

## ATVAM Newsletter - April 20, 2020

Newsletter of the ATV Association of Minnesota (Est. 1983)

*"Your Voice for ATV Recreation In Minnesota"*

- Send your comments, club news, photos and article ideas to: [d.halsey@atvam.org](mailto:d.halsey@atvam.org)
- Forward this email to club partners and business sponsors if they aren't ATVAM members already.
- All members should receive this newsletter and MN OffRoad magazine. Let us know if you're not.

**Please note:**

Send member renewals to: ATVAM, PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079

E-newsletters are now archived on [atvam.org](http://atvam.org) to refer back to on topics.

### **Effects Of COVID-19 Hitting Some ATV Clubs Hard**

There's a lot of bad news out there. We don't need to go into the details; newspapers, local and cable news, and the daily government updates are giving us plenty of that.

Some ATVAM members have lost friends, co-workers or loved ones to COVID-19.

ATVAM and many ATV clubs have cancelled or postponed rides and major events. All ATV Safety classes are cancelled for now. The Trail Ambassador program is still on, with restrictions.



Some clubs are finding it difficult to continue their volunteer efforts. The White Pine Riders, in McGrath, Minnesota, is one of them. In a note to the Minnesota DNR, Erv Kleinschmidt, club president, reported on their situation:

*"With the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic, many of our volunteers that would do Trail Ambassador work are either laid off, furloughed or hours cut so much that they can't afford to volunteer in 2020. As a result, White Pine Riders will not be able to help with Trail Ambassador work for 2020.*

*"I hope we will not have to start over if things are better next year. I know it's been talked about giving people a pass for 2020, but have heard nothing official. Either way, all of us in White Pine Riders have been affected and can't afford to spend the money it takes to volunteer or the time. Many of us have taken large pay cuts, but working many extra hours to keep businesses running, or are totally out of work. Thanks and hope next year is better."*

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**Let us know how your club is doing.**

How is your ATV club adjusting? What is your club doing differently?

Has it started any community-minded projects, such as:

- Collecting food for a local food shelf.
- Gathering unused N-95 masks to donate to long-term care or medical facilities.
- Buying gift cards from club business sponsors that may be closed or struggling.
- Your ideas here: \_\_\_\_\_

Shoot us an email with your personal or club's ideas to help members or your local community, and we'll share them in this newsletter. Thanks to all ATVAM members and everyone who work in hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities, as well as law enforcement officers, and those providing essential services.

## **As People Escape To The Outdoors, Maybe Now Is A Good Time To Recruit New Members**

In 2008, when the recession hit the U.S. economy hard, all the major ATV manufacturers "turtled," stopping in their tracks and pulling in their advertising and new product introductions. All but one. Polaris kept the power on, introduced the RZR

800 and many other new models, squeezed the throttle on advertising, and came out of the recession far out in front of other brands.

As best we can -- given the circumstances and knowing that many people are struggling -- maybe now is the time for ATV clubs to follow the Polaris example. Instead of shutting down efforts to recruit new members, we can reach out to ATV riders in our club areas, and invite non-riding families to look into the fun of trail riding by renting or buying new or used machines.



Under the Governor's current order, ATV dealerships are open for sales and repairs by appointment. There are places near some of Minnesota's best ATV trails that rent Side-by-Sides (when rental equipment is allowed again). And soon, as the State ATV Trails and State Forest roads dry up post-spring thaw, the opportunities to ride while maintaining social distancing will vastly increase.

If your club is in a good position to do so, maybe now is a good time to encourage members to invite friends and family not currently riding to give it a try, and join the club and ATVAM.



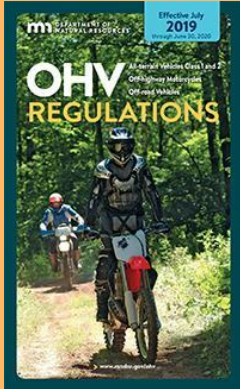
Tell them where they can rent a 2- or 4-seater for the day when the ban is lifted. Create special offers for new club members. Keep them informed about ATV trails and issues, and introduce them to ATVAM by forwarding to them the twice-monthly ATVAM newsletter. Let's keep the power on. When we come out of this mess, hopefully our ATV clubs -- and ATVAM -- will be healthier and stronger than ever.

