

-Send comments, club news, photos and article ideas to Dave Halsey, ATVAM Communications Director: 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 twice-monthly e-newsletter, and MN OffRoad magazine. Let us know if you're not.

-Newsletters are now archived on atvam.org to refer back to on topics.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

In This e-Newsletter:

-ATVAM Tackles Big Issues At Summit -Update on "Low Pressure Tires" -Comment on new "Turkey Trail" -DNR Improves Signs in Nemadji -New COs Hit The Field & Trails -Minnesota Loses A Trail Champion -DNR Hiring Interns -RTP Grant Applications Due Feb 28 -Clubs Holding Veterans Rides -Gear Up For Polar Bear Rides -Registration Open For 2020 Ride & Roast -Future ATVAM & ATV Club Events -Invite Friends & Family To Join Today!

ATVAM Tackles Big Issues At Annual Legislative Summit (ATV Clubs Submit 20 Resolutions)

Trail funding...low pressure tires...public campgrounds for ATV riders...accessing towns on state highways...and much more. If it's an issue important to Minnesota's ATV clubs and their members, there's a good



chance it was discussed at the 2020 ATVAM Legislative Summit. Creating a positive future for ATVing in Minnesota starts at the Summit. That was clearly the focus of this year's meeting, attended by 45 members of ATV clubs from across the

state, ATVAM lobbyists, and staff members of the Minnesota DNR divisions of Parks & Trails and Enforcement.

The 4-hour meeting was held January 11th at Jimmy's Event Center in Vadnais Heights. Among the coffee cups and pastries on a dozen tables, were maps of future ATV trails and 20 resolutions submitted by ATV clubs: presented, debated, prioritized and voted on. With lively discussions by club leaders, lobbyists and the DNR. Ray Bohn, ATVAM lobbyist, kicked off the meeting with a review of resolutions passed a year ago, turned into bills and successfully moved through the State Legislature. They include funding initiatives for new trails, a key bridge to connect trail systems, opening roads in the Beltrami State Forest for important connector trails, and removing the snorkel ban. "We made a lot of progress last year," said Bohn. "This is a bonding year, so it will be more difficult to move policy issues forward in the next Legislative Session,



but we will try."

Voted as top priorities

Among the 20 resolutions submitted by ATV clubs, those voted as top priorities to move to the Legislature include:

-Doing a state-wide inventory of ATV riding opportunities on public lands in order to create four regional Master Plans.

-Revising the DNR's definition of an ATV, removing the words "low pressure or nonpneumatic tires." The wording is outdated and unnecessary. Seven supporting facts were

provided.

-Supporting a proposal by MnUSA (state association of snowmobile clubs) to increase the penalty for civil trespass from \$50 to \$200, to protect landowners' rights and



Important but lower priority

discourage trespassing.

-Supporting a \$1 million bonding request by Voyageur Country ATV for expansion of ATV trails, with partial matching funds from the state ATV-dedicated fund.

-Supporting a request by the Prospector ATV Club for \$450,000 from the ATV-dedicated account for environmental and engineering work, to construct new ATV trails. -Supporting the Minnesota DNR Parks & Trail's bonding bill to build a campground at the Clear River site in Beltrami State Forest.



Other resolutions supported and voted on as important, but of lower priority, included: supporting legislation, if brought forward by State Legislators, to allow limited use of ATVs on state highways in order to access communities in their legislative districts; continuing to explore the possibility of removing the Ag Zone Restrictions; allowing 16 and 17 year olds to have sibling passengers, with restrictions; moving the non-resident trail pass from in the rider's possession to on the ATV; and lowering ATV registration fees for those who belong to an ATV club. A proposal to allow tracked ATVs on State trails in winter, provided they are 65" or less wide, was discussed and tabled for now.

Other, non-resolution issues discussed: the increasing difficulty of knowing and



meeting county and city ordinances allowing ATVs on roads, some requiring permits and paid stickers; lack of a central source of information on requirements in towns and counties; difficulties and safety concerns regarding current regulations requiring riding on the shoulder or far right of county roads open to ATVs, and lack of uniformity by enforcement, especially in southern Minnesota; major changes that may be coming related to recreational waivers and insurance liability limits; and concerns

related to the new Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Task Force.

