



# ATV Minnesota

*"Your Voice For ATV Recreation in Minnesota"*

## February 12, 2022

### Newsletter

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*28 new members in 2022  
929 new members in 2021!  
Welcome!*



#### In Minnesota, ATV Trail Building (And Trail Riding) Are Year-Round

##### ***From the Prospector Alliance:***

There is some good progress to report on the Beaver River bridge, which is an important connector for the Prospector trail system. Deck materials are staged and big equipment is on site. 10,000 years of nature creating muck in this area means it's so deep there is no bottom. Helical piles are needed to create the columns required to support the bridge. These are screwed into the muck until there is enough resistance to say it can hold the weight required. The piles near the river are 28 ft deep while the others are averaging 22 ft deep. Tops of the

columns will have some screw-jack threaded ends to adjust the bridge level in the future as needed. If all goes as planned the bridge should be done this spring.



ATV Trail is one of the only ATV Trails in the State that's open year-round (and groomed) for everyone to enjoy. NTXX owns a JD450H Dozer to maintain the trail 24/7/365, and relies on friends and contractors like Sever Dirt Works to keep the trail maintained. Special thanks to our friends at [Path Blazers Snowmobile Club](#) for grooming some trail for us and always maintaining our shared sections!



Bimbo's Octagon when you're ready. *Drone video of trail grooming, and more ride details on the club Facebook page.*

**From the Northern Traxx ATV Club:**

President Larry Folstad and Frank Sever of Sever Dirt Works cleared the Chisholm ATV Trail and Chisholm Sportsmen's Club this week for the 2022 Chisholm Polar Bear Days ATV Ride, February 26th. One more good snowstorm and the trail would've been impassable. The trail is now open from Hibbing through Chisholm to Side Lake. The Chisholm

**Polar Bear Days ATV Ride, Feb 26**

- Meet & Greet - Breakfast burritos and mimosas 9-11 a.m. at Jim's Sports Club Bar & Grill.
- Lineup 10:45 a.m., leave 11 a.m. sharp.
- Arrive at Hwy 5 Bar and Grill at noon, leave for Sportsmen's Club 1:30 p.m.
- Free Polish Lunch at Sportsmen's Club starting at 2 p.m.
- Ride back to Chisholm on the Trail, or continue ride up to Riverside Inn,



## What Is Your Vision For ATV Recreation In Minnesota?

### ATV Minnesota

### Vision Conference

April 23-24, Holiday Inn  
1155 US Hwy 10 East  
Detroit Lakes, Minnesota 56501  
Phone: 218-847-2121  
**(Registration is now open)**

This fun gathering of ATV clubs from across the state is always well attended.

At the annual Vision Conference, the ATV Minnesota Executive Board, Regional Directors and ATV clubs discuss a wide range of topics, with one goal: creating a clear Vision for ATV MN, and the Action Items needed to move it and its 66 member clubs forward, and advance our state's awesome ATV trail system. It's also your chance to buy new ATV MN gear,

reappoint or elect new Regional Directors...and more.

Reserve your one or two-night stay today. A block of rooms and discount are under "ATV Minnesota." Event registration is \$25 and includes a continental breakfast, refreshments at breaks and lunch. Please register early so we can plan for in-person attendance. There will also be a Zoom option to attend. **Register for the Vision Conference at this link:**  
<https://membership.atvmn.org/vision/>



## MN Valley ATV Riders Disbands (Donates \$3,000 to ATV MN)

*By Perry May, ATV MN State Director*

In late November of 2021, I received notice from the MN Valley ATV Riders that they made the difficult decision to disband the club. Located in the Renville and Redwood County area, the club held many of its meetings in Belview. I had the chance to attend some of their meetings in the past (see photo) and found an active group of members that promoted ATV recreation, held

fun ride events, and were in the middle of a struggle to build an Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) park in Sacred Heart Township of Renville County. In the early years of the club, around 2009, almost 200 members were signing on to help design, construct, and maintain a new OHV park. They engaged local Legislators and found early support from Renville County Commissioners. They worked with the Minnesota DNR, applied for Federal Recreational

Trails Program (RTP) funds, and matching funds from the ATV Dedicated Account and Grant-in-Aid.