## Q&A For New Riders And ATV Club Members

*Families new to ATV riding are joining ATV clubs and ATVAM, and have many questions. We invite your ATV club to put this article -- reprinted here from the Over The Hills Gang ATV Club newsletter -- into your club newsletter, website or Facebook page. Copy and revise it as needed for your club and riding area.*

### **I am new to ATVing - How do I get started?**

We have observed a steady increase of new individual, family and business members joining our club. New registrations for ATVs in the state of Minnesota were up another 3% in 2019, now reaching close to 320,000 registered ATVs. With this steady increase, there are also many people new to the sport that want to know the rules. Joining a club and getting training is a great place to start, and at our most recent March 7th club meeting, we were joined by a few new members who began asking the "right" questions. The following are a few answers to them:



### Where can I find the ATV regulations?

The MN DNR publishes a small booklet called OHV Regulations which covers All-Terrain Vehicles Class I & II, Off-Highway Motorcycles, and Off-Road Vehicles. The club will have these to hand out beginning at the May 2, meeting. You can also find the regulations on the Minnesota DNR website at [www.mndnr.gov/ohv](http://www.mndnr.gov/ohv).

Class 1 ATVs  
width 50 inches  
or less.



Class 2 ATVs width  
greater than 50 inches  
but not more than  
65 inches.



**Do I**

### have a Class I or Class II ATV?

The simplest way to describe this is defining your machine by width:

Class 1 ATVs have a total width 50 inches or less from outside of tire rim to outside of tire rim.

Class 2 ATVs have a total width greater than 50 inches but not more than 65 inches from outside of tire rim to outside of tire rim.

Do not get caught up on the terms side-by-side, or UTV. Minnesota Law only describes ATVs by Class 1 or 2. If it's wider than a class 2 ATV, it's considered an (ORV) Off-Road Vehicle. Our local trails are only open to Class 1 and 2 ATVs.

### Do I need an ATV Safety Certificate?

Yes, if you were born after July 1, 1987, and are age 12 or older, you must have a valid ATV Safety Certificate to operate on public lands, trails, and frozen waters, and when crossing road right-of-ways. Our club encourages riders that were born before 1987 to read the regulation booklet, attend our Youth ATV Safety Hands-On Class, and start riding on easy flat trails to gain experience as a rider.





**Do I need to ride with my lights on?**  
 Yes, by state regulation, if your machine is equipped with headlights and taillight you need to ride with them on.

**I need to wear a helmet?**

Operators and passengers under age 18 required to wear an approved DOT helmet when operating on public lands, frozen waters and road right-of-ways.

**Where can I ride?**

This is a complex question based on where you plan to ride. You are legal to on all Grant-In-Aid ATV Trails for Class and II machines. In our area, we have 56-mile Emily-Outing ATV Trails that include the Moose River Trails. These trails connect to the Soo Line North Corridor Trail, where you can access hundreds of more miles of legal trails. Additional Grant-In-Aid ATV trails can be found on the MN DNR website at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/ohv](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ohv) . Riders also comment that our club only maps and signs the Grant-In-Aid trails but there are many more to ride. There are many "user" trails in the area that are not mapped and signed or maintained. These trails may exist on County, State, DOT, or other land managers property that have not authorized our club to tell riders that they are open for ATV riding. We also have two large State Forests in our area, the Land O' Lakes and the Emily State Forests. These State Forests are classified as Limited, meaning limited riding on forest roads and on trails designated and signed to permit specific motor vehicle use and on trails specifically designated and signed for vehicle type. Snowmobile trails are not open to ATV riding unless they are part of a multi-use trail which also allows for ATVs. Yellow with black arrows are ATV directional signs. Orange with black arrows are snowmobile directional signs.