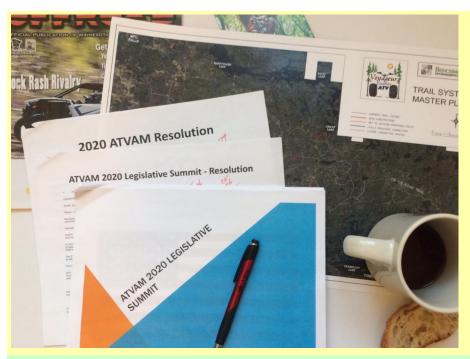


New seat belt pads distributed

Each Regional Director attending the Summit was given 20 of the new "Click It 4 Kyle" seatbelt pads to pass out to ATV clubs. They were made by the Carlton County Riders, with help from ATVAM and a grant from Polaris, in honor of Kyle Ringhofer, who died after hitting a deer and was thrown from his Side-by-Side. He wasn't wearing the seat belt at the time because it cut into his shoulder.

His good friend, Eric Senarighi, started a safety awareness campaign, encouraging SxS owners to always click their seat belts while riding. The CC Riders also held a memorial ride in October in honor of Kyle.

In 2018, 84% of SxS accidents in Minnesota that resulted in a fatality involved drivers or passengers not wearing their seat belts, said Senarighi, adding: "These numbers are just numbers, until it hits your family."



DNR Memo To COs: Do Not Enforce "Low Pressure Tires"

While ATVAM works toward removing "low pressure or non-pneumatic tires" from the ATV definition, Conservation Officers have been informed to not enforce the regulation. According to Bruce Lawrence, recreational vehicle coordinator, DNR Enforcement, a memo has been sent to COs, advising them to discontinue writing warnings or tickets related to tire



pressure.

As covered in past ATVAM e-newsletters and the MN OffRoad magazine, the State's definition of an ATV includes the words "low pressure or non-pneumatic tires." A top priority for ATVAM, as voted on by ATV clubs at the 2020 ATVAM Legislative Summit, is to remove those words from the definition. (Detailed article in December 12, 2018 ATVAM Newsletter, posted on ATVAM website.)

The resolution was unanimously passed by ATV club leaders at the 2020 ATVAM Legislative Summit. As written, it "calls for the change in the MN ATV definition through the elimination of the requirement for "low

pressure or non-pneumatic tires" (not filled or containing compressed air) from the ATV Definition reference Minnesota Statute 84.92, Subdivision 8." Factual points presented as a basis for the resolution include: 1 - No clear definition of what is considered "low pressure" 2 - No recent observation or known use for non-pneumatic tires on MN ATV trails 3 - ATV tire market has expanded to include advanced radial-type tires that have DOT ratings, along with being designed for multi-purpose use on hard surfaces and standard trail conditions

4 - ATV manufacturers provide consumers with tire options that include ratings from 5 to 44, depending on machine, tire width and load rating. Example: Pro Armor sold by Polaris, AG purpose marketed on Ranger, psi rating 25

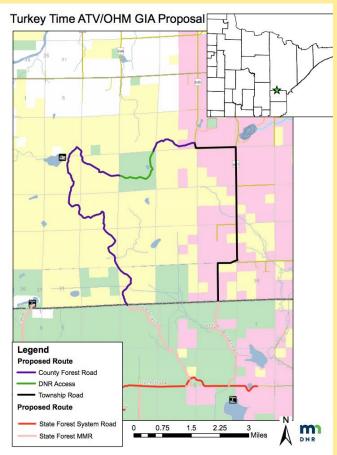
5 - Safe ride performance of tires is determined by Tire Manufacturer testing and recommendations with various load capacity and terrain. Example: Tensor Regulator Tire rated for: sand 10 psi, rock 8 psi, flat 15 psi, general riding 14 psi

6 - Discussion with MN DNR Enforcement supports elimination of low pressure and non-pneumatic requirements

7 - U.S. Forest Service testing suggests no discernible impacts (to trails) based on tire differences or pressure ratings

ATVAM and its lobbyists will move the resolution to a formal bill at the Legislature. Because it's a bonding year with limited committee time available to discuss policy, the change may take place in 2020 or be postponed. ATVAM will keep its members abreast of the news regarding this issue. DNR COs will continue to enforce regulations regarding vehicle width, Lawrence said.

Support "Turkey Time Trail" With Your Emails And Calls To Minnesota DNR (Every Comment Counts!)



55767. Or call Mary at 218-460-7024.



The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources invites public review and comment on a Carlton County proposal to build a Grant-in-Aid trail for all-terrain vehicles and off-highway motorcycles.

The proposed trail, known as the Turkey Time Trail, would provide a 15.6-mile loop beginning and ending in the Fond du Lac State Forest. The project proposers have routed most of the trail along existing roads and trails, helping to reduce the impact to wetlands. If approved, Carlton County Riders and Carlton County would maintain the trail.

The DNR will accept written comments on the proposed trail until 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 11. Comments may be submitted by email to mary.straka@state.mn.us, or by mail to Mary Straka, area supervisor, Parks and Trails Division, Minnesota DNR, 701 S Kenwood, Moose Lake, MN

ATVAM & DNR Working To Improve Rider Education & Compliance In Nemadji

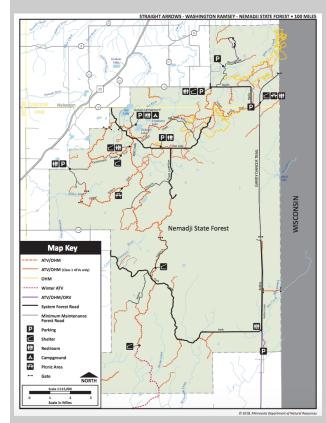
ATVAM continues to be proactive on issues related to the dual-use winter trails in the Nemadji and St. Croix State Forests that are open to both ATVs and snowmobiles.



Riding ATVs during the winter on some of the groomed trails in those Forests is legal, fun and growing in popularity. It's also confusing. (See article in December 28, 2019 Newsletter for details, posted at atvam.org)

On January 7th, a dozen members of ATVAM, Washington-Ramsey County Wheelers, and the DNR Parks & Trails division met to discuss the current situation on sleds and quads sharing trails groomed by the DNR during winter months, and ATVs allowed to ride them only when the air temperature is below 30 degrees F. Topics covered included the need for increased rider

education -- adding details about the 30 degree rule on the ground, on maps and to the DNR website page for Nemadji -- more guidance on trail width as it relates to dual-use routes, possible changes in trail grooming, and the need for increased enforcement. The DNR has already taken action, including adding signs on the south end of the trail, with more being added this month, and requests have been made to increase enforcement within the Nemadji and St. Croix State Forests. Future meetings will continue the discussion among leaders of ATVAM, ATV clubs, MnUSA (the state



association of snowmobile clubs) and DNR Parks & Trails.

ATVAM is planning to hold its next Great Trails Workshop in the Nemadji State Forest. The ATV trail system gets a lot of use because it's one of the closest to the Twin Cities, and is open year-round unless closed due to poor trail conditions or logging activity. The Workshop will help the OHV clubs (ATV and OHM) and DNR offices that maintain the trails, to make improvements in "The 4 E's" necessary to make Great Trails with a high "wow" factor: engineering, education, enforcement, and evaluation.



WRCW maintains ATV trails in the Nemadji State Forest.

13 New COs Hit The Field (And Trails), Get To Know Those In Your Area

From a DNR press release:

There's a new Department of Natural Resources conservation officer in each of 13 communities across the state, now that individuals who've spent the better part of a



year in training have been assigned their field stations. The new conservation officers, who were chosen from among hundreds of applicants, bring with them diverse backgrounds and experiences. After training from May to September at the Conservation Officer Academy at Camp Ripley, they spent the past several months working throughout the state with experienced officers. The new officers assumed their initial stations Dec. 25.

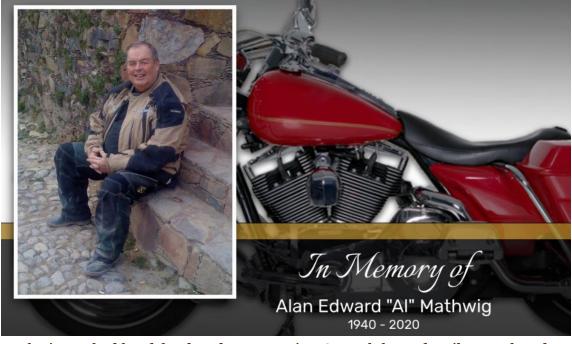
"The training and field experience our new officers have had during the past eight months have prepared them well and we're confident they'll carry on the department's proud tradition of serving our communities and protecting our state's natural resources," said Rodmen Smith, director of the DNR Enforcement Division. There

are 155 field stations across the state, each covering about 650 square miles. With the newest class of conservation officers now stationed, there remain 17 field stations without full-time, dedicated coverage. The DNR plans to hold another Academy in the spring of 2020.



The new officers and where they will be stationed: Jordan Anderson - Wadena Nicholas Baum - Park Rapids Derek Daniels - Lake Benton Ryan Hanna - Hutchinson #2 Marc Johnson - Warroad #2 Calie Kunst - Remer Aaron Larson - Baudette #1 Emily Leeb - Morris Mikeena Mattson - Wealthwood Derek Schneider - Zumbrota Adam Seifermann - St. Cloud Brett Wiltrout - Hutchinson #1 Hanna Wood - Wheaton

Minnesota Has Lost A True Champion Of OHV Recreation



Al Mathwig worked hard for decades promoting OHV clubs and trails. He played a major role in the creation of the Iron Range OHV State Rec Area and many other trail projects and issues, and attended the quarterly meetings of the Minnesota Motorized Trails Coalition (made up of the four State Associations) with the DNR. His obituary reads, in part:

Mathwig, Alan E. "Al", age 79 of Bloomington. Passed away January 1, 2020. Member of Pipefitters Local Union 539. Founding member of the Norsemen Motorcycle Club. AMA District 23 Board Member and AMA Congressman. To those who knew him well, Al was a teddy bear. To those who did not know him well he could be more of a grizzly bear. He was the hardest working man one could ever envision. Whether it was at his job as a pipefitter or working on a motorcycle event his dedication was unparalleled. His family and motorcycles gave him the most joy.

He put 110% into everything he did. He always said "you are only on this mud ball once," which was his way of saying, make the most out of your life and give it all you've got. We think he aced it by leading an incredible life. He zeroed his final check.

ATVAM sends its condolences to the family and friends of Al Mathwig.

Pass This On To College Students



Looking To Start A Career Outdoors

From a DNR press release: DNR seeks to fill up to 200 paid summer internships The Department of Natural Resources is looking for passionate and dedicated college students interested in learning more about possible careers with the DNR through paid summer internship opportunities.

DNR summer interns will not only gain valuable experience and

training, but will also help the agency create a healthy, sustainable, and livable Minnesota for future generations. The internship opportunities, located throughout the state, run the gamut of agency operations - from accounting to wildlife management. Interns work 20 to 40 hours per week, and receive a competitive salary of \$15 an hour. As part of their internships, students must also fulfill an academic requirement or receive academic credit from their educational institution. To apply, visit the state of Minnesota careers website and enter "intern" into the keywords field on the job search page. Select "Natural Resources Dept" in the "Agency" column on the left side of the page. Choose the internship(s) of interest and click the apply button to submit an application. Applications will be open until Jan. 31. Positions will start in May and June. The DNR is an equal opportunity and veteran-friendly employer. We celebrate diversity, equity, and inclusion. To request an accommodation or alternative format of the applications, please contact us at: ADAdiversity.DNR@state.mn.us; 651-259-5016; or call using a preferred telecommunications relay provider.

RTP Grant Applications



Due February 28th

From a DNR press release: **DNR solicits park and trail** grant applications for 2020 Now is the chance for local governments to request funding for natural resource improvements. The Minnesota DNR Parks and Trails Division is accepting applications to improve outdoor recreation facilities, natural and scenic areas, regional trails, local trail connections, and motorized, non-motorized, and multi-use recreational trails. Every year, the DNR distributes millions of dollars of federal and

state assistance grants to help local governments throughout Minnesota improve local outdoor recreation. The agency solicits applications in anticipation of federal and state appropriations for the programs.

