



## **ATV Minnesota**

*"Your Voice For ATV Recreation in Minnesota"*

**Member Newsletter**

**May 20, 2026**

## ATV Legislation: 'Defensive Wins' Only In A Difficult Session



*Thanks to our ATV MN members for responding to our recent Action Alerts in large numbers, reaching out to your legislators to support our important bills. Despite our best efforts, we were not able to get them across the finish line. Here is Jeff Anderson's post-Session report.*

***By Jeff Anderson, ATV MN lobbyist***

The 2026 session proved extremely challenging for ATV-related legislation.

While ATV advocates entered the Session seeking passage of ATV registration fee increases and updated ATV weight definitions, neither initiative advanced successfully through

the Legislature.

Much of the opposition came from Senators Jennifer McEwen (DFL-Duluth) and Kristi Purcell (DFL-Northfield), who opposed ATV Minnesota priorities and supported legislation restricting ATV access in northern Minnesota state forests.

Despite those setbacks, ATV Minnesota achieved a major defensive victory by successfully defeating what supporters described as “anti-ATV” legislation that would have significantly altered longstanding ATV access policies north of Highway 2.

ATV Minnesota worked closely with Senate Environment Committee Republicans and DFL Senators Grant Hauschild (DFL-Hermantown) and John Hoffman (DFL-Champlin) to stop the legislation from advancing.

ATV Minnesota also continued advocating for bonding investments in:

- The Blue Ox corridor;
- Soo Line grade improvements in Cass County; and
- The Rum River bridge in Aitkin County.

These trail requests were not included in the bonding bill.



## Ride & Roast Attracts 260 Riders To Meadowlands

*"This was our first time riding the area and we were really impressed with the trails and the great people we met throughout the day."*

*"We had an awesome time, and are already looking forward to coming back and riding again."*

*"Great turnout, thanks to all volunteers, members and great camaraderie!"*

Those are just a few of the positive comments from riders who attended this year's Ride & Roast, held May 16th in Meadowlands, and hosted by the Alborn Dirt Devils and ATV Minnesota.





The weather was perfect, the breakfast tasty, and as they ventured out on the trails, with guides or riding on their own, 260 riders were all smiles, even if it was beneath their dust masks.

“All the feedback from riders was more than positive, how fun and well organized it was,” said Jim Olcott, president of the Alborn Dirt Devils, and chief event organizer.

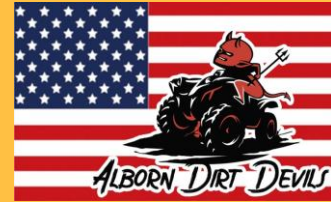


One of the guided rides had to be revised last minute. The Goodland Trail was temporarily closed by Blandin Forestry due to extremely dry conditions. There were a couple flat tires, and the pot of beans was depleted late in the dinner hour. But, as always, the host club adjusted. “Everything came together at the last minute, and worked out just fine,” Jim said.

Thanks to Jim, all the volunteers with Alborn Dirt Devils, with assistance from the Twig Area Trail Riders and the Alborn Sno-Devils. Thanks to everyone who came to ride, and

to all those who sponsored with a cash donation, or donated items (80 of them!) for the raffle and silent auction. Thanks to DNR CO Derek Peterlin for holding the pre-ride meeting, to Nick Wognum for taking these great event photos and, as always, to Jenn and Erv for managing registrations, payments, check-in and much more to make Ride & Roast a huge success again this year.

**Please note:** It was reported earlier that this would be the last Ride & Roast. However, ATV MN board members are reconsidering that decision, after a number of riders said at this year's event that they love coming to the spring ride, discovering new trails, visiting with the clubs that maintain them, and having fun with their ride groups. Stay tuned!





## **Safety Committee Squeezes The Throttle In May**

***Thanks to all the  
Community Groups and  
ATV Clubs that participated  
in 3 events!***

*By Chris Conroy*

**In Hastings:** The Hastings Police Department hosted its annual open house May 12, welcoming community members and showcasing local emergency

and outdoor recreation groups, including ATV Minnesota's newest member organization. Members and board directors from the newly formed Dakota SxS and ATV Club attended the event to introduce the organization to residents and discuss all-terrain vehicle safety. A local radio station visited the open house to interview club representatives and photograph the event.

