



ATVAM Newsletter - May 1, 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: 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 newsletter and MN OffRoad magazine. Let us know if you're not.

Please note:

Send member renewals to: ATVAM, PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079

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

ATVAM Sends Letter To Governor Walz, Asking For ATV Safety Training To Be Allowed Under Modified Plan

In a one-page letter to Governor Walz, ATVAM president Ron Potter has asked for ATV Safety Training to be allowed during the "Stay At Home" order. The letter

outlines the importance of training, and includes a detailed proposal, created by the ATVAM executive board, that would allow DNR-certified ATV Safety Instructors to hold classroom sessions on-line, and hands-on training one student at a time, incorporating social distancing and other practices. The letter was sent to the Governor on April 28th. The current "Stay At Home" order expires May 18th. There was no mention of ATV Safety Training during Walz's April 30th press conference.



All-Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota
P.O. Box 300 • Stacy, MN 55079

www.atvam.org • 1-800-442-8826

ATV Minnesota - Your Voice to RIDE

Working with you to build a trail system for you in Minnesota!

April 28, 2020

Honorable Tim Walz
Governor, State of Minnesota
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz,

As we practice social distancing and prepare for getting outside for another summer season of ATV riding, the All-Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota (ATVAM) believes it is essential to ensure our young and new riders are properly trained and certified before they get on an ATV. To this end, ATVAM has developed a modified approach to the existing ATV training program that we feel will meet the need to social distancing and yet ensure that new riders are properly trained and ready to enjoy the public trails.

Our ATV training program, a national model, is staffed with ATVAM volunteers who educate and train typically over 2500 youth every year with the assistance and supervision of the DNR Enforcement Division.

It is the belief of the ATVAM Executive Board that the attached ATV Safety Program falls under the Education Guidelines in your Executive Order and request your approval to move forward with this model, while working closely with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Enforcement Division.

The safety of our youth and our safety instructors are paramount to ATVAM and we believe this approach will ensure we address both of those concerns.

Thank you for your consideration of this important and essential educational opportunity.

Respectfully,

Ron Potter,
All-Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota
President

c/c Commissioner Sarah Strommen,
Assistant Commissioner Bob Meier
Colonel Rodman Smith
Ray Bohn

**ATV Clubs Working Hard
To Clear Trails For May 1 Opener**

(Some open as scheduled, others delayed)



Members of the South Metro ATV Club kept their distance from one another as they removed trees that had fallen across the Fond du Lac trail.

Trees down, trails flooded due to beavers plugging culverts, soft soils where there was snow just a few weeks earlier (and snow still melting far north). Getting trails open by May 1st is a little tougher this year, as clubs across Minnesota add social distancing to their efforts. Clubs and the Minnesota DNR do their best, as always, then make the tough

decision to open trails to the riding public or keep them closed a little longer to dry out, remove obstacles, replace culverts and make trails safe for the riding public.