> Outdoor Recreation Grant Program 2020 Program Manual





The application due dates are Friday, Feb. 28, for the Federal Recreational Trail Grant Program, and Friday, March 30, for the other programs. Although funding has not yet been appropriated, the DNR anticipates that both federal and state funding will be available during 2020 for these programs. The DNR will announce preliminary awards in the summer, with final awards made upon receipt of federal and state appropriations.

For information about eligible projects and how to apply for a grant, visit the Recreation Grants page of the DNR website. For more information, prospective applicants may contact the grants staff listed online, or the

DNR Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us or 888-646-6367 (8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday).

Veterans Ride Honors Military, Boosts Club's Image Among Non-Riding Public (With tips for other OHV clubs)

Reprinted from NOHVCC Newsletter: Arizona State Parks & Trails Hosts Awesome Veterans Ride Inspired By NOHVCC Webinar On October 1, 2019 NOHVCC hosted a webinar titled "Learn How To Host Rides for Veterans." NOHVCC Chairman and External Relations Director for the Iowa OHV Association Dan Kleen, who has organized several veterans' rides in Iowa, served as the webinar's presenter. He highlighted the rides for veterans in Iowa and hoped to provide participants with all the information and tools necessary for clubs across the country to replicate Iowa's success. Arizona State Parks and Trails proved the webinar was a success!



After participating in the webinar, Matthew Eberhart, State Off-Highway Vehicle Coordinator for Arizona State Parks & Trails, got together with his team and decided to host a veterans ride of their own. With limited time between the webinar and Veterans Day, it was decided to host the ride a couple weeks after Veterans Day to ensure all the pieces could come together smoothly.

Matthew reached out to the local Royal Oaks Retirement Community in Sun City, Arizona, and asked if any of their residents who are veterans or spouses of veterans would like the opportunity to visit a nearby riding area to go for a ride in an ROV (sideby-side). The Royal Oaks facility posted flyers and Matthew was ecstatic with the overwhelming response, saying, "the immediate outpouring of response took us back. We knew we had to make this happen."

Matthew continued, "These types of events aren't possible without the dedicated work of volunteers and outstanding partners. Our OHV Ambassador volunteers and the vendors that came to the table can either make or break an event. Understandably, when you reach out to people and let them know you are trying to do something to give back to veterans, they are often eager to help." As a result, he was able to quickly put together a list of volunteers and sponsors (listed below).



On the day of the event, a local charter bus service picked up the honorees from the Royal Oaks Retirement Community and drove them 35 minutes to the riding area. Matthew used the time on the bus to talk to everyone about Arizona State Parks and Trails and OHV use on public lands in Arizona. Once everyone was onsite, they were treated to bagels, coffee and other treats as they prepared for the ride. Ultimately, about 45 honorees were given an opportunity to ride along in a side-by-side. Matthew said that the veterans "ate it up." And, "they all had smiles on their faces, and everyone was asking 'when is the next ride?'"

The ride itself was a 10-mile loop that took about an hour to complete. Once everyone got back to the staging area and out of their helmets, they were treated to lunch and provided "goodie bags" donated by Arizona Game and Fish.

When asked if this type of ride could be replicated in other areas/States, Matthew said, "It is certainly doable. We participated in the NOHVCC webinar on October 1st and got to work on October 2nd. We had to do some research, like making sure risk management would allow us to use agency vehicles for the ride. Risk management gave us their blessing, so long as participants wore appropriate safety gear. Then became what seemed to be an even more daunting task of getting helmets for everyone. Luckily, we were able to locate a rental company who donated helmets for the day." Another hurdle was the question of whether a permit would be required for the event. Matthew said, "It turned out we did not need a permit as our event would consist of fewer than 75 people, but these are the type of issues that would need to be resolved by anyone hosting a similar event."

The success of the ride, put together with limited time to plan, has inspired Matthew to look for even bigger and better things for 2020 and beyond. "The response on social media has been fantastic. Now we hope to take some time and plan the next event. We may work towards recruiting local OHV enthusiasts who are veterans themselves to participate, by taking other veterans for rides. We plan to continue to work with Royal Oaks, and will certainly be recruiting other partners in 2020. Growing this event is extremely important to us."

