

## **ATV Minnesota**

*"Your Voice For ATV Recreation in Minnesota"*

**March 7, 2021**

**Newsletter**

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**Wow!**

*60 new members this week!*

*167 so far this year!*

***Welcome!***

### **Warmest Polar Bear Ride Ever?**

Temps in the mid-40s brought out riders of over 250 ATVs to enjoy the Northern Traxx club's annual ride, held March 6th on the Chisholm Trail.

*(Photo: from some fun videos posted by Greg Christensen on his 'Photos on the Trail' Facebook Group. Thanks Greg!)*



**Please Note: Club leaters are reporting that some forest roads**

and winter ATV trails will be closing Monday, March 8th.

Before you head out, check out the MN DNR website for open/closed status at:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ohv/closures.html>

## Look What Just Rolled In!



The full, premier issue of Minnesota Wheelin is arriving in mailboxes across Minnesota. It's the new, official publication of ATV Minnesota and MN4WDA, with 32 pages of articles, news, rider rigs and more. The March/April issue includes a roundup of websites, maps and apps to help with 2021 trip planning and navigation on trails in Minnesota and beyond. Thanks to everyone who contributed, and to our great team at Discovery Publishing, a division of Pro Print in Duluth.

### Comments and ideas welcome:

Send them to: [d.halsey@atvam.org](mailto:d.halsey@atvam.org).

If you joined ATVMN after the mailing date, we will do our best to get you a copy of the premier issue. All editions will be archived and available to page through at [minnesotawheelin.org](http://minnesotawheelin.org).

### Clubs and business members:

Please check your listing in the magazine and send us any corrections or updates.

## Save The Dates!



### May 22 - ATVMN "Ride & Roast"

This fun annual event is 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 under free). Register

Thanks to all our members, member clubs, business sponsors, county/state/ federal agency partners, and advertisers for your support!

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**'Do Nots' On Donuts**  
*Did you want that with  
sprinkles or a concussion?*

Riding on township and county roads to make trail connections is a privilege. Speed, dust, noise and "donuts" are common complaints from landowners about ATVs using roads along their property. Another complaint comes from road authorities regarding the damage to gravel roads by riders doing donuts. The ridges left in the road need to be graded out. Sometimes two inches of material needs to be bladed down to remove them. The cost of grading paid by local government units to maintain the road can result in increased taxes to property owners.

**22 of 25 ATV fatalities in MN last year were on road right-of way** (road surface and ditch).

For the rider, turning donuts on gravel, asphalt or ice is risky and unsafe. Considering you're not strapped into the seat at all, if you catch a wheel or get off-balance, you'll go flying! The high center-of-gravity of the rider on a Class I ATV, combined with the centrifugal force of the spin, will typically cause a roll-over, or the rider being thrown from the machine, resulting in possible head trauma and broken bones. Respect our roads, property owners and yourself. Ride as if everyone is watching,

at [atvam.org](http://atvam.org).

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

**April 24 -  
Voyageur Country  
ATV - Spring Ride**  
Watch for details on club Facebook page.

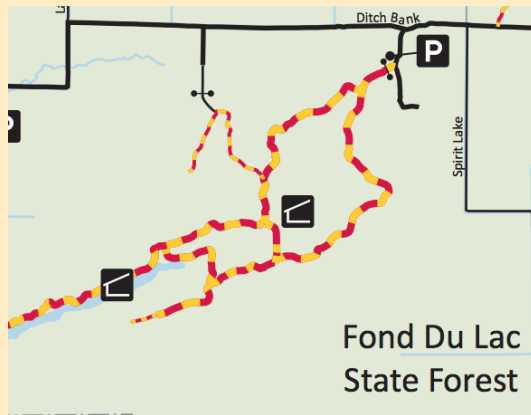
**May 22 - Lake  
Country ATV  
Riders - Spring  
Ride** at Spider Lake Trails. See Facebook page for details.