Do  
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### **Can I ride on the road?**

It depends on the type of ATV, the type of road you are on, and the age of the operator. Bottom line is to check with the local road authority as there may be specific Township, City or County ordinances that allow or prevent lawful riding. On township roads, reduce your speed to 20 mph or less, this reduces dust, noise, is safer for you and residents, and makes adjacent property owners much happier.

### **When do the trails open?**

Like many State ATV Trails, the Emily-Outing ATV Trail can open at the earliest on May 1st, 2020. The opening can be delayed by soil conditions such as late frost out, spring rains, muddy conditions or trail damage. Trail opening dates do include the State Hwy 6 ditch trail. We work with our land managers in Cass & Crow Wing Counties, along with the Minnesota DNR, to decide when trails will open, which can be different each year. Trail Closure information can be found on the Minnesota DNR website: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ohv/closures.html>

**Ready to Ride?  
Get  
Trained  
First!**

To find training in Minnesota, go to:

To find National training programs go to:



## **An Introduction (And Hardy Welcome!) To Two New ATVAM Member Clubs**



## **FireFrost ATV Club Halstad, Minnesota**

*By Jake Aakre, club president*  
FireFrost ATV Club is a group of community members working on securing the old Minnesota Northern rail bed, from Shelly to Perley, in order to develop a multi-purpose trail. The club was established in 2015, with

hopes that it could get the trail open. The club was not very active, as the purchase price of the rail bed was just too high to make the goal of a multi-purpose trail

unobtainable.



Patience paid off. The longer it sat vacated, the cheaper it got. The club started to meet more regularly in 2018 as negotiations were increasing about the rail bed purchase.

The Grant-in-Aid process was not real clear to all of us as to where to even start. We had meetings with the Minnesota DNR and NWRDC (Northwest Regional Development Commission). The process seemed to go on and on. Our club, with the help of Halstad Municipal Utilities, purchased

the rail bed from just south of Perley to Neilsville in October of 2019. The Utilities wish to establish easements for water, gas, and other services for future use. The club wishes to create a multi-purpose trail with hopes of one day connecting Fargo-Moorhead, to Crookston and Grand Forks.

With the help of Holly Larson with the National Park Service, we just completed a federal RTP (Recreational Trails Program) grant application and are currently working on our DNR Grant-in-Aid application. Our initial focus is from Halstad south to Rask Park near the intersection of Hwy 75 and Hwy 200.



The rail bed has a number of bridges, some very large, some small. This section of trail was chosen to start the project as the rail has already been removed, and one of the major bridges is missing the deck. The steel support remains along with the concrete footings for the approaches. Once this section is open, the rest will seem easy and the other bridges are still present, but lack a deck suitable for traffic and side rail for safety. From Shelly north, the rail remains and we expect it to be removed this summer. The rock on 80% of the miles

remains too. The removal process should restart once the weather cooperates.



We are coming to realize things take longer than people think. We continue to push forward despite the lack of progress seen by the public. We are learning as we go. We had good luck selling miles of trail to be sponsored by local residents and businesses. This has put some money in our account to be used as matching funds for the grants.

Thanks!

Jake

*To learn more, or to join FireFrost and help them with their trail projects, contact Jake at [jakeaakre@redriverbank.com](mailto:jakeaakre@redriverbank.com), or visit the club website at:*

*<https://firefrost.org/>*



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**Mille Lacs Trails Inc.**

**Aitkin, Minnesota**

*By Steve Pearson, club president*



The club had its early beginnings as the Mille Lacs Snow Hummers from 1972 - 1983. It was mainly a social club of about 15 families, with member volunteers building and maintaining the trails they loved to ride.

