

157 New Members This Year... Welcome!

ATVAM Newsletter - July 30, 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

**Adjustments Made
To Annual "Ride & Rally" Convention
(Focus is on fun rides, short meeting**

and on-line auction)



We're downshifting. Big Air and Banquet are out. Friday VIP ride and a dozen great Saturday rides are in, with registrations for all online.

By Nick Wognum, Prospector Loop ATV Club, Ride & Rally host club

With new state guidelines from the Governor's office, ATV Minnesota is making adjustments to its annual "Ride & Rally" convention on the Prospector Loop trail system, scheduled for Sept. 18-19, 2020.

"We're heavy on the Ride part and light on the Rally," said Prospector President Nick Wognum. "With the pandemic this year, we're going to focus on having 12 different rides to choose from on Saturday. And planning for ATVAM members to return for a full Ride and Rally in 2021."

ATV MINNESOTA/PROSPECTOR LOOP 2020 12 PACK RIDE

12 DIFFERENT RIDE OPTIONS ON SEPT. 19, 2020

Sept. 19, 2020 ATV Minnesota/Prospector Trail Rides



REGISTER ONLINE:
www.ATVAM.org

Hosted by: **Guided Rides Depart from:**

**Ely Softball Fields
Silver Rapids Lodge
Tower Civic Center
Embarrass Timber Hall
Babbitt Softball Fields
Wildhurst Campground
Kelly Loop Parking Lot**

Ely, Babbitt, Embarrass & Tower to host both!

2021 RIDE AND RALLY

Sept. 17-19, 2021 ATV MN State Convention

Ride & Rally Sept 17-19, 2021

FRIDAY 9.17.21

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 9.18.21

8am-5pm.....Registration open at Grand Ely Lodge
Junction Inn Babbitt, Tower Civic
10am.....Guided ATV rides offered at various
locations including a lunch stop at local restaurants.
Different rides of various lengths/difficulty.



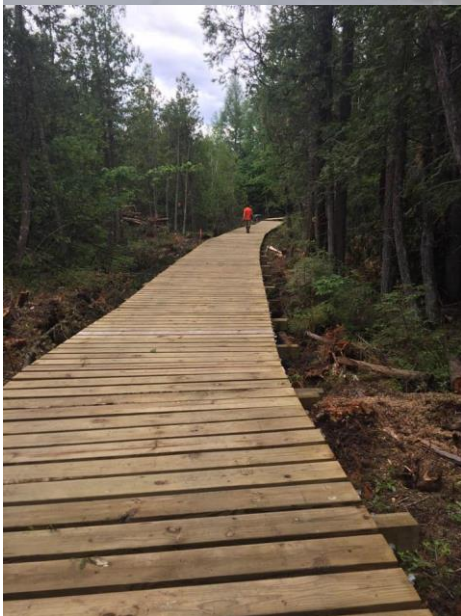
Register
for Ride and
Rally 2021 at
ATVAM.org.

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 9.19.21

9am.....ATVAM board meeting at Grand Ely Lodge



The traditional VIP Ride will take place on Friday, Sept. 18, with everything being held outside. Participants will start from the fairgrounds at Timber Hall in Embarrass, ride to Tower for a lakeside catered lunch and then take the trails back afterward. "Luckily we were able to find outdoor areas with plenty of room for people to spread out. Both Timber Hall and McKinley Park have plenty of space for social distancing," said Wognum. "This is a nice ride that will give people a first look at Prospector, plus they'll get to enjoy a catered lunch on the shores of Lake Vermilion," said ATV Minnesota President Ron Potter.

Ride Prospector Loop!

A team of volunteers from four communities has been working on the Prospector Loop trail system for over 7 years. Prospector trails connect Ely, Babbitt, Embarrass and Tower together and also provide a link to the North Shore trail system in Lake County. "There will be 250 miles of trails when all of the construction work is complete," said Wognum. "Like everyone, we've been impacted by the pandemic and there's a couple areas that won't be done until 2021. But the vast majority of routes will be open for this year's event. And when we host again next year everything should be completed so there will be new opportunities. We're also looking forward to the ATV Big Air Tour in 2021 as well."

Choose from 12 rides: 25 to 180 miles RT.

The 12 different ride options will give everyone from the novice to the experienced rider choices for a fun day out on the trails. "Our meetings for this event have been unbelievable. We have a great group of people who are excited to show people what

we've been working on," said Wognum. "We've put together 12 fantastic rides that will be led by our volunteer guides." The 2020 12 Pack Ride lengths vary from 25 to 180 miles with seven different start/stop points. "You can choose anything from a nice leisurely ride to an all-day trip where you'll go from near the Canadian border to within 10 miles of Lake Superior. Each ride is unique and we have staggered starting times from seven locations to spread people out," said Wognum.



