



ATV Minnesota

"Your Voice For ATV Recreation in Minnesota"

Member Newsletter

August 27, 2026



Ride and Rally 2026

September 18 - 20

Park Rapids MN



It's Just 3 Weeks Away!

R U Ready To Ride & Rally?

There is still 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.



75 And Counting!

That's how many businesses, resorts, tourism bureaus, clubs, members and others have signed up to sponsor or donate auction items to Ride & Rally, September 18-20 in Park Rapids. Thank you...your support is greatly appreciated.

It's not too late to sponsor or donate, and help the host clubs beat last year's total of 110. Go to atvmn.org, tap the Events tab and use the Sponsor link to get all the details and instructions.

Bring your donated products to the event or ship them to: Akeley Paul Bunyan Trail Riders, 28882 240th Street, Akeley, MN 56433. See the August 4th ATV MN newsletter for a list of all sponsors and donators as of that date. Many more have joined since then. We will continue to recognize and thank all event sponsors and donators up to, during and after Ride & Rally. **This year's four Exclusive Event Sponsors and major sponsors include:**

- Premier Sponsor (\$5,000+)

Loney Sales & Service/CFMOTO

- Banquet Sponsor (\$5,000+)

Park Rapids CVB

- President's Ride Sponsor (\$4,000+)

Up North Power & Sports

- Entertainment Sponsor (3,000+)

Rainy Lake Houseboats

- Full -Throttle Sponsors (\$2,500+)

J&K Marine and Powersports

Prospector ATV Club



**Rainy Lake Houseboats Adds
To Its Ride & Rally Support &
Auction Item, Becomes
Entertainment Sponsor**

From Tom Dougherty

Rainy Lake Houseboats is honored to once again sponsor the ATV Minnesota Ride & Rally.

Last year, we donated a Rainy Lake Houseboat vacation to the Ride & Rally auction. I recently had the opportunity to visit with the group that won the trip, and it was great to see them enjoying their time on Rainy Lake.

This year, we would like to make our donation even more special by adding a private Kettle Falls Hotel Tour, a \$600 value, to the houseboat vacation package. Kettle Falls has a special connection to our family. My great-grandfather, Robert "Bob" Williams, purchased the Kettle Falls Hotel in 1918 for \$1,000 and four barrels of whiskey. Our family operated the hotel until it was sold to the National Park Service in 1977. The following year, in 1978, my parents purchased Rainy Lake Houseboats. 2026 marks our family's 108th season as resort owners in the area.

As part of the added tour experience, our tour boat will pick up the winning group directly from their houseboat mooring site and transport them to Kettle Falls Hotel, where they will receive a private tour before returning to their houseboat. By adding the \$600 Kettle Falls experience to our houseboat vacation donation, the total value of Rainy Lake Houseboats' sponsorship should qualify us for the Exclusive Entertainment sponsorship level of \$3,000+.

We are proud to support ATV Minnesota and the Ride & Rally and appreciate the opportunity to contribute an experience that showcases both Rainy Lake and Voyageurs National Park.

Thank you, and we look forward to another successful Ride & Rally!

Respectfully,

Tom Dougherty

Rainy Lake Houseboats

President, Voyageur Country ATV







Get To Know The Candidates Running For Executive Board Positions. The ATV Minnesota Election Is September 19th At Ride & Rally

The terms for three ATV Minnesota executive board positions expire in September: President, First Vice President, and Secretary. The deadline for nominations was July 31st.

Nominations were made using the official ATV MN nomination form. Four nominations were submitted. The nominees were contacted to confirm their interest.

Running for president: Larry Folstad (top left photo) and Perry May (top right photo). Running for First Vice President: Dean Schliek (lower left photo). Running for re-election as secretary: Nick Wognum (lower right photo).

To read the full profiles for each candidate that were provided to ATV MN, see the August 4th e-newsletter, sent to all members who have provided us with their email address. To learn more about member eligibility to vote and the in-person voting process at Ride & Rally, see the August 20th e-newsletter. Both newsletters are also posted on our website at atvmn.org, under the "News" tab.

The in-person election will be held at the 2026 ATV MN State Convention/Ride & Rally, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. during the General Membership Meeting on September 19th (with most of the meeting agenda discussed closer to 7:00 p.m. during the banquet). During the election, there will be no nominations accepted from the floor, and no write-in votes will be accepted or counted. The election results will be announced sometime after 8:00.



August 2026 Legislative Update

By Jeff Anderson, ATV MN
Lobbyist

"The upcoming ATV Minnesota President's Ride has become one of our most effective tools for educating policymakers."

(Photo: Many state legislators attended the 2025 Ride & Rally in Silver Bay)



(This is an edited version of Jeff's report from the August statewide-board meeting. The full report was sent to all ATV member club presidents or club representatives with the meeting invitation, and can be shared with club members. Make sure your club's voice is heard and your club is up-to-date on many important issues, by encouraging your club president or representative to attend the monthly Zoom call/meeting.)

