



**ATV Minnesota**

*"Your Voice For ATV Recreation in Minnesota"*

**Member Newsletter**

**July 25, 2026**



## R U Ready For Some R&R?

Now is the time to register your ride group for the Friday President's Ride and/or Saturday guided rides (with ride on your own option).

Plus reserve your lodging or camping (on-site or locally), sign up as a vendor, and be an event sponsor or donate to the auctions.

To get started, just tap the QR code with your smartphone camera, or go to [atvmn.org](http://atvmn.org) and tap the "Events" tab. You'll find everything

you need, including a detailed schedule for the entire Ride & Rally.



## **Revving Up Joy: Community Comes Together For The Second Annual Itasca Life Options ATV Ride**

*By: Steven Ferraro, Rapids Riders ATV Club, Inc*

The roar of engines and the sound of joyous laughter echoed through the woods of the UPM Blandin Trail in Itasca County on July 15th, 2026, as the Rapids Riders ATV Club hosted a day to remember. Teaming up with North Woods Quads of Hill City and Red Rock Riders of Pengilly, the club organized an unforgettable off-road adventure and picnic for 49 staff members and clients of Itasca Life Options.

### **A Community On The Trails**

Gathering at the Smith Creek Trail access point of the beautiful UPM Blandin Trail, the event drew an impressive crowd of community supporters. Club members, local business owners, and volunteer ATV enthusiasts eagerly brought out their side-by-sides (SXSs) to share the thrill of the trail with the

guests. Adding to the spirit of community and safety, representatives from the Itasca County Sheriff's Office and the Grand Rapids Police Department joined the convoy, making it a true community-wide effort. ***"We could not do this ride without the dedicated volunteers who make it a huge success."***

### **Perfect Weather and Picnic Smiles**

Mother Nature provided an ideal backdrop for the outing. We were treated to fantastic weather, and the summer wildfire smoke stayed away for the majority of the day, allowing for clear views and fresh air. After kicking up some dust on the trails, the group took a well-deserved break to share a classic picnic-style lunch. Over hot dogs, chips, cookies, and cold water, participants swapped stories from the ride. The downtime was filled with plenty of laughter and ear-to-ear smiles, capturing the true essence of the event.



### **Driven By Local Generosity**

An undertaking of this scale relies heavily on the generous backing of local businesses and volunteers. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the

sponsors who helped make the adventure possible:

- **Trails Inn Motel & Campground:** A special thank you to Shawn Pehrson from Hill City for generously providing one of his SxS rentals.
- **Fideldy Bros Well Drilling & Rick's Electric:** For their vital community support.
- **Local Law Enforcement:** The Itasca County Sheriff's Office and Grand Rapids Police Department for their assistance in ensuring the day was safe, successful, and enjoyable for all.

- **Club Members & Community Volunteers:** For their continued support and dedication to make this the fantastic event that it has become.

### Looking Ahead to Year Three

Ultimately, the day is always about creating joy and building lasting memories. The entire team would like to say a huge and sincere thank you to Lisa, Sonia, and the entire Itasca Life Options family. Thank you for allowing the riding community to share in this wonderful event for a second year. With countless memories made and laughs that will be cherished for a lifetime, the engines are already warming up in anticipation of the third annual ILO ATV Ride.

*Itasca life Options (ILO) was established as a 501(c) (3) non-profit in July 1965 and has been providing day services to people with physical and intellectual disabilities for more than 50 years! ILO is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Human Services and currently serves over 70 people living in Itasca County. For more information, visit [itascalifeoptions.org](http://itascalifeoptions.org).*





## **Annual Ride To Visit With Stakeholders At Shady Oaks In Southwest Minnesota**

Ken Irish, ATV Minnesota Southern Region Director, and member Perry May, visited the Shady Oaks Trails in Russell, Minnesota on Monday July 20, 2026.

They were welcomed by owner and trail creator Gary Thooft, his son Neil Thooft, Southwest Ridgerunners Club President Tim Louwagie, Trail Coordinator Doug Anderson, Minnesota DNR Area 4B Supervisor, Bill Greer, Lyon County Commissioner, Todd Draper, and Lyon County Soils & Water Control District Technician Brock Boerboom. Shady Oaks is a privately owned trail that is open to the public for both Class 1 and 2 ATVs.