**July 7-10 - ERX  
Off-Road  
National** ATVMN members will be invited to help again this year with parking; a fun ATV Minnesota fundraiser. Details coming soon.

**September 17-19 -  
ATVMN State  
Convention** (Ride & Rally) Returning to Ely with a fun 3-day schedule, guided rides and ATV Big Air Tour. Details and registration now open at [atvam.org](http://atvam.org). Hosted again this year by the

Speak as everyone is listening, Post on social media as if everyone is reading. Thanks!

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**Do You Ride Trails In  
The Fond du Lac State Forest?  
Your input is needed!**

The Minnesota DNR invites people to attend a virtual public input meeting from 6-7:30 p.m. on March 11 to learn about and provide comments on potential trail modifications within the Fond du Lac State Forest in Carlton County.

Existing trail opportunities include about 37 miles of OHV trails, 18 miles of cross-country ski trails and 11 miles of hunter walking trails. Potential trail changes will be considered for both motorized and non-motorized trails. Participants who attend the virtual meeting are encouraged to submit their ideas for these trails, on the allowed uses of these trails, as well as desired connections to facilities and amenities, new trails, and rerouting or closure of unsustainable trails.

**How to attend the meeting:**

You can attend the virtual meeting via computer, smartphone, or telephone.

Meeting instructions can be found online on the Fond du Lac State Forest tab of the MN DNR project page, at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/mgmtplans/ohv/designation/revisions.html>.

**How to comment in writing:**

A comment form is also available on the website page above. The DNR will accept written comments through 4:30 p.m., March 25.

Prospector ATV Club.

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*You can add your club rides and work days that need extra volunteer help into this newsletter. Send details to [d.halsey@atvam.org](mailto:d.halsey@atvam.org) Thanks!*

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*Question from a member:*  
**What Is  
ATVMN's  
Stance  
On Mini-Trucks  
Being Used As  
ATVs?**

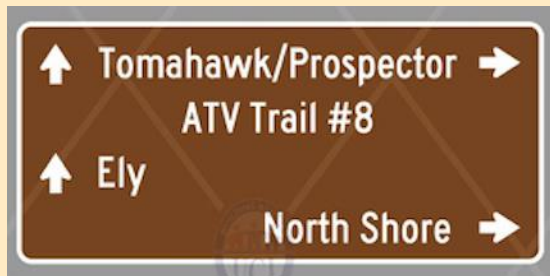
Current ATV definition in Minnesota State Statute specifically states that mini-trucks are not ATVs. Subd.8. All-terrain vehicle or vehicle. "All-terrain vehicle" or "vehicle" means a motorized vehicle with: (1) not less



For more information, contact Mary Straka, area supervisor, Parks and Trails Division, 218-460-7024.



*The South Metro ATV Club does trail maintenance in the FLC. You can support their work by commenting in favor of trail improvements during the virtual meeting or by mailing comments to the DNR.*



## **Signs Of Things To Come**

*From The Prospector ATV Club:*

Today we met for the fourth time with John Pierce of the U.S. Forest Service to review

sign proofs and placement maps. We have been working on the signage needed for both ATVs and snowmobiles. The meeting was for the first order of signage with more to be developed for the whole Prospector trail system in St. Louis County and Lake County.

What we are doing now will be a template for uniform signing throughout the Superior National Forest and could be used throughout the state and other counties. We did a good amount of signing last summer and fall, but will be a continuing project for up to two years as trails get developed. There are literally hundreds of sign posts and signing to be done. Included in this project will be kiosks for maps and additional information such as local businesses. The signing crew is Steve Groteboer, Cory Keen, Tom Maggio, and myself (Mike Banovetz). A special shout out goes to John Pierce with the Superior National Forest for his help and cooperation which has been tremendous! Prospectors will be a premium trail system of 250 miles when completed.

than three, but not more than six low pressure or non-pneumatic tires; (2) a total dry weight of 2,000 pounds or less; and (3) a total width from outside of tire rim to outside of tire rim that is 65 inches or less.

