

121 New Members This Year...Welcome!

ATVAM Newsletter - June 6, 2020 *"National Trails Day"*

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
- 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 to refer back to on topics

**Across The Country,
Riders Came Out In Drove
As OHV Trails Opened**



As the country gradually opened up during the COVID-19 pandemic, off-highway vehicle (OHV) riders were anxious to fire up their vehicles and ride.

Left: Riders lined up at Moab when it opened in late May. (Photo from Facebook page of UTV Action Magazine)

Center: In Pennsylvania, the parking lot was full on Memorial Day Weekend at the Gilltown Trailhead of Snow Shoe Rails To Trails, a multi-use trail open year round that connects to the popular Bloody Skillet ATV Trail (Photo from club Facebook page).



Below: In Minnesota, trucks and trailers filled parking lots and lined the roads in the Nemadji State Forest during the Memorial Day Weekend.



**Locally, Trail Traffic Was High
During Memorial Day Weekend**



Riding Responsibly...

Minnesota's State ATV Trails were extremely busy during the holiday weekend in late May. It was the first major holiday of the riding season and riders across the state were anxious to get out and ride after being cooped up at home during the state's "Stay At Home" order. A Minnesota DNR Conservation Officer and a County Sheriff in the central part of the state said they had never seen so many ATVs on the public

trails and roads.

...And Camping Responsibly

Diverse camping was allowed in State Forests. Ken Irish with the Cuyuna Iron Ranger Riders said, "There was a large group of campers at the Miller Black Bear trailhead that left the areas very clean (left photo). The group comes a couple times a year. They appreciate all the work we do on the trails and left a nice stack of chopped wood for the next group."



Unfortunately, A Few Riders Disregarded Trail Closed Signs And Barriers

On the popular Emily-Outing Trails, one section was closed, with still very wet conditions carried over from last year. A few riders rode around the closed trail sign and barrier. The Over The Hills Gang ATV Club that maintains the trail system surveyed the damage from last year's rains and this year's "trail poachers," and worked for days making the trail repairs necessary in order to meet the criteria for trail maintenance

required in their DNR grant before the segment could be opened. Club members were disheartened by riders ignoring the closure.

Perry May, club president and ATVAM Director At Large, explains:

When ATV Clubs enter into the Minnesota Trail Assistance Program, a.k.a Grant-In-Aid, they enter into a three-way contract with a local government sponsor, which could

be a township, city or county, and the State of Minnesota. They agree to apply sustainable trail design principles and follow a 39-page GIA Program Manual that outlines minimum maintenance



requirements. The local government sponsor holds public hearings to listen to constituents regarding approval of a new recreational trail, on how the trail will be maintained, and enforced. In some cases it has taken up to 10 years to get approval for a new trail. When it comes to maintenance, clubs must follow the conditions set forth by the appropriate land manager, responsible for the public land which the trail crosses. Land managers can be with the State, County, City, Township, Private Property Owner, DOT, or other entity. If conditions cannot be met, clubs choose to close sections of trail in order to bring it into compliance with the original contract. Also, clubs are required to take out liability insurance, which basically covers that their trails conform to the GIA program manual and are safe to ride. Land managers count on the clubs to follow the program manual.



Periodic audits are done by land managers to see if clubs are in conformance.

If clubs cannot conform to the rules of GIA, their future GIA funding applications can be denied, and the trail can be closed. When Riders go around trail-closure signs or barriers, this is regarded as trespassing. When riders damage sections of trail, or create their own technical riding area, this results in non-conformance of the original land manager maintenance agreement.

In general, clubs do not like to close trails.

However, they are bound to the conditions set forth in annual GIA contracts and may close trails so that they can bring trails into compliance. Trail design and maintenance is a study in itself, which does take in user expectations.



Many clubs and their volunteer members put hundreds of hours into trail maintenance, and are frustrated by riders who disregard rules, regulations...and signs.

My best advice is to join a club, join ATVAM, attend an OHV Minnesota Trails Workshop, and learn what it takes to create and maintain trails.

We all need to be stewards of this fun recreational sport.

