



ATV Minnesota

"Your Voice For ATV Recreation in Minnesota"

Member Newsletter

September 10, 2026

LET'S RALLY! LET'S RIDE!



Ride and Rally 2026

September 18 - 20

Park Rapids MN



It's Just A Week Away!

R U Ready To Ride & Rally?

There is still time to register your ride group for the Friday President's Ride and/or Saturday guided rides (with ride-on-your-own option).

Please pre-register!

- That helps you check-in faster, and reserve the guided ride you want.

- It helps the host clubs get a headcount

for the dinner.

•And it helps the election go smoother, with shorter lines during the in-person voting from 5 to 8 p.m. Thanks!

Plus reserve your lodging or camping (on-site or locally), sign up as a vendor, and be an event sponsor or donate to the auctions.

To get started, just tap the QR code with your smartphone camera, or go to atvmn.org and tap the "Events" tab. You'll find everything you need, including a detailed schedule for the entire Ride & Rally. **See you in Park Rapids!**



“United We Trail. Divided We Fail.”

*A commentary by Dave Halsey,
communications director, ATV Minnesota*

That motto, borrowed from the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs, sums up what happens when motorized recreation groups run into serious disagreements and dissension, and reach a crossroad to either work together or fail in their efforts.

Which way will ATV Minnesota and its member clubs go in the coming months?

Will it be united? Or divided? It's hard to tell, based on 1) the sometimes not-so-subtle bickering between clubs during and since last January's Legislative Summit, and 2) more recently, what has shown up in the campaigning by clubs for their choice for the next ATV MN president, to be elected at Ride & Rally on September 19th.

Clubs are posting and sharing AI-generated ads promoting their choice for president, which is their right. But, as you may have seen, due to the content of those ads, including some with false narratives, the comments to these posts quickly turned into the usual Facebook nonsense, with replies back and forth ad nauseam, often turning personal and negative.

To see (and hear) the campaigning for ATV MN president feel like the recent "Not good for Minnesota" TV ads for Minnesota governor and U.S. Senator is disappointing to say the least.

We have two very capable candidates. There is no need for clubs campaigning for one candidate to slight the other candidate. It only serves to cause disagreements and hostility between members, and divisions within ATV Minnesota's 73 ATV member clubs, whose members work hard year-round on trails, safety training, charity rides and so much more.

This situation is nothing new to powersports associations. MnUSA, with over 200 snowmobile clubs, has gone through tumultuous times. There are two separate national snowmobile associations, due to controversies and dissension.

The last time more than one person ran for ATV MN president was in 2008, when Ken Irish was elected president. In 2010, George Radke ran uncontested, and served as president for 8 years. Followed by Ron Potter, also running uncontested in 2018 and serving for the past 8 years.

More important than who wins is what happens after the election. How many voters will raise their hands to help ATV MN move forward, with as much passion as they have for the election outcome?

Whoever is elected to serve as the next ATV MN president, first and foremost, will need to work to create unity among all the clubs. Then, in the interest of all clubs with Grant-in-Aid trails, they will have to deal with a shortfall in our ATV GIA account, that helps fund trail maintenance, capital improvement, and new trail construction. The new president will also need to delegate across all clubs, recruiting a bleacher-full of help if they want to fill Ron's shoes -- dealing with many challenging issues, being on all the committees, leading the monthly board meeting and many other ATV MN meetings and events, plus handling daily calls, emails and behind-the-scenes discussions with the statewide board, lobbyist Jeff Anderson, DNR, US Forest Service, State Legislators and many others. I'm sure Mr. Radke and Mr. Potter would agree: we need more -- and more active -- committees, reporting to the next president to share the workload.

This is supposed to be a fun sport, right? We hope everyone who shows up to vote, will do so peaceably and in good faith. Then raise their hands to help the new ATV MN president, executive board, statewide board and their club leaders to stay united as, together, we tackle the big issues. Division only serves to disenfranchise members and clubs, and give those opposed to motorized recreation ammunition to shoot at our collective efforts.

We have too much on the line to be divided.

Let's move forward, united.







Get To Know The Candidates Running For Executive Board Positions. The ATV Minnesota Election Is September 19th At Ride & Rally

The terms for three ATV Minnesota executive board positions expire in September: President, First Vice President, and Secretary. The deadline for nominations was July 31st.

Nominations were made using the official ATV MN nomination form. Four nominations were submitted. The nominees were contacted to confirm their interest.

Running for president: Larry Folstad (top left photo) and Perry May (top right photo). Running for First Vice President: Dean Schliek (lower left photo). Running for re-election as secretary: Nick Wognum (lower right photo).

To read the full profiles for each candidate that were provided to ATV MN, see the August 4th e-newsletter, sent to all members who have provided us with their email address. To learn more about member eligibility to vote and the in-person voting process at Ride & Rally, see the August 20th e-newsletter. Both newsletters are also posted on our website at atvmn.org, under the "News" tab.