While the clear goal of this and other veterans events is to honor those who have served, Matthew also noticed a secondary benefit of the ride. "Some people who are unfamiliar with OHV recreation may view this sports community as "bad boys" seeking fast and loud experiences without regard for sustainability or community. Rides like the one we hosted for veterans can help expose the broader community to responsible OHV use. As a life-long rider, I am proud that OHV enthusiasts responded so quickly and overwhelmingly to help those who have given us so much."

Sponsors of the ride included: Glendale Sam's Club - \$25 Gift card used for beverages Phoenix Sam's Club - \$50 Gift card used for beverages Arrow Line Charters - Discounted charter rental Trophy Lite Industries - Vehicles, drivers, and helmets Arizona Outdoor Fun - Helmets Arizona Game and Fish Department - Drivers Arizona OHV Ambassadors - Drivers Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Group - Planning and drivers Connected Horizons - \$250 Donation for purchasing lunch Veterans from central office - Drivers and cooking Cindy Rogers - Baked cookies, cooking on site, serving and socializing

For more information, contact the State Off-Highway Vehicle Coordinator, Matt Eberhart at (602) 542-2146 or meberhart@azstateparks.gov.



Dan Kleen (right), NOHVCC president and external relations director for the Iowa OHV Association (IOHVA), led the NOHVCC webinar discussed above. He also organized a "Thank you for your service ride" in Iowa. Read an article about his ride at this link: <u>https://www.nohvcc.org/iowa-ohv-</u> association-holds-thank-you-for-your-service-ride/

To contact Dan for tips on organizing a ride for veterans in your area, send an email

to: dkleen76@gmail.com.



ATV and snowmobile clubs in Minnesota also hold annual veterans rides. MnUSA, the state association of snowmobile clubs, held its annual Veterans Appreciation Ride ride on Saturday, January 11th in Silver Bay.

About 150 club members and veterans attended. To see a TV news report on the ride, tap this link:

https://www.facebook.com/310974649112776/videos/561629787769559/UzpfSTg2MzM5NjM0MzI4OjE wMTU3OTY2NTc0MzM5MzI5/



Polar Bear Rides Ahead!

Carlton County Riders Winter Ride 2020: Jan 25 in Cloquet 10:30am, Spafford Park

With a stop on the trail for a fire to warm up and roast some snacks. Stop at the Sus for lunch. ATVs, SxSs, dirt bikes and snowmobiles are welcome.

Northern Traxx ATV Club Polar Bear Ride: Feb 22 in Chisholm

Meeting at Jims Sports Bar @ 10am, leaving at 11am, heading down the Chisholm ATV trail, with a few stops along the way. Northern Traxx ATV Club will provide lunch at the Sportsmans Club.

Let us know if your club is holding a Polar Bear Ride, work day or other event this winter and we'll post it in the next ATVAM newsletter.

ATVAM & ATV Club Events Coming Up

Send your club schedule for rides/work days/fun events to: d.halsey@atvam.org

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

-Next ATVAM Board Meeting Is January 21st

All ATVAM clubs have one spot on the board to participate and vote. Club leaders receive an invitation by email with agenda and call-in details.

-ATVAM Ride & Roast is May 15-16 in Isle MN

Details below. Registration is open. Room discount arranged with McQuaid's.

-Annual ATVAM Region 3 All-Club Meeting Is April 18th

Save the date! Location: Ironton American Legion.

Registration Is Now Open!



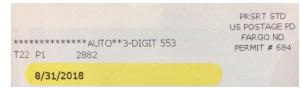


The new bridge over the Vermilion River, built by the Voyageur Country ATV club and officially opened during the 2019 ATVAM Ride and Rally in September, is now being enjoyed by thousands of snowmobilers. "We drove over it a couple times this week. Nicely done!" said one post on the club's Facebook page. Photo by Jeff Sanborn.

Join The Fun!

ATVAM Had Over 500 New Members In 2019. Help Us Add Another 500 in 2020. Invite friends and family to join today.

ATV MINNESOTA "Your Voice To Ride" Dedicated Volunteers Building Fun & Sustainable ATV Trails For The Riding Public.



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 ATVAM

e-newsletters. And send renewals to ATVAM's new 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 <u>ATVAM</u> or call (800) 442-8826.



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