A letter of thanks to OTHG club members (with photos to left):

We had another successful Trail Work Tuesday. We were able to complete the bypass that is west of the boardwalk, and finished the entry/exit ramps to the boardwalk. We placed 20 yards of tailings and sand mix on top

of the soup bowl area making it ready for final grading. We put up three Private Property/No Trespassing signs, and off-loaded twelve concrete sheets of Fleximat.

We are on our final steps to this most difficult trail-repair project. Many of us remember just three weeks ago working in 12" to 36" deep soupy clay. Today we made 40 trips across the repaired area with 10,000 lb. plus wheeled vehicles. Huge Improvement! Mike Melberg worked on Friday 5/29 and Saturday 5/30 to ditch the other side of the trail so that we have direct water run-off to the swamp.

Thank you to Jim Remington, Tim Sink, David Thompson, Perry May, and first time volunteer who brought his Tractor/Loader and Back Blade, Dave Lawson.

ATVAM Lobbyists Report On What's Happening At The Capital



ATVAM Legislative Update

June 1, 2020

By Ray Bohn & Tom Hackbarth

The 2020 Legislative Session ended on Monday, May 18th, with a whimper. In the end, very little was accomplished due to the COVID-19 situation and circumstances. The Environment Finance & Policy bills, while passing both bodies of the Legislature, was never agreed to and failed to pass. No legislation with fiscal implications was

allowed in either bill because of the uncertainty of revenue projections for the next two years. We have outlined the pertinent provisions below that were contained in each of the bills.

Initially, we believed that there was a chance to get a bill out of the upcoming Special Session (most everyone agrees that the governor will call a special session by June 12th to extend COVID emergency powers), but we have since been told that the Environment Finance and Policy legislation is not and will not be negotiated for action by the Special Session and will be left to deal with in the 2021 Legislative Session.

That is unfortunate, because we and others had plenty of issues that needed to be resolved now rather than in the 2021 session. Fortunately both bodies are working toward a compromise on the bonding bill, but that has a long way to go before final action can be taken. The only provision we had in the bonding bill was a \$1 million appropriation for the Voyageur Trail.

Below are elements in the ENR Finance & Policy bill as passed out of their respective bodies, but was never brought to Conference Committee and therefore never sent to the Governor's office:

HF 4554

1. Prospector Trail appropriation extension.
2. Elimination of low-pressure tire requirement in definition of ATV.
3. Designates the Vermilion OHV campground area as a secondary unit which clears the way for the construction and use of that area for OHVs when funds are appropriated to build the campground.

SF 4499

1. Elimination of low-pressure tire requirement in definition of ATV.
2. Designates the Vermilion OHV campground area as a secondary unit which clears the way for the construction and use of that area for OHVs.

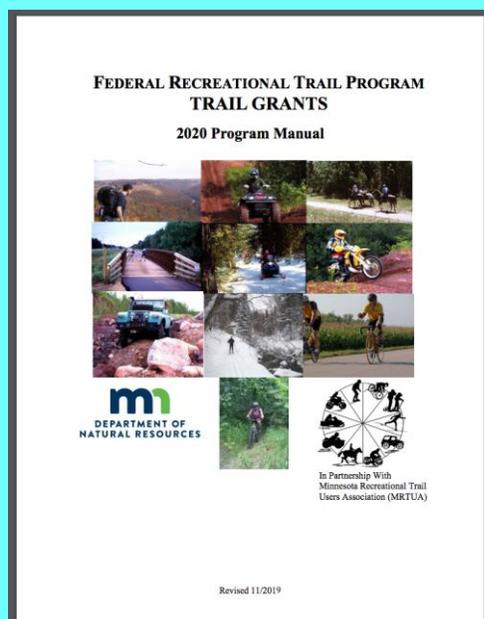
With the continuance of the COVID-19 restrictions, it is certain that changes will need to be made in the upcoming fiscal year or two. We will continue to monitor any proposed legislation for their impact during any and all upcoming Special Sessions in the remainder of 2020.

