



## **ATV Minnesota**

*"Your Voice For ATV Recreation in Minnesota"*

**March 10, 2023**

**Newsletter**

*1500 New Members In Past 2 Years  
Welcome...LET'S RIDE!*

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### **March Comes In Like A Lion On ATV Issues And Improvements**

Snow storms weren't the only thing roaring across Minnesota in the first week of March. ATV Minnesota, its members and member clubs gathered at two key events that will determine the future of ATV recreation in Minnesota:

our annual Vision Conference, and our Day At The Capitol/Legislative Reception, the first held by ATV MN in more than a decade.

Scroll past them if you have a fear of meeting reports.

Read on if you want to know what's in store for our state's ATV clubs and trail systems in the months and years ahead, thanks to the ATV MN executive board, statewide board, and club members who drove long distances to these gatherings, paid for meals and lodging, and took time away from their families to help us meet our mission to create a positive future for ATV recreation in Minnesota.

### **2023 Vision Conference: Tackling Critical Issues**

Fifty people attended the annual ATV Minnesota Vision Conference in person or by Zoom, held March 4th at Running Aces Casino. The 8-hour meeting covered many topics being tackled by the ATV MN executive board, committees and members.

At the top of the agenda, we reviewed the ATV MN Strategic Plan, and the Critical Issues being addressed by the State Association and its 70 member clubs.



## CRITICAL ISSUES

1. NEED MORE RIDING OPPORTUNITIES.
2. GIA IMPROVEMENTS AND UPDATES.
3. CLUB MEMBERSHIP AND DECLINING VOLUNTEERISM.
4. WINTER RIDING OPPORTUNITIES.
5. TRAIL DESIGN STANDARDS FOR BUILDING ATV TRAILS WITHIN R/W OF PUBLIC ROADS.
6. EXPERTISE IN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF ATV TRAILS.
7. RIDER EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL THAT ENHANCES RIDING OPPORTUNITIES.
8. TREND OF LARGER AND MORE POWERFUL MACHINES.
9. CRITICAL ISSUE FOR ATVMN – FUNDING.



## Grant-in-Aid Improvement Project

Joe Unger, Statewide OHV Program Consultant, gave an update on Grant-in-Aid (GIA) improvements, which ATV Minnesota and a broad-based work group have been discussing with the DNR for years. “We’ve been told that the program is broken,” said Unger. “A lot of new trails have come online too, which puts more pressure on the ATV dedicated account.”

Great progress has been made recently by work group and the DNR. GIA improvements address many issues, and complaints from ATV clubs with the current system. The updated program, as outlined by Unger, is planned to include:

- GIA funds that are more predictable and equally

distributed.

- Better and easier forms to make reimbursements more efficient.
- Clubs having money earlier in the season for trail-opening maintenance.
- Six “pools” of funds that focus on maintenance and new trail development.
- Adjusted reimbursement rates to easily adapt to current rates (e.g. linking trip mileage to the IRS rate).
- Adjusting the equipment rental/use rates to current rates.

Unger said the project is a “working proposal” that will be presented to the DNR Parks & Trails leadership team for final approval and implementation. Unger hopes that some or all of the improvements will be made this riding season.

### Other reports from the DNR included:

- Laura Preuss with Parks and Trails introduced the Acquisition & Development Specialists, who each gave an update on projects in their region.
- An update on the Statewide Master Plan.
- A DNR Enforcement summary of 2022 ATV related fatalities.
- Improvements to the timing of the sign program, with sign orders moving to Nov-Dec in order for clubs to receive them in spring instead of fall.
- News that the new OHV Trail Atlas will be available for the riding season.
- An update on what looks like the end of the Houston OHV Park project, after a new city council created an “exit resolution,” and how the DNR will be handling that issue.

Presentations were also made by ATV MN lobbyists Ray Bohn and Tom Hackbarth, the new ATV MN Safety Committee, Winter Riding Committee, Communications Committee, and a report by Perry May on highlights in the four ATV MN regions during 2022.

Regional Directors re-elected to serve another 2-year term are: NW Region--Peter Murch, Dave Halsey; NE Region--Darrel Palmer, Bruce Beste, Steve Koch, Tom Baumchen; Central Region--Mike Halvorson, Steve Ashbaugh; Allen Kirchof was elected to return as a Regional Director; Justin Schley did not seek re-election.

