



ATV Minnesota

"Your Voice For ATV Recreation in Minnesota"

March 10, 2022

Newsletter

Leave It To Beavers



**Building A Better Beaver
Deceiver For Minnesota's ATV
Clubs**

By Perry May, ATV MN State Director

Although beavers can provide many positive environmental values, they also can cause property damage and, in many cases, close trails. Flooding from beaver dams is an annual issue in many parts of Minnesota, including on the Emily Outing Trail in central Minnesota, maintained by the Over

The Hills Gang ATV Club. Removing or breaching a beaver dam without removing the resident beavers generally results in the dam being quickly rebuilt. I helped breach a large beaver dam in five different places one evening, only to see it rebuilt overnight. A mature beaver can gnaw through a 6-inch tree in 15 minutes.



Five years ago, to control the water level from a large beaver dam that resulted in a trail closure, our club purchased a Clemson Leveler (see photo). Developed by Clemson University and field tested by the Minnesota DNR, it changes water flow so that beavers cannot sense it and as a result don't attempt to plug the leveler. Our source in Minnesota for the Clemson Leveler no longer builds them. I decided to create a more robust design, and make them available to ATV clubs.



A new and improved leveler. The intake pipe, shown in the photo, is made from 10-in. diameter, Schedule 40 green sewer pipe. It's 20 feet in length, with a 10-inch to 8-inch reducer attached on one end and capped on the inflow end. I make the first 8 feet of the pipe perforated by drilling 72 2-inch holes arranged and staggered 60 degrees apart. This creates a water siphon. Attached to the inflow section are two 20 foot x 8-inch diameter discharge pipes. This makes an overall 60-foot long leveler. To protect the inflow holes from getting blocked by beavers, I use four 1-inch ID (inside diameter)

steel pipes formed into 30-inch diameter rings with ends welded together. I attach these to the plastic pipe through the use of threaded rods and pipe hanger brackets.



Around the steel pipes, I tether a wire cage using aluminum wire. These more robust pipes allow for better handling when transporting or setting the pipe, and set firmly on the pond bottom without the wire cage slowly crushing over time. When setting the leveler, you want to set the pipe at the level that you want the pond water to be. This will mean digging a trench into the existing beaver dam. The beavers will be back later in the day to plug up the dam around the discharge pipe. The end of the inflow pipe should be placed a minimum of 20 feet back from the dam. I like to split the 60-foot long leveler in half and place 30 feet of pipe on each side of the dam.

The overall cost of materials and labor to construct this type of leveler was \$600 in 2021. With the rising cost of plastics and steel, costs are now about \$700. This design — proven effective in discouraging the beavers that like to flood our trails — is for a beaver pond with the only source

of new water from storm water and rainwater, and is not effective for a creek or river type of flow.

Instructions for installation can be found on the DNR website. Once installed, and in as little as 2 days, our club observed a 24-inch drop in the beaver pond water level, and water had receded off the ATV trail. With ongoing maintenance of the intake device, this can be an effective way to control beavers from taking over our trails. **For more information or if you want to order a leveler, please contact me at p.may@atvam.org.**

A few things to know about removing beavers and dams from property other than your own:

- Removal methods include trapping during the open season, typically the last Saturday in October through mid-May, or by lawfully shooting the offending beavers with the appropriate permit. Out-of-season removal permits can be obtained from your local DNR Conservation Officer (CO).
- Local ordinances may prohibit discharge of firearms in your area, and if you kill a beaver you must contact your local DNR CO within 24 hours, stating your name, address, telephone number, and the total number of beavers shot or trapped.
- Beaver dam removal may also be prohibited. A discussion with your local DNR CO should take place before removal. Depending on the amount of water held back by the dam, it could result in flooded areas downstream once the dam is removed. A referral from a Minnesota State Hydrologist may be needed to understand the downstream water impact after the dam is removed.



**Attention all ATV clubs!
ATV MN Regional
Club Meetings Coming Up**

**Northwest Clubs Region Meeting - by
conference call**

Date: March 10, 2022

Time: 6:30 - 8 pm

Call 605-468-8821, Access Code 731394#

Northeast Clubs Region Meeting

Date: March 26, 2022

Time: 9-11am (Kitchen opens at 11am)

Location: Sawmill Saloon & Restaurant, 5478
Mountain Iron drive, Virginia, MN

Call-In: 605-468-8821, Access Code 731394#

Central Clubs Region Meeting: Date: TBD

Southern Clubs Region Meeting: Date: TBD

Some Agenda Topics

1. The ATV Statewide Masterplan process
2. The GIA Improvement process
3. The new ATV MN regional club map
4. The request for pictures to make the ATV MN short story at Ride & Rally

5. What is the best way for ATV MN to communicate to the clubs?
6. What is your club's priority that ATV MN should focus on?