In 1993, some of the original members of the old club began to revive it, and by 1996 the Mille Lacs Trails Inc. became a registered name as well as a nonprofit gambling 501(c)3 snowmobile club. Today, it has more than 100 family members and the club

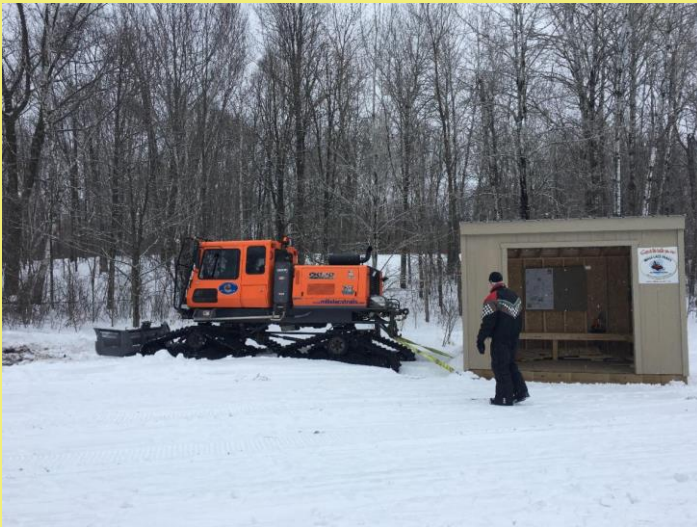


grooms more than 100 miles of trails in the Mille Lacs area.

In 2001, the club purchased 10 acres one mile north of Malmö, and built a clubhouse and maintenance shop that houses groomers and other equipment. Our club is dedicated to providing well maintained trails

in the Mille Lacs Lake area. Additionally, our club works hard to support the businesses along our trail system. Changes in fishing regulations have negatively impacted these businesses both summer and winter.

We heard about efforts to build an ATV trail along the east side of Mille Lacs Lake. This would help these businesses, some of which are our gambling sites. Our club was approached by the Aitkin County ATV Alliance to consider joining the effort to build and maintain a trail system.



*Club volunteers built a new trail shelter in January 2020. On February 1, more than 90 snowmobilers stopped by for a 'Meet n Greet' at the shelter.*

As we looked into the matter, we soon realized that our club was really the only organization that could take on the responsibility. We had the financial capability, the clubhouse and maintenance facility to handle the work involved. We had several discussions on the board level as well with the club membership about becoming a dual-purpose club. There wasn't much disagreement that this was the way to go. For one thing, it would bring in new members who own ATVs, many of whom also snowmobile. Our club voted in February of 2019 to add ATVs to

our mission.

We know there is much to be learned with regards to ATV grants and trail maintenance requirements. We also know we will need to name an ATV trail administrator at some point. In an effort to help fund the trail planning and building effort, our club donated \$15,000 as part of the \$150,000 dollars needed to access a \$1.5 million State Grant to make this trail a reality.

It will be a year or so before the trail is done in its initial phase. During this time, we will be learning more about the ins and outs of adding ATV members to our club roster. We have changed our club name and amended the bylaws to reflect this change. Thanks!

Steve

For more information, or to join the club and help with trail projects, contact Steve Pearson at: [spears.pearson46@gmail.com](mailto:spears.pearson46@gmail.com), or visit their club website at:

<http://millelacstrails.com/>



Setting the shelter in place are (L to R) volunteer John Christenson; Dean Fisher, groomer operator; Steve Pearson, club President; and Jeff Emery, groomer operator.

## News & Notes From The Trail



### **Perry May Named To Outdoor Recreation Task Force**

Perry May, ATVAM Director at Large, has been named to be part of the new Outdoor Recreation Task Force, created by the Minnesota DNR and Explore Minnesota to make recommendations about how Minnesota can connect more people to the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation, improve equitable access to outdoor recreation, and better support the state's thriving outdoor recreation economy. Perry is one of 20 members appointed to the task force, from a pool of 140 applicants, and the only person named to it representing motorized recreation. JR Burke, director of government affairs with Polaris, was also named to the task force, representing a major manufacturer involved in outdoor recreation.



