

ATV Minnesota

"Your Voice For ATV Recreation in Minnesota"

January 30, 2021

Newsletter

370 new members in 2020 - Welcome!



'Minnesota Wheelin'

2021 Vision Conference: Plans Move Forward For A Hybrid Meeting

Save The Date: March 20, 2021

Current plans are for the annual Vision Conference to provide an option of meeting in-person or joining virtually with Zoom. We are looking into the logistical and technical challenges, and the right location. More details will be sent out as soon as they are available. Thanks for your patience.

Is In The Mail!

The new official publication of ATVMN and MN4WDA has been printed, folded, stitched (above) and mailed! Watch for it in your mailbox.

Minnesota Wheelin has a new design and new content. It has improved listings of our 70 ATV member clubs and 300 business members. It has full-page ads from new advertisers. It's printed on better paper, and will be mailed flat instead of folded.

The Jan/Feb "announcement" issue outlines our goals with our new, official publication, and what's to come in the full, premier March/April edition already in the works.

A lot of work went into creating Minnesota Wheelin, with one goal: to better serve the members of both of our State Associations. It's a great team effort between ATVMN, MN4WDA and Discovery Publishing, a division of Pro Print, a highly respected, award-winning printer in Duluth, and our new partner in publishing. Thanks to Creston Dorothy, the entire team at Pro Print, and to everyone who pitched in to create Minnesota Wheelin.

Share Your Club News! We want to report news about your club rides, special events and the topics you'd like to see covered in future issues. Send it all to our ATVMN Communications Director: d.halsey@atvam.org, or 612-723-1987.

All Clubs & Business Members: Please check your listing and send us any corrections or updates. Thanks!



WHAT IF?

What if the ATV trail signs in Minnesota were white-on-brown like other states use instead of white-on-red (a caution color)?



What if our ATV trails had a sign like this to make it clear what a Class 2 vehicle is?



What if our ATV trails included reassurance markers to show the way?

MN OHV Registrations Up...

Total OHV Registrations in 2020:
493,212 / up 24,053 from 2019
ATV Registrations: 323,956 / up 14,214
ATV Ag Registrations: 148,018/up 8,134
OHM Registrations: 14,734 / up 1,186
ORV Registrations: 6,504 / up 519

...And OHV Fatalities Up

Total OHV Fatalities in 2020:

27 / 12 in 2019

ATV Class 1: 18 / 9 in 2019

ATV Class 2: 7 / 2 in 2019

(All Class1/2 on road ROW or priv. property;

Ages: 9-72; Number w/ safety certificate: 2)

Off-Highway Motorcycles: 2 / 1 in 2019

Off-Road Vehicles: 0 / 0 last 6 years



What if signs on ATV routes running on State Forest roads open to highway-legal vehicles were like those used in the National Forests?

What do you think?

ATV Minnesota is proposing these changes to the Parks & Trails Division of the Minnesota DNR. We will keep you updated on our progress on these signage efforts. **We'd like your input.** Good ideas? Other ideas? Send your comments to this newsletter at: d.halsey@atvam.org. Thanks!



Save The Date To "Ride & Roast"

The Ride & Roast is May 22nd 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



A Fun Trail Addition: Selfie Stations

One of many new features planned for the Emily/Blind Lake Connector Trail

will be a selfie station. The Minnesota DNR has installed them on hiking/biking trails across the state. The station will be funded in part with a \$1,000 donation to the Over The Hills Gang ATV Club from Minnesota ATV Riders, a popular Facebook rider group. Selfie stations have an adjustable shelf to hold a smart phone or tablet. Riders can show off their selfie skills, and share photos of the beautiful area along the trail where the platform will be stationed. The

under free). Register at atvam.org. Reserve your room at McQuoid's Inn, 1325 State Hwy 47, Isle MN 320-676-3535. Ask for the ATVMN discount.

Emily/Blind Lake Trail is expected to be officially opened next September.



What About ATV Safety Training?