The in-person election will be held at the 2026 ATV MN State Convention/Ride & Rally, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. during the General Membership Meeting on September 19th (with most of the meeting agenda discussed closer to 7:00 p.m. during the banquet). During the election, there will be no nominations accepted from the floor, and no write-in votes will be accepted or counted. The election results will be announced sometime after 8:00.





Coalition of Recreational Trail Users



Minnesota 4 Wheel Drive Association
mn4wda.org



ATV Clubs & Groups Go Big Promoting Trails & Safety

August and September are always busy months for ATV clubs and their members, who year-round are dedicated to promoting safe, responsible ATV riding by riders of all ages. In addition to many ATV Youth Safety Classes held by clubs across

the state, and Trail Ambassadors visiting with trail riders, other recent events included:

August 27th — On Trails Day at the State Fair, CRTU (Coalition of Recreational Trail Users) had its educational trailer and exhibits next to the DNR building. Representing ATV MN, MN4WDA, ARMCA and MnUSA, its board members and volunteers visited with hundreds of people, passing out trail maps, DNR reg books and many safety-related publications. CRTU's mission is to promote responsible recreation, protect trail access, and educate the public about the importance of Minnesota's motorized trail systems.

August 29 — Cannon Power Sports hosted its first-ever Safety Open House, which included a Youth ATV Safety Certification class. Instructors were from the Bluff Country ATV Club and the Dakota SxS & ATV Club. They were assisted by Goodhue County sheriff's deputies and Minnesota DNR Conservation Officer Derek Schneider. The open house featured a coalition of regional motorsports safety organizations, including the ATV Minnesota Safety Committee, Minnesota Youth Racing Association, Youth Gone Wild, Phase Alert, Blue Medic Training Solutions, and the Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association.

August 30 — As it does each year, the Runestone Off-Road ATV Riders (ROAR) set up an impressive display at the annual Youth Outdoor Activity Day, including

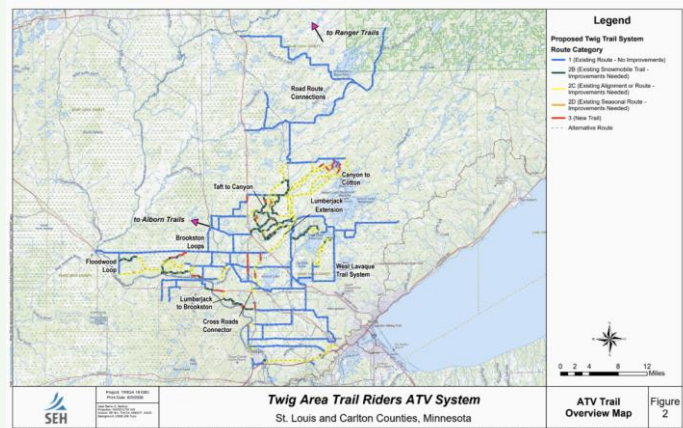
free demo rides in SxSs, a booth, and visually impactful scenarios of mock ATV accidents (see photo of side-by-side on its side) and how to prevent them. Held in Alexandria, this one-day event attracts 2,400 youth participants, who are able to participate in 45 outdoor activities, thanks to 280 volunteers and 60 sponsors. Learn more at youthoutdooractivityday.org. Perry May and Dean Schliek helped the club out this year. The CRTU educational trailer is also at this event each year.

Coming September 12-13 — The RideSafeFoundation, Powered by BRP, will be on-site at Hay Days, which may just be the largest powersports event in the nation. Certified safety instructors from ATV Minnesota member clubs will provide basic off-road safety instruction for children and their parents in the Can-Am Off-Road booth located on Manufacturers Row.

DNR Accepting Comments On The Twig Area Trail Riders EAW

(From a Sept 1 press release)

The DNR is accepting comments on environmental review documents for Twig Area Trail Riders ATV Trail System.



The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is accepting comments through Oct. 1 on an Environmental Assessment Worksheet for an all-terrain vehicle project that would include approximately 510 miles of roadway and

natural surface trail alignments in Carlton and St. Louis counties as part of the Twig Area Trail Riders' proposed trail system. The proposed project would utilize existing trails, construct trail segments, and allow for seasonal (spring, summer, and fall) motorized all-terrain vehicle and off-highway motorcycle use. The proposed project aims to connect communities in Carlton and St. Louis counties to the trail system.

The EAW was published in the Sept. 1 edition of the EQB Monitor (eqb.state.mn.us/eqb-monitor). A copy of the EAW is available on the project page of the DNR website (mndnr.gov/input/environmentalreview/twig-area-trail.html). A hard copy of the EAW may be requested by calling 651-259-5101 and is available for public review at the following libraries:

DNR Library, 500 Lafayette Road N, St. Paul, MN 55155

Carlton Public Library, 310 Chestnut Ave., Carlton, MN 55718

Moose Lake Public Library, 313 Elm Ave., Moose Lake, MN 55767

Cloquet Public Library, 320 14th St., Cloquet, MN 55720

Duluth Public Library, 520 W. Superior St., Duluth, MN, 55802

Virginia Public Library, 215 S 5th Ave., Virginia MN 55792

Comments must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2026.