### **Winter ATV Riding Added To ATVAM Strategic Plan As A Critical Issue**

The continued growth of the sport has resulted in an increased demand for winter ATV riding. Limited riding opportunities, including dual-use trails, combined with lack of education has resulted in complaints jeopardizing our current winter riding opportunities.

#### **ATVAM's Goals & Objectives:**

-Document existing riding opportunities, educate the community, protect current

riding opportunities, and investigate expanding winter ATV riding opportunities.

-Explore neighboring states' winter ATV riding, what is and what is not working well in terms of regulations, education, enforcement, and trail maintenance.

-Develop and distribute information specific to Minnesota's current winter ATV riding opportunities and regulations.

-Develop a plan to expand winter ATV riding opportunities in the state of Minnesota (this may have to be implemented in subsequent phases).

-Partner with key stakeholders, including MN DNR, MnUSA, and WATVA.



### **More Fun At ERX Motor Park (Maybe) Save The Date: July 10-11**

Last year, dozens of ATVAM members signed up to help with parking and security at ERX national truck races. Again this year, ATVAM is partnering with ERX Motor Park, for the ERX Off Road National, July 10-11. If large races are not possible during May and June, it may be the first race of the year.

ATVAM members will be invited to assist, and given free passes, camping and more. A sign-up calendar will be up and running soon. Keep an eye on this newsletter and the ATVAM Facebook page for more details and updates as the event grows closer.

In the meantime, you can see the excitement of Off Road Racing at ERX, by tapping on this link to a YouTube video, a trailer for this year's event:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UqRaQyZ2FM&feature=youtu.be>

**Masks? Oh yeah, ATV trail riders have masks.**

**Here are a few you may see now at your neighborhood grocery store.**

**(Photos from Minnesota ATV Riders Facebook page.)**



## **ATVAM & ATV Club Events Coming Up**

*Send your club schedule for rides/work days to: [d.halsey@atvam.org](mailto:d.halsey@atvam.org) .*

*Many ATVAM members do not belong to an ATV club and are looking for one to join, ride with and help build trails.*

**-Next Monthly ATVAM State-Wide Board Meeting - April 21, 6:30pm  
conference call**

All ATVAM clubs are sent an email invitation to call in, and have one spot on the board to participate and vote.

**-April 24-25 - MN OHV Nemadji Trails Workshop - Postponed (future date  
tbd)**

**-May 15-16 - 2020 Ride & Roast - Cancelled**

**-September 18-20 - ATVAM Annual Conference / Ride & Rally**

Host: Prospectors ATV Club/Ely Friday Trail Rides, Big Air ATV Tour  
 Saturday Trail Rides, Banquet/Meeting/Auction  
 at Grand Ely Lodge, 400 N. Pioneer Road, Ely  
 Registration and lodging/campground options at [atvam.org](http://atvam.org)

**September 18-20, 2020 in Ely, Babbitt, Embarrass & Tower**  
**ATV Minnesota State Convention 2020**

Hosted by:  
 Prospectors ATV Club

Pioneer Mine  
 Ely, Minnesota  
 National Register  
 of Historic Places

**ATV MINNESOTA**  
 1963

**ATVAM Ride and Rally**  
**Sept 18-20, 2020**  
**Schedule of Events**

**FRIDAY 9.18.20**

8am ..... Registration opens  
 8am ..... Pancake Breakfast Timber Hall Embarrass  
 10am ..... VIP Rides Begin  
 Noon-2pm: ..... VIP Lunch on Lake Vermilion  
 Time TBA ..... ATV Big Air Tour in Babbitt  
 5pm-? ..... Dinner Specials at Local Restaurants

**SATURDAY 9.19.20**

7:30-9:30am ..... Pancake Breakfast by the Volunteer  
 Fire Dept at the Morse-Fall Lake Fire Hall  
 8am-5pm ..... Registration open at Grand Ely Lodge  
 10am ..... Guided ATV rides offered at various  
 locations including a lunch stop at local restaurants.  
 Different rides of various lengths/difficulty.