In 2012, a 272-acre parcel of land was identified, and the due-diligence work of engineering, environmental and archeological studies was started. Future steps included the formal appraisal and purchase of the land, and moving into the construction phase. In January of 2018, the club hit a major obstacle. The Renville County Board voted to table any future discussions regarding the OHV park, which basically stopped local government support for it. The once active club began bleeding members. Seven years of attending meetings, gaining business, community, and local government support were all lost during a single County Board meeting. Since 2018, the club has tried, without success, to revive the project and as a result club membership continued to diminish, until it was time to disband.



### Trails Give Clubs A Firm Identity

As the ATV MN State Director, I have watched this scenario play out before. Clubs form an identity around a trail that they help design, construct and maintain. In essence, the club members see themselves as the stewards of that trail. This stewardship drives membership. A trail is something that members, businesses, and communities rally around. No Clubs – No Trails – No Sales.

We have a large issue in this state regarding membership. Less than 5% of Minnesota's registered-ATV owners are club members or members in ATV MN. There are now over 342,000 registered ATVs in the State. To change the trajectory of building more trails in more areas, we simply need more members. It remains one of the critical issues and challenges for ATV MN.

One of the last orders of business for the MN Valley ATV Riders, before voting to disband, was an act of grace, donating \$3,000 to ATV MN in

memory of a young man named Nicholas Scott Warner. Nick lost his life at the age of 16, because of an ATV roll-over accident, in a ravine on an unmarked trail. Nick's parents and grandparents donated money to the club in the hopes of building the new OHV park in Renville County. They believed in providing safe and sustainable trails and riding areas for all people to enjoy. This is a reminder for our organization and its member clubs, regarding the continued focus on building safe, sustainable, and fun trails throughput the entire state of Minnesota, while promoting the need for safety education and skills training for all rider age groups. **Thank-you to the MN Valley ATV Riders club for your past work, and your recent donation to ATV MN, and to Jeff Rice for contributing to this story.**



## More Insurance Agencies Used By ATV Clubs For Liability Policies

In the last newsletter, we listed some of the insurance agencies ATV clubs use for their liability policies. We learned of a few more. Clubs in the DNR Grant-in-Aid program are required to have insurance. Some clubs that aren't in GIA but want to have liability protection for their rides, events and trailers also have policies. If your club uses an agency not listed below, or if your insurance agency is

an ATV MN business member serving ATV clubs, please let us know and we will update the list. We will also list them all on the club resources page of our website at [atvmn.org](http://atvmn.org).

**\*Erickson-Larsen Inc.**, 6425 Sycamore Court North, Maple Grove, MN 55369-6028  
Ph: 763-535-0055 [www.ericksonlarseninc.com](http://www.ericksonlarseninc.com)

**North Risk Partners**, 2017 Hwy 59 SE, Thief River Falls, MN 56701, Ph: 218-683-3960  
[www.northriskpartners.com](http://www.northriskpartners.com)

**Otis Magie Insurance Agency**  
A Division of Marsh McLennan Agency, 2226 1st Avenue, Hibbing, MN 55746  
Ph: 218-312-1081 [Kaija.Johnson@MarshMMA.com](mailto:Kaija.Johnson@MarshMMA.com)

**Security State Insurance**  
PO Box 347, 402 Minnesota Ave. North, Aitkin, MN 56431 Ph: 218-927-3712  
<https://ssimn.com/>

**\*Story Agency Inc.**, 19430 Elkridge Trail, Farmington, MN 55024 Ph: 651-463-3334  
[www.storyagency.net](http://www.storyagency.net)

**V & V Insurance Agency, Inc.**, PO Box 159, Cresco, IA 52136 Ph: 563-547-2161  
[www.vandvins.com](http://www.vandvins.com)

\*ATV MN Business member



## Reeling In A Cool Community Connection

*By Perry May*

Single-digit temperatures and a 6:30 a.m. outdoor Saturday morning meeting in Nisswa, Minn, was just the start of the day for twenty-two club members of the Central Lakes and Cuyuna Iron Range Riders ATV Clubs. Darrel Palmer, ATV MN Northeast Regional Director, and Grant Coordinator for the Central Lakes Club, leads the discussion outlining plans to

keep 9,000 people inside a square-shaped perimeter road that marks the boundary for the annual Brainerd Ice Fishing Extravaganza, held on Gull Lake, and organized by the Brainerd Jaycees since 1991. This is the largest ice-fishing tournament in the world and brings in people from all over the United States and the world. The Jaycees give away \$150,000 in prizes, and proceeds go to local charities. About 18,000 holes were drilled in the ice for the contestants. Food and ice fishing vendors, along with dozens of porta-potties were just a few additions that made for a small town on ice.

Starting in 2009, the Jaycees reached out to Darrel to see if their club would help with the event. Kevin Kiehlbauch, Central Lakes Club President, and Russ Heittola, Grant Coordinator for the Cuyuna Iron Range Riders, joined Darrel as lead organizers from the two clubs. At approximately 7 a.m. the volunteers leave with their vehicles and ATVs in tow to drive onto a plowed parking area on the ice. Once unloaded, there was work to be done. Each ATV received a security sign, and was placed in a team of four, to monitor and secure one of the four quadrants of the perimeter road. Banners and signs needed to be put up directing ice fishing contestants to four checkpoints. The contest runs from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Contestants begin checking in as early as 8 a.m. to get to what they believe will be the lucky hole.



Schools buses were lined up on the highway as far as the eye could see, dropping off fishermen and their gear. People also drove their vehicles onto the ice from various access points, and local resorts shuttled people out, pulling large trailers full of people. By noon all the contestants were inside the perimeter, and a gun sounded to start the contest. The job of the volunteers now shifted to security and keeping any people coming from the outside of the perimeter into the

tournament area. The ATVs were in constant motion patrolling the perimeter. Darrel, Kevin and Russ came by to relieve volunteers, which provided a break in the warming tent, and to get some lunch. Daytime temperatures warmed into the low twenties, and the breeze calmed, which provided nice fishing conditions. A large 12 ft x 19 ft Jumbotron displayed the current results of the contest. At 3 p.m., the gun sounded again to end the tournament. A total of 750 fish were registered during the 3-hour event. A 9.15 lb northern pike and 4.98 lb walleye took the top prizes.

I was a rookie volunteer for the day to observe the efforts the two clubs put in to make this a successful event. I felt a sense of pride helping and got the sense all the volunteers felt the same way. That's probably the reason they return each year to do it all again. Darrel commented that this is one way the two clubs help the local community, knowing the proceeds are going to local charitable causes. It goes a long way to improving our image as ATV riders. The Jaycees benefit from the volunteer work and, in turn, make a cash donation back to clubs for their help. Thank you to all the Central Lakes and Cuyuna Iron Range Riders ATV Club volunteers for their "cool" community connection...ATV MN proud!



Jan. 25, meeting.

The trail — which currently covers 20 miles through Wolford and Irondale townships along with the city of Trommald — traverses through county- and state-managed forestlands and is open to ATVs, off-highway motorcycles and all non-motorized recreational uses. Along the route, trail users may visit scenic overlooks of the Mississippi River along with six sites furnished with picnic tables and grills. The southern parking area is located along a mine pit lake, which provides trout fishing opportunities.

Of the 12.5 miles to be added to the system, half will be newly constructed trails, while the other half will use existing undesignated and unmanaged forest trails already open to ATV use. The expansion area covers 1,220 acres of county-managed land and 80 acres of land managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, including a 427-foot section and a 53-foot section crossing wetlands. These sections will include elevated boardwalks, which are not considered wetland impacts, per the Wetlands Conservation Act of Minnesota. *Read the full article here: <https://www.brainerddispatch.com/news/local/miller-black-bear-trail-to-expand-by-12-5-miles>*

## **Miller Black Bear Trail To Expand By 12.5 Miles**

*From the Brainerd Dispatch  
By Chelsey M. Perkins*

The Crow Wing County Board approved the expansion project plan for Miller Black Bear Trail and granted an amended motorized multi-use trail permit to the Cuyuna Iron Range Riders ATV Club during its Tuesday,



## Remembering A Fun Club Event

In the Jan/Feb issue of Minnesota Wheelin magazine, we reported on a number of ways ATV clubs have fun and raise funds for their trails. Here is one more, provided by Howard Kluender with the Woods & Wheels ATV Club.

“Years ago, we held treasure hunts that were a lot of fun for participating club members. We had a treasure hunt where you had to find 9 Norwegians wearing red cowboy

hats at certain trail intersections. Each was a cardboard-face cutout with a red hat, attached to a bush. Members had to find a fluorescent pop bottle within 50 feet of Ole, Lena, Helga and others, then open the bottle and record the word in the bottle. Once all the words were found they had to piece together the words to make a sentence. You had to be back to the campground by 4:30 p.m., first one back with the correct sentence got a nice prize from the club. After that we had a nice supper for everyone. It was a good camp-n-ride weekend. Being retired, I had time to set up the treasure hunt and one club member is a real good cook so he made supper for all to enjoy. *Thanks Howard! For more details on the club's treasure hunts, contact Howard at 218-850-2943. Email: atvfool129@gmail.com*



## BUSINESS MEMBERS

Thank you to the hundreds of businesses that support ATV Minnesota and its member clubs. A special thank you to those who have contributed above their membership by advertising in our magazine, sponsoring our Annual State Convention (Ride & Rally), and by donating items to our fund-raising auctions at major events. We encourage all members to support the businesses that support ATV Minnesota.

of our business members. We haven't kept a running list of them -- our mistake -- but we want to create a list. **If your business now offers or is willing to start offering ATV MN members a discount, please let us know.** Send an email to [atvamoffice@atvam.org](mailto:atvamoffice@atvam.org) with the name of your business, contact information, and details on the discount you'd like to offer (percentage or dollar discount on your product or service, BOGO or other idea). We'll compile the list, post it on our website and in our magazine, encouraging our members to support your business.

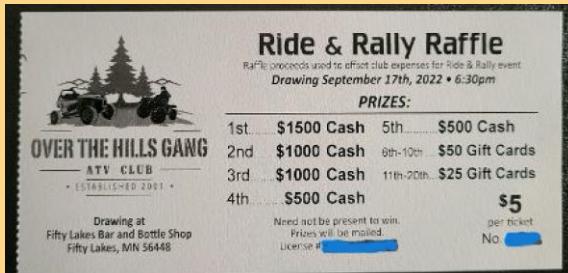
## Question From A Member: Is there a list of ATV MN business members that offer discounts?

Historically, one of the benefits of being a member of ATV Minnesota that we promote is discounts at some

**Coming Events!**  
**Details at [ATVMN.org](http://ATVMN.org)**



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



## 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

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



**Certified Volunteer ATV Instructor  
Classes Scheduled For Feb/March**  
 February 17, Alexandria, Douglas County  
 February 19, South Haven, Wright County  
 March 9, Blackduck, Beltrami County  
 March 22, Albert Lea, Freeborn County  
 March 26, Forest Lake, Anoka County  
 To view detailed information and prerequisites, go to the DNR website page at this link and click on a class

you are interested in: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/instructors/training.html>



ideas to: [d.halsey@atvam.org](mailto:d.halsey@atvam.org). Thanks! From the ATV MN Communications Team: Dave Halsey, Nick Wognum, Jeff Leese, Rod Wegner, Dean Schliek. *Photo of the Granny Tree on the Moose River Trail, by Dean Schliek.*



-Membership card and ATV MN logo sticker for your ATV or vehicle.

### 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](mailto:d.halsey@atvam.org). Thanks! From the ATV MN Communications Team: Dave Halsey, Nick Wognum, Jeff Leese, Rod Wegner, Dean Schliek. *Photo of the Granny Tree on the Moose River Trail, by Dean Schliek.*

### 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!**

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, 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.

- Invitations to events, including our Legislative Summit, Vision Conference, Ride & Roast in the spring, and State Convention "Ride & Rally" in the fall, as well as membership meetings.
- Discounts with many of our business members (watch for new list being compiled).
- 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 our 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\*\*](http://ATVMN.org)

**Follow us for all the latest news!**



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PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079  
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