

ATVMN.ORG



ATV Minnesota

"Your Voice For ATV Recreation in Minnesota"

March 15, 2023

1500 New Members In Past 2 Years

Welcome...LET'S RIDE!

Action Alert!

The ATV Minnesota statewide board is made up of club presidents and representatives from 70 ATV clubs across the state.

One of our prime functions, and top reasons to be a member, is that the ATV MN executive board and these club leaders work on behalf of all the clubs that build the trails, and all owners of registered ATVs in Minnesota, protecting access to public lands and our sport.

Here is a great example:

Two State Senators have introduced the most anti-ATV bill in decades. If it gains traction during the current Legislative Session, it will push off-road riding for ATVs, dirt bikes and Jeeps back 25 years.

Members of ATV, dirt bike and Jeep clubs, along with Ray Bohn our lobbyist and others, will be testifying against the bill next week.

We need your help!

This issue isn't going away.

Please read on for details, in an article written by Karen Umphress. Karen and her husband, Tom, are government relations officers with ARMCA (Amateur Riders Motorcycle Association, AMA District 23) and two of our state's most experienced and effective advocates for OHV recreation.



A Call To Action

By Karen Umphress

Please assist us with fighting legislation attacking all forms of off-highway vehicle recreation. Send an email or note to your legislators, specifically your Senator, but also your Representative and the Governor's Office, **opposing Senate File 1324.**

Please add information about why you ride. Examples: that you enjoy riding ATVs or dirt bikes with your family or friends, that it gets kids outdoors recreating with their families, that clubs

build the trails in coordination with their county land managers to be economically and environmentally sustainable. Be sure to add your address and phone number so that the legislators know that you are their constituents.

To find who represents you at the State Legislature, go to:

<https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/>. Type in your full address to find your legislators and how to contact them.

Sustainable Motorized Vehicle Trail Development Proposed Legislation

SIGNAGE	
<p>Goal: Help riders know where they can go, make enforcement easier, protect the environment</p>	
 <p>Current</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —Open to OHVs unless posted closed in Managed Forests; this includes illegal user-created trails —If signs are removed by users, enforcement is not possible 	<p>Proposed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —Signs are required for all OHV trails (ATV, ORM, ORV) open for this use
WATER & NATIVE SPECIES PROTECTION	
<p>Goal: Protect the most pristine ranked waters and aquatic life, avoid spreading invasives</p>	
 <p>Current</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —No buffers from water —No regulations about going through and/or spreading invasive species 	<p>Proposed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —Unpaved trails may not cross pristine waters that are ranked Exceptional Use by the MPCA —Trails must avoid areas of noxious weeds —Buffers required for all water bodies
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW	
<p>Goal: Avoid sensitive areas, public transparency, reduce lawsuits</p>	
 <p>Current</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —EAW Required for "trails" 25+ miles long —EAW Required for 80+ new acres of OHV "area" —"Trail" and "area" are not defined by law, so areas of dense trails can avoid EAWs, example Houston proposed "trail" 	<p>Proposed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —Mandatory EAW for all OHV projects except <1 mile re-routes Recommendation of the 2003 Legislative Audit and never implemented
REQUIRE PERMISSION FROM ALL GOVERNMENT UNITS	
<p>Goal: Put trails where the host communities want them</p>	

Shown here is a flyer the anti-access Senators and groups are distributing, with misinformation and proposed government overreach.

Some Anti-Access Background:

The anti-access/anti off-highway vehicle (OHV) crowd is back in force this year. The chair of the Senate Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy (Senator John Marty) was one of the driving forces behind the attacks on OHVs in the early 2000's. He is joined by many colleagues from the past attacks and newer anti-access colleagues such as Senator Kelly Morrison, who has introduced a bill that could be devastating to OHV recreation in the State regardless of whether riding on public or private lands. Off-highway vehicles are ATVs, dirt bikes, and trucks with a registration allowing them to travel

on OHV designated routes.

The Bill is Senate File (SF) 1324.

Some of the negative highlights of this bill include:

- OHVs are not allowed on a State Forest Road or Trail, National Forest Road or Trails, Township road or trail, County road or trail, or other roads or trails that:
 - Is unpaved and crosses over waters designated as outstanding resources value waters (including crossing with a culvert or bridge).
 - Is unpaved and within 300 feet from a public water that supports aquatic life.
 - Is unpaved and within 150 feet from a public water that does not support aquatic life.
 - On land designated as containing prohibited noxious weeds.
- Removes the ability have "managed" State Forests north of Highway 2. It moves all currently "managed" forests (routes are open unless posted closed) to "limited forests" (routes are closed unless posted open).
- **Gives the DNR Commissioner that ability to not allow OHVs anywhere if it is determined to be for a "good cause".**
- Requires that any new trails, routes, or recreational areas in the State for use of OHVs must have a mandatory Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) unless it is for a re-route of less than 1 mile.

- Requires new signs to be installed at all trails and that the funds for the signs be taken from the OHV accounts.

Letters and materials being used to support these restrictions include:

- [Audubon Letter of Support for OHV bill](#)
- [SF 1324 - Retired DNR wildlife manager 2023 OHV Testimony- Gretchen Mehmel](#)
- [SF 1324- Retired DNR Conservation Officer 2023 OHV Testimony- Jeff Birchem](#)
- [SF 1324- Photos-Beltrami Forest OHV Damage - **Closed Signs Removed**](#)
- [SF 1324- MN- Izaak Walton League- support letter](#)
- [SF 1324- Backcountry Hunters and Anglers- Bill Support](#)
- [SF 1324- MN Chapter- The Wildlife Society- Bill support](#)
- [SF 1342- Sierra Club Letter of Support](#)
- [SF 1324 MCEA Testimony OHV ATV.docx](#)
- [SF 1324 - LWVMN Motorized Rec. Support Letter](#)
- [SF 1324- Handout Overview- Minnesota Public Lands Coalition](#)
- [SF 1324 MN PLC letter of support](#)
- [SF 1324-Rationale for Required Signage for Trail Access](#)
- [SF 1324-Rationale for Water protection & Buffer Zones](#)
- [SF 1324- Photos: Minimal Buffer Zones Designated Highway Licensed OHV Border to Border Touring Route in Lake County](#)
- [SF 1324-Rationale for Invasive Species Measure re-Designated OHV trails on unpaved routes](#)
- [SF 1324 Rationale for Mandatory EAWs for OHV routes - other than minor re-routes](#)
- [SF 1324 Rationale for Local Approval for trails](#)
- [SF 1324 - Pollinator Friendly Alliance - Bill support](#)
- [SF 1324 DFL Environmental Caucus Support Letter](#)
- [OHV regs](#)

Positive work and progress on trails and issues by ATV MN, ARMCA and MN4WDA sparked this ridiculous anti-motorized legislation.

The main causes for the legislation is that the four OHV State Associations have all been working to create Master Plans to be able to strategically plan and connect OHV routes; the new Border to Border Touring Route which designates highway licensed vehicles on public roads across northern Minnesota; and the Houston OHV Park project, which opponents state the City of Houston never wanted, even though the City created Resolutions supporting the project between 2008 and 2020.

*Please contact your State Legislator today, encouraging them to oppose **Senate File (SF) 1324**. Watch for updates as the Session continues.*

Why Did ATV MN Raise Membership Dues? (And related questions)

At the March 4th ATV Minnesota Vision Conference, ATV club leaders from across the state, attending in person or by Zoom, discussed options to raise additional funds in order for the State Association to meet increased expenses for membership management, major events, communications, lobbying efforts and other costs of doing business as a non-profit organization.

A motion was made and passed to increase the ATV MN individual and family membership annual dues from \$20 to \$30, and from \$38 to \$55 for two years, and to raise the business membership annual dues from \$75 to \$90. The increases will go into effect on June 1, 2023.



Why did ATV Minnesota raise its membership dues?

There are a number of reasons:

- **Increased general expenses** — Like most everything, ATV MN operating costs have risen in recent years. Including: postage for our renewal mailings and our Minnesota Wheelin magazine, liability insurance for our rides and events, office supplies, and more.

- **Expenses to improve communications with a growing membership** — A larger, more professional magazine (Minnesota Wheelin), a better newsletter (using Constant Contact), two new websites (atvmn.org and minnesotawheelin.org), board and committee meetings using Zoom, and more.

- **Expenses for our popular ride events, getting larger each year**, including Ride & Roast and our State Convention/Ride & Rally.

- **Expenses for important lobbying efforts.** Ray Bohn, our paid lobbyist, works hard for us at the Capitol to protect the ATV Dedicated Fund (ATV registrations), advance bills for trail funding, revising regulations and much more. Our recent Legislative Reception to meet with freshman and veteran Legislators about our bills during this Session was not cheap but was very successful.



When was the last dues increase?

Dues went from \$15 to \$20 sometime in the early 2000s.

How do ATV MN dues compare to the other State Associations?

The are similar or less than other groups:

MN4WDA (State ORV Association): \$40

ARMCA (AMA District 23/dirt bikes): Competition \$45 Non-competition Online \$15

MNUSA (State Snowmobile Association) Family \$25 Business \$75

WATVA (WI ATV Association): Family \$30 Business \$50 Club \$80 Dealer \$125
WC4WD (WI Coalition of 4WD): Family \$35 Club \$150

Does ATV Minnesota report its monthly income and expenses to members?

Yes, every penny. Club presidents or appointed representatives from all ATV clubs are invited to the monthly board meetings. ATV MN treasurer Erv Kleinschmidt gives a detailed report of income and expenses for all to see, discuss, amend and approve.

Why should I renew my membership when I can read the newsletter and magazine online for free?

A good question from a member. Membership dues include the twice-monthly newsletter and bi-monthly magazine, but the financial support of our individual, family and over 300 business members is directed to a wide variety of programs and projects, many listed above. We greatly appreciate the support from all members.

The magazine website (minnesotawheelin.org) was created to reach riders doing an internet search for ATV riding in Minnesota. Including the ability to read our magazine online is helpful to recruit new members to ATV MN and ATV clubs. The board will look at this issue, and consider removing free access to our newsletters and magazines, or delay their addition to our websites, to make sure their value remains high for paying members.

How much do ATV MN board members and club leaders spend to attend important meetings and ride events?

A lot. ATV MN executive board members, club leaders and club members spend from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars each year, out of their own pocket, to drive to events, paying for fuel, lodging, meals, event fees, etc. This winter, many club leaders drove south from Ely, Roseau and Grand Marais, and north from Rochester and Rushford, to attend ATV MN meetings in the Twin Cities area, taking time from their families as volunteers, because they are dedicated to their clubs, to building and maintaining trails, and to creating a positive future for ATV recreation.



This year is our 40th Anniversary. ATV MN and its member clubs are working hard to push back on anti-ATV legislation, get funding for new trails, bridges, and trail maintenance, create a statewide Master Plan to connect trails, improve the DNR Grant-in-Aid program, change the ATV Definition to raise the maximum weight to 3,000 lb., create more winter riding opportunities and much more. Your membership dues go toward all that and more.

There are “doers” and there are “done-fors”

ATV Minnesota, its members and member ATV clubs are the “doers.” Thanks for understanding the need to raise our member dues. And thanks for your continued support of ATV Minnesota, promoting safe, responsible riding, and helping clubs build and maintain one of the best ATV trail systems in the country.



SAFETY CORNER

A new addition to the ATV MN Newsletter

*This is the second in a series of reports
from the newly formed
ATV MN Safety Committee.*

Who Is The ATV Minnesota Safety Committee?

By Craig Wadzink, Committee Chair

OUR MISSION: The newly formed ATV MN Safety Committee was created by the ATV MN Executive Board. Its main goal is to help drive the topic of ATV safety throughout the ATV MN organization, and be a focal point for its member clubs to help identify ATV safety issues and channel them back to the Safety Committee.

The committee met monthly in 2022 and is meeting bi-monthly in 2023, where it has identified several priority safety goals and critical ATV safety issues. Strategies include driving safety solutions and providing ATV safety topics through the ATV MN Communication Team to all member clubs, and through partnership and collaboration with the Minnesota DNR on their ATV safety campaigns, coordinated messaging and education plans.

OUR GOALS:

- Promote a zero-incident culture, and take steps to help reduce ATV-related accidents and fatalities through ATV safety education.
- Promote ATV safety messaging, events & activities through involvement with Minnesota DNR Enforcement and Training, ATV manufacturers, and rider groups, to help seek solutions to reduce ATV incidents.
- Focus on bringing ATV safety-related topics more front and center to member ATV clubs and the greater riding public.

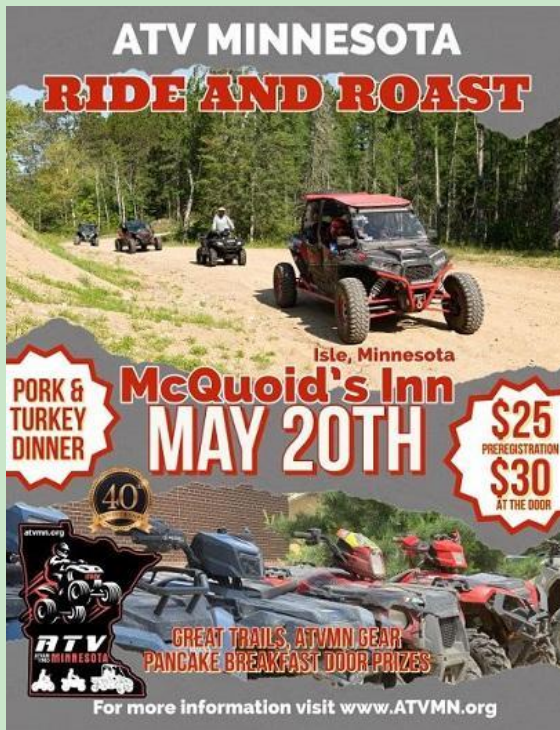
The Safety Committee is looking forward to establishing collaboration between ATV MN clubs' Safety Officers, DNR Regional Training Officers (RTOs), and the ATV MN Safety Committee, on safety-related topics, safety issues and concerns.



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

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

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdLT82Wv-C69R_EZiuzgoaQyCyMGnW3ExZcWabR_KIOtnpLkg/viewform?vc=0&%3Bc=0&%3Bw=1&%3Bflr=0



ATV MINNESOTA *"Your Voice To Ride"*

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

Invite friends and family to join today.

Gift memberships available!

See the mailing label on your Minnesota Wheelin magazine for your membership renewal date. Be sure to include your email address on the renewal form we send you to receive newsletters. Send renewals to ATV MN, PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079.

Belonging to ATV Minnesota, you join thousands of riders throughout the state, have fun, and help create a positive future of ATV riding in Minnesota.



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on the renewal form we send you to receive newsletters. Send renewals to ATV MN, PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079. You can also join or renew at atvmn.org.

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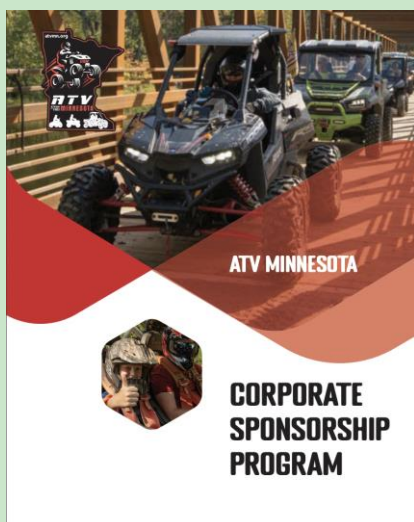
As a family or individual member, for just \$20 you receive:

- A subscription to Minnesota Wheelin magazine (6 per year).
- Twice-monthly newsletter by email with the latest news.
- Membership card and ATV MN logo sticker for your ATV.
- Invitations to events, including our Legislative Summit, Vision Conference, Ride & Roast in the spring, and State Convention "Ride & Rally" in the fall, as well as membership meetings.
- A full-time lobbyist at the State Capitol, helping create pro-ATV legislation, and moving forward bills that help provide funding for new trail systems.

As a business member, for \$75 you receive:

All of the above, plus:

- Your business name and contact information listed in our Minnesota Wheelin magazine and on the ATV Minnesota website
 - Discounts on advertising in Minnesota Wheelin. For details, send an email to Creston Dorothy at Pro Print in Duluth: cdorothy@proprintus.com
 - Opportunities to reach more customers by sponsoring or donating to our events
- To join, contact **ATVAM** or call (800) 442-8826.



New Program! As a Corporate Sponsor:

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

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

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

To learn more, visit atvmn.org and tap the "Sponsorships" tab.



Thanks To Our First Corporate Sponsor: Bronco ATV/UTV

A full-throttle thank-you to Bronco ATV/UTV for being an ATV MN Corporate Sponsor at the Silver Level. Watch for an article about Bronco ATV/UTV, its history building everything from ball joints to winches, sales trends it is seeing, and more in the March/April issue of Minnesota Wheelin. Learn more about its many products, including videos, at

broncoatv.com.

ATVMN.org

Follow us for all the latest news!



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