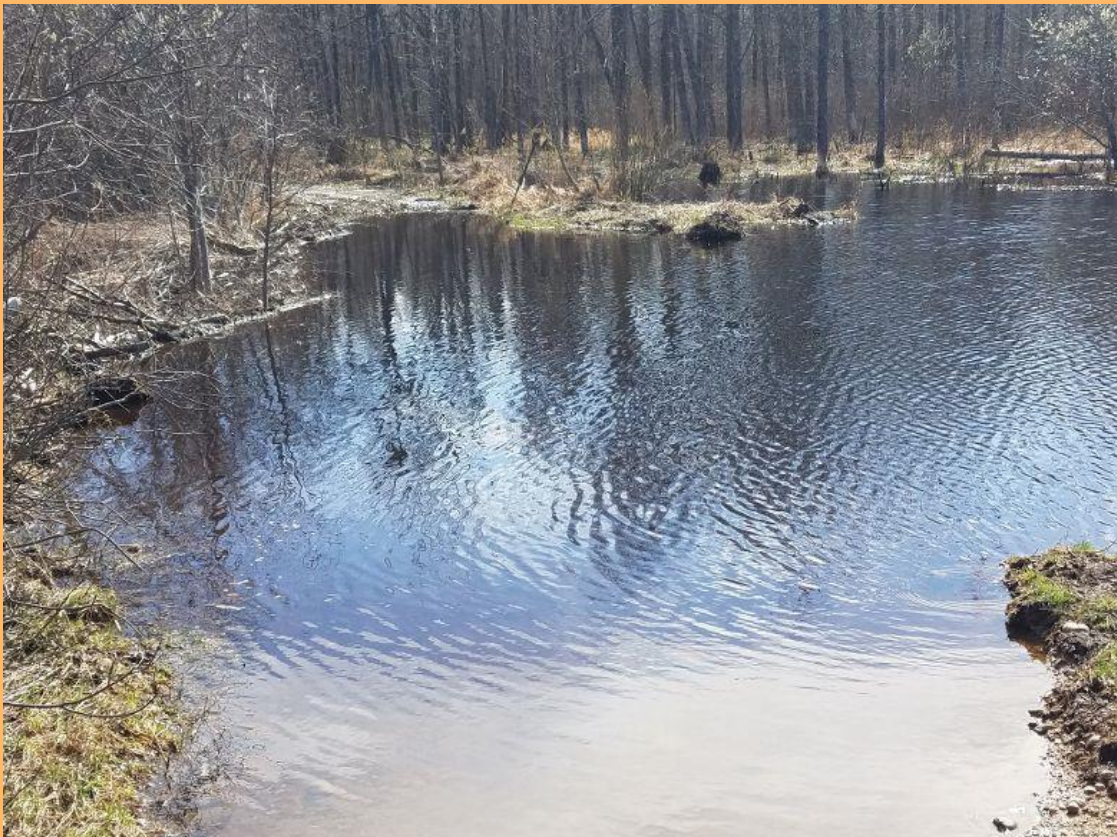


Before you head out to ride, always check out the MN DNR website that shows open/closed status for State ATV Trails and State Forest roads. Tap on this link to see it:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ohv/closures.html>



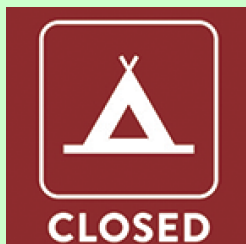
Members of the North Metro Trail Riders removed trees and replaced signs on the Pine Center ATV Trail, which opens on May 1st.



Still drying out from heavy snowfall during winter, the Moose River Trail and many others are flooded and remain closed. Allowing ATV traffic too early can create extreme damage and force trails to remain closed for months.

Spider Lake Trails

Among Those Now Open. But Dispersed Camping Is Closed. Go Figure.



It's complicated and confusing.

The ATV trails at Spider Lake and many other State ATV Trails open May 1.

But as shown on the DNR's website for Spider Lake (right), camping is closed in the WIDELY DISPERSED campsites along the State Forest road there.

In addition, according to the DNR, members of ATV and OHM clubs who must travel to the trails they maintain, aren't allowed to camp on-site while dropping trees and clearing culverts - even though they may be the only ones in the area -- and must stay in motels.

When open

Will open on May 1, 2020.
Except Campground will remain closed including dispersed camping on state lands.

Normal season:
Year-round (Except Firearms Deer Season or on groomed snowmobile trails)

[view closings list](#)

One OHV club requested an exemption for camping while working. It was denied by the DNR, but the club did get a note from the State Senator for its trail location, who said temporary camping for work is allowed, because the Executive Orders are specific to recreational camping. Check with the funding sponsor of your club's trail about camping during trail work.

What is open during "Stay At Home"?

- Minnesota's waters. You can fish if you have a license. Normal seasons and regulations apply.
- Hunting seasons. There are no changes to upcoming hunting seasons. Normal regulations apply.
- State parks. Bathrooms, vault toilets and shower buildings currently open will remain open. Other facilities are closed (see below).
- Public land. Wildlife management areas, state forests, and Scientific and Natural Areas are open for recreation. Campgrounds are closed.
- Public water accesses. State-managed public accesses are open, though the availability of amenities, such as docks, are contingent upon seasonal maintenance.