Polaris Suspends Shipments To Russia

From news sources:

Polaris Inc. is suspending exports to Russia. The manufacturer of snowmobiles, ATVs and the like told the Business Journal Tuesday it's halting business with the country in response to the invasion of Ukraine. It's unknown how much business Medina-based Polaris (NYSE: PII) does in Russia — the company doesn't break out sales by country — but it listed Russia as a primary market for snowmobiles in its annual report. Roughly 85% of the company's sales are in the United States and Canada, Polaris said. The Milwaukee Business Journal also reported Tuesday that Harley-Davidson Inc. is suspending shipments to Russia, following the country's invasion of Ukraine.



What Is Your Vision For ATV Recreation In Minnesota?

ATV Minnesota

Vision Conference

April 23-24, Holiday Inn

1155 US Hwy 10 East

Detroit Lakes, Minnesota 56501

Phone: 218-847-2121

(Registration is now open)

the state is always well attended.

This fun gathering of ATV clubs from across

At the annual Vision Conference, the ATV Minnesota Executive Board, Regional Directors and ATV clubs discuss a wide range of topics, with one goal: creating a clear Vision for ATV MN, and the Action Items needed to move it and its 66 member clubs forward, and advance our state's awesome ATV trail system. It's also your chance to buy new ATV MN gear, reappoint or elect new Regional Directors...and more.

Reserve your one or two-night stay today. A block of rooms and discount are under "ATV Minnesota." Event registration is \$25 and includes a continental breakfast, refreshments at breaks and lunch. Please register early so we can plan for in-person attendance. There will also be a Zoom option to attend. Either way you are attending, **please register for the Vision Conference at this link:** <https://membership.atvmn.org/vision/>

***Registration Now Open For:
Ride & Roast May 21st***

Ride & Rally September 16-18

*Some lodging is starting to fill up.
Contact your ride group and register today.*

Event details, daily schedules, guided-ride options, camping & lodging lists, sponsorship opportunities ... and did we mention food! food! food!
It's all lined up and registration is open at ATVMN.org.



More Volunteer ATV Instructor Classes Scheduled

March 22, Albert Lea, Freeborn County
March 26, Forest Lake, Anoka County
April 2, Slayton, Murray County
April 26, Forest Lake, Anoka County

To view detailed information and prerequisites, go to the DNR website page at [this link](#) and click on a class you are interested in:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/instructors/training.html>

Newly Listed: 25 ATV Safety Field Day Classes Scheduled By Clubs

Many clubs are already scheduling their hands-on classes, starting in April, with more to come throughout the riding season. See the current calendar at [this link](#):

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/vehicle/atv/index.html#calendar>



Got a Good Story to Tell?

- Have you been on a memorable ride?
- Do you have a fun story about an ATV club or ride group you belong to?
- Do you know of an outstanding volunteer who should be recognized for all they do for ATV riding in Minnesota?
- Is there an important ATV issue you'd like us to cover?
- We don't have a budget to pay you, but we will give you a byline and

extra copies of the magazine your article or photo appears in.

-Send your comments, stories, club news, and ideas to: d.halsey@atvam.org. Thanks! From the ATV MN Communications Team: Dave Halsey, Nick Wognum, Jeff Leese, Rod Wegner, Dean Schliek. *Photo: Voyageur Country ATV put on a great lunch at the Vermilion Falls picnic area during the 2019 ATV MN Ride & Rally, hosted by the club.*



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 your membership renewal date. Be sure to include your email address on the renewal form to receive newsletters. Send renewals

to ATV MN, 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 ATV MN logo sticker for your ATV or vehicle.
- Invitations to events, including our Legislative Summit, Vision Conference, Ride & Roast in the spring, and State Convention "Ride & Rally" in the fall, as well as membership meetings.
- Discounts at some of our business members (watch for new list being compiled).

-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 our 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

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

ATVMN.org

Follow us for all the latest news!



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

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