The trails include 5.7 miles of riding, including numerous loops, river and bridge crossings, southwest prairie flora, and wooded river valleys. This is an annual visit by Ken and Perry to check in with Gary Thooft and to realign with the local club, trail sponsor Lyon County and Minnesota DNR Parks & Trails staff. Ken Irish stated how important this trail is for southwest Minnesota, and the community of Russell. It is a wonderful and unique trail to visit and to hunt for the dozens of ornaments and sculptures placed on the ground, under bridges or in the trees. Shady Oaks originally opened in 2018 and attracts visitors from all over Minnesota, South Dakota, and Iowa. Camping is available right at the trails entrance or by the nearby city campground.





## **Dakota SxS and ATV Club Gains Certified ATV Safety Instructors**

*By Ken Irish*

Congratulations to the club's newest Certified ATV Safety Instructors!

A huge thank you to Officer Jen Mueller for leading the instructor certification class and sharing your knowledge and expertise. We appreciate the time and dedication you put into helping our members become certified instructors and promoting safe, responsible riding in our community. Congratulations to everyone who earned their certification—we're excited to have you helping educate the next generation of riders!

*Learn more and join the club at [dakotasxsatv.com](http://dakotasxsatv.com). Photo (L to R): Tim Weber, Devyn Dimmick-Partington ( club president) Charlie Weber, Tim Weber, Officer Jen Mueller, Melissa Timm, Randy Kirk, Kevin McGraw, and Ken Irish.*



### **On The Water With Rainy Lake Houseboats**

Members of the Ranger Snowmobile & ATV Club had the high bid during the auction at last year's Ride & Rally, winning a houseboat rental with Rainy Lake Houseboats. They recently used it to spend time on the water. "They used the value of the trip to upgrade to one of our Lady Of The Lake series boats," said owner Tom Dougherty. Tap the QR code for more information on Rainy Lake Houseboats, a major sponsor of the 2026 Ride & Rally in September. Watch for another houseboat rental during the auction at this year's event in Park Rapids. Thank you Rainy Lake Houseboats for your great support of ATV MN!





**Time To Elect New ATV Minnesota Executive Board Members. Two Nominations To Date. Deadline Is July 31st.**

*The list is updated at [atvmn.org](http://atvmn.org) (News page) as nominations come in.*

The deadline to nominate yourself or someone you know to run in the fall ATV MN election is July 31st. To date, as shown on our website [atvmn.org](http://atvmn.org), two nominations have been submitted: **Nominated for ATV MN President: Perry May. Nominated for ATV MN 1st Vice President: Dean Schliek. For Secretary: open, no nominations to date.**

The terms for three ATV Minnesota executive board positions expire this fall: President, First Vice President, and Secretary. The board positions for Second VP and Treasurer expire in 2027. All positions are two-year terms. Ron Potter (president) and Dave Clevenger (First VP) have stated they won't be running for re-election. Thanks to both of them and to Nick Wognum (secretary) for serving many years on the executive board, working on countless programs, trail

projects, funding efforts, legislation and much more, to the benefit of ATV MN members, 73 member clubs and all of our state's ATV owners.

The nominations for all three positions are now open as of June 1st. ATV MN members in good standing may nominate others who are interested in one of the three positions (it would help to make sure they are interested in serving) or nominate themselves. Nominations must be made using the official ATV MN nomination form, found at [atvmn.org](https://www.atvmn.org), tap the “Events & News” tab, along with the responsibilities for the open positions. Or use the QR code shown, or tap this link:

[https://www.atvmn.org/images/ATVMN\\_Nomination\\_Form\\_2026\\_v2.pdf](https://www.atvmn.org/images/ATVMN_Nomination_Form_2026_v2.pdf)

**Download the form.** The nomination form must be completed. Email it to [atvmnoffice@atvmn.org](mailto:atvmnoffice@atvmn.org). You can also mail the form to ATV Minnesota, P.O Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079. You can request a form be mailed to you by contacting the office at 1-800-442-8826. **The nominees will be contacted to confirm their interest. All nominations will be reviewed and verified by the Nominations Committee before being placed on the ballot.**

Elections will be held at the 2026 ATV MN State Convention/Ride & Rally, during the General Membership Meeting on September 19th. All candidates must be nominated. During the meeting, there will be no nominations accepted from the floor, and no write-in votes will be accepted or counted. Nomination forms must be received by the ATV MN office no later than 4:30 p.m. on July 31, 2026. Accompanying the nomination form is a page titled "Responsibilities and Expectations of Officers" for the three open board positions.