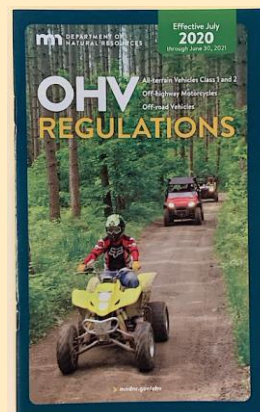
All-terrain vehicle includes a class 1 all-terrain vehicle and class 2 all-terrain vehicle. All-terrain vehicle does not include a golf cart, mini-truck, dune buggy, or go-cart or a vehicle designed and used specifically for lawn maintenance, agriculture, logging, or mining purposes.

Mini-trucks may be allowed on county, city and township roads if the local government unit wants to allow them, and if they aren't already registered as a highway licensed vehicle (HLV). Most however can't be registered that way.



### **ATV Safety Classes During COVID**

The "MN DNR ENF Safety/Education COVID-19 Preparedness Plan" hasn't changed much since last year. It now allows 25 students/instructors outside, 15 inside. With the pandemic statistics changing daily, there may be revisions to the Plan before spring. We will keep all ATVAM member clubs informed of these changes as we move toward the riding and training season.



### **Clearing Up Confusion On ATV Safety Training**

## **Certification For Young Riders**

*Sorry, there is no reciprocity with Wisconsin on certificates.*

With few ATV Safety Training Classes available last year, many parents had their kids do the on-line course in Wisconsin, Iowa or other states, which is great for educating riders of all ages. But are out-of-state training certificates recognized in Minnesota?

Perry May, ATVMN Director-at-Large, gave Capt. Jon Paurus with DNR Enforcement a call for some clarity on this important issue. He reports that:

1. To achieve a Minnesota ATV Certificate, a student age 10-15 must complete both the online safety course and a hands-on course (Note: the key word is 'Minnesota') The Safety Certificate becomes valid at age 12. The two-part

safety training is required under MN Statute 84.925. The student verification form provided after taking the hands-on course is the only pathway to apply for the MN ATV Certificate.

2. Other states such as Wisconsin offer an ATV Safety Certificate for completing their Safety Online Training. There is no hands-on requirement. Minnesota and Wisconsin are not reciprocal safety programs.

A student age 10-15 cannot achieve a Minnesota ATV Safety Certificate with just online training. If a student would achieve a Wisconsin ATV Certificate, would it qualify as a Minnesota Safety ATV Certificate? The answer is no. These programs are not similar in requirements.

From a Minnesota  
DNR Enforcement



perspective, if a Minnesota resident youth was pulled over for illegal riding behavior, or involved in an accident or injury would they receive a citation if they only had a Wisconsin or other safety certificate? The answer is "most likely not" unless there was some other intent involved for avoiding the hands-on training.

During the pandemic, the Minnesota DNR recognizes that there is a lack of hands-on classes. They feel that parents are doing the right thing trying to get some type of ATV safety training for their children before going on public trails. The proper thing would be to get them to take a hands-on class when more classes are available and achieve the Minnesota ATV Safety Certificate. The DNR position is that both online and hands-on courses are needed to

provide a student with the most comprehensive ATV safety training.

Parents should proceed with getting children their Minnesota ATV Safety Certified by completing the online safety training and then registering for a hands-on class when they become available.



**Register Today For The Vision Conference.  
Your Choice: In-Person or on Zoom.**



**Register by going to [atvam.org](http://atvam.org) and tap the link to the registration form. Please put in the comment field if you are attending in-person at Running Aces, or virtually on Zoom. Thanks!**

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This year's ATV Minnesota Vision Conference will be a hybrid meeting on Saturday, March 20, 2021. Attend either

in-person at the Running Aces Racetrack, with a maximum of 50 people, or virtually on a computer via Zoom.

