

Welcome New ATVAM Clubs: FireFrost ATV Club Mille Lacs Trails Inc.

ATVAM Newsletter - March 20, 2020

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: dvhalsey@gmail.com.
- -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 new mailing address: ATVAM, PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079 E-newsletters are now archived on atvam.org to refer back to on topics.

In This e-Newsletter:

- -Update on meetings cancelled or postponed
- -Get to know your ATVAM executive board
- -Dual Snowmobile/ATV clubs

- -Rider resources for clubs and riding public
- -Start planning now for next year's RTP deadline
- -Eagle Scout's project in Beltrami State Forest
- -Please comment on trail expansion
- -Fun ATVAM & ATV club events coming up
- -Invite friends to join ATVAM

Update On Meetings



Cancelled Or Postponed

The Minnesota DNR continues to send out notices of events being cancelled or postponed due to the contagious flu from COVID-19. **They include:**

- -2020 Annual Trail Ambassador meeting, scheduled for April 4th.
- -DNR safety education programs, including ATV hands-on classes. Be sure to contact students who are signed up for your class if the dates are close.

State parks, recreation areas, campgrounds, and other public lands remain open to

the public for people to enjoy, but many facilities within them are closed.



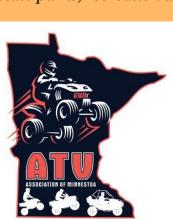
- -ATVAM Vision Meeting (future date tbd)
- -ATVAM Region 3 All-Club Meeting (future date tbd)

Watch for updates on:

ATVAM MN OHV Trail Workshop, April 24-25 ATVAM Ride & Roast, May 15-16

Check with your ATV club for any meetings, rides or club events being cancelled or postponed.

Get To Know Your ATVAM Executive Board Members





Ron Potter, ATVAM President

Residence: Ely, Minnesota, with wife Gwen, golden retriever Major and "too many wolves trying to make our place 'home'."

Career:

March 2013 to present - Polaris Ride Command. Responsible for collecting trail data for ORV and Snow. Directly responsible for 20 states and Canada. Assisted in this effort by two half-time contract employees: Dave Halsey - Minnesota Dave Chester - New Mexico

1977 - 2013 - Minnesota DNR (retired Jan 2013) Policy and Program Manager, Division of Parks and Trails. Minnesota's first Off-Highway Vehicle Administrator.

Field office from 1977 to 1995.

Established alignment, acquired trail easements, and built two natural surface trails: Taconite State Trail and Arrowhead State Trail, over 250 miles total.

Managed canoe routes and public water access sites within my Area.

Provided grant funds to ski and snowmobile trails.

Maintained 210 miles of State Trails.

Other positions: Consultant for the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) helping to address ATV management issues, worked in Juneau,

Iowa and a few other locations.

Clubs: Prospectors Alliance, trail administrator;
Voyageur Country ATV, member; Woodtick
Wheelers, member.

Alaska, New Mexico, West Virginia, Maryland,



Organizations:

Member of the Minnesota Motorized Trail Coalition (MMTC).

Represent ATVs on Minnesota's Coalition of Recreational Trail Users (CRTU).

Vehicles: Currently we have 4 ATVs; 2 SxS; 1 dirt bike; 6 - 4WD trucks/Jeeps; 7 snowmobiles (4 running for daily use, 3 collector). "My cylinder index for 'toys', not including boats, is 43. Most memorable dirt bike ride was in the mountains of California. Most memorable ATV rides were in Colorado and the ride we went on in

Alaska 2 years ago. In Minnesota, it is every time I am able to get out and ride."

Dual-Use Snowmobile/ATV Clubs:



Questions & Answers For Success

By Dave Halsey

ATVAM Communications Director

Members of the Chaska Sno Hawks Snowmobile Club, established in 1970, are considering starting a new ATV club for their members and others in the area who own ATVs. The Lengby Fosston KnightRiders

Snowmobile Club is exploring the idea of transforming to a dual snowmobile/ATV club, and creating an ATV trail separate from the 224 miles of snowmobile trail it grooms each winter. The Mille Lacs Trails Snowmobile Club recently changed its name to Mille Lacs Trails Inc., adding ATVs and now working with Aitkin County to build



and maintain the proposed Mille Lacs East ATV Trail. All three clubs have common questions about ATV clubs and trails in Minnesota, and are looking to ATVAM for the answers. To provide the answers, we talked with Ed Peterson, ATV Trail Coordinator with the Mille Lacs Drift Skippers Snowmobile & ATV Club.

Celebrating its 50th anniversary this month, the club added ATVs to its name and its mission. Today, it's building and maintaining both snowmobile and ATV

trails in central Minnesota, within the Minnesota DNR Grant-in-Aid programs. Here are some questions we posed to Ed, his answers, and some additional information provided by Ron Potter, ATVAM president and retired OHV Administrator, Minnesota DNR Parks & Trails.



What's the first thing a snowmobile club needs to do to add ATVs?

"You need to add ATV to the club name and bylaws. That's the easy part, especially if the ATV side of things is just for getting together to have fun club rides and social events, and not maintaining trails. If you do add trails, appoint an ATV trail coordinator."

What's the biggest challenge snowmobile clubs face if they want to build an ATV trail?

"In our case, we learned that if you're going to take snow trails and make them ATV trails, now you have a huge problem because most of the snowmobile trails are built across swamps and on private property. The majority of ATV trails will have to be new or fairly new trails, designed for ATVs, avoiding wetlands altogether. The DNR has training workshops and materials to get you started."



What do snowmobile clubs need to know about the DNR Grant-in-Aid programs?

"Grant-in-Aid is night and day between the two. Sled clubs new to ATVs will have to learn a whole new system regarding DNR grants. The snowmobile clubs, they have benchmarks they meet each year. The first benchmark they have to meet is, they have to prep the trails, do the brushing, rolling the swamps and everything else. The second benchmark they meet is for grooming and maintaining them.

Snowmobiling is weather dependent. The clubs generally get 100% of the money whether they groom or not (as long as the trail is ready to groom and benchmarks have been met). ATVs clubs don't. They have to do the work first, then get reimbursed for what they did."

How should a club deal with two totally different DNR programs?

"You pretty much need two administrators. There's a lot of work on the ATV side to justify the work and get reimbursed. The DNR wants mile-by-mile estimates, you have administrative costs and reimbursement costs for maintenance.

"Also, for ATV trails, when you do maintenance you get 90% reimbursement, and for new trail construction it's only 65% reimbursement. So the trick is to come up with all this money up front to build these trails, through grants and sponsors. We're lucky enough to also have funds from pull-tabs.

"Keeping accurate records is very important. We have to account for every hour we spend. If we're out for 8 hours clearing trails, we need to document how many hours were for traveling, using chainsaws, moving brush, and other categories, all at different





Ron Potter adds: "These non-funded parts can be made up by volunteer help or donated equipment or materials. ATV grant process is listing all hours and materials by club members and sponsors. Time can be donated and billed against the grant to recover some of the unfunded dollars. Clubs may also get donated culverts, gravel or equipment time, from sponsors or club members; this can also

be charged back against the grant to make up the difference between actual costs and what the grant is funding. For construction, you will only get back 65% of what you submit for bills. So if you get 100 yards of gravel donated, you can charge the grant whatever the going rate is. In this case, say for pit run gravel, you have to have three bids to show current rate, so if it is \$5.00 per yard you can charge the grant \$500.00. This goes toward off-setting the 35% you aren't getting paid for on this development project."



Are there internal challenges dual-clubs need to avoid?

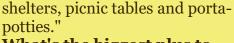
"The biggest challenge comes if people can't work together, refuse to share, and get very protective. You may hear, 'this is mine and you can't use it', whether it's money, tools or equipment, even though it's for the same trails. That's common to many dual clubs and can create a real hassle within a club.

"Another challenge is finding enough people to do the work, because now you're working year-round maintaining two trail systems."

What about the money? Should a club have separate banking accounts?

"It's virtually impossible to do that. You could have two separate accounts, but what happens when you run over? Do you have a slush fund? What happens when you want to share equipment or someone breaks a piece of equipment that both use? The best thing is to try and do what's best for the entire club community.

"As an example, on sections of snowmobile trail that are accessible in summer, brushing and mowing a dual trail can be done in the summer, and it benefits both sides of the club. I have a Bush Hog on a tractor and go out, do the trail work, and put it on the ATV grant. Other dual-use examples to direct your grant funds are things like





What's the biggest plus to sharing within the club?

"As you gain equipment through grants, now you have things that the other side of the club can use, like chainsaws, Milwaukee drills, shop tools, air compressors and wrenches. It's things everyone can use. We use ATVs with tracks on them, that also work great for the snowmobile side, to knock down

weeds and roll the trail in the fall, and run tools and gas out to the groomer in the winter. It should be a gain for everybody let's put it that way."

Ron Potter adds: "In fall you dress up the ATV trail before November 1, when ATV trails close. This ensures trails are ready for snowmobile use, reduces the work the snowmobile clubs need to do to open trails. Common signs, like 'STOP' and 'STOP AHEAD' should all be in place already, brushing should be done and all shared trails are open and ready to go. That should save on prep work for the snowmobile trails."

What can a dual-club do for the community?

"If you can come at it with a positive spin, and you now have a lot of good equipment, the community is better off because now you have snowmobile and ATV trails. We're

bringing people up here to the Isle area, and they're spending a lot of money. Expanding from 3 months of riding to 12 months. Tourism is very important to the economy of this area.

"ATV trails have made a big difference at the restaurants. The ATV people are changing. It used to be a guy with an ATV and a bottle of water. Now they have \$25,000 machines, ride in groups, and after the ride have a burger and a beer, and they may spend the weekend up here. We put counters on our trail system, and there's an unbelievable amount of traffic. That's also an opportunity for the club to recruit new

members."



What's the key to success for dual-vehicle clubs? "The biggest thing is getting people to cooperate, and to do that you have to have a buy-in from your board of directors and your management. You need good quality, equitable people.

"You have to have people who are willing to cooperate. But you're actually gaining because now you have trails that you can ride ATVs and snowmobiles on too. So you're not losing anything, you're gaining another portion of the club. Be sure to work ATV safety into your club also."

Bottom line, what is the single most important thing dual snowmobile/ATV clubs need to know?

"You're never going to please everybody. I know of some snowmobile clubs that won't even allow ATVs in their shop. Some snowmobile people have been working on trails for 40 years, and they just talk about the damage ATVs do to their trail system.

"Bottom line: If you're going to go into it you need a positive attitude, cooperation, and volunteers."

Going to dual-vehicle, clubs may discover other challenges, such as how to divide up meeting times, and that building ATV trails is far different than building snowmobile trails. It's a steep learning curve, both for the Grant-in-Aid program, and everything that goes into understanding and putting into motion the "4 Es" of building trails that are economically and environmentally sustainable: Engineering, Education, Enforcement and Evaluation. Between the resources available from ATVAM, the Minnesota DNR and national organizations like the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC), there is an incredible amount of information for new and existing ATV clubs to put to use, in order to create a positive future for snowmobile AND ATV trails in their area.

Send us your comments, questions and ideas on this topic.

We invite all dual-vehicle clubs to send us your thoughts and experiences that may help other snowmobile clubs looking into adding ATVs, and snowmobile clubs considering it to send us more questions. Email them to d.halsey@atvam.org.



Thanks to Ed Peterson for his help on this article, and all the work he and his club members put into maintaining the Red Top, Foxy and Soo Line South Trails -- some of the most popular and most used ATV trails in Minnesota -- as well as the extensive snowmobile trail system the club maintains in the Isle area. To learn more about the club, including how to join it and help out, go to its website at: http://millelacsdriftskippers.org/

Starting An ATV Club? Here Is A Page Full Of ATV Club & Rider Resources

ATV regulation books, maps, apps and more.

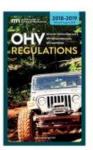
Drag the page to your computer screen to print out and distribute to club members and the riding public.

(Note: Tapping the links on the page below won't work.)

ATV RIDER RESOURCES IN MINNESOTA

Available from the Minnesota DNR

Order by phone: 651-296-6157 or 888-MINNDNR (646-6367) Or email: info.dnr@state.mn.us

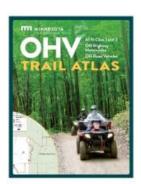


< Minnesota OHV Regulations Book

Order printed book or read online at website: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/regulations/ohv/index.html

OHV Trail Atlas >

Maps of 75 State OHV Trail Systems Call or email DNR to order.



Clak on any name for none to homeofice.

< Interactive Map of State OHV Trail Systems

Website: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ohv/interactive_map/index.html

Information on ATV Safety Training for kids >

Website: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ safety/vehicle/aty/index.html

Are you 16-32 years old? On-line safety training is required for all ATV operators born after July 1, 1987.





< Available from ATV Association of Minnesota (ATVAM)

Representing 80 ATV clubs across the State.

Find ATV clubs in your area that hold fun club rides. Join today: get MN OffRoad magazine and many other benefits.

Website: http://atvam.org/index.html



Available from national ATV organizations / companies

< ATV Safety Institute (ASI) / ROHVA Safety info, riding tips and more.