Prospectors Loop ATV Trail System

A Minnesota ATV Trail System Connecting Communities and State Parks



NOTE: The trail alignment from Ely to Tower on the Taconite Trail has not yet been determined.

Friend us on Facebook at Prospectors Loop ATV Trail System for the latest updates!

All rides require online registration. Just like the VIP Ride, participants will be required to register online prior to the event at www.atvam.org. "On the website, we'll have descriptions and maps of each of the 12 rides so people will know what they are signing up for," said Wognum. "The VIP Ride is limited to 200 people and each of the 2020 12 Pack Rides have specific limitations as well. My advice is to register online right away because some of these rides on Saturday are limited to 10 or 20 machines."

Auction is also online. ATV Minnesota is following state and CDC guidelines for the rides and the annual auction has been moved to an online format. "We had planned to have the banquet and auction at the Miners Dry building at Ely's Historic Pioneer Mine," said Potter. "To keep with the guidelines we knew the indoor part would be difficult so the annual auction will be done online. We're hoping this works out and people have the ability to bid whether they're on the ride or not. It's our major fundraiser and there's always some great items to bid on." All ATV clubs should watch for a letter on how to sponsor the Ride & Rally and how to donate auction items.

The group is also working on how to hold a general membership meeting and election of officers. "We have some ideas that we're exploring and we will let our members know how that will work as we move forward," said Potter.

A big THANK-YOU! to the Prospector Loop ATV Club and all its members and volunteers for their time, energy and commitment to make this year's Ride & Rally happen despite ever-changing conditions, and for continuing the work into 2021.

On The Trail To More Routes In SE Minnesota (8 clubs attend Region 5 meeting & ride)



By Perry May, ATVAM Director at Large

ATVAM Region 5 Director, Ken Irish, initiated a meeting and ride on Saturday, July 25th, 2020 for ATVAM Region 5 ATV Clubs, with a single goal to keep the momentum going for the creation of a Southeast MN Regional ATV Trail Plan.

Eight local ATV Clubs sent members to attend: South Metro, Goodhue-Bellechester Railriders, Bluff Country, Southeast MN ATV Club, Outback Riders, River Valley 4-Wheelers, Chatfield Trails Inc., and the Freeborn County ATV Club.



ATVAM also had strong representation from President Ron Potter, 1st Vice-President Dave Clevenger, 2nd Vice-President Mike Devine, Director At Large Perry May, and additional Region 5 Directors Mike Halvorson, Josh Boeckman, and Scott Peterson. Also lending support and in attendance was State Senator Mike Goggin, representing State Senate District 21.

People and ATVs gathered at the home of Lee and Tammy Potter, the hosts for the ride, who conveniently live directly across from the parking area for the Southeast MN ATV Trail, just west of Stockton, Minnesota. Beginning at 9 am, a meeting was held out on the Potters' lawn under the shade trees to get introductions and updates from the ATV clubs in attendance.

Ron Potter provided updates on current legislative actions affecting ATV recreation and the Grant-In-Aid Improvement process. Senator Goggin spoke about his efforts in the Legislature trying to improve access to local towns to ATV riders, and a real need for more trails in southeast Minnesota. Perry May spoke on the need for a Regional ATV Trail Plan, ATVAM efforts regarding this, and provided current new project updates such as the Chatfield Trail Expansion, Houston Project, and the DNR-planned Hay Creek area Richard J. Dorer State Forest Review.



By 10 am, temperatures had risen to the upper 80's with dew points in the 70's, which had everyone ready to catch a breeze while riding on the Southeast Minnesota and Trout Valley ATV Trails. Forty-five machines and 60 people left the Potter family home, riding the first 12 miles of the Southeast MN Trail toward Altura, then riding Winona County roads north to the Trout Valley ATV Trail.

The Southeast MN ATV Club prepared a picnic-style lunch complete with sandwiches, chips, and cookies served in the parking area of the trail. For riders that have never ridden on these two trails, you will experience a mixture of trail terrain that rise and fall through various bluffs offering picturesque views. You will ride through hardwood forests, rocky terrain and along the sides of farm fields with dairy cattle grazing in pastures.

The round trip between the two trails was 65 miles and provided a nice day of riding and networking between clubs and interested stakeholders. A comment was

heard about how nice it was to see the many families who showed up for the ride, as they are the future stewards for ATV recreation.

Thank you to hosts Lee & Tammy Potter, all members of the Southeast MN ATV Club that made the meeting, ride and food a great experience, and to Ken Irish for pulling it all together.



To continue the momentum for a SE Minnesota Regional ATV Trail Plan that Ken Irish spoke about, we (ATVAM) need ideas for future connections between existing trails, possible new trail areas, and people interested in putting in the due diligence to move these ideas forward. New trails take time to develop, fund, and maintain. ATVAM can provide direction and support, however, local voices meeting with, and informing local decision makers, move things along quicker.

