

ATV Minnesota
"Your Voice For ATV Recreation in Minnesota"
January 11, 2022
Newsletter

*929 new members in 2021!
Welcome!*



ATV Clubs Set Priorities For 2022 At Legislative Summit

It is important for ATV Minnesota, its members and member clubs to have a collective voice, communicated through our lobbyists to the State Legislature, to form laws and direct funding that create a positive future for ATV recreation in Minnesota.

That process starts with the ATV MN Legislative Summit.

This year's Legislative Summit was held on January 8, 2022. Fifty ATV club representatives, association

lobbyists, county commissioners, ATV manufacturer representatives and DNR Parks & Trails partners attended in person at Treasure Island Casino or on Zoom. Over a period of 4 hours, they discussed, prioritized and voted on important trail funding and policy issues to move forward to the State Legislature at the appropriate time. Here are the highlights:

-President Ron Potter and lobbyist Ray Bohn reviewed items passed in the last Legislative Session, those not passed, and challenges ahead to visit with Legislators at the State Capitol.

Resolutions discussed and voted on as high priorities for ATV MN and its member clubs:

- To continue working to remove "low pressure or non-pneumatic (tires)," and increase the maximum weight from 2,000 lbs to 3,000 lbs for the ATV definition in State statutes.
- To approve allocating funds from the ATV Dedicated Account or through bonding to expand trail systems of the Roseau & Lake Of The Woods Sportsmans Club, the Prospector Alliance, and Voyageur Country ATV.

Resolutions discussed and voted on as secondary priorities:

- To support legislation to open to ATVs some sections of state highways in communities in order to connect trails to services.
- To support the ability of 16-17 year old riders who have their DNR certification to ride with a passenger, when riding with parents and having a drivers license.
- To support non-profit ATV clubs receive a sales tax exemption on all equipment and attachments as an allowable cost in the GIA manual.



Resolutions discussed and voted on as thirdly priorities:

- To support removing the Ag Zone Restriction, which currently restricts the ability to operate in the ditches in the southern part of the State until after August 1.
- To support providing for a reduction in the ATV registration fee for those who belong to an ATV club.
- To support an opt-in option to receive information about ATV MN when registering ATVs.

A few other resolutions presented by ATV clubs were discussed and tabled at this time because they were issues related to DNR policy and do not require action

at the Legislative level. ATV Minnesota is also working closely with the other motorized State Associations on important issues, including increasing fines for trespassing on private lands, addressing safety concerns related to trail crossings at divided highways with J-turns and roundabouts, and removing roadblocks related to transferring vehicle ownership that are common to all the user groups.

Upon adjournment of the Legislative Summit, the priority resolutions will be reviewed by the Executive Board and, upon approval, will then be in the hands of ATV MN lobbyists Ray Bohn and Tom HackbARTH, who will move them forward at the State Capitol. The bills require sponsors within the Legislature, and go through many steps in the hope of becoming law.

If all goes as planned, upon passage of the ATV MN bills into law, and approval of funding requests, everyone who participated in the Summit should feel proud that you and your clubs were part of the Legislative process. You will have enacted change, helped create a positive future for ATV recreation in Minnesota...and reached the height of the Legislative Summit.

Thanks to everyone who attended in person or on Zoom, to the clubs that wrote and presented resolutions, to Nick Wognum for meeting minutes and photos, and to Erv Kleinschmidt who manned multiple computers and cameras to make the Summit a success.

Progress On Three Fronts With The Minnesota DNR



Brandon Helm Is New OHV Planner With Minnesota DNR (From Joe Unger, DNR Parks & Trails)

Greetings all,

I am excited to announce the new OHV Planner for DNR Parks and Trails. Brandon Helm will be entering into the OHV Planner position beginning Monday, January 10.

Brandon comes to the position from PAT Region 3, Area 3B (St. Paul area) where he coordinated State trail and public water access development projects, as well as easements, leases and other lands-related activities. Prior to working for the DNR, Brandon worked for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, and the Land and Water

Conservation Fund Coalition. The Planner position is my former position and I am very excited to have it filled by Brandon. He will help lead the OHV planning process, including the Phase 2 projects.