Website: https://atvsafety.org/ for ATV Website: https://rohva.org/ for SxS

Polaris Ride Command >

Download free mobile app: Shows your GPS location on ATV trails and rider resources across the U.S. Website for trail planning: https://ridecommand.polaris.com/en-us/home

Prepared by ATV Minnesota: visit atvam.org

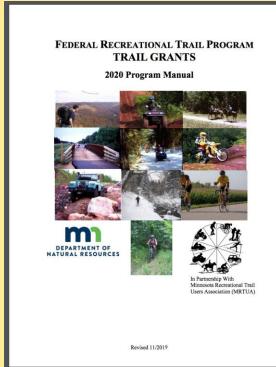


Start Planning Now For Next Year's RTP Grants (Snowmobile Clubs Reap Far More Than ATV Clubs)

Third in a series on raising funds for ATV clubs.

By Dave Halsey, ATVAM Communications Director

The '3 Ps' of getting a grant through the Federal Recreational Trail
Program (RTP) are Planning, Planning



Program (RTP) are Planning, Planning and Planning.Working through their government funding

Working through their government funding sponsor, ATV clubs hoping to get an RTP grant must plan at least 2 years out. That's difficult for many clubs. As reflected in the Minnesota DNR's report of RTP grants approved in 2019, snowmobile clubs get the majority of RTP funds directed toward motorized recreation. They have been at it decades longer than ATV clubs, and understand the timing requirements and long-term responsibilities that come with an RTP grant.

Last year, as in many years, ATV clubs were in the minority in the number of grant applications and, as a result, the amount of the \$979,862 that was distributed for motorized and non-motorized trail projects. Of the 31 RTP grants approved last year, 9 were for non-motorized, 14 were for

motorized, and 8 were for projects benefitting both motorized and non-motorized recreation.

Of the 14 motorized grants approved, 2 were ATV-trail related. Totaling \$168,000, or 21% of the \$777,000 that went to motorized trails. The rest were for snowmobile and off-highway motorcycle projects.

By federal law, RTP funds -- paid at the gas pump by ATV, dirt bike, off-road 4WD truck, and snowmobile owners -- are returned to States: 30% for motorized recreation, 30% for non-motorized recreation, and 40% for "joint" projects.

Start Planning Now For 2021 Deadline

February 28th, was the deadline for RTP grant applications for 2020. So now is the time to start planning for next year's deadline. The DNR places a higher priority on RTP applications for trail work rather than just for equipment. Clubs can get the necessary matching funds through the DNR Grant-In-Aid program and other sources.

Start by reading the "Federal RTP Manual" on the DNR website. If you need help writing the grant, ask your trail-funding sponsor for assistance. Or seek help from the DNR Area Supervisor or Acquisition and Development (A&D) Specialist in your area.

As one ATVAM member on the advisory board that recommends to the DNR which RTP grants in Minnesota said:

"You pay into the RTP program every time you fill the gas tank on your ATV. Go get some of it back."

To learn more about RTP, download the manual and application, and see a list of all the motorized and non-motorized RTP grants approved for 2020, go to this page of the DNR's website:

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/trails_federal.html

To support a bill in Congress to fully fund RTP -- currently at \$84 million and substantially less than the amount of taxes paid on fuel used by off-road riders -- and to see a video of Congressmen talking about the importance of their bill, go to this page of the ARRA website: https://arra-access.com/



Warroad Senior's Eagle Scout Project Enhanced ATV Trails In Beltrami



From Loren Arveson, ATVAM Region 1 Director



Harley G. Grill, son of Rex and Terri Grill of Warroad, has achieved Boy Scouting's highest rank, that of Eagle Scout. Harley, age 18, is a member of Boy Scout Troop 151, chartered by A.O. Mattson American Legion Post #25, under the leadership of former Scoutmasters Daniel Fish and Bobbie Erickson and current Scoutmaster David Pederson.

For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Grill approached the Roseau/LOW Sportsman Club, with the idea of putting up mapping

throughout the Beltrami State Forest. Through many hard and dedicated hours of work, the project was completed in August of 2019. When driving through the forest you will find maps at Bemis Hill, Winner's Silo, Carp's Pit and Clear River. His goal is

the hope that outdoor enthusiasts, like himself, will feel more at ease knowing that there are maps in the forest that will allow them to explore without the fear of getting

lost.

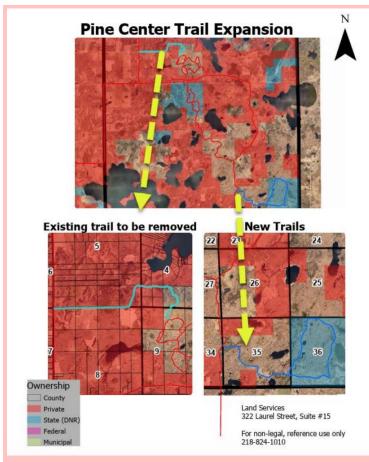


Harley is a senior at Warroad High School. He reached his goal of Eagle Scout on October 23, 2019, and received his Eagle badge during a court of honor ceremony that was held on January 26, 2020.