**Saturday Night @ Historic Pioneer Mine:**

4-8pm ..... Silent Auction to benefit ATVAM  
 5-7:30pm ..... ATVAM Ride and Rally Banquet  
 7pm ..... General Membership Meeting & Election  
 ATVAM Live Auction to follow

**SUNDAY 9.20.20**

9am ..... ATVAM board meeting at Grand Ely Lodge

**Big Air Tour**

**Come & Ride  
 What We've  
 Been Building!**

Register for Ride and Rally 2020 at [ATVAM.org](http://ATVAM.org). Price for Friday's guided ride and VIP lunch \$10.  
 Guided ATV rides Saturday and Saturday night banquet \$35. Kids 12 and under FREE at all events.

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**Region 1 Club Rides & Work Days:**

Please submit for next newsletter.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Region 2:**

**Carlton County Riders - Vintage Ride**



## Carlton County Riders

### Vintage Ride

**Ride Vintage Atv, Atc and Vintage Dirt Bikes or just bring some junk to swap**

**When: May 16, 2020 10:00am Meet 11:00am Ride**

**Where: Doc's dirt lot Sturgeon Lake, Mn**

**\*People's choice awards for nicest Honda and nicest NOT Honda\***



[www.Carltoncountyriders.com](http://www.Carltoncountyriders.com) 218-380-8730 for more info or check out our Facebook page

### **Northern Traxx ATV Club**

**Cancelled -- May 16 - Spring Ride, Chisholm Trail**

### **Voyageur Country ATV**

**Cancelled -- Saturday, May 2 - Spring Ride & Picnic, route tbd**

**Still On -- Sunday, May 3 - Highway Cleanup - 2 mile section of Highway 53 at Orr, and 2 mile section of County Road 24 at Echo Trail**

### **Still on, watch for club updates:**

#### **White Pine Riders - Ladies ATV/UTV Ride for ALS**

June 6th - Meet at the Little Moose Parking lot off Co Rd 337. Registration begins at 8:30 am, leave at 10 am. Ride the Little Moose Trail and the B & B trail with stops at the Antler Lodge & Scenic Pines. \$25 per driver, \$10 per passenger. Camping available at the Lawrence Lake Liquor: \$30 for the weekend per camper / tent. Live music 5-8 pm, a DJ from 9pm-mid night.

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### **Region 3:**

**April 18 - ATVAM Region 3 All-Club Meeting -- Postponed (date tbd)**

### **Over The Hills Gang ATV Club**

**Note date change:** May 9 - Highway Cleanup, 11:15 am, meet at Outing ATV parking area.

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**Region 4:**

Please submit for next newsletter.

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**Region 5:**

Please submit for next newsletter.

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**Region 6:**

Please submit for next newsletter.



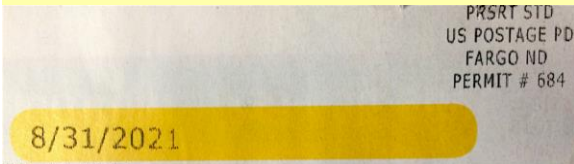
**ATV MINNESOTA**  
***"Your Voice To Ride"***

***Dedicated Volunteers***  
***Building Fun & Sustainable ATV Trails***  
***For The Riding Public***

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

**See the mailing label on *MN OffRoad* magazine for the renewal date of your ATVAM membership.**

Be sure to include your email address on renewal form to receive newsletters. And send renewals to ATVAM's mailing address: PO Box



300, Stacy, MN 55079

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Belonging to ATVAM, you join thousands of riders throughout the state, have fun, and help ensure the future of ATV riding in Minnesota.

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

- A subscription to *Minnesota OffRoad* 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 ATVAM Fall Ride & Rally, 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, and website listed in each issue of the *MN OffRoad* magazine and on our website
- Discounts on advertising in *MN OffRoad* magazine
- An official ATVAM membership certificate for display in your business

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



**[ATVAM](#)**

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ATVAM, PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079

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