minnesota DNR Conservation Officers and Parks and Trails staff, Land Commissioner Bernu, the Carlton County Sheriff, several local members of the Carlton County Riders ATV Club, residents along Old Hwy 8 and a representative from the Evergreen PAC ATV Club.

This group met once a month in August, September and October. We discussed creating new signage and information kiosks. We designated city ATV routes, a new city ATV trail and a reroute of the Soo Line Trail where it runs along Old Hwy 8. We invited ATV Minnesota Director-at-Large Perry May to our September meeting to discuss ways to help fund some of these projects, and to offer insight with similar communities across the state. A target we have for these changes is to implement them for the riding season in 2021. This gave the city and county time to secure funds and grants to make these plans a reality.

In my opinion, this is a textbook example of how these types of off-road issues should be handled. Bring all the stakeholders together, openly discuss the issues, create a plan to solve the problems, find the funding and make it happen.

As the 2021 riding season is kicking off, the best thing ATV clubs can do is pay attention to the ATV traffic in and around their community. See what riders are doing, and what their group can do to help create a better experience. Is it a signing issue? Is it a mapping issue? Is it a route issue? Is it a rider issue? If you see patterns forming, you can get everybody together and find a solution relatively easily.

Carlton County Riders mantra:
To build new trails and maintain the trails we currently have.
To improve the view of our sport to those not involved.



Are ATV Registrations Outpacing ATV Education?



By Perry May, ATVMN Director-at-Large

New Minnesota ATV registrations over the last decade have risen an average of 3% annually, and in 2020 rose 4.5%, with 14,214 new ATV public-use registrations and 8,134 new ATV agricultural registrations. The recent Minnesota DNR Off-Highway Vehicle Summary for 2020 shows that there were 25 ATV fatalities, 355 reported injuries and 312 reported accidents. On the safety training side, 1,650 youth took online and hands-on training, and 3,221 adults took online training.

All the ATV statistics related to registrations, fatalities, injuries, and accidents are trending upward, except in safety training. The shutdown of ATV Safety Training classes due to State Health Department guidelines regarding the prevention of COVID-19 played a role in reduced safety training numbers. Many clubs simply did not hold the hands-on classes last year.

Observation from club members around the state indicate an increase in poor riding behaviors. Social media sites are full of inaccurate information regarding safety training, and many new riders have not spent any time reading the Off-Highway Vehicle Regulations booklet. Many do not know if they ride a Class 1 or Class 2 ATV, if they need a safety certificate to ride, a helmet to wear, registration requirements, or required to ride with their lights on. These are some of the very basics every ATV rider in Minnesota should know. **I would argue that ATV**

registrations are outpacing education, and we need a plan to make our sport safer for everyone on the trails.



**ATV SAFE RIDING TIPS for
the EMILY, OUTING,
and FIFTY LAKES AREA**



*Ride as if everyone is watching
Speak as if everyone is listening
Post as if everyone is reading*

What's Being Done

Many clubs are being proactive in addressing the increased need for rider education. In the fall of 2020, Eric Senarighi, president of the Carlton County Riders, initiated a meeting with local police, the county sheriff, county land department, DNR Enforcement and Parks & Trails, club members, and local citizens, all to discuss issues and possible actions to improve ATV riding behaviors in the Moose Lake area. (See Eric's article in this newsletter.) The group sought to evaluate observations and issues related to noise, speed, illegal highway riding, access routes into town, signage, and lack of rider safety knowledge. One of the key points this group is acting on is education, getting more ATV regulation and safety information

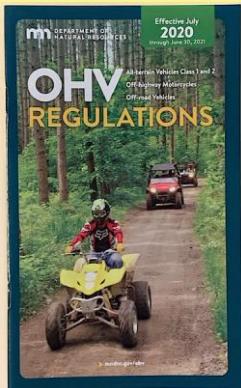
out to businesses, residents and visitors to the Moose Lake Area. Education is also coming in the form of new road signs, and a dedicated signed route into town.