Congratulations...and thanks Harley!

Please Take A Minute To Comment In Favor Of Pine Center Trail Expansion

(Every comment counts! Deadline: March 22)



Crow Wing County Seeking Public Comments

Crow Wing County Land Services is requesting public comment on a proposal to designate an additional 4 miles of existing trails and remove 2 miles of existing Grant-In-Aid (GIA) Trails as an update to this multiple use recreation trail system located within Roosevelt Township in southeastern Crow Wing County.

The proposal and criteria evaluation can be accessed by searching for "Recreation" on Crow Wing County's website, www.crowwing.us or by clicking on the following link:

http://www.crowwing.us/289/Recreation.

Copies are also available from the Land Services Department located at 322 Laurel Street in Brainerd during the business hours of 8am to 5pm, or by contacting the Department at (218) 824-1010.

Please comment today! Include your name, address, if you enjoy riding the Pine Center ATV Trail, and other points in support of expansion.

Written comments may be:

- -Emailed to landservices@crowwing.us (Please include "Pine Center Trail" in the subject line)
- -Mailed to Crow Wing County Land Services Department, Attn: Pine Center Trail, Land Services Building, 322 Laurel Street, Suite #15, Brainerd, MN 56401; or, -Faxed to (218) 824-1126.

Written comments on the proposed trail system modifications will be accepted through March 22, 2020.

The North Metro ATV Club maintains the Pine Center Trail, and encourages everyone to comment in favor of its trail expansion project. Thanks!



Fun 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 - March 21 conference call, 6:30pm, new day and time, originally scheduled during Vision Conference.

All ATVAM clubs are sent an email invitation to call in, and have one spot on the board to participate and vote.

-March 21-22 - ATVAM Vision Conference -- Postponed!

-April 24-25 - MN OHV Nemadji Trails Workshop - currently still on

Meeting /Classroom Location: Duquette Community Hall

Field Location: Nemadji OHV Trails

Time: 9 am to 5 pm each day

Limited to 40 people. Registration open at atvam.org

-May 15-16 - 2020 Ride & Roast - currently still on, watch for updates McQuoid's Inn, Isle, MN

Register at atvam.org



-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



Region 1 Club Rides & Work Days:

Please submit for next newsletter.

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Region 2:

Carlton County Riders - Vintage Ride



Carlton County Riders

Vintage Ride

Ride Vintage <u>Atv</u>, <u>Atc</u> and Vintage Dirt Bikes or just bring some junk to swap

When: May 16, 2020 10:00am Meet 11:00am Ride

Where: Doc's dirt lot Sturgeon Lake, Mn

People's choice awards for nicest Honda and nicest NOT Honda





www.Carltoncountyriders.com

218-380-8730 for more info or check out our Facebook page

Northern Traxx ATV Club

May 16 - Spring Ride, Chisholm Trail, details to come on club Facebook page



Voyageur Country ATV

Saturday, May 2 - Spring Ride & Picnic, route tbd Sunday, May 3 - Highway Cleanup - 2 mile section of Highway 53 at Orr, and 2 mile section of County Road 24 at Echo Trail

White Pine Riders - Ladies ATV/UTV Ride for ALS

June 6th - Meet at the Little Moose Parking lot off Co Rd 337. Registration begins at 8:30 am, leave at 10 am. Ride the Little Moose Trail and the B & B trail with stops at the Antler Lodge & Scenic Pines. \$25 per driver, \$10 per passenger. Camping available at the Lawrence Lake Liquor: \$30 for the weekend per camper / tent. Live music 5-8 pm, a DJ from 9pm-mid night.

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Region 3:

April 18 - ATVAM Region 3 All-Club Meeting -- Postponed!

Over The Hills Gang ATV Club

-May 2 - Highway Cleanup, 11:15 pm, meet at Outing ATV parking area.

Woodtick Wheelers ATV Club

May 9 - Spring Meeting & Membership Drive, The Hub, Hackensack, 9 -11am w/ Pancake Breakfast, followed by Club Ride to Foot Hills State Forest (weather, forest road status permitting)

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Region 4:

Please submit for next newsletter.

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Region 5:

Please submit for next newsletter.

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Region 6:

Please submit for next newsletter.



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 ATVAM enewsletters. 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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