### **ATV MN Membership Dues Increasing June 1**

The final issue focused on ATV MN options to raise funds in order to meet increased expenses for membership management, events, communications, lobbying efforts and other costs of doing business as a non-profit organization. A motion was made and passed by those attending to increase the ATV MN individual and family membership dues from \$20 to \$30 for one year, and from \$38 to \$55 for two years, and to raise the business membership annual dues from \$75 to \$90. The increases will go into effect on June 1, 2023.

New 40th Anniversary clothing was on display and available for purchasing at the meeting; watch for it on the website in the near future. Thank-you to everyone who attended from the MN DNR and member clubs, and committee members who made presentations. **A special thank-you to Erv and Jenn for organizing the event registration, setting up and running the Vision Conference, and selling clothing.**

*Watch for more details and updates on many of the above topics in this newsletter and in our Minnesota Wheelin magazine.*





## 55 Attend Our "Day At The Capitol/Legislative Reception"

Thanks to the 18 State Senators and Representatives who took the time out of their busy day at the Capitol to attend the ATV Minnesota Legislative Reception, meeting with ATV club leaders to discuss ATV recreation in Minnesota and our bills being introduced during the current Legislative Session.



The reception was held Wednesday, March 8th, from 4:30 to 8:00 pm, at the Capitol Ridge Event Center in the Radisson Hotel. It was the first gathering of its kind hosted by ATV MN in over a decade. It was a great opportunity for ATV club members to meet with first-term and veteran Legislators, provide information about ATV clubs and their work promoting safe, responsible ATV recreation, and building fun ATV trails that are economically and environmentally sustainable.



**Other important facts** ATV clubs are pointing out to their local and state officials, especially those newly elected:

- We use funds from ATV registrations to pay for trail construction and maintenance.
- 21% of all registered ATVs in Minnesota (excluding Ag registrations) are registered in the 7-county Metro area, where their owners can only ride on private lands and some rural roads.



They and their families travel in all directions from the Metro area to over 80 State OHV Trails that the clubs are providing, working closely with the DNR, their county land commissioners, and funding sponsors.

- Our ATV Youth Safety Training Program certified 2,660 youth and 3,215 adults in 2022.
- Our DNR Trail Ambassador Program has 200 TAs monitoring trails and educating riders on the trail Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, throughout the riding season.



**Thanks again to the many Legislators who visited with us in the middle of a very busy Session, some returning to the Capitol for evening hearings following their visit to the reception.** Many ATV club members drove to the reception from as far away as Roseau and Ely. A buffet dinner was provided, and OHV reg books, ATV trail maps, the Minnesota Wheelin magazine and other materials were available to those attending.



**Photos (top to bottom):**

- Rep Dawn Gillman visits with Ray Bohn and WRCW member Dave Kryzer
- Rep John Burkel talks with Loren Arveson and Myles Hogenson about trails in northwest Minnesota
- (L to R) Rep Paul Anderson, Rep Dean Urdahl, ATV MN lobbyists Ray Bohn and Tom Hackbarth
- Senator Grant Hauschild visits with Mark Smerud, Trail Ambassador with North Metro Trail Riders
- Rep Natalie Zeleznikar talks with Ron Potter, ATV MN president
- (L to R) Chris Johnson, Aitkin County Land Dept; Perry May, Over The Hills Gang ATV Club; Senator Justin Eichorn



**SAFETY CORNER!**  
*A new addition to the  
ATV MN Newsletter*

*During the 2022 ATV Minnesota Vision Conference, club members voted to form an ATV Safety Committee. Its focus is bringing ATV Safety related topics more front and center to ATVMN membership and the riding public. New ATV registrations are greatly outpacing ATV education. The drive to have ATV Safety as an everyday thought during ride preparation, riding, club and association meetings, education, and communications to*

*others is the goal. This is the first in a series of updates from the Safety Committee in its new "Safety Corner."*

**ATV MN Safety Committee Requests  
That Each ATV Club Appoint A "Safety Officer"**

The ATV MN Safety Committee has identified the need to establish a communication network (point of contact) with member clubs so they can send safety messaging out to ATV MN members and receive feedback from clubs on safety related issues and priorities.

