



ATV Minnesota

"Your Voice For ATV Recreation in Minnesota"

Member Newsletter

October 22, 2026



NOTE: Get Out And Ride! Some State ATV Trails Are Closed Or Closing Soon! Before you head out, always check out the Minnesota DNR OHV Trail Closures website page. Trail closing dates vary, all are closed during the deer hunting season, area by area, and about 20 re-open afterwards and remain open through the winter months. Use this link to check on the status of the

State OHV trails and State Forest roads:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ohv/closures.html> Watch your speed, grouse hunters may be parked or walking on trails in central and northern Minnesota.



Registration Now Open!

**ATV MN Legislative Summit
December 5th in Wahkon**



***An important meeting, in preparation for the
2027 Legislative Session***

Plan now for your ATV club to be represented at this important meeting, in preparation for the 2027 Legislative Session, which begins January 12, 2027.

When: December 5, 2026, from 8 a.m. to noon

Where: The meeting room in the Tulibee Tavern, 235 Main Street, Wahkon, MN 56342 (320-495-3318)

Why attend? It's your ATV club's opportunity to help give ATV Minnesota and its lobbyist direction and priority on what Legislative issues and policies will be pursued during the 2027 Legislative Session. All ATV MN member clubs are encouraged to send representatives. **Our objective this year is to have clear and concise legislative objectives, and an action plan that we can all rally around to get it accomplished.**

Registration is required, use this link to register:

<https://membership.atvmn.org/summit/>. A \$20 fee per person covers morning snacks, coffee, juice, water, lunch, and printed handout materials.

Please note: there will be three pre-Summit Zoom meetings to discuss the key agenda topics prior to the Summit. Watch for the dates, times and links to participate in this newsletter and emails to ATV club leaders.

Thanks to Robb Dubbs, owner of Tulibee Tavern — an ATV MN business member — for providing the meeting room at no cost. Rob is an active member of ATV MN, and president of the Mille Lacs Drift Skippers Snowmobile and ATV Club. His club maintains trail sections on the South Soo Line, Foxy Loop, and

Red Top trails. The location of this meeting will be in Mille Lacs County and in the ATV MN Central Region.

The future of ATV riding in Minnesota starts at the Legislative Summit. We hope to see you there!



Announcing!

Save The Dates For ATV MN 2027 Rides

May 22, 2027

ATV MN RIDE & ROAST IN HILL CITY

Hosted by the North Woods Quads, Hill City, with assistance from the Northwoods Regional Trail Alliance. This year, held at Trails Inn Quadna Mountain Motel & RV Park, Hill City. More details and online registration coming soon. *Flyer by Dean Schliek. Please copy and*

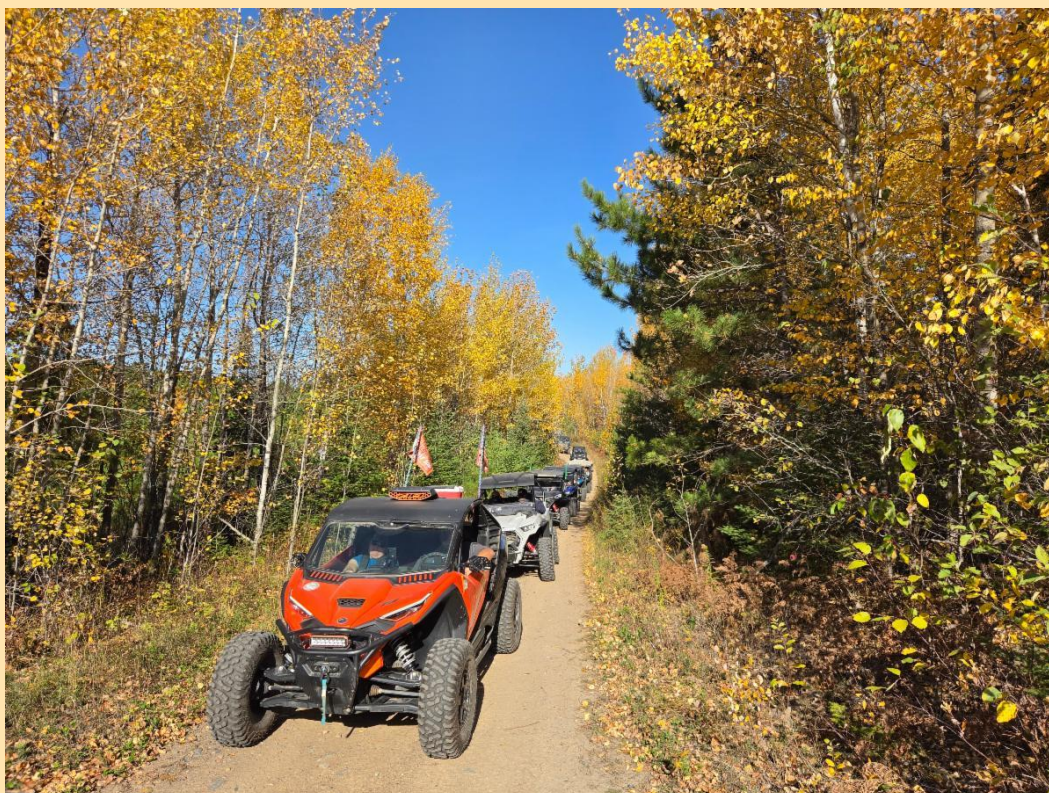
post it on your club's newsletter or Facebook page.

September 17-19, 2027

ATV MN RIDE & RALLY IN AITKIN

The 2027 ATV Minnesota State Convention/Ride & Rally will be in Aitkin, MN, hosted by the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail Alliance. Six of its 13 member clubs have organized and hosted Ride & Rally in the past. The NWRATA has received support and approval from Aitkin County, the City of Aitkin, and from the Aitkin County Fairgrounds, which has buildings to host rider registrations and

the Saturday evening banquet, plus rest rooms, parking and on-site camping. More details coming soon.



Annual 'Exploring Minnesota Ride' Heads to Melrude, Cloquet Valley State Forest

By Perry May, ATV MN president

The Over the Hills Gang and Cuyuna Iron Range Riders ATV clubs held their 11th annual 'Exploring Minnesota Ride' on Saturday, October 10, 2026. This year, participants traveled about 120 miles from their home base to Melrude, Minnesota, home of the Whiteface

River Riders ATV Club. WRRAC President Beth Caple and her husband, Wes, hosted the ride. They also own the Melrude Whistle Stop Bar & Grill. Passing trains added to the experience as they sounded their horns along the tracks in front of the Whistle Stop.

Beth and Wes led 41 ATVs carrying 75 riders along county and logging roads to the Gimlet Creek Trail. Brilliant fall colors, a clear blue sky, a southerly breeze, and

80-degree temperatures made for a comfortable day of riding. The trail lived up to

expectations, with a tree canopy shading much of the route, puddles that splashed the

tires with mud, a rocky creek crossing, and several small challenges that added to the

fun. After the ride, Beth and her team served a buffet of pizza, pasta, meatballs, and

salad.

Cloquet Valley State Forest encompasses 360,000 acres in southern St. Louis County,

about 20 miles north of Duluth. The St. Louis River borders the forest to the west,

while Lake Superior lies to the east. Between them are extensive forestlands and several rivers and tributaries, including the Whiteface, Cloquet, and Paleface rivers.

WRRAC is working with the Minnesota DNR and the Northeast Regional ATV Joint Powers Board to bring this trail system, which includes the Gimlet Creek and Washuck Truck Trail, into the Grant-in-Aid Program. As a best practice, any proposed ATV trail system seeking ATV MN's support in the Legislature and

among its members should arrange a ride on the proposed trails. Experiencing the trails firsthand can be far more persuasive than viewing lines on a map. ATV MN President Perry May, and 1st Vice-President Dean Schliek, participated in the ride. **Thank you to Beth and Wes Caple, for your hospitality and fun, informative ride!**



New ATV MN Leaders Jump Right In

Since they were elected at the Ride & Rally in Park Rapids on Sept 19, new president Perry May and new 1st VP Dean Schliek have jumped into their new roles. They have been organizing the Legislative Summit (Dec 5), and

meeting with legislators, lobbyist Jeff Anderson, and ATV MN and club leaders. In addition, one or both attended meetings and club rides across the state, including:

- **September 24** - Outdoor Industry Summit, in Bloomington, organized by the Outdoor Recreation Industry Partnership, Explore Minnesota, Minnesota DNR, and IRRR.
- **October 4** - Dakota SxS & ATV Club's "Ribfest & Ride" in Hastings
- **October 4** - Helped 'Visit Grand Rapids' with a photo shoot on the Wilderness Trail
- **October 6** - ATV MN quarterly meeting with MN DNR at Central Office in St. Paul
- **October 7** - Northwoods Regional ATV Alliance meeting /13 clubs, approved hosting the 2027 Ride & Rally in Aitkin

- October 11** - Annual 'Exploring Minnesota Ride' in Melrude w/ Whiteface River Riders
- October 19** - Joint Powers Board meeting in Virginia / 13 ATV member clubs
- October 19** - Itasca County Alliance of ATV Clubs meeting / 11 ATV member clubs
- October 20** - Led the ATV MN statewide board meeting via Zoom

Ron Potter, now ATV MN State Director, is also keeping busy, and the executive board, regional directors and statewide board continue to tackle many issues and challenges. Thanks to all! Stay informed throughout the fall and winter by reading our twice-monthly e-newsletter and Minnesota Wheelin magazine, and keep an eye on our Facebook page.





Minnesota Wheelin' Magazine, By The Numbers

(As reported in the September statewide board meeting)

Our focus since we introduced our new member magazine in 2021 has been to provide important news, informative articles and columns, and to feature active trail-riding photos on each cover. Each year, ATV MN has 4 cover photos and the Minnesota 4WD Association has 2 cover photos on

our bi-monthly magazine, based on total memberships in each State

Association. Shown above are the covers for 2025, the single photo is the cover of the Sept/Oct 2026 issue.

A few more numbers:

We've had 35 total covers through Sept/Oct 2026.

(Plus 6 Explore Minnesota insert covers)

The count includes:

- ORVs:12
- SxSs (Class 2 ATVs):15
- Quads (Class 1 ATVs):8

We try to include action photos from all the major ATV manufacturers. The running totals include: Polaris: 10 / Can-Am: 5 / CFMOTO: 3 / Honda: 2 / Arctic Cat: 1 / Yamaha: 1 / Suzuki: 1 We are always looking for great trail riding photos, preferably coming at the camera, and sent to us as hi-res files. If you'd like to submit a photo for consideration on the cover or inside the magazine, use the photos shown as your guide and send them to magazine editors Dave Halsey (d.halsey@atvmn.org) or Dean Schliek (d.schliek@atvmn.org), who shoots a lot of our great cover photos on his many trail rides with clubs across Minnesota.



41 Members And Their Clubs Featured In Our 'Wheelin' Spotlight' Column. Since the first issue was published in January of 2021, we've included profiles on 41 ATV MN members, and the clubs they belong to. The best profiles are those written by the members themselves. Frank (shown) and Darlene Turnock wrote a great one about their history riding ATVs and many years of work with clubs on ATV trails, and featured in the May/June, 2025, issue.





Drying Out Part Of The Blue Ox Trail (A Before/After Comparison)

By Tom Dougherty, Voyageur Country ATV

I have attached two photos of the Blue Ox Trail. The first, from October 2022, from Brad Dekkers of Minnesota DNR Parks and Trails. He asked Voyageur Country ATV to take responsibility for 31.5 miles of the Blue Ox, from International Falls south. A portion of the trail had been underwater for decades because drainage ditches were blocked by beaver activity and vegetation. The club worked diligently to address the situation, secure Grant-in-Aid funding, solicit bids, and work with a contractor to accomplish what many said was not possible. As shown in the "after" photo, drainage has now been restored along 2.2 miles between Nakota Junction and Koochiching County Road 122, north of Littlefork. Much additional work is still needed to restore the trail corridor to an acceptable condition.

The Blue Ox Trail is a 74-mile multi-use trail in northern Minnesota running along an abandoned railroad grade between International Falls and the Lake Bemidji area.

Do you or your club have some news or fun stories or photos you'd like to share with all our ATV MN members, or topics you'd like to see us cover? Send them to us, email to d.halsey@atvmn.org. Thanks!



Order Your ATV MN Gear Online Today For All Your Fall And Winter Rides

Get ready for all your fall and winter rides and outdoor activities. Gear up with the latest ATV Minnesota T's, hoodies, caps and more, available in a wide variety of colors, sizes and

styles for men, w0men and kids. Wear it with pride on all your rides! Go to atvmn.org and tap the "Store" tab to order online. **Thanks for supporting ATV Minnesota with your purchase!**



ATV MINNESOTA

"Your Voice To Ride"

(And Have Fun!)

Seventy dedicated ATV clubs and their volunteers, building and

maintaining fun, sustainable ATV trails for the riding public (plus bridges, boardwalks, kiosks, parking, selfie stations and more). *Graphic shows the annual contribution to Minnesota's economy of ATVing and other outdoor activities.*

Invite friends and family to join today.

Gift memberships available!

*****ECRLOT 00027D**R004		PRESRT STD.
726245 5/31/2026	RENEWAL DATE	U.S. POSTAGE
Mudslide McWheelie		PAID
1234 Mudtrack Lane		55806
RoughRider Falls, MN 56789		PERMIT NO. 1003

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 our

twice-monthly newsletter. Send renewals to ATV MN, PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079. You can also join/renew at atvmn.org.

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



As a family or individual member, for \$30, you receive:

- A subscription to Minnesota Wheelin magazine (published times 6 a 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 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 to provide funding for new trail systems.

As a business member, for \$90 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 on rates and deadlines, 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.

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For Their Generous, Financial Support Of ATV Minnesota!



-Timber Bay Lodge & Houseboats (\$2,500 Bronze Sponsorship) - Visit timberbay.com to learn about its amazing lodges (sleep up to 15), traditional cabins and fleet of houseboats. Timber Bay Lodge & Houseboats is on the south shore of Birch Lake, near Babbitt, **with direct access by ATV to the Prospector Trail system.**

Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/timberbaylodge>



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Financial support from businesses large and small are helping ensure a positive future for ATV recreation in MN.

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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.



ATV Association of Minnesota

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