



ATV Minnesota

"Your Voice For ATV Recreation in Minnesota"

Member Newsletter

August 20, 2026



Ride and Rally 2026

September 18 - 20

Park Rapids MN



An Important Update To The Voting Process At The ATV MN State Convention/Ride & Rally

In-person voting has been extended: now from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

On recent phone calls and emails to the executive board and ATV MN office, ATV MN members expressed concerns about the voting process as outlined in the August 13th ATV MN newsletter, especially if they want to vote but aren't planning to attend the ATV MN State Convention/Ride & Rally in Park Rapids, or are only attending on Friday.

During its monthly meeting on August 18th, the ATV Minnesota statewide board discussed at length the annual election, scheduled for September 19th during the General Membership Meeting.

The discussion focused on member concerns and questions and how to address them, based on ATV MN bylaws related to elections, which have been in place for many years.

Our State Association's bylaws are key to this discussion. ATV Minnesota is a 501(c)(4), registered with the State of Minnesota. Nonprofit bylaws act as the internal constitution and operational roadmap for a Minnesota organization. They are legally binding rules defining board duties, voting rights, and decision-making procedures to ensure legal compliance and organizational stability. Violating them can create personal liability for board members or risk the organization's legal standing. ATV MN bylaws are available on the ATV MN website: atvmn.org.

Here are the important points from the statewide board meeting:

- The requirement that voting members be present at the Annual Meeting comes directly from the ATV MN bylaws. It is not simply a rule created by the current Board or Executive Board. It is what the current, long-standing ATV MN bylaws require: **“All State Officers shall be elected from among the members in good standing present at the Annual Meeting in September....The officers will be elected by the majority of the members present.”**

- If, in the future, the members or the statewide board want to allow absentee, electronic, mail-in, or other forms of remote voting in its elections, or allow more than one vote for business members, it would require changing the bylaws first, which requires a 60-day notice to members, and a vote at a General Membership Meeting.

- Voting time has been revised to 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

The statewide board voted on and approved a motion to extend the voting period, giving those not attending Ride & Rally but wanting to vote, additional time to place their vote in person, and still meet the bylaw requirements. The General Membership Meeting will be called to order at 5:00 p.m., allowing in-person voting to be from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The full agenda of the meeting will follow the banquet dinner, as planned. Those in line during that time and by 8:00 p.m. will be able to vote.



Other voting details, as reported in the August 13th ATV MN newsletter, to ensure the voting process is efficient and follows the ATV MN bylaws at Ride & Rally, include:

- **Membership requirement:** Per long-standing ATV MN bylaws, voters must be active members for at least 90 days prior to the election. To vote on September 19th, members must have joined or renewed an expired membership on or before June 22nd, 2026. Anyone not in the database by this date will not be eligible to vote.

- **Please preregister for Ride & Rally:** We encourage members who plan to attend Ride & Rally, participate on the rides, and attend the Saturday banquet and membership meeting, to preregister at atvmn.org, so we have a good headcount for the dinner, and so we can verify eligibility for voting in advance and avoid delays at the meeting. All members attending the banquet and general membership meeting must register in order to receive a wristband for dinner and another one to vote if eligible.

- **Members coming to vote only:** Qualifying ATV MN members who wish to vote, but are not registering for Ride & Rally or attending the banquet, should register Saturday evening (5:00-8:00 p.m.) at the event, in order to receive a wristband to

confirm they are eligible to vote. There is no fee for any member in order to vote in the ATV MN election.

- **One vote per member:** According to existing bylaws, eligible members, if present, have one vote. Family memberships provide for two votes. If both are present, the listed member, and spouse or significant other, have one vote each. Business members have one vote, if present (but can't combine votes with regular membership vote). One vote per member, no matter how many ATV clubs they belong to.

If possible, please bring your ATV MN membership card, or membership number (found on the cover of your Minnesota Wheelin magazine's mailing label). That will help keep the voter registration line moving. **Thanks for your help and cooperation in order to make the voting process as smooth as possible.**

Please let me or anyone on the E-Board know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Ron Potter, president

ATV Minnesota

r.potter@atvmn.org

atvmnoffice@atvmn.org





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 and

tap the "Events" tab. You'll find everything you need, including a detailed schedule for the entire Ride & Rally.





A Neat Idea To Keep Trails And Forest Roads Clean

One man's trash is another man's treasure. Except when it's on or alongside an ATV trail, then it's mostly just trash.

The Voyageur Country ATV club came up with a great idea for transporting and disposing of the cans, bottles, busted ATV parts, lost gloves, you name it, left behind by trail riders and Forest Road car and truck drivers. It's the Trail Trash bag. Think grapefruit bag, only larger, stronger and reusable. It measures 18 inches by 26 inches empty.

A club member was on vacation and saw similar bags made available for beach-goers to keep public beaches clean. The club decided to do likewise for its members and other clubs in the area. It did some research, got funding and ordered 12,000 bags, according to Bruce Beste with Voyageur Country ATV. **"I will bring about 500 bags to the Ride and Rally in Park Rapids," he said.**

More details from Bruce:

- The bag supplier is Fox Packaging out of El Paso, Texas. (It supplies flexible packaging and fresh produce bagging solutions to growers, distributors, and logistics partners servicing the El Paso and West Texas region, according to its website.)
- There is a 10,000 bag minimum. The club's cost was \$4,100 plus \$300 per color on a white banner, so about \$0.47 per bag.
- Three colors are available, we chose yellow.
- We designed the banner, Fox printed and assembled the bags.
- Bags are shipped in bales of 1,000 bags, up to 6 bales on one pallet.
- FOB is El Paso so freight cost is added.
- Delivery takes 4 to 6 weeks after the order payment is made.
- We received 12,000 bags.

- We found 8 sponsors to pay between \$1,200 and \$400, so bags to the clubs are free;

14 clubs participated.



ATV clubs also clean up roads and county/state/federal public lands

Minnesota's ATV Clubs take good care of the trails they maintain, and all the trails and Forest Roads they ride on. Many also belong to the MnDOT "Adopt a Highway" volunteer program, picking up trash in road ditches twice a year.

Some clubs also have cooperative agreements with the US Forest Service to remove garbage piles large and small that they find along federal Forest Roads. The Woodtick Wheelers ATV Club, for example, has removed large piles of roofing and sheetrock its members discovered while out riding. A freezer left at an ATV trail's parking area was stuffed with everything from household garbage to car batteries. In that case, the club contacted the Chippewa National Forest to have it removed. The freezer could have held dangerous materials, like empty two-liter bottles, extremely dangerous and frequently used as mobile labs to cook illegal drugs like methamphetamine. Moving, opening, or shaking these bottles can re-introduce oxygen to volatile chemicals, causing sudden explosions, severe chemical burns, and toxic gas release. **Be sure and publicize all of your club's cleanup projects in your local newspaper and on social media.**





Order ATV MN Gear Online Or Choose Your Favorites At Ride & Rally

Get ready for Ride & Rally
and all your fall 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. Or see everything we have to offer at Ride & Rally. **Thanks for supporting ATV Minnesota with your purchase!**



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: There are many ways to support this year's Ride & Rally, including levels of monetary or in-kind product/services sponsorships, or donating ATV-related or

other items to the silent and live auctions. Download the sponsor brochure at atvmn.org, tap the Events tab.

*****ECRL0T 00027D**R004		PRESRT STD.
726245 5/31/2024	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.

Thanks To Our Corporate Sponsors

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>



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 and tap the "Sponsorships" tab.



ATV Association of Minnesota
PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079
800-442-8826
atvmnoffice@atvmn.org
www.atvmn.org

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