ATV clubs are planning their many events for 2021 and are looking

for DNR updates on guidelines and COVID-related requirements for ATV Safety Training Classes. We're on it! ATV Minnesota has sent inquiries to the DNR on this issue and will report on it as soon we know something.

Thinking Of Building An ATV Trail? Start Here.



It's A Multi-Year Process. ATV Minnesota Can Help.

By Perry May

ATVMN Director-at-Large

Some of you may be spending your winter hours not only dreaming of getting back on the trails with your ATV, but also building a new ATV Trail or new Connector Trail to reach an existing system.

To move from idea to action, find out who to talk with in order to put things in motion and turn that trail vision into reality. Realistically, you are embarking on a 3 to 10 year effort, depending on the complexity, length, and support you receive for your idea. You will need patience, perseverance, positivity and motivation to keep your trail vision moving. Be prepared for challenges. Be ready for changes to your plan, and work toward it to gain the most important requirement: strong public support.

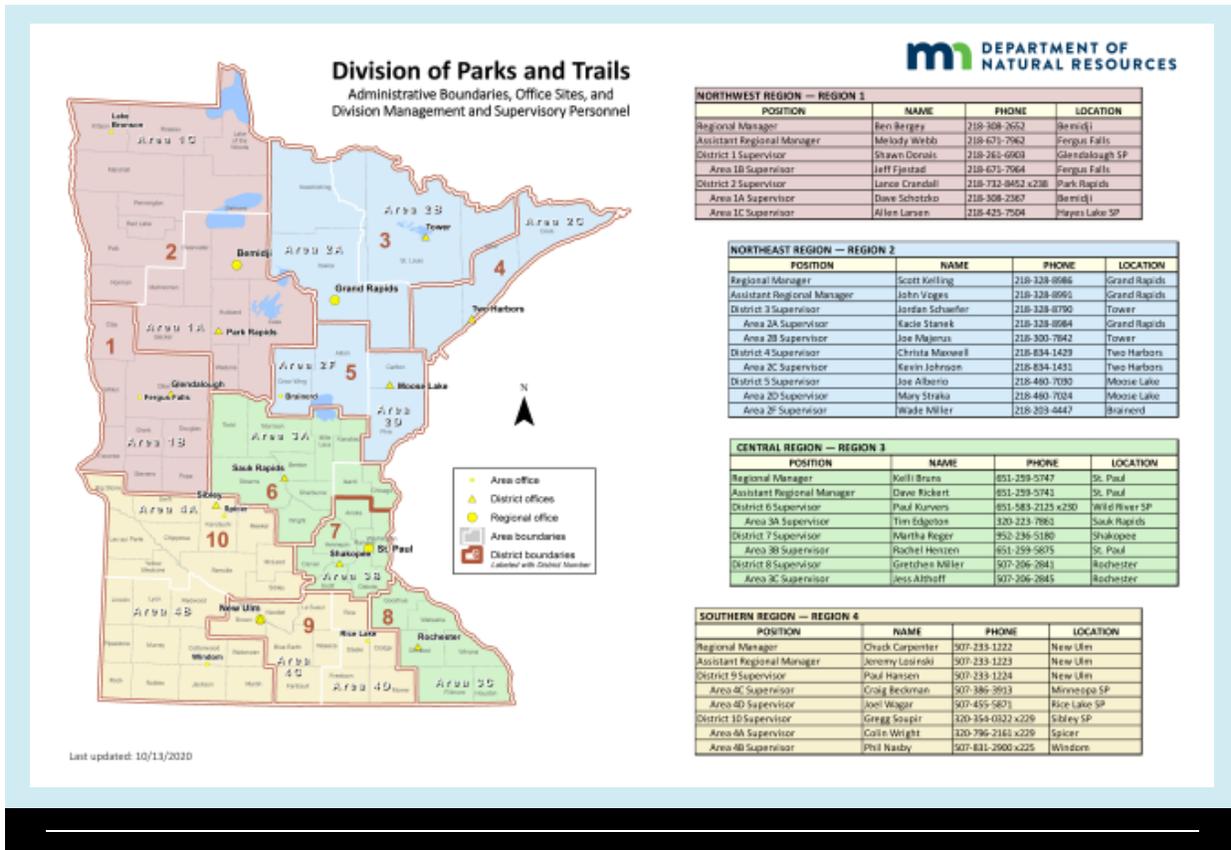
Step 1: Reach out to your ATVMN Regional Directors. They will contact ATVMN President Ron Potter or me, as Director-at-Large. You will be asked about your local support for the trail idea. Is your club supportive? Is your