The open house also featured interactive displays from local public safety agencies. The Hastings Fire Department brought several fire engines for children to explore, while the Dakota County Sheriff's Office displayed its specialized search and rescue equipment. Complimentary food was provided for all attendees.

**In Proctor:** Pike Elementary School opened its doors May 1 to local all-terrain vehicle clubs and safety organizations for an interactive training event aimed at teaching ATV safety to 149 students in third through fifth grades.

The program, designed to instill safe riding habits at an early age, allowed students to try on helmets to find their correct sizes and sit on ATVs to learn proper fit testing. Participants also played an oversized version of the board game Sorry!, moving their pieces by correctly answering ATV safety questions.

The event was coordinated by Allison Nicolson and Ivie Brooks of SafeKids Northeast Minnesota, alongside Roxy Olsen-Hurst of Proctor Community Education. Volunteer members from several local ATV clubs assisted with the instruction, including Eric Senerighi, Bill Irving and Greg Zimmerman of the Carlton County Riders; Kevin Persig of the TWIG Area Riders; Sarah Brainard of Northern Traxx; and Steven Rowan of Head of the Lakes.

Organizers credited ATV Minnesota and local clubs for their support, and extended a special thanks to RJ Sport and Cycle in Hermantown for supplying the vehicles used during the training.



**In Minneapolis:** ATV Minnesota partnered with the RideSafe Foundation and GFactor to promote off-road safety to parents and children during the Minneapolis Motorsports dealership open house on May 9th.

The event highlighted a joint initiative between the RideSafe Foundation and GFactor, who are partnering on a new virtual reality ATV safety experience designed to teach riders how to handle real-world trail hazards. Adam Robertson, lead product manager for GFactor, traveled from New Zealand to spend two weeks attending various events throughout the Midwest. Robertson is using the tour to gather user feedback while promoting the product's rollout.

The virtual reality experience uses specialized goggles to immerse users in several different riding scenarios. As participants navigate the digital scenarios, the choices they make directly determine whether their ride is successful or ends in tragedy. There was a distinct generational gap in how participants interacted with the technology. While many adults faced a steep learning curve adapting to the simulation, the use of the VR headsets came naturally to the children who tried the scenarios.

In addition to the safety demonstrations, the Minneapolis Motorsports open house featured complimentary food, product demo rides, and promotional deals throughout the store.

**Anyone interested in hosting a similar school event in their area can contact Chris Conroy at [cjconroy67@gmail.com](mailto:cjconroy67@gmail.com).**

*Thanks Chris! for writing up this article and sending in plenty of photos! And thanks to everyone who volunteered and worked hard, organizing, setting up and attending these safety events...on their own time...with some traveling long distances to make them all happen...on their own dime.*



## **ATV MINNESOTA** *"Your Voice To Ride"* *(And Have Fun!)*

Seventy-two dedicated ATV clubs and their volunteers, building and maintaining fun, sustainable ATV trails for the riding public (and bridges, boardwalks, kiosks, parking, selfie stations and more).

**Invite friends and family to join today.**  
**Gift memberships available!**

*Photo: It's not too early to reserve lodging or camping, and register to attend the ATV MN Ride & Rally! There is on-site camping, vendor spaces, and sponsor opportunities.*

Get all the details at [atvmn.org](http://atvmn.org), tap the Events tab. Cool flyer by Dean Schliek!

*****ECRLOT 00027D**R004		PRESRT STD.
726245 5/31/2024	RENEWAL DATE	U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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**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](http://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, 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](mailto:cdorothy@proprintus.com).**

-Opportunities to reach more customers by sponsoring or donating to our events.

To join, contact [ATVAM](http://ATVAM) or call (800) 442-8826.



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(\$5,000 Silver

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**-Remer Motel & Campground** (\$5,000 Silver Sponsorship) - Ride all day, then rest easy in a comfortable room or at the full-service campground. Reserve your stay today at [theremermotel.com](http://theremermotel.com) or call 218-566-2555.



**-Timber Bay Lodge & Houseboats** (\$2500 Bronze Sponsorship) - Visit [timberbay.com](http://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, Minn, **with direct access by ATV to the Prospector Trail system.**

**ATV MINNESOTA**

**CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM**

**Be A Corporate Sponsor!**

Financial support from businesses large and small are helping 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](http://atvmn.org) and tap the "Sponsorships" tab.**



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