Announcing! ATV Minnesota Clothing Sale 50% Off On Most Items



Just in time for Father's Day, graduations, and summer rides on your favorite ATV trail, the ATV Minnesota Clothing Sale is on now. Hoodies for just \$20. T-shirts as low as \$7.50. All sale items are clearly marked on the Clothing Page of the ATVAM website. It's easy to pay online and we'll ship your order right away! Start by tapping the "Clothing" tab on atvam.org.

ATVAM Sends Letter Of Support For Federal Rec Trails Program (RTP) (Your ATV Club Can Do The Same)



From a Call To Action by ARRA (Americans For Responsible Recreational Access)

Over the past quarter-century the Recreational Trails Program has been the key source of funding for recreational trails across all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

However, without Congressional approval before September 30th, the program is at risk of going dormant, creating a huge void for recreational trail development and maintenance funding. H.R. 5797 would increase the RTP funding nearly threefold by returning more of the gas taxes that we are already pay every time we gas up for off-road activities. The current funding of the RTP is only \$84 million annually, but it is estimated that gas taxes paid by



off-highway interests are more than \$250 million annually! Despite the uncertain and difficult times from the COVID-19 pandemic, we need to maintain the momentum established upon the introduction of H.R. 5797. Now is the time to provide an economic boost to the recreation economy as Congress considers a large infrastructure bill as well as transportation reauthorization as possibilities for the next phase of COVID-19 related legislation.

Continued development and maintenance of trails across the country would allow for quick construction projects of RTP trails for motorcycles, ATVs, side-by-sides, and snowmobiles, as well as non-motorized trails for other recreational interests. Please participate in this call to action by urging your Members of Congress to cosponsor H.R.5797 and include H.R. 5797 in any transportation reauthorization or infrastructure legislation being considered by Congress in the coming weeks.

How Your Club Can Support RTP

Last year, RTP grants helped fund 30 projects in Minnesota. Below is a letter prepared by ATVAM, along with the Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC), Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA) and the Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA). The letter is primarily addressed to relevant committee leaders and requests "...that HR 5797, 'The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Full Funding Act of 2020' sponsored by Congressman Welch of VT and Congressman Curtis of UT be included in the transportation reauthorization bill..."

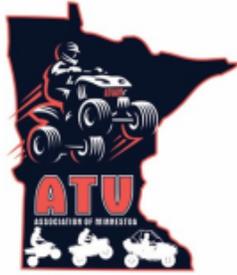
Your ATV club can send a letter in support of fully funding RTP. Copy, paste and revise the letter below, or download a Word version of the sample letter, at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1056zRNKatKXxOyL4EgepUN2gtc1CJQRd/view>

If you send a letter, please email it to the following House of Representatives staff and industry partners:

helena.zyblikewycz@mail.house.gov
jackie.schmitz@mail.house.gov
michael.falencki@mail.house.gov
cheryle.tucker@mail.house.gov

Alex.Piper@mail.house.gov
Jake.Bornstein@mail.house.gov
mmairena@ROHVA.org
sschloegel@ROHVA.org



ATV Association of Minnesota

PO Box 300

Stacy, Minnesota

www.atvam.org

800 - 442-8826

May 26, 2020

Chairman Peter Defazio

2165 Rayburn Building

Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Sam Graves

2165 Rayburn Building

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Defazio and Ranking Member Graves:

The ATV Association of Minnesota (ATVAM) represents the recreational interest of 70 ATV clubs, with 5,000 members. We are writing to request that HR 5797, "The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Full Funding Act of 2020" sponsored by Congressman Welch of VT and Congressman Curtis of UT be included in the transportation reauthorization bill currently being drafted in your committee.

Last year, RTP grants helped fund 30 projects in Minnesota benefitting outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy motorized recreation (ATV, snowmobile, dirt bike) and non-motorized recreation (hiking, mountain biking, equestrian). Without Congressional approval before September 30th, the program is at risk of going dormant, creating a huge void for recreational trail development and maintenance funding.