community supportive? Do you have a local government unit (LGU: township, city, county) that will act as your trail sponsor? ATVMN will be interested in how it fits into the state-wide Master Plan, what type of trail it is, (natural surface, right-of-way, railroad grade), and does it make trail connections to other trails and trail amenities such as gas, food and lodging. We want to make your trail project a success, help as needed, and support it with on-going meetings with Minnesota DNR leadership, the public and member communications.

Step 2: Enter the Minnesota Trail Assistance Program (Grant-In-Aid).

GIA helps partially fund the construction of the trail, but also helps with maintenance grants in the future. Yes, the word partially means you will need to find other grants, donations or fundraisers to help pay for your portion of trail expenses. The GIA program is a 7-step process that leads you from trail initiation to maintenance. Entering GIA will require a partnership with the DNR. It's divided into four Regions, with the same geographic boundaries as ATVMN Regions: Northwest, Northeast, Central and South. The four DNR Regions are divided into 10 Districts, and further divided into 15 Administrative Areas. As with most organizations, DNR personnel are changing all the time, so it is difficult as a club person to know who to contact. The table below shows current contacts for DNR Regions, Districts, and Areas, along with a map to determine which area your club or trail is in. Depending on the Area Supervisor on that list, you may be assigned a DNR Acquisition & Development (A&D) specialist who will help you navigate and inform you on next steps of the GIA process. The ATV Dedicated Account helps fund four of these positions, one each for the four DNR Regions.

Contact Your ATVMN Regional Director. The development of a trail is a partnership between the ATV club, Minnesota DNR, and your LGU. Much like a 3-legged stool, if one of the legs is missing, trail progress will fail. To get started, contact one of your ATVMN Regional Directors, listed at atvam.org. ATVMN can help you build a strong 3-legged stool to reach your trail goal, and help ATVMN reach its vision for a state-wide trail network. *(ATV clubs: Drag the below table to your computer screen to enlarge and save it for club use.)*



ATV Minnesota's Position On Changing The ATV Definition...Again

By Ron Potter, ATV Minnesota president

Change, it seems, is the only constant we have in our lives these days. As we come out of 2020, change was certainly a familiar part of our daily life. Some changes are good, others maybe not so much.

Looking forward, we see change on the horizon for ATVs as well. The Minnesota definition of an ATV has changed many times over the last 20 years. This year, we are back again changing the definition, removing the reference to “low pressure tires.” We have heard from some of the manufacturers of ATVs, asking that we also increase the width of ATVs to 75 or 80 inches, and the weight up to 3,500 pounds. Currently, the Minnesota ATV definition has a maximum width of 65 inches and maximum weight of 2,000 pounds.

I can't say it will never happen, but the current position of the State ATV Association and the Minnesota DNR is to wait until we have completed the Statewide ATV Master Plan before we consider this request. Through the involvement of ATV clubs, their members, and the riding public, we can get a

better understanding of where and what kind, or size, of ATV trails and opportunities we need to provide.

To increase the width and weight of ATVs in the Minnesota definition now seems like we are putting the cart ahead of the horse. We are still learning about how we need to better regulate the Class 2 machines. We are actively working on changing trail signs to give better direction to riders on ATV trails, and the need to increase physical barriers on our Class 1 and Class 2 trails to ensure only those vehicles that fit those trails can ride on them. Increased width and weight will have an impact on our trail system, putting more pressure on our ability to keep our trails sustainable. These type of changes will add costs and time for maintenance.

We cannot afford to lose trails because of increased, uncontrollable damage after 20-plus years of moving forward on our state's ATV trail system.

