

ATV Minnesota

"Your Voice For ATV Recreation in Minnesota"

September 24, 2021

Newsletter

830 new members this year!

Welcome!

We Came...We Rode...We Rallied!

(Prospector Hits Gold With 360 Riders)

The Prospector Alliance persevered...and delivered...twice! Despite COVID restrictions last year, and a major wildfire nearby this summer, the club shifted gears as needed and provided two years of outstanding State Conventions for ATV Minnesota, its members and member clubs. At this year's "Ride & Rally" a total of 360 people came to Ely for the 3-day event. Watch for a full report in the next issue of the Minnesota Wheelin magazine. Below are some of the highlights from this year's gathering.



Friday VIP Ride

After a hearty pancake breakfast at the Timber Hall in Embarrass, 180 riders rode on new Prospector trails and bridges to an area in the new Vermilion State Park. Just south of State 169, it's the site of a future recreational campground designed for ATV riders and their trailer and RV rigs. Buses transported everyone to another part of the Park, where they were treated to a hot lunch. County,

state and federal elected officials and DNR representatives spoke to the group about the importance of motorized recreation and the economic impact it brings to the area.



ATV Big Air Tour

Following the VIP Ride, riders trailed or rode to Babbitt for 90 minutes of big jumps, backflips, RZR launches, crowd games and music at the final show of the year by the ATV Big Air Tour. It was free and open to the public, compliments of ATV

Minnesota and the Prospector Alliance. Thanks to Derek Guetter, his stunt riders and crew for putting on a great show!



Saturday Trail Rides

Members and guests from across the state took to the trails on 12 guided rides or rode on their own on many new routes in the Ely/Tower/Embarrass/Babbitt area.

See the ATV Minnesota and Prospector Loop Facebook pages for more photos and videos of the new trails, bridges and scenic stops along all the routes.



Banquet and Membership Meeting

Held at the Miners Dry House at Ely's historic Pioneer Mine, the dinner banquet and meeting included a legislative update from ATV MN Lobbyist Ray Bohn, and approval by the membership of amendments to bylaws. Kevin Anderson with the North Metro Trail Riders was elected 2nd VP, and Erv Kleinschmidt was re-elected treasurer. Speakers included Bruce Beste with Voyageur Country ATV, Dan Kleen with Iowa OHV Association, and sponsors Chris Gamache with Ride Command and Craig Smith with All Balls Racing. Perry May, 1st VP, announced that next year's convention will be held in the City of Fifty Lakes, and hosted by his club, the Over The

Hills Gang. New gear was sold. Raffle winners were named. A lively live auction rounded out the banquet.



Sunday Board Meeting

The ATV MN executive board and other state board members met to review the Ride & Rally, and discuss important issues they'll be tackling in the future. New regional directors were nominated and approved: Justin Schley in the Central Region, and Peter Murch in the Northwest Region.



Thank You! To all the clubs, businesses and organizations that sponsored the event. All the ATV Minnesota members who attended. The many legislators, local agency and Minnesota DNR people who rode or assisted on the rides. The many great ride leaders and sweepers. Everyone who donated cash and auction items, and those who bid on the auction to help raise funds. Most of all, thanks to the Prospector Alliance for putting in long hours building new trails for all of us to ride on, organizing and hosting two consecutive Ride & Rally events under challenging circumstances.

Key Takeaways From The 2021 Ride & Rally By Ron Potter, ATV MN president

What a weekend! The 2021 State ATV Convention (“Ride and Rally”) is now history but what a great event. I need to thank all of the clubs that donated to the event and helped make it a great success.



I also want to thank our Gold Sponsors: Polaris Industries, South Metro ATV Club, All Balls Racing, Voyageur Country ATV, GBoost Technology, and Truman

Group. Also our Silver Sponsors: Melgeorge's Elephant Lake Lodge and Resort, and Polaris Ride Command. And our Bronze Sponsors: Northern Traxx ATV Club, Finland Snowmobile and ATV Club, Benchmark Engineering, Northland Lawn, Sport and Equipment, Trestle Inn, Iron Range Tourism Bureau, Cook Building Center, Warroad Eagles, MIES Outland, WA Fisher, Northern-Frontiers Thrift, JB Doors, Iron Mining of Minnesota, North Woods Quads, Carlton County Riders, Woodtick Wheelers, White Pine Riders, Quad Cities ATV Club, Do It Best Stacy Hardware and Evergreen PAC Club. To all of you who were able to attend this event and participate, thank you as well. I hope you had as much fun as I did.



Working With Legislators & Land Managers Is Key

Once again this year Ride & Rally was hosted by the Prospectors Alliance, featuring the new trail system that was completed this summer. The Friday VIP ride was a great opportunity to thank our legislators and land managers who continue to work with us to provide opportunities for our sport. We had great attendance from the Minnesota Legislature as well as local City, County

and Township officials.

A key takeaway for me from this VIP ride was a comment by one of the legislators, who stated to be successful working with the Legislature you need two things. First, **you must have a presence at the State Legislature**, which we have through our full-time lobbyist Ray Bohn, hired through ATV MN. **Also key is to get your local legislators on a machine. Invite them to a club ride or a family ride so they can see first hand what the sport is all about.** To maintain a presence at the State Legislature, that is on ATV MN, we will continue to do that. But getting the legislators out for a ride, that is important for you and your clubs to do. The legislators want to spend time with their constituents, you need to extend the invitation and make it happen.

The ATV Big Air show in Babbitt was free and open to the public. The riders put on an excellent show, really got the audience involved, especially the kids. Everyone had a great time and they followed up the show with an autograph session which nobody seemed to mind standing in line for.