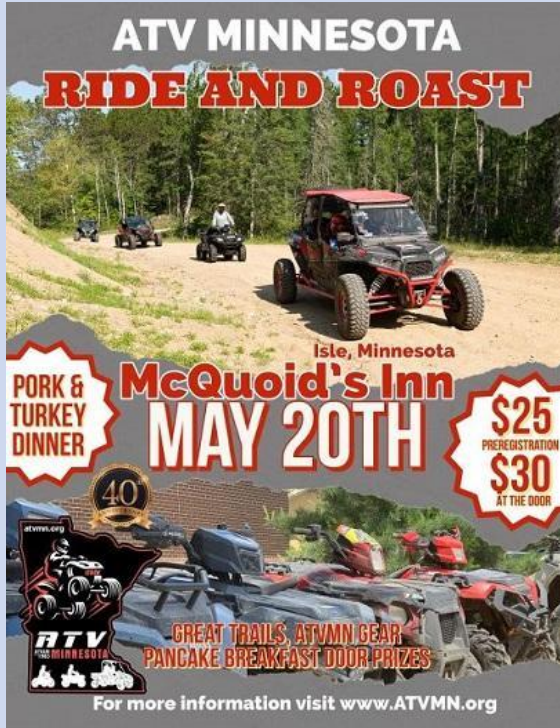
Therefore, it is the recommendation of the ATV MN Safety Committee and ATV MN Executive Board that each member club identifies a *Safety Officer*. This would be a volunteer position for an individual who has a real passion and is highly motivated to improve ATV safety. The goal of the position would be to reduce the number of ATV accidents and injuries by leveraging ATV safety training and education, safety campaigns, events, and safety messaging. As Safety Officer, you are a leader in your club regarding safety and encourage your club members to embrace and build upon a safer environment for ATV riders. You would be expected to establish and maintain open lines of communication with the RTO of your area and be their point of contact for your club on ATV safety related activities.



Action Item: The ATV MN Safety Committee is asking member clubs to assign a Safety Officer from their club to be the go-to individual (e.g., liaison) to the ATV MN Safety Committee for safety related topics and concerns.

Safety Officer Contact Form: Complete the online "POC" form by clicking the link below or initiating the QR code (internet connection required) with a mobile phone.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdLT82Wv-C69R\\_EZiuzgoaQyCyMGnW3ExZcWabR\\_KIOtnpLkg/viewform?vc=0&%3Bc=0&%3Bw=1&%3Bflr=0](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdLT82Wv-C69R_EZiuzgoaQyCyMGnW3ExZcWabR_KIOtnpLkg/viewform?vc=0&%3Bc=0&%3Bw=1&%3Bflr=0)



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

Dedicated Volunteers  
Building Fun & Sustainable  
ATV Trails  
For The Riding Public  
(And Bridges, Boardwalks, Kiosks,  
Parking & More)

**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 we send you 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.



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 we send you to receive newsletters. Send renewals to ATV MN, PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079. You can also join or renew at [atvmn.org](http://atvmn.org).

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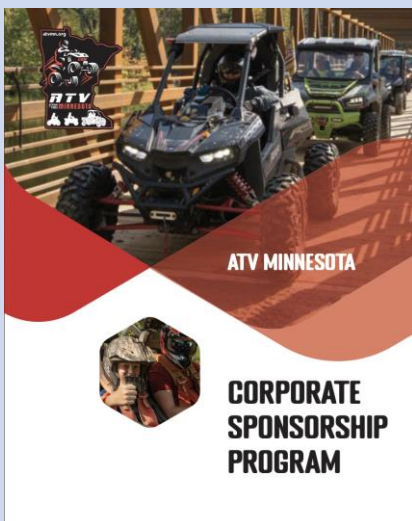
**As a family or individual member, for just \$20 you receive:**

- A subscription to Minnesota Wheelin magazine (6 per year).
- Twice-monthly newsletter by email with the latest news.
- Membership card and ATV MN logo sticker for your ATV.
- 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.
- A full-time lobbyist at the State Capitol, helping create pro-ATV legislation, and moving forward 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. For details, send an email to Creston Dorothy at Pro Print in Duluth: [cdorothy@proprintus.com](mailto:cdorothy@proprintus.com)
  - Opportunities to reach more customers by sponsoring or donating to our events
- To join, contact **ATVAM** or call (800) 442-8826.



**New Program! As a Corporate Sponsor:**

Your financial support will help ensure a positive future for ATV recreation in Minnesota.

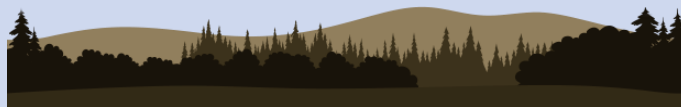
**Four levels:** \$2,500 Bronze / \$5,000 Silver / \$10,000 Gold / \$25,000 Platinum

Each includes ads in Minnesota Wheelin magazine, and publicity of your business, organization or club at ATV MN events, on websites, social media and more!

**To learn more, visit [atvmn.org](http://atvmn.org) and tap the "Sponsorships" tab.**

**[ATVMN.org](http://ATVMN.org)**

**Follow us for all the latest news!**



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