The Over the Hills Gang ATV Club is taking a similar approach to get ATV information out to their local communities of Outing, Emily and Fifty Lakes. They have asked all the local government units to make an ATV Recreation Tab

on their city websites. It will include DNR OHV regulations, local city or county ATV ordinances, trail maps, and a new ATV riding-tips brochure. The brochure was created through discussions with local county Sheriffs, and local DNR Conservation Officers, to highlight regulations related to some of the poor riding behaviors that are being observed in the area. It will be placed at city offices, trail kiosks and local businesses. The main goal is getting more ATV safety information to key places where residents, visitors and riders can easily access it.

ATV Minnesota is working with the Minnesota DNR to encourage more Public Safety Announcements, and possibly creating some short safety videos.

Education will be the key to better informing the ATV riding public, with a goal to reduce fatalities, accidents, and injuries. Our toolbox to achieve this grows everyday due to the innovative success stories ATVMN clubs are implementing: new signs, websites with ATV recreation tabs, Facebook posts with safety messages, PSAs, videos, safety brochures, Safety Days, dozens of ATV Safety Training classes, and more volunteers in the DNR Trail Ambassador program. These are great tools to promote ATV Safety in your community.



As a challenge to all ATVMN Clubs, let's commit to getting more DNR OHV Regulation booklets out into our local communities. They can be ordered by sending an email to info.dnr@state.mn.us or calling 651-296-6157 or 888-MINNDNR.

We want to hear your safety success stories. Please share them with us at atvamoffice@atvam.org.

Update: There are now 75 ATV Safety Classes listed on the Minnesota DNR website, thanks to the many great ATV clubs that have organized and scheduled them; many have openings.

From the ATVMN Communications Team:

- Send your comments, club news, photos and article ideas to: d.halsey@atvam.org
- Forward this email to club partners and business sponsors if they aren't members already.
- All members should receive this newsletter and Minnesota Wheelin magazine. Let us know if you're not. Please note: ATVAM is also referred to as ATV Minnesota.

-Send member renewals to: ATVAM, PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079 E-newsletters are now archived on atvam.org to refer back to on topics.



ATV MINNESOTA "Your Voice To Ride"

Dedicated Volunteers
Building Fun & Sustainable
ATV Trails
For The Riding Public

< The Trail Opener is just around the corner, plus Graduations, Mother's Day, Father's Day. Order ATV Minnesota gear today for all your riders at atvam.org.

Invite friends and family to join today. Gift memberships available!
See the mailing label on your Minnesota Wheelin magazine for the renewal date of your membership. Be sure to include your email address on the renewal form to receive newsletters. And send renewals to ATVMN's mailing address: PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079.

Belonging to ATV Minnesota, you join thousands of riders throughout the state, have fun, and help create a positive future of ATV riding in Minnesota.

As a family or individual member for just \$20 you receive:

- A subscription to Minnesota Wheelin magazine (6 issues per year)
- Twice-monthly newsletter by email with the latest news and information
- Membership card and bumper sticker
- Invitation to events, including our Legislative Summit in winter, Vision Meeting and Ride & Roast in the spring, and State Convention "Ride & Rally" in the fall, as well as general membership meetings
- Discounts with many of our business members
- A full-time lobbyist at the State Capitol, helping create pro-ATV legislation, and moving forward important bills that help provide funding for new trail systems

As a business member, for \$75 you receive:

All of the above, plus:

- Your business name, address, phone number, email address and website listed in Minnesota Wheelin magazine and on the ATV Minnesota website

-Discounts on advertising in Minnesota Wheelin
-Opportunities to reach more customers by sponsoring or donating to our events
-An official ATV Minnesota membership certificate for display in your business
To join, contact **ATVAM** or call (800) 442-8826.

ATVAM
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ATV Association of Minnesota
PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079
800-442-8826
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