Joe Unger 651-605-5861
joe.unger@state.mn.us



Moving Forward On The Grant-in-Aid Improvement Process

By Perry May, ATV MN State Director

Restarting the ATV MN initiative called the GIA Improvement Process is a big deal for clubs that are in the GIA program. This effort began in 2019, but the pandemic shut down the meetings and halted our progress. The ATV MN committee includes Myles Hogenson, Perry May and Ron Potter. We have advocated first to make the GIA forms all electronic, where they would auto-add totals, with pull-down menus to input the current reimbursement rates.

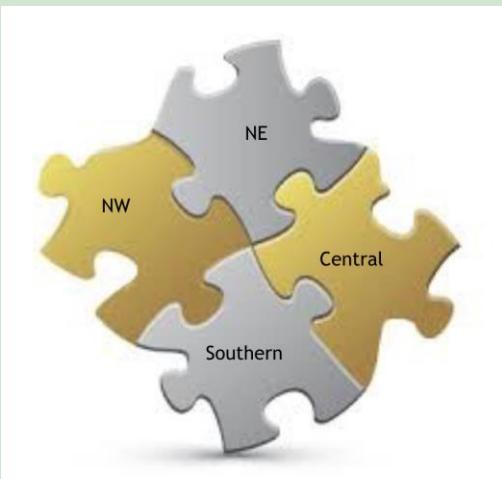
The second goal is to update the GIA manual page by page.

The third is to look deeper into a program made up of good items from the snowmobile program and good items from the ATV program. Many clubs would like to receive early grant money to repair trails before the season opener. There was talk of a mileage rate for general maintenance such as brushing, sign replacement, grading, etc., combined with funds for special repair projects. Somehow, we need to get funds to clubs sooner. This is a tougher task than the first two items.

From Joe Unger:

In 2019, DNR Parks and Trails began working on improving the OHV Grant-in-Aid Program to make it more efficient and predictable. Since that time, we have begun reviewing the GIA forms and some basic maintenance cost information. Through this project, we would like to improve the GIA process by reviewing the application and review process for new trails, the GIA manual, and trail funding/maintenance review.

We would like to continue with the project. There will be multiple pieces of the project going on at similar times, but we would like to first bring the group back together to talk about trail standards, a conversation that will help guide many future conversations. Eventually this project will improve the GIA forms, identify improvements and efficiencies in the 7-Step process, identify basic trail standards, identify potential standardizations for funding and update the GIA manual. Meetings now being planned will help us continue the funding conversations that began in 2020.



ATV Master Plan Is Ready To Step Into The "Action" Phase By Perry May

ATV Minnesota is working on a Master Plan to identify and connect ATV trails and other riding opportunities across the state. The first step was to get funding appropriated out of the Dedicated Account, which happened last year and moved into law August 1, 2021. The second step was to create an RFP (Request for Proposal) for finding an external contractor with the skill set to accomplish what we need to create the Master Plan. The third step was to post the RFP and solicit bids. The fourth step was to review bids

and select a contractor, just announced, the SE Group. We were a little behind schedule but now are moving in the right direction.



From Joe Unger:

I just received the executed contract for the ATV Master Plan.

SE Group has been awarded the contract. SE Group is based out of Vermont and has worked on a variety of plans nationwide, including the ORV plan for the Minnesota 4WD Association. Within the next couple of weeks, we will be setting up a meeting with ATV MN, SE Group and DNR Parks and Trails to refine the Master Plan process.

From the SE Group website: "For over 60 years, SE Group has been working with public and private sector clients to deliver extraordinary experiences and enduring value through strategy, permitting, planning and design." Learn more at: segrou.com



Prospector Club Loses Greg Mosher

By Nick Wognum, president, Prospector Alliance

A phone call on Christmas Eve was a shocker. To find out Greg Mosher had suddenly passed away sent chills up my spine and tears down my cheeks. To lose someone who was 58 blew me away. Greg Mosher was just a great guy.