*(Graphic by Dean Schliek, QR code and link provided by Erv Kleinschmidt)*



**VOYAGEUR COUNTRY ATV CLUB**  
**VETERAN**  
**ATV RIDE**

TO MILITARY CROSSROADS VETERAN MEMORIAL  
 AND FRONTLINE PAVILION

★ SATURDAY, AUGUST 1ST ★  
 MEET AT SHEEP RANCH RD - SALT SHED  
 RIDE BEGINS AT: 10AM, ARRIVE BY 9:30

RIDE ALONG WITH ONE OF OUR  
 TRUSTY GUIDES OR BRING YOUR  
 OWN RIG! SEATS AVAILABLE FOR ALL  
 VETERANS ATTENDING. LUNCH AT  
 MELGEORGE'S.

CALL KOOCHICHING CVSO @  
 218.283.1179 TO REGISTER

**VOYAGEUR COUNTRY**  
 Ride Hard  
 Don't Leave a Mark

**VOYAGEUR COUNTRY ATV CLUB**  
**VETERAN**  
**ATV RIDE**

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 VETERANS ATTENDING. LUNCH AT  
 MELGEORGE'S.

Call Mike Cherrywell at  
 218.235.0450 to Register

**VOYAGEUR COUNTRY**  
 Ride Hard  
 Don't Leave a Mark

**TACOS ON THE TRAIL**

Sat, Aug 1 at 11AM  
**TACOS ON THE TRAIL!**  
 Emily, MN  
 47 people interested

☆ Interested

**August Rides Are  
 Lining Up -- Save  
 The Dates!**

Check for more  
 on the Facebook  
 page of your club  
 and others where  
 you live or ride.

Left: Tacos On  
 The Trail is a new event with the Over The Hills Gang ATV Club. See the club FB  
 page for more details.

Whiteface River Riders

# ATV RIDE

SATURDAY  
8/29/26

## POKER RUN



### BREAKFAST

8:00 – 9:45 AM  
MELRUDE WHISTLESTOP  
BUFFET STYLE

**\$10**



LEAVE AT  
**10:00 AM**



THIS WILL BE A  
**POKER RUN!**

PURCHASE CARDS  
AT THE  
MELRUDE WHISTLESTOP  
BEFORE THE RIDE  
FOR **\$20**

MONIES RAISED WILL BENEFIT  
THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
**TRAILS**  
IN OUR AREA!



WE WILL HAVE VARIOUS STOPS  
AND LUNCH AT  
**HUGOS IN BRIMSON**



CHECK OUT OUR  
WHITEFACE RIVER RIDER

**SWAG**

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!

**THIS RIDE IS OPEN TO ALL ATV ENTHUSIASTS!**

THIS WILL BE A GREAT DAY OF RIDING!  
**TRAILS, ROADS AND A FANTASTIC DAY OF FUN!**

★ PLEASE **RSVP** BY 8/21/26 ★★



## ATV MINNESOTA

*"Your Voice To Ride"*

*(And Have Fun!)*

Seventy-three 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 by Greg MacDonald: 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. Details in the article above, and at [atvmn.org](http://atvmn.org).*

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| *****ECRL0T 00027D**R004                                                                                          |                                                                 |
| 726245 5/31/2024  RENEWAL DATE | PRESRT STD.<br>U.S. POSTAGE<br>PAID<br>55806<br>PERMIT NO. 1003 |
| Mudslide McWheelie<br>1234 Mudtrack Lane<br>RoughRider Falls, MN 56789                                            |                                                                 |

**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).

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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.

**Thanks To Our Corporate Sponsors**

## For Their Generous, Financial Support Of ATV Minnesota!



**-Timber Bay Lodge & Houseboats** (\$2,500 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, **with direct access by ATV to the Prospector Trail system.**

Facebook page at:

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



### Be A Corporate Sponsor!

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

**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.

**ATV Association of Minnesota**

PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079

**Connect with us**

800-442-8826



atvmnoffice@atvmn.org

www.atvmn.org

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