For more than a quarter-century the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) has been the key source of funding for recreational trails across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Based on the "user-pay, user-benefit" model of the Highway Trust Fund, the RTP is funded from gas taxes paid by nonhighway recreational vehicles. The RTP is currently funded at \$84 million annually but it is estimated that federal gas taxes paid by nonhighway recreational vehicles amounts to more than \$270 million annually. HR 5797 would correct this inequity and return more of the gas tax dollars for off-road recreation.

It is worth noting that the RTP provides funding for motorized and non-motorized trails alike and is administered by the states who select the projects to fund. By law, 30% of the funding goes to motorized trails, 30% goes to non-motorized trails, and 40% goes to mixed-use trails in the states. To see funding projects in each state, you can visit <https://arra-access.com/states/> and click on the state you're interested in. You will also find other informative materials on the site that highlight the great work that has been done with trails across the country, thanks to your past support.

Thank you for your consideration. It is absolutely critical that HR 5797 be included in the upcoming transportation reauthorization bill.

Sincerely,

Ron Potter, ATVAM President r.potter@atvam.org

**Wanted:
ATVAM Members To Volunteer
At ERX OffRoad National**

Race dates: July 10-11

Volunteer dates: July 7-12



The race is on, with a detailed COVID-19 Operational Plan for racer, spectator and volunteer safety.

Sign up as a family or ATV club!

Reserve your shifts today at ATVAM.org, and get free entrance, a meal during your shift, a T-shirt and free camping (one night for each day worked). A fun time for all ATVAM members. Not a member? Not a problem. Join ATVAM at the race!

We need slots filled during all 6 days of setup, racing and breakdown (sample below). Grab yours today at ATVAM.org. Please volunteer by June 25th so ATVAM can make the necessary arrangements.

Get more race details at ERXMotorPark.com.

Email your club or volunteer questions to ERX@ATVAM.org. See you there!

Need to get your friends more excited about attending? Check out this YouTube video trailer of the

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

PARKING	
Friday 7/10/2020	
Shift Hours	Status
12am - 6am (Racer Parking)	Open
12am - 6am (Racer Parking)	Open
12am - 6am (Racer Parking)	Open
12am - 6am (Racer Parking)	Open
12am - 6am (Racer Parking)	Open
12am - 6am (Camp)	Open
12am - 6am (Camp)	Open
12am - 6am (Camp)	Open
6am - 12pm (Racer Parking)	Open
6am - 12pm (Racer Parking)	Open
6am - 12pm (Racer Parking)	Open
6am - 12pm (Racer Parking)	Open
6am - 12pm (Racer Parking)	Open
6am - 12pm (Camp)	Open
6am - 12pm (Camp)	Open

Time slots are available for race setup, parking, security, race breakdown and more, from July 7 to

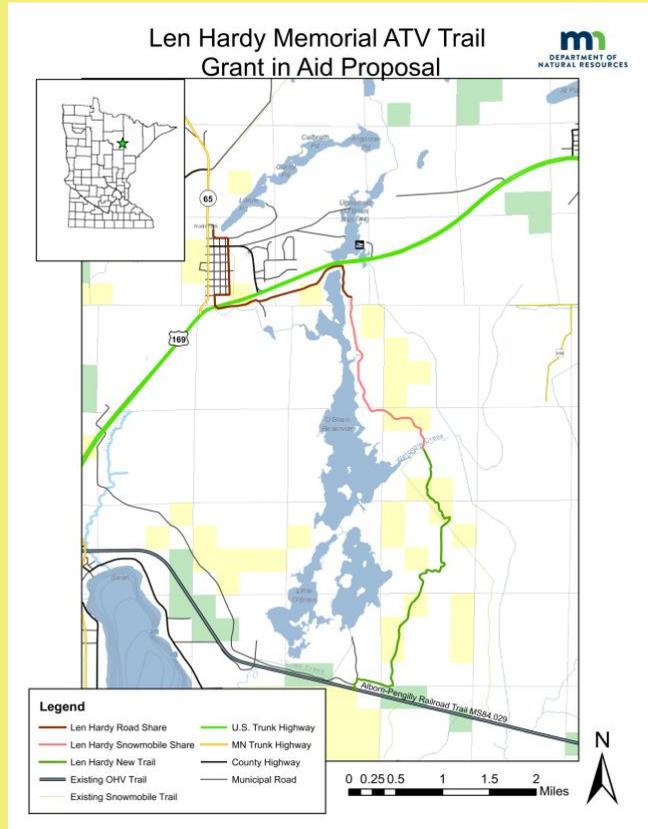
12. See them all on the ATVAM website (atvam.org), tap ERX on the home page.