Comments should be submitted online at Comments for Twig Area Trail Riders ATV Trail System EAW (mndnr.commentinput.com/?id=R5gYATe3); or

Mailed to Twig Area Trail Riders ATV Trail System EAW Project Manager,
Environmental Review Unit, Ecological and Water Resources Division,
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road N, St. Paul,
MN 55155.

Anyone who provides a mailing address or submits online comments will receive a copy of the subsequent decision document, which will include responses to comments. Because all comments and related information are part of the public

record for this environmental review, commenters' names as well as email or postal addresses will be published and publicly available as they appear in the materials commenters submit.

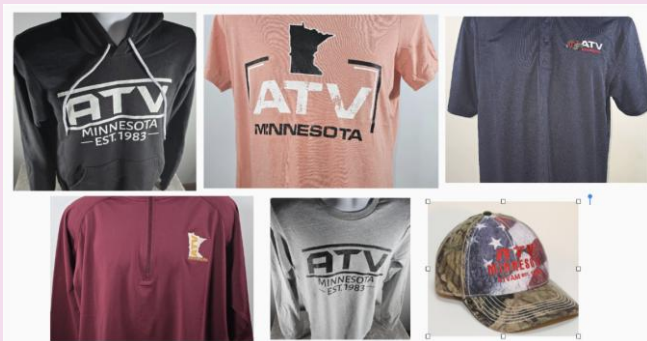
ATV MN to Attend Outdoor Industry Summit, Sept. 24 in Bloomington

Minnesota's outdoor recreation industry will gather for the 2026 Minnesota Outdoor Industry Summit on



Thursday, Sept. 24, at the Hyland Hills Chalet in Bloomington. Attending on behalf of ATV Minnesota will be Ron Potter, Dean Schliek, and Perry May. "I think it is important for ATV MN to continue to network with other outdoor recreation businesses, nonprofits, trail communities and others to discuss the contributions of motorized and ATV recreation to the MN outdoor economy," Perry said. "Motorized recreation is not always an accepted activity of the MN outdoor recreation economy, so networking is important."

Hosted by the Outdoor Recreation Industry Partnership, the Summit will bring together businesses, government agencies and community leaders to discuss opportunities to strengthen and grow Minnesota's outdoor recreation economy. The Outdoor Recreation Industry Partnership is a collaboration among Explore Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, and Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation. For details and to register, go to <https://www.eventleaf.com/e/oripsummit>



Order ATV MN Gear Online Or Choose Your Favorites At Ride & Rally

Get ready for Ride & Rally
and all your fall rides and
outdoor activities. Gear up
with the latest ATV

Minnesota T's, hoodies, caps and more, available in a wide variety of colors, sizes and styles for men, w0men and kids. Wear it with pride on all your rides! Go to atvmn.org and tap the "Store" tab to order online. Or see everything we have to offer at Ride & Rally. **Thanks for supporting ATV Minnesota with your purchase!**



ATV MINNESOTA

"Your Voice To Ride"

(And Have Fun!)

Seventy-three dedicated ATV clubs and their volunteers, building and maintaining fun, sustainable ATV trails for the riding public (and bridges, boardwalks, kiosks, parking, selfie stations and more).

Invite friends and family to join today.

Gift memberships available!

Photo: There are many ways to support this year's Ride & Rally, including levels of monetary or in-kind product/services sponsorships, or donating ATV-related or

other items to the silent and live auctions. Download the sponsor brochure at atvmn.org, tap the Events tab.

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726245 5/31/2026	RENEWAL DATE	U.S. POSTAGE
Mudslide McWheelie		PAID
1234 Mudtrack Lane		55806
RoughRider Falls, MN 56789		PERMIT NO. 1003

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 our

twice-monthly newsletter. Send renewals to ATV MN, PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079. You can also join/renew at atvmn.org.

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



As a family or individual member, for \$30, you receive:

- A subscription to Minnesota Wheelin magazine (published times 6 a 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 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 to provide funding for new trail systems.

As a business member, for \$90 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 on rates and deadlines, send an email to Creston Dorothy at Pro Print in Duluth: cdorothy@proprintus.com.

-Opportunities to reach more customers by sponsoring or donating to our events.

To join, contact [ATVAM](https://www.atvminnesota.com) or call (800) 442-8826.

Thanks To Our Corporate Sponsors

For Their Generous, Financial Support Of ATV Minnesota!



-Timber Bay Lodge & Houseboats (\$2,500 Bronze Sponsorship) - Visit timberbay.com to learn about its amazing lodges (sleep up to 15), traditional cabins and fleet of houseboats. Timber Bay Lodge & Houseboats is on the south shore of Birch Lake, near Babbitt, **with direct access by ATV to the Prospector Trail system.**

Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/timberbaylodge>



Be A Corporate Sponsor!

Financial support from businesses large and small are helping ensure a positive future for ATV recreation in MN.

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.

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