At the annual Vision Conference, the ATV Minnesota Executive Board, Regional Directors and ATV club members from across the state discuss a wide range of topics, with one goal: creating a clear Vision for ATVMN, 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 ATVMN gear, reappoint or elect new Regional Directors...and more.

**Please register for the Vision Conference by going to [atvam.org](http://atvam.org)**, where you will see a link to this registration form. On that form, please indicate in the comment box if you plan to attend in person. That way, we will know when we have reached the maximum of 50 people allowed in the meeting room, arranged for social distancing. We will collect \$10 at the meeting to cover the cost of food and beverages provided during the breaks.

The meeting will run from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with some longer breaks during the day. Prior to the meeting we will send out information on how to attend by Zoom, with a schedule of the topics to be discussed so people attending by Zoom can participate in those they are interested in.

For those ATVMN members staying overnight before or after the meeting, please book your room at: [www.runaces.com](http://www.runaces.com). Use the group code: ATVA. Running Aces is located at 15201 Running Aces Blvd, Columbus, MN 55025. Traveling from the Cities, it's one exit north of the intersection of I-35E and I-35W, about 20 minutes north of I-694.


**Please register today so we can prepare for the hybrid Vision Conference. We look forward to seeing you in-person or on Zoom.**

## Spreading The Word On ATV Regs, County Rules And Riding Tips At The Local Level


With ATV sales on the rise, and reports by DNR Conservation Officers of some new owners skipping the education component, some ATV clubs are getting proactive at the local level. The Over The Hills Gang ATV Club created a small tri-fold brochure filled with all the "must-know" information: ATV definitions, use on county roads, trail etiquette and more. They worked with county agencies on the copy, and with the City of Emily to post this information on its website to make sure it's easy to find. Help spread the word in your area! One way is by copying the brochure design below, revising it for your ATV club and local area, and encouraging towns and chambers of commerce to display it. Educating new riders will go a long way to make sure everyone is riding responsibly and keep the trails and road connectors safe for all.

**Definitions:**

A **Class I** All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) width is 50 inches or less and typically a seated straddle type riding machine.




A **Class II** All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) is width greater than 50 inches but no more than 65 inches, and typically side-by-side seating.




**Know Your Signs**

**Snowmobile Trail Sign**  
Black arrow on Orange Background



**ATV Trail Sign**  
Black Arrow on yellow Background



**ATV Trail Definition**

Designated ATV Trails are partially funded through a program called the Minnesota Trail Assistance Program, a.k.a Grant-In-Aid. The MN DNR administers this program, working in partnership with a local government unit and an ATV club, for continued maintenance and improvements. GIA Trails are mapped, signed, maintained for sustainability, and are the safest place to ride.

**ATV Trail Etiquette**

Ride 20 MPH or less on all city or township roads. The local road authority can close these roads to ATV travel as a trail connection if speed is a danger to overall safety. This reduces dust, noise, and safer for riders, property owners along the road, pedestrians, other vehicles using the road.

**Stay on Trail!**


Do not ride off-trail or create your own technical feature on the trails. These trails are maintained by volunteers and follow Grant-In-Aid trail requirements to keep open.

Slow down when approaching blind curves -Most trails are two-way trails and operator should expect another machine coming around the curve.

Do not damage gravel roads. Doing donuts on the road increases road maintenance costs.


Do not jump drive approaches -Yield when crossing a drive approach.

Slow Down – Speed and reckless driving is a leading cause of accidents, roll-overs and fatalities.



Over The Hills Gang  
ATV Club  
PO Box 40  
Outing, MN 56662  
Website: [www.overthehillsgang.org](http://www.overthehillsgang.org)  
E mail: [overthehillsgang@gmail.com](mailto:overthehillsgang@gmail.com)

**ATV SAFE RIDING TIPS for  
the EMILY, OUTING,  
and FIFTY LAKES AREA**



*Ride as if everyone is watching  
Speak as if everyone is listening  
Post as if everyone is reading*

These are general guidelines prepared by the Over The Hills Gang, ATV Club in cooperation with local law enforcement, please refer to local regulations and complete DNR Off Highway regulations.