Ideas can be sent to ATVAM Regional Directors, or to any member on the ATVAM Executive Board. Contact information can be found at

www.atvam.org .

Congratulations To Janelle Secord, Named ATV Instructor Of The Year



Janelle Secord, pictured with DNR Enforcement Recreational Vehicle Coordinator Bruce Lawrence, has been working for a dozen years to ensure students of all ages are equipped to ride Minnesota's abundant ATV trails responsibly and safely. Throughout the state, COs work closely with our volunteer instructors to make Minnesota's outdoors as safe as they can be.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has named Janelle Secord, an ATV safety instructor in Coon Rapids, as the 2019 ATV Safety Instructor of the Year. An avid ATV rider and active member of the North

Metro Trail Riders Club, Secord has taught two classes per year for the past 12 years. She's also been active in the DNR's Volunteer Trail Ambassador program since it began more than 10 years ago, promoting safe trail riding with riders she encounters along the trails.

"Janelle has the unique ability to do a top-notch job of organizing and preparing two ATV safety classes every year, all the while never losing sight of their primary goal: To give new riders the tools they need to be safe riders," said Bruce Lawrence, Recreational Vehicle Coordinator for the DNR Enforcement Division. "She takes pride in her teaching, cares about her students and does what it takes to ensure everyone is equipped to responsibly enjoy their time on the trails."

Secord is among the nearly 1,000 volunteer ATV safety instructors who work with DNR conservation officers to deliver ATV safety training certification.

**Pelican River Overlook Was
Built As A Loving Memorial
(Today it's a scenic destination for riders
and, as it turns out, wedding parties)**



From Voyageur Country ATV

Voyageur Country ATV was very busy one year ago preparing for the state-wide ATVAM Ride and Rally event, held September 20-22. While much of the focus was on the excitement of the new steel bridge over the Vermilion River, another very meaningful project was being completed.

Pictured here is the Sandberg family, who funded and built the beautiful Pelican River Overlook. In loving memory of Sheldon Sandberg, many talented people came together to create this awesome structure in a very short time frame. Its location was always special to Sheldon's family, and now this amazing view will be enjoyed by many others making new memories (including a wedding on site already).



The County Land Department was very supportive and several local businesses were generous with supplies. The Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club donated the grill and Steve Koch installed it. Now this site even has signage and a port-a-



potty!

The Pelican River Overlook is a beautiful new destination. It is accessible by snowmobile too, making it perfect for year-round enjoyment.

If you haven't taken the time to visit this new feature, you can spend a very enjoyable day riding the trails on your ATV, and visiting the new steel bridge, the new elevated boardwalk on the Vermilion Falls Trail, and cruising down to Pelican River to take in the beautiful view at this Overlook.

Congratulations Brooke and Jeff, pictured at their wedding at the overlook!

Class 1 and Class 2 Accidents Involving Fatalities On The Rise

For many years, the number of ATV accidents in Minnesota involving fatalities hovered around 13 annually. According to the Minnesota DNR, that number has been reached halfway through the 2020 riding season. As of July 20, there were 10 fatalities involving Class 1 ATVs and 3 for Class 2 ATVs. Ages of those who died ranged from 9 to 72. Only one, a 37 year old, had an ATV Safety Certificate. Two riders who were within the age range of being required to have an ATV Safety Certificate did not have one. All the accidents were listed by the DNR as occurring on the road right-of-way or within city or town limits. None were on State ATV Trails.

The Redwood County Sheriff reported that another accident involving a fatality occurred on Saturday, July 25th. The report says a Polaris Ranger overturned after being struck in the intersection on a county road near Wabasso, Minnesota, by the driver of a Dodge Durango. That raises the total of fatalities to 14.



2020 SUMMARY OF FATAL ATV/OHM/ORV ACCIDENTS

July 20, 2020

Number of ATV Class I Fatalities	10
Number of ATV Class II Fatalities	3
Number of Off Highway Motorcycle (OHM) Fatalities	0
Number of Off Highway Vehicle (ORV) Fatalities	0

Minnesota DNR Approves Resuming ATV Safety Classes With Restrictions (Some clubs opting in, others out)

On July 15, all DNR-certified ATV Safety Class Instructors received an email, notifying them that they may resume holding ATV Safety courses, with a number of restrictions and requirements. "You may begin holding classes starting the week of Monday, July 27," the email said. "Once instructors register their class/field day, they will be emailed a training PowerPoint to be reviewed - and instructors email back acknowledgement of review of the training - prior to class supplies being shipped." The 3-page "Safety/Education COVID-19 Preparedness Plan" includes requirements for health screening, 25 maximum number of students and instructors, no parents in classroom, and social distancing during classroom and rider course.