Please Comment In Favor Of The Proposed Len Hardy Memorial Trail

*From Joe Unger
OHV Planner, DNR Parks & Trails*

The DNR is accepting comments on the proposed Len Hardy Memorial Grant in Aid Trail in Itasca County. The proposed trail would provide a nine mile ATV connection between Nashwauk and the Alborn-Pengilly Trail.

The project is proposed by the Range Riders ATV Club with Itasca County as the sponsor. Additional information, including a project description and project map can be found on the project's webpage and comments can be addressed to Kacie Stanek, Parks and Trails assistant area supervisor at Kacie.stanek@state.mn.us until July 6, 2020.



The project website is at:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/mgmtplans/ohv/plans/len-hardy-memorial-atv-trail-itasca-county.html>



Len Hardy died on July 17, 2018. Over the years, he helped get many of Minnesota's best ATV trails started, planned and approved. Then he helped build and maintain them.

Len also started ATV clubs and helped many people get them started. As stated in his obituary: "He loved to work in the dirt. He literally left this world doing what he loved and 'With His Boots On.' "

Please send a comment to the DNR in favor of this trail, to be built in Len's honor. Thanks!

Promises, Promises. No OHV Atlas Yet.

DNR Parks & Trails gave us so many dates over the past year that the OHV Trail Atlas would be printed and available to ATV clubs and the riding public, we've lost count. Latest promise was that the atlas would be printed by May 1, when trails opened. Didn't happen. Not much else to say. Fortunately, the State ATV Trail maps can be downloaded off the DNR website, and there are free mobile apps available to use for navigation, including Avenza and Ride Command.



ATVAM & ATV Club Events Coming Up

*Send your club schedule for rides/work days to: 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 - June 16, 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.

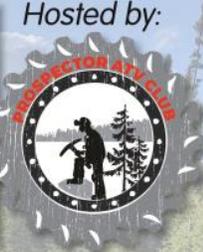
-September 18-20 - ATVAM Annual Conference / Ride & Rally

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

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




Hosted by:
INSPECTOR ATV CLUB



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




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

Register for Ride and Rally 2020 at 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.

Region 1 Club Rides & Work Days:

Please submit for next newsletter.

Region 2:

Carlton County Riders -- Pig Roast

June 20, Duquette, MN A camping, food and wheeling event
Details at club Facebook page.

White Pine Riders - Club Ride

June 27 -- Fun Run
Meet at Jackson's Hole, Lawler at 10 am. Details on club Facebook page.

Region 3:

Central Lakes ATV Club - Club Rides

June 10 - Midweek Trail Ride, 6pm, Miller Black Bear Trail
June 27 - Club Ride, 10 am, Hill City UPM Blandin Trail

Lake Country ATV Riders

June 27 -- Meeting 10 am at Bear's Den, Ride at Mississippi Northwoods, noon

Woodtick Wheelers ATV Club

June 13 -- Club Ride, 9 am at Stompin' Grounds, Round River Drive Trails, Akeley

Region 4:

Please submit for next newsletter.

Region 5:

South Metro ATV Club

June 19-21, Club ride at Spider Lake Trails

July 18, Club Ride at Fond du Lac Trails

July 19, Club Ride at Nemadji Trails

See club website for updates on ride status: www.southmetroatv.com

Region 6:

Please submit for next newsletter.



The North Woods Quads ATV Club is based in Hill City, Minn. Club members maintain the popular Hill City Trail which includes a long, winding boardwalk. If you live or ride in the area, join the club or support it with a donation.

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

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](#)

Follow us for all the latest news!

ATVAM, PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079

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