Download, Read, and Understand current Off-Highway Vehicle Regulations  
[www.dnr.state.mn.us/regulations/ohv](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/regulations/ohv)

**ATV OPERATION ON COUNTY ROADS IN CROW WING COUNTY**



Crow Wing County allows for Class I and Class II ATV operation on all County roads which includes adherence to all Minnesota Off-Highway Vehicle Regulations

A valid driver's license is required to operate an ATV on a road right-of-way.

Persons operating ATVs on all County roadways may operate the ATV on the right shoulder or the extreme right-hand side of the road and make left turns across the road only if it is safe to do so under prevailing conditions.

No person shall operate an ATV on County roads at speeds greater than 30 miles per hour, except CSAH 66, which is 20 mph maximum.

No person shall operate an ATV at a speed greater than 20 miles per hour on County State Aid Highway 66 from the Junction of County State Aid Highway 3 in the City of Crosslake to the Junction of County State Aid Highway 1 in the City of Manhattan Beach

**Crow Wing ATV Ordinance**  
<http://www.crowwing.us/documentcenter/view/14547/ordinance-no-0601>

**MN Statewide ATV Regulations**

**Class I or Class II ATV operation on a state highway is prohibited.**

**No ATV operation on MN State Highway 6.**

Class II ATVs, are not allowed to ride in a state highway or county road ditch, unless it is part of a designated ATV Grant-In-Aid Trails. ATV is registered, with current year decal and registration number displayed properly on a registration plate.

A DOT approved helmet is required for an Operator or Passenger under 18 years of age.

Ride with your lights on if your machine is equipped with headlights and taillights.

Anyone born after July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1987, who is age 12 or older, must have a valid ATV Safety Certificate to ride public trails.

You may not ride on a grant-in-aid snowmobile and non-motorized trails closed to ATV's unless specifically allowed

Operating an ATV while under the influence of alcohol, a controlled or a hazardous substance is unlawful. An operator testing over .08 is subject to a DWI violation.

Our local state forests (Land O Lakes, Emily, Centennial, Crow Wing, Hill River are classified as "Limited" state forests. ATV riding only on "OPEN" forest roads or signed and mapped trails.

Class I and II ATV's are allowed on local ATV trails if you are driving an off-highway vehicle that is over 65" in width, you are an ORV (Off-Road Vehicle) and not allowed on local ATV trails.

**Pick-up, Download, Read, and Understand current Off-Highway Vehicle Regulations at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/regulations/ohv](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/regulations/ohv)**

**ATV OPERATION ON COUNTY ROADS IN CASS COUNTY**



Cass County does not allow for Class I operation on county roads, except for sections of road that are part of a designated grant-in-aid trail.

Class 1 ATV operation must be operated off the roadway in the ditch area of a public roadway.

When necessary, a Class I

can operate on the inside bank of a public road right of way, road shoulder or extreme right-hand side of the road surface, when crossing a bridge, to avoid obstructions or environmentally sensitive areas, such as wetlands. You must enter the roadway within 100 feet of the bridge crossing, obstacle, or sensitive area, and return to the ditch without delay.

Cass County allows for Class II ATV operation on all County roads which includes adherence to all Minnesota Off-Highway Vehicle Regulations

A valid driver's license is required to operate an ATV on a road right-of-way.

Persons operating a Class II ATV on County, City, or township roadways may operate the ATV on the right shoulder or the extreme right-hand side of the road, if not prohibited by the road authority or other local laws, and make left turns across the road only if it is safe to do so under prevailing conditions.



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



ATV Association of Minnesota  
PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079  
800-442-8826  
atvamoffice@atvam.org  
www.atvam.org

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ATVAM | PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079

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