Some clubs have scheduled classes and are making the necessary preparations for safety and social distancing. Others have decided not to hold a class at this time, sighting the difficulty to meet all the requirements, and the fact that their instructors are in their 60s and 70s.

Normally this time of year there are 70 or more classes scheduled. As of July 30, seven classes had been scheduled on the DNR website. Five were already full, indicating the high demand for the hands-on rider class, required by those 12-15 years of age to ride ATVs on public lands and trails.

Courses

To view detailed information about a class or field day, click on its title.

	Date	Title	Location	County
● FULL	08/15/20	ATV Safety Online Field Day Class ~ PM	Grand Rapids	Itasca
● FULL	08/15/20	ATV Safety Online Field Day Class ~ AM	Grand Rapids	Itasca
● FULL	08/16/20	ATV Safety Online Field Day Class	Nicollet	Nicollet
	08/22/20	ATV Safety Online Field Day Class	Roosevelt	Roseau
	09/19/20	ATV Safety Online Field Day Class	Detroit Lakes	Becker
● FULL	10/04/20	ATV Safety Online Field Day Class	Tracy	Lyon
● FULL	10/17/20	ATV Safety Online Field Day Class ***NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE	New Ulm	Brown

Swift County Planning Improvements At Appleton Area OHV Park (Take a short survey to help)



*To: All OHV Park Users
From: Swift County, Minnesota*

We want your input on the future of the Appleton Area OHV park! Park advocates and local leaders are looking for input into expanding and improving the park. Please fill out the survey to help direct the Master Plan for this park, which will determine development of the park in the years to come. Thanks!

To take the survey, tap on this link or cut and paste it into your browser:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AppletonOHV>



For more information and a map for the park, visit Swift County's website, or the MN DNR Parks & Trails website at this link:

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ohv/trail_detail.html?id=4

Please share the survey with your friends who ride ATVs, dirt bikes or 4WD trucks at Appleton, as well as with your ATV Club members.

ATV Minnesota Clothing Sale

Now 50% Off On Most Items



Just in time for summer rides on your favorite ATV trail, the ATV Minnesota Clothing Sale is on now. Hoodies for just \$20. T-shirts as low as \$7.50. All sale items are clearly marked on the Clothing Page of the ATVAM website. It's easy to pay online and we'll ship your order right away. Start by tapping the "Clothing" tab on atvam.org.



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 - August 18, 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.

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

Host: Prospectors ATV Club/Ely Friday VIP Trail Ride, Big Air ATV Tour (cancelled) Saturday 12 Trail Rides, Banquet (cancelled) / Meeting & Online Auction. Register for all rides at atvam.org. Lodging and camping also shown.

Region 1 Club Rides & Work Days:

Please submit for next newsletter.

Region 2:

Prospector Loop and Babbitt ATV Clubs

JOIN US ON THE
3rd ANNUAL ATV Ride
The Black Sheep Run for **Special Olympics Minnesota**
Guided by
Prospector Loop ATV Club
& Babbitt ATV Club

REGISTRATION \$25
All proceeds go to Special Olympics Minnesota
ROUTE: TBD · START: BABBITT, MN
SOFTBALL FIELDS ACROSS FROM HIDEAWAY ON HWY 70

OCTOBER 10th, 2020
DEPART TIME : 10 AM
Lunch provided along the ride!

To register or for more information
Mary Zupancich 218.349.1825 Deb Campbell 218.235.0155

Region 3:

Central Lakes ATV Club

August 12 - Club Ride at Spider Lake Trail, 9:30 am

August 22 - Club Ride at Round River Drive Trail, 10am

September 26 - Club ride at Red Top ATV Trail, 10 am

Details at club Facebook page

Lake Country ATV Riders

August 22 - Cookout and Night Ride, Spider Lake Trails, 5pm

Details at club Facebook page

Over The Hills Gang ATV Club

August 29 - Exploring MN ATV Trails group ride, Hill City Trail, 10 am

September 12 - Ladies Only Ride, 10 am, Emily Outing Trail

See club Facebook page for more details

Woodtick Wheelers ATV Club

August 8 - Club Ride on Hill City Trail. Meet at Swatara parking area along Soo Line North at 9 am, ride to Hill City for lunch at restaurant.

Region 4:

Please submit for next newsletter.

Region 5:

South Metro ATV Club

August 21-23, Club Ride at Hayward, WI

See club website for updates on ride status: www.southmetroatv.com

Region 6:

Please submit for next newsletter.



In addition to receiving this e-newsletter twice a month, all ATVAM members receive in the mail the bi-monthly Minnesota OffRoad magazine.

If you aren't getting both, please let us know.

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

8/31/2021

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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.



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