Why are trails (and resorts) open but dispersed camping in State Forests, like this remote campsite, closed?

What is closed?

The following DNR-managed facilities:

- Campgrounds, group camps, remote and dispersed camping at all state parks, state forests, and state recreation areas.
- Camper cabins
- Yurts
- Overnight lodging facilities
- Group centers, trail centers and other ancillary buildings
- Visitor centers
- State park contact stations

Cancellation and modification fees are waived during this time. Facilities and lands not administered by the DNR may have restrictions. Please check with local authorities.

Check this page for COVID-19 updates:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/covid-19.html>

as well as the DNR's Facebook and Twitter accounts. If you have questions not answered on this page, email the DNR's Information Center or call 888-646-6367.

**Gear Up, Promote ATVAM,
And Show Your Pride Every Time You Ride**

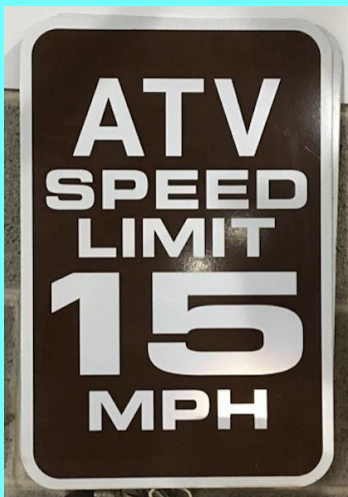


Gifts for Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduates, and friends and family who are new to trail riding. ATVAM has just what you need to show your pride as an ATVAM member. Shirts, hoodies and caps for all your ride and after-ride activities. You can order from the comfort of your recliner. Just go to atvam.org and choose gear for the men and women in your life, while supporting ATVAM and its efforts to create a positive future for ATV recreation in

Minnesota.



Speed Limit Signs Go Up On Trail Into Moose Lake



In mid-April, most State ATV Trails weren't even open yet. But there were complaints from residents near one that was open coming in to Carlton County and ATVAM. Calls about loud "piped" ATVs in the Soo Pits Trails, and ATVs going too fast and too late into the night on the Soo Line Trail into Moose Lake, have prompted Carlton County to action.

Starting Wednesday, April 22nd, Carlton County erected speed limit signs limiting ATV speed on the Soo Line Trail from the intersection of the SLT and Halgren Road (next to I-35) heading west into Moose Lake. Carlton County hopes to post the Trail to south of the Depot, and has asked the local Sheriff Department for help with

enforcement.

Mary Straka, DNR Moose Lake, added that complaints about ATVs may also jeopardize proposals to allow ATV camping in local State Forests.

ATVAM & ATV Clubs Can Monitor Photos On Social Media

(Encourage admins of Facebook pages to remove irresponsible images you see posted)

Each time an ATV rider posts a photo on Facebook, they should ask themselves a question: Am I helping or hurting the ATV clubs and their volunteers who are building new trails for me to ride on?



Recently, one Facebook page (not an ATV club's page) posted a photo of an ATV pointed downstream in the middle of what might be a trout stream...with an open bottle (likely not root beer) tucked in a tank bag. Another page had a photo of an ATV stuck up to its tail light, obviously off-trail in a wetland. More and more of these photos are showing up on ATV-rider, social group Facebook pages. Some are removed quickly by the page admins. Others are not.

There are hundreds of ATV clubs in Minnesota and Wisconsin, with thousands of members who volunteer to build and maintain trails for the riding public. To build these trails, they must go into meetings with city councils, county commissioners and land managers, and state and federal agencies. Those governments, in turn, invite public comments on new trails. Photos showing irresponsible and illegal riding off-trail can stop a trail project in its tracks.



South Metro ATV Club Has A Facebook Strategy

*From Dave Clevenger, ATVAM 1st VP,
president of the South Metro ATV Club*

A strategy our club uses is that we have a public Facebook page and a members-only Facebook page. The public Facebook page has very few contributors and we don't allow public posts to the page. Our members-only page is just for our small group of members and they are allowed to publish anything within reason.