Sunday morning we jumped into our State Board meeting, where we continued our discussion around the ATV definition and changes that need to be made. We also talked about ATV winter riding, the study that was done last winter by Trail

Works, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and where ATV MN is heading regarding winter riding. More to follow on both of these topics.

Next year the Ride and Rally will be in the Fifty Lakes area, north of Brainerd, watch for more details on the ATV MN website within the next month. Thanks again to everyone who helped make this one of our best events ever!



Having Lunch With Our Elected Officials

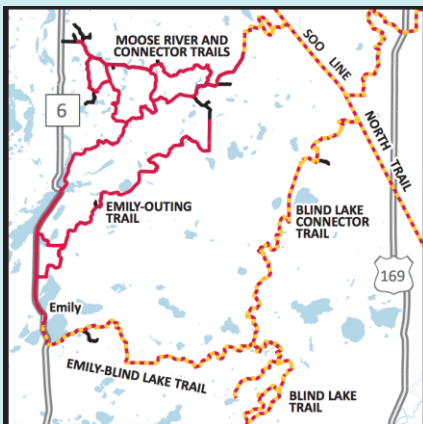
By Nick Wognum, Prospector president, ATV MN secretary

ATVers were everywhere during Ride and Rally. For a weekend and then some there were ATVs everywhere you looked in Ely, Babbitt, Tower and Embarrass. The turnout for the 2021 Ride & Rally was higher than it has been in decades, according to organizers. We were really happy

with how it all went. There were a lot of things going on and a lot of clubs, volunteers and businesses that made it happen.

Many elected officials were on hand as well, which was very much appreciated. They included U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber (R), MN State Sen. Tom Bakk (I), State Sen. Dave Tomassoni (DFL), MN Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman (DFL), MN House Minority Leader Kurt Daudt (R), MN State Rep. Rob Ecklund (DFL), Rep. Anne Neu Brindley (R), Rep. Josh Heintzman (R), Rep. Dave Lislegard (DFL), St. Louis County Board Chair Mike Jugovich, Ely Mayor Roger Skraba, Tower Mayor Orlyn Kringstad, Morse Supervisor Terry Soderberg and Breitung Township Chair Tim Tomsich.

Their comments had a common theme: To create a nationally recognized ATV destination in northern Minnesota, and to have a better trail system than Wisconsin, which most agreed is already in place. They also challenged ATV Minnesota clubs to recruit even more members in order to have an even greater presence at the Capitol, obtain and effectively spend allotted funding, build and maintain trails and hold major events.



A Grand Opening For The Emily Blind Lake ATV Trail

Congratulations to the Over The Hills Gang ATV Club for its outstanding grand opening. Over 100 people attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony in Emily on September 15, with many riding in 60 vehicles on the new trail to the shelter on the Blind Lake Connector for lunch. Watch for more details and photos on the grand opening and the new trail in Minnesota Wheelin magazine. The new trail map is on the DNR website, Avenza app and Ride Command app.



Job Opening With The MN DNR For OHV Planner

If you know of anyone who might be interested and has an OHV interest please share this with them. It's for an OHV Planner position with Minnesota DNR, Parks and Trails Division. Closing is October 6th, 2021. This is

filling in behind Joe Unger who is now the OHV Coordinator, previously Paul Purman's position. This is a very important position for OHV management and especially new opportunities.

Job ID: 48736 - Off-Highway Vehicle Principal Planner- Planner Principal State

Location: St. Paul

Full/Part Time: Full-Time Regular/Temporary: Unlimited

Job Class: Planner Principal State

Working Title: Off-Highway Vehicle Principal Planner

- Who May Apply: Open to all qualified job seekers
- Date Posted: 09/10/2021
- Closing Date: 10/07/2021
- Hiring Agency/Seniority Unit: Department of Natural Resources
- Division/Unit: Parks and Trails / Research Planning and Evaluation
- Work Shift/Work Hours: Day Shift
- Days of Work: Monday - Friday

- Travel Required: Yes, Occasionally as needed
- Salary Range: \$27.56 - \$40.61/hourly; \$57,545 - \$84,793/annually
- Classified Status: Classified
- Bargaining Unit/Union: 214 - MN Assoc of Professional Empl/MAPE
- FLSA Status: Exempt - Administrative
- Connect 700 Program Eligible: Yes

Job Summary

The Division of Parks & Trails is currently seeking a full-time OHV principal planner to lead statewide off-highway vehicle (OHV) planning processes that advance development and implementation of state forest trail revisions. This position will be expected to provide planning expertise on OHV-related and outdoor recreation issues. The position will require some in-state travel for Phase 2 forest trail planning. For additional information about the application process, go to:

<https://mn.gov/mmb/careers/>

If you are a Connect 700 applicant, please submit your certificate to Becky Keller at becky.keller@state.mn.us by the job posting close date.

If you have questions about the position, contact Andrew Korsberg at andrew.korsberg@state.mn.us or 612-834-7265.



Nephew

From the ATV MN Communications Team:

- Send your comments, club news, photos and article ideas to: d.halsey@atvam.org
- Forward this email newsletter to club partners and business sponsors if they aren't ATVMN members already.
- All members should receive this newsletter and our new Minnesota Wheelin magazine. Let us know if you're not.
- Send inquiries and member renewals to: ATVAM, PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079.

Photo at Ride & Rally by Amy



ATV MINNESOTA *"Your Voice To Ride"*

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

**Invite friends and family
to join today. Gift
memberships available!**

See the mailing label on your Minnesota Wheelin 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 in winter, Vision Meeting and Ride & Roast in the spring, and State Convention "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 and contact information 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!



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