2026 Elections Take Shape

The 2027-2028 Minnesota Legislature will convene on January 12, 2027. Before lawmakers return to St. Paul, however, Minnesota voters will determine the political makeup of state government in the November 3 general election. The race guarantees a significant change in state leadership and will result in Minnesota electing its first woman governor. **For ATV Minnesota, the gubernatorial election is particularly important** because the next Governor will influence appointments and leadership at the Department of Natural Resources, state budget priorities, environmental and natural-resource policy, and decisions regarding infrastructure and trail funding.

U.S. Senate

Minnesota voters will elect a new United States Senator to succeed retiring Senator Tina Smith (DFL). Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan won the DFL nomination after defeating Congresswoman Angie Craig in a closely watched primary. She will face Republican nominee Michele Tafoya, the former sports broadcaster, in November. While this race does not directly determine control of the Minnesota Legislature, Minnesota's statewide campaigns will have an impact on voter turnout and could influence competitive legislative races further down the ballot.

Historic Legislative Turnover

Every seat in the Minnesota House and Senate is also on the ballot this November, and the Legislature is entering one of its largest turnover cycles in recent history. At the conclusion of the 2026 legislative session: 26 House members had announced they would leave the House - 10 retiring, seven running for the Senate, and nine seeking other offices; 15 Senators had announced their retirements; and two additional Senators were seeking other offices. Those numbers alone guarantee substantial turnover before accounting for incumbents who may lose in November. The result will be a Legislature with many new members, new committee chairs, new committee memberships, and potentially new leadership in both chambers. **For ATV Minnesota, this creates both a challenge and an opportunity.**

We have worked hard during the past two legislative sessions to build a broader bipartisan coalition of lawmakers who understand ATV recreation, trail development, and the economic importance of motorized recreation to communities throughout Minnesota. **As new legislators arrive in St. Paul, we will need to introduce ATV Minnesota to them quickly and begin building those relationships.**

One Notable Primary Result

Republican State Representative Mike Wiener of Long Prairie narrowly defeated incumbent Republican Senator Paul Utke of Park Rapids in Senate District 5.

Both Senator Utke and Representative Wiener have been supportive of Minnesota's ATV community. I highlight this race because ATV Minnesota's 2026 President's Ride will take place within Senate District 5, making this year's event an especially valuable opportunity to showcase ATV recreation and trail development in the district. Both Senator Utke and Representative Wiener have been invited to participate. The race is also a good example of the changing legislative environment. Even legislators with whom ATV Minnesota has longstanding relationships can leave the Legislature through retirement, campaigns for other offices, primary elections, or general elections. Our advocacy strategy therefore has to continually expand our network of supporters.

The Midterm Political Environment

There is another dynamic worth watching as we approach November. Historically, the political party controlling the White House frequently encounters a difficult midterm election environment. Minnesota's current political environment has its own dynamics, and Republicans and Democrats will both be targeting competitive districts. **The important point for ATV Minnesota is that control of one or both legislative chambers could change in November, and relatively few competitive races may ultimately determine the majorities.** We will not know the final political landscape, or precisely who will control the committees most important to ATV Minnesota, until after Election Day.

Looking Ahead to the 2027 Legislative Session

Regardless of which party controls the House, Senate, and Governor's Office, lawmakers will return to St. Paul facing a significant agenda. ATV Minnesota's priorities will compete for attention within that larger legislative environment. **Our job will be to make sure ATV recreation, trail funding, access, and responsible trail development remain part of the conversation.** *(Photo: ATV clubs visited with their State Legislators at the ATV MN Day at the Capitol)*



ATV Minnesota: Preparing Now for 2027

We are not waiting until January to begin that work. Throughout the summer and fall, our team continues to meet with legislators, legislative candidates, caucus leaders, and other decision-makers. We are attending political and community events, fundraisers, and meetings across the state and continuing to strengthen relationships on both sides of the aisle. **The upcoming ATV Minnesota President's Ride will be another important part of that effort. These rides have become one of our most effective tools for educating policymakers.** There is simply no substitute for putting legislators on the trail, introducing them to ATV Minnesota members and local club leaders, and allowing them to see firsthand the trail systems, volunteer efforts, tourism activity, and economic development supported by Minnesota's ATV community.

Following the November election, we will assess the new political landscape, identify incoming legislators and new committee leaders, and work with ATV Minnesota leadership to develop our legislative strategy for 2027. We have spent the past two legislative sessions expanding ATV Minnesota's bipartisan

coalition, strengthening relationships at the Capitol, increasing our visibility, and creating new ways to communicate our message. **The 2027 session will give us an opportunity to build on that groundwork and continue advancing ATV Minnesota's legislative, policy, trail funding, and access priorities.** Thank you for the opportunity to represent ATV Minnesota at the Minnesota Legislature.



Polaris and Minnesota 4-H Expand Youth ATV Safety Education Through a Fun Interactive Adventure

Digital Trailblazers Experience Introduces Foundational ATV Safety Learning and Strengthens Long-standing Partnership

[Polaris](#), in partnership with [Minnesota 4-H](#), is expanding its youth ATV safety education with the launch of a new interactive safety adventure available on [CLOVER](#), 4-H's online learