



ATV Minnesota

"Your Voice For ATV Recreation in Minnesota"

February 13, 2023

Newsletter

*1500 New Members In Past 2 Years
Welcome...LET'S RIDE!*



**"Every Trail Decision
Is A Political Decision"**
*The Current Legislative Session Will Impact
The Future Of ATV Riding In Minnesota.
Make sure your club's voice is heard.*



The following email was sent by Ron Potter, ATV Minnesota president, to representatives of all ATV MN member clubs on February 11th. We are sharing it here with all our members to keep everyone informed of important bills being introduced at the State Legislature, including anti-motorized legislation that could negatively impact Minnesota's ATV trail systems, clubs and riders.

A Special Message From Ron Potter

Below is a Legislative Update from our lobbyist, Ray Bohn. He will be sending me these early each month so I can get them out to you. We hope these will be helpful for providing updates at your club meetings. I also want to remind you that we have a "Day at the Capital" scheduled for March 8th; information and registration is on our web page. We ask that you register so we can let your legislators know you will be attending.

I also want to mention that we have many bills introduced already, as directed from our Legislative Summit. Other bills are showing up that are not helpful or positive for our sport. If our bills encounter opposition, or if any of these other anti-ATV bills start being heard in Committee, we may need to take action quickly. In those cases, I will be working with our lobbyists to send out a Legislative Alert with information about a bill and a request that you contact your Legislators. We will provide some talking points to assist you with this conversation. If this happens you will need to contact your Legislators within 24 hours, so they hear from you prior to the bill being heard.

We have our monthly State Board call on Tuesday, February 21st, at which time we will get another update from our lobbyists, so join us then as well.

Regards,
Ron Potter, president
ATV Minnesota



Legislative Update, February 2023

By Ray Bohn, ATV MN Lobbyist

The 2023 Legislative Session began with legislators hitting the ground going full speed ahead. The first year of a typical legislative session starts slowly, with incoming legislators spending the first 6-8 weeks learning about committees they were assigned to and getting educated on the duties and workings of the various departments, agencies, and boards which they oversee. Normally committees don't do much, if any, substantial committee work on legislation until late February or early March.

Because not much was accomplished last session and campaign promises made, the DFL majorities in the House and Senate plus the Governor decided to move ahead quickly on their very aggressive agenda of tax conformity with the federal government, action on abortion access legislation, immigrant drivers licenses, extending miners unemployment benefits, carbon free utilities, and a number of other high priority issues.

The Governor also presented his budget message and bonding recommendations the last few weeks of January. That proposed budget has just found its way to legislator's desktops for review and committee work. The Governor's Budget Bill is 13 inches tall, so it drew quite a bit of attention at the capitol!

In addition, bills are being introduced at a record pace: 1,396 bills have been introduced in the House, while 1,443 have been introduced in the Senate! Both are record bill introductions for this time of the session. The committees are starting to hear the Governor's bonding bills by department and they will begin putting together their bills using the Governor's recommendations as the framework for their own bonding bill in each body. Policy bills are being heard and now that the budget is out there will be a combination of policy and budget work being done.

Committees only meet twice each week now for one and a half hours per hearing. They have 3 hours per week for hearings, and they are probably averaging 3 bills per committee hearing. So that is 6-8 bills heard per week per committee. Put that beside the 1,400 bills per house introduced already, just to

get a hearing will be a feat. But, somehow, the process seems to work and folks do get heard.

Speaking of process, all of the legislative offices are finally open to the public (and lobbyists). The Senate offices were open after the first week, but it took several additional weeks for the State Office Building House offices to open up so we could approach representatives and staff in their offices to see them without an appointment.

Good progress is being made to get ATV Minnesota's legislative initiatives formalized and presented to individual legislators for action. Listed below is the progress that has been made to this point. Please remember we will have our Day at the Capitol on March 8th in St. Paul to meet with legislators about our issues and spend the evening sponsoring a reception in their honor which all are invited to. We strongly encourage you to plan on attending. Look for emails on this event or check out the web page today!

ATV Minnesota Legislative Initiatives Status:

SF420/HF592: Sen Hauschild/ Rep Lislegard: A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money for all-terrain vehicle trails. Funding for the Prospector & Voyageur Trails. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.



SF419/HF593: Sen. Hauschild/Rep Lislegard: St. Louis County all-terrain vehicle trail systems capital improvements bond issue and appropriation. Bonding funds for the Prospector, Voyageur and Quad City Trails. Referred to respective environment committees.

HF262/SF552: Rep Burkel/Senator Johnson: A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money to resurface recreational trail. Funding for the Warroad re-surfacing project. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

SF31/HF609: Sen Jasinski/Rep Hansen: Registration, transfer, and operation of snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and off-highway motorcycles modernization. 1st Engrossment in the Senateincludes our amendment to include ATVs & OHMC. Passed the House 67-0 1/30/23. House file includes OHMC but not ATVs. Laid over for possible inclusion in omnibus bill. Expected

to be fixed to mirror SF during the process. Funding for the Northwoods Trail. Senate author Sen. Wesenberg, House author TBD.

Funding for the FireFrost Trail. Senate author Sen. Johnson, House author TBD. Sales tax exemption on equipment, attachments, and materials for ATV Clubs trail building & maintenance. In discussion with potential authors, authors TBD. ATV road surface community access. In discussion with potential authors, TBD.

Anti-Motorized Bills to Watch:

SF1324/HFxxxx: Senators Morrison/Marty: Land, water quality, aquatic life and wildlife protection from the effects of using certain motorized recreational trails; environmental assessment worksheet to construct or expand off-highway vehicle trail requirement. No House File introduced yet. Returns to 2003-era major restrictions on public lands for motorized recreation. **Watch for a Legislative Alert! to clubs if there is any action on this anti-motorized legislation this session.**



ADVOCATE FOR ATV TRAILS!

ATV MN 'Day At The Capitol'

March 8, 4:30 to 8:00 pm

Capitol Ridge Event Center, St. Paul
(Invite Your State Legislators To Attend)

ATV Minnesota, its board, members and ATV member clubs from across the state will gather in person for the ATV MN 'Day At The Capitol.' We will be holding a reception, meeting with our State Senators and Representatives, to advocate on

behalf of ATV recreation.

ATV MN members and member clubs are encouraged to invite their Legislators, as constituents, to this important event, to be held March 8, from 4:30 to 8:00 pm, at the Capitol Ridge Event Center, 161 St, Anthony Ave., St. Paul. It's just 1 block from the State Capitol which makes it convenient for Legislators to stop by and visit with their constituents who belong to ATV clubs.

Don't know who your Legislators are? Tap this link and type in your zip code to find out the names of your State Senator and Representative:

<https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/>

For those who would like hotel accommodations, a 15% room discount has been offered to ATV MN members. Parking will be available. The room is reserved from 4:30 to 8:00 pm, please arrive early.

If you plan to attend, please register at this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdG8J9usOo8Tz87iBn37pt4atlPpzQJJThcHMNhO7irC_6icA/viewform

REGISTER EARLY!

ATV MN Vision Conference

March 4, 8 am to 5 pm

(note date change from earlier announcement)

Running Aces Casino/Hotel

15201 Running Aces Blvd, Columbus, MN
55025 651-925-4600



What Is Your Vision For ATV Recreation In Minnesota? This fun

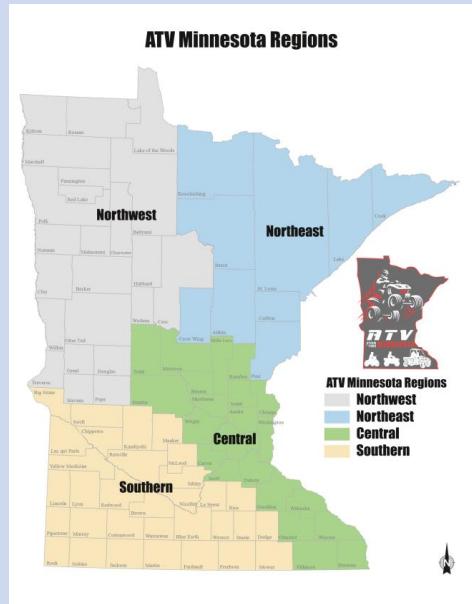
gathering of ATV clubs from across the state is always well attended. At the annual Vision Conference, the ATV Minnesota Executive Board, Regional Directors and ATV clubs discuss a wide range of topics, with one goal: creating a clear Vision for ATV MN, and the Action Items needed to move it and its 70 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.

Event registration is \$25 and includes a continental breakfast, and refreshments at breaks. On your own for lunch during a 1-hour break. Please register early so we can plan for in-person attendance. The Zoom option to attend is \$5. Either way, please register early for the Vision Conference at this link: <https://membership.atvmn.org/vision/>

When Does My ATV MN Membership Need To Be Renewed?



Whether your ATV MN membership is included in your ATV club's dues, or you pay it separately, make sure you keep getting Minnesota Wheelin in your mailbox, our twice-monthly e-newsletter, and other news about ATV riding, by renewing your membership before its renewal date. It's printed on the mailing label of your copy of the magazine, next to your membership number. Watch for a renewal letter a month before your membership expires. Include your email address on it to receive our twice-monthly e-newsletter with all the latest news and information about ATV riding in Minnesota. You can also renew your membership at atvmn.org. **Thanks for supporting ATV Minnesota with your individual, family or business membership!**



Get To Know Your Club's DNR A&D

The Minnesota DNR OHV Acquisition and Development (A&D) Specialists are your ATV club's "regional voice" and contact to move trail projects forward. They can help you navigate the Grant-in-Aid process, identify local DNR staff and potential local government sponsors, and assist in trail layout and design. To read about the backgrounds of each of the A&Ds listed below, see the May/June 2022 issue of Minnesota Wheelin, at atvmn.org under the "Archives" tab.

Northwest Region: Karen Cladas — karen.cladas@state.mn.us, 218-308-2369

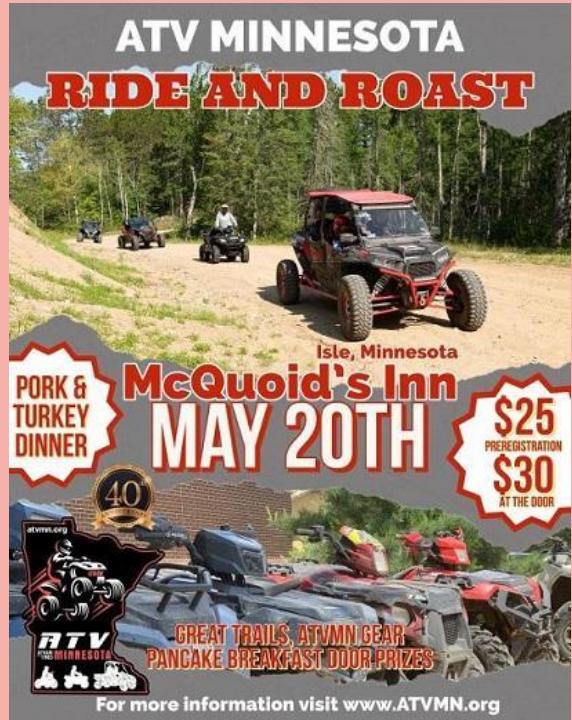
Northeast Region: Karine Finken — karine.finken@state.mn.us, 218-328-8992

Central Region: Ali Schmitz — alexandra.schmitz@state.mn.us, 612-354-1132

Southern Region: Open position, contact Ali Schmitz

OHV Planner: Brandon Helm — brandon.helm@state.mn.us, 651-259-5095

OHV Consultant: Joe Unger — joe.unger@state.mn.us, 651-259-5279



Registration Is Now Open For The 2023 ATV MN Ride & Roast May 20th, Isle

Last year, over 300 riders attended this great event, which includes a pancake breakfast, guided rides with trail lunch, and a fun dinner banquet. Registration is now open. And McQuoid's Inn is taking reservations for lodging and campsites.

The planning team is busy organizing the event, including a Friday evening welcome party with appetizers. Keep an eye on the ATV MN newsletter, website and Facebook page for updates. (Flyer by Dean Schliek, ATV MN comm team)

Register your ride group today at this link:

<https://membership.atvmn.org/rideroast/>

Got a Good Story to Tell?

- Been on a memorable ride?
- Have a fun story about your ATV club?
- Know a volunteer who should be recognized for all they do for ATV riding?
- An important ATV issue we should cover?
- Want to submit an article or photos?
- 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@atvmn.org. Thanks!
From the ATV MN Communications Team: Dave Halsey, Nick Wognum, Jeff Leese, Dean Schliek.

A poster titled "MINNESOTA WINTER TRAILS" in large, bold, yellow letters. The background shows a snowy forest scene with ATVs. The poster lists various trail names in yellow text:

- ALVWOOD - SQUAW LAKE
- APPLETON OHV PARK
- BEMIS HILL TRAIL
- CHENGWATANA ST. FOREST
- CHISHOLM TRAIL
- EAST RANGE TRAIL
- FOND DU LAC ST. FOREST
- GANDY DANCER
- GENERAL CC ANDREWS
- GENDA TRAIL
- IRON RANGE OHV REC AREA
- MATTHEW LOUREY TRAIL
- MOOSE RIVER TRAIL
- NEMADJI ST. FOREST
- SACINAW GRADE TRAIL
- SOO LINE NORTH/SOUTH CARLTON COUNTY
- SPIDER LAKE TRAIL
- ST. CROIX ST. FOREST
- WARROAD/ROSEAU TRAILS

BE SURE TO ALWAYS CHECK THE
MINNESOTA DNR WEBSITE FOR CLOSURES.

ATV MINNESOTA
"Your Voice To Ride"

Dedicated Volunteers
Building Fun & Sustainable
ATV Trails For The Riding Public
(And Bridges, Boardwalks, Kiosks, Parking, Outhouses & More)

**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 we send you 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.

(Graphics by Dean Schliek)



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

- A subscription to Minnesota Wheelin magazine (6 per year).
- Twice-monthly newsletter by email with the latest news.
- Membership card and ATV MN logo sticker for your ATV.
- 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.
- A full-time lobbyist at the State Capitol, helping create pro-ATV legislation, and moving forward 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. For details, send an email to Creston Dorothy at Pro Print in Duluth: cdorothy@propriprintus.com
- Opportunities to reach more customers by sponsoring or donating to our events

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



CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

New Program! As a Corporate Sponsor:

Your financial support will help ensure a positive future for ATV recreation in Minnesota.

Four levels: \$2,500 Bronze / \$5,000 Silver / \$10,000 Gold / \$25,000 Platinum

Each includes ads in Minnesota Wheelin magazine, and publicity of your business, organization or club at ATV MN events, on websites, social media and more!

To learn more, visit atvmn.org and tap the "Sponsorships" tab.

ATVMN.org

Follow us for all the latest news!



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