We are also hearing from riders who want more 50-inch trail opportunities. If we are providing for 75-inch and wider machines, that won't help us meet the demand for more 50-inch trails. Hopefully, a year from now, when we have the Statewide ATV Master Plan underway, we will have a better understanding of what type of trail systems should be provided.

For now, ATV Minnesota is advocating for no change in the width or weight of the ATV definition until we complete the Master Plan and hear what ATV clubs and ATV riders want.

Change is coming. Let's make sure it is the right change and we are doing it for the right reasons.



Twin Cities Trail Riders Wins National Award

Congratulations to the Twin Cities Trail Riders (TCTR), named Recreational Off-Road Organizer of the Year by the American Motorcyclist Association. AMA recently announced the winners of the 2020 AMA Racing and Organizer Awards, which recognizes individuals and organizations that excelled in AMA-sanctioned competition and recreational activity. TCTR is a Minnesota-based OHM (off-highway motorcycle) trail riding club.

Tom Umphress, club chairman, and Karen Umphress, club secretary, are long-time advocates of off-highway vehicle recreation in Minnesota and nationally.



Karen and Tom (left) are board members of the Minnesota Motorized Trails Coalition and the Coalition of Recreational Trail Users, working on behalf of ATV Minnesota, MN4WDA, MnUSA and ARMCA. They have been AMA State Chapter Coordinators for Minnesota since 2018 and were awarded the "Friend of the AMA" award in 2019. They live in Jordan, Minnesota.



HOW TO ADVERTISE IN MINNESOTA WHEELIN

ATV Minnesota is reaching out to ATV manufacturers, dealers, aftermarket companies, tourism bureaus, resorts, campgrounds and other ATV-related businesses large and small, inviting them to advertise in Minnesota Wheelin, the new official publication of ATVMN and MN4WDA. The December issue of Minnesota OffRoad was the last one published by MSPN. We are dialing up the action and content in our new magazine.

The Jan/Feb announcement issue was mailed this week, watch for it! To learn more about advertising in Minnesota Wheelin, request the media kit and rate card, or to

place an ad schedule, contact Creston Dorothy, owner of Discovery Publishing, a division of Pro Print, a highly respected and award-winning printer in Duluth. (phone: 218-722-9805, email: cdorothy@proprintus.com). **Business Members get a 10% discount on their ads, and another 10% discount for a 6-issue ad schedule.** Reach ATV clubs and their members across the state AND support ATVMN by advertising in Minnesota Wheelin. Thanks to all the Business Members of ATV Minnesota for your support. As part of your membership, your business and its contact details are listed in all issues of our new magazine.



Ready for some winter riding?

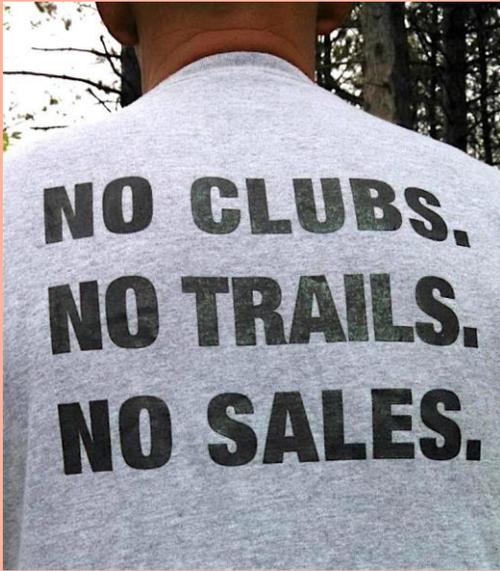
See the new 9-page booklet titled "Winter Riding Opportunities in Minnesota" on the ATVMN website: atvam.org. Written and distributed free by ATVMN. (Photo and Graphics by Dean Schliek)

MINNESOTA WINTER ATV TRAILS

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

! 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

**Invite friends and family to join
today!**

See the mailing label on your ATV
Minnesota 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 and Vision Meeting in the spring, and the ATV Minnesota 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
- An official ATV Minnesota membership certificate for display in your business

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

ATVAM

Follow us for all the latest news!



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