We have talked about what is appropriate. Even with responsible riders, pictures involving mud, water or anything with wetlands in the background (even though you are on a designated trail) has the potential to be taken out of context. We decided the risk wasn't worth it so we keep those pics private.



It doesn't help with rider Facebook pages that are designed to allow social sharing of pics and content. I know they have group policies and admins to monitor posts. Perhaps we need to ask them to add more admins and provide some guidance and training on the types of posts they should be removing, and provide some examples and explain why it should be removed.

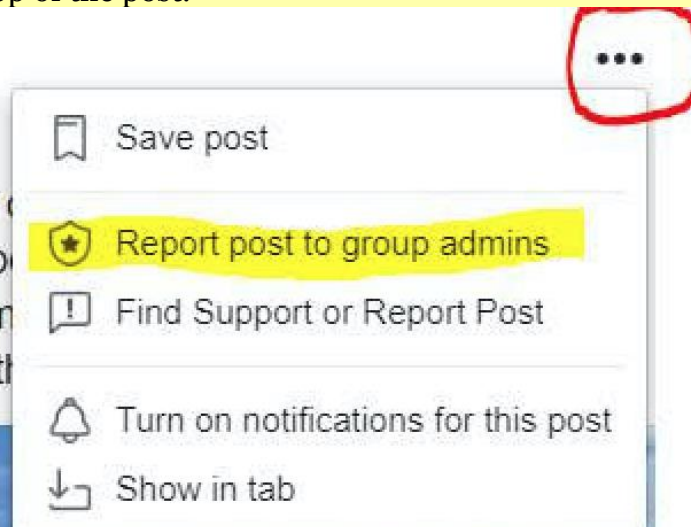
Report Bad Photos To Admins

One last thought is for clubs to create a public awareness program on how to report pics to Facebook group admins. With a little education, we could have more eyes out there ensuring posts are appropriate. Many riders don't know that anyone can report a post to the admins, simply by clicking the three dots at the top of the post.

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Bottom line: When you see something on Facebook, say something: to the admins of that Facebook page. Encourage them to closely monitor photos posted to their sites, to create a policy of only posting responsible images, to make sure everyone on the page knows it, and to quickly remove photos that don't meet that policy.

News & Notes From The Trail



DNR Magazine Article Features Riders With Disabilities

"Trail Ready" is the title of an article in the May/June issue of the Minnesota Conservation Volunteer magazine, about life-long riders who refused to let disabilities hinder their off-road adventures, including trail riding and hunting. Tap on the link below to read this well-written article.



<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mcvmagazine/issues/2020/may-jun/atv.html>



Connecticut Town Crushes ATVs and Dirt Bikes

This seems harsh. Hartford CT is confiscating and crushing ATVs and dirt bikes ridden illegally on city streets. See the local TV news report at this link:

https://www.wfsb.com/news/hartford-cracks-down-on-illegal-atv-dirt-bike-usage-in-the-city/article_da0bd168-8a05-11ea-ac22-9bdeefa541c.html?fbclid=IwAR2B5GE9TrD-djeAmBXoOAXgdQne6FJNoGJBIV2dgMuI1NrJjWuOatr-yGg



And From Pennsylvania

The Bloody Skillet ATV Club (named after an ATV trail in the Sproul State Forest) posted a photo of a tire spike, one of a number that have been put on mountain trails, seriously endangering riders. The club's Facebook page also reported on a girl who stepped on one of these homemade booby traps and ended up in the emergency room of a local hospital.



Good Idea To Carry A Spare Tire On Rail Trails

There are hundreds of miles of State ATV Trails built on abandoned rail beds in Minnesota. The steel rails and wooden ties were removed long ago, but the rusty spikes are still plentiful. Hit one at just the right angle and it won't just poke a hole in a tire, it will slice it up. A spare tire is good to have on your ATV or SxS when riding the Soo Line and other rail trails...or at

least a tow rope.



And finally....really?



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 - May 19, 6:30pm conference call

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

-May 15-16 - 2020 Ride & Roast - Cancelled

-September 18-20 - ATVAM Annual Conference / Ride & Rally

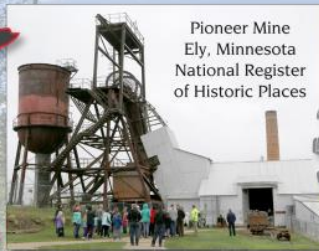
Host: Prospectors ATV Club/Ely Friday Trail Rides, Big Air ATV Tour

Saturday Trail Rides, Banquet/Meeting/Auction

at Grand Ely Lodge, 400 N. Pioneer Road, Ely

Registration and lodging/campground options at atvam.org

**September 18-20, 2020 in Ely, Babbitt, Embarrass & Tower
ATV Minnesota State Convention 2020**



Pioneer Mine
Ely, Minnesota
National Register
of Historic Places

Hosted by:



**ATVAM Ride and Rally
Sept 18-20, 2020
Schedule of Events**

FRIDAY 9.18.20

8am Registration opens
8am Pancake Breakfast Timber Hall Embarrass
10am VIP Rides Begin
Noon-2pm: VIP Lunch on Lake Vermilion
Time TBA ATV Big Air Tour in Babbitt
5pm-? Dinner Specials at Local Restaurants

SATURDAY 9.19.20

7:30-9:30am Pancake Breakfast by the Volunteer Fire Dept at the Morse-Fall Lake Fire Hall
8am-5pm Registration open at Grand Ely Lodge
10am Guided ATV rides offered at various locations including a lunch stop at local restaurants. Different rides of various lengths/difficulty.

Saturday Night @ Historic Pioneer Mine:

4-8pm Silent Auction to benefit ATVAM
5-7:30pm ATVAM Ride and Rally Banquet
7pm General Membership Meeting & Election
ATVAM Live Auction to follow

SUNDAY 9.20.20

9am ATVAM board meeting at Grand Ely Lodge



**Come & Ride
What We've
Been Building!**

Register for Ride and Rally 2020 at ATVAM.org. Price for Friday's guided ride and VIP lunch \$10. Guided ATV rides Saturday and Saturday night banquet \$35. Kids 12 and under FREE at all events.

Region 1 Club Rides & Work Days:

Please submit for next newsletter.

Region 2:

Carlton County Riders - Vintage Ride



Carlton County Riders

Vintage Ride

Ride Vintage Atv, Atc 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

Cancelled -- May 16 - Spring Ride, Chisholm Trail

Voyageur Country ATV

Cancelled -- Saturday, May 2 - Spring Ride & Picnic

Still On -- Sunday, May 3 - Highway Cleanup - 2 mile section of Highway 53 at Orr, and 2 mile section of County Road 24 at Echo Trail

Still on, watch for club updates:

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.

* * * * *

Region 3:

Lake Country ATV Riders

May 23 -- Meeting 10 am at Bear's Den, Ride To Spider Lake at 11 am

June 27 -- Meeting 10 am at Bear's Den, Ride at Mississippi Northwoods, noon

Over The Hills Gang ATV Club

Note date change: May 9 - Highway Cleanup, 11:15 am, meet at Outing ATV parking area.

Region 4:

Please submit for next newsletter.

Region 5:

Please submit for next newsletter.

Region 6:

Please submit for next newsletter.



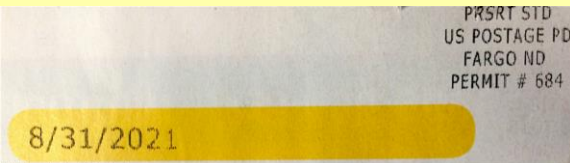
**ATV MINNESOTA
"Your Voice To Ride"**

***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 newsletters. And send renewals to ATVAM's 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 [ATVAM](#) or call (800) 442-8826.



[ATVAM](#)

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ATVAM, PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079

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