Greg was a great behind-the-scenes guy who helped to make a lot of things happen. He was a wiz on Facebook and was always posting things to the Prospector page, from an upcoming ride to our club Christmas party. When I would fall behind on getting something done, there was Greg prompting me with friendly reminders.

We had talked about him taking over as president, which I think he would have been great at doing. He was always planning a ride for folks and would often plan the ride based on who was going. If there were some people new to ATVing he would make the ride shorter and go slower so everyone was comfortable. When we wanted to do a ride to the Trestle Inn in 2020,

it was Greg and Larry who made it happen and somehow made it there and back in record time. Fast or slow, Greg was the guy you wanted as a ride leader.

We didn't always talk about ATVing, there were many times we just talked about life. He was so proud of his daughter Kathleen, her husband Anthony and of course granddaughter Brooklyn. The last time we spoke he was just giddy about a trip to International Falls with the family to meet his parents. Family was high on the list for Greg, somewhere just ahead of ATVing and fishing.

The Prospector ATV Club is planning to build an overlook on the trail system and name it after Greg. He was a leader in the Prospector ATV Club and we want to recognize what he did for our members. The Greg Mosher Memorial Putnam Lake Overlook is a great way to honor his memory. If you wish to contribute, please send your donation to Prospector's ATV Club, PO Box 754, Ely, MN 55731. Please include a notation that your donation is for the 'Greg Mosher Memorial'. Thank you!

A few days before he passed, Greg saw smoke coming from a house and went to make sure the occupants were aware and got out safely. A local TV station picked up the story. Here is the link:

<https://www.kbjr6.com/2021/12/30/he-i-believe-saved-our-lives-ely-mans-final-act-kindness-leaves-lasting-impact/>



Update Your ATV MN Gear!
See the wide selection of new clothing for men, women and kids, in a variety of colors and sizes, and order yours today from our store at atvmn.org .



Save The Date!
ATV Minnesota
Vision Conference

April 23-24, 2022
Detroit Lakes, MN
More details to come.

Coming Events!
Details at ATVMN.org



Registration is now Open!
New this year: Friday night Welcome Party at the Wahkon Inn.



club would like to help sell raffle tickets, they can be mailed to you by sending an email to overthehillsgang@gmail.com. Include your name or club name, and how many tickets you would like. We would like all proceeds, ticket stubs, and unsold raffle tickets turned back to the club by September 1, 2022.

ATV Clubs Invited To Sell Raffle Tickets For 2022 Ride & Rally

This year's Ride & Rally host, the Over the Hills Gang ATV Club, is selling raffle tickets to help offset club expenses related to the event. Tickets are \$5.00 each. The club is hoping to sell 3,000 tickets and is giving away \$5,000 in cash prizes. If you or your



Got a Good Story to Tell?

- Have you been on a memorable ride?
- Do you have a fun story about an ATV club or ride group you belong to?
- Do you know of an outstanding volunteer who should be recognized for all they do for ATV riding in Minnesota?
- Is there an important ATV issue you'd like us to cover?
- We don't have a budget to pay you, but we will give you a byline and extra copies of the magazine your article or photo appears in.

-Send your comments, stories, club news, and ideas to: d.halsey@atvam.org.
*Thanks! From the ATV MN Communications Team:
Dave Halsey, Nick Wognum, Jeff Leese, Rod Wegner, Dean Schliek (with family in photo)*



ATV MINNESOTA "Your Voice To Ride"

Dedicated Volunteers
Building Fun & Sustainable

ATV Trails
For The Riding Public

**Invite friends and family to
join today. Gift
memberships available!**

(Graphic by Dean Schliek. See the 9-page "Winter Riding Opportunities" brochure under the Resources tab on the new ATV MN website.)

See the mailing label on your
Minnesota Wheelin magazine
for your membership renewal

date. Be sure to include your email address on the renewal form to receive newsletters. Send renewals to ATV MN'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 ATV MN logo sticker for your ATV or vehicle
- Invitation to events, including our Legislative Summit in winter, Vision Meeting, 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 and contact information 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

To join, contact **ATVAM** or call (800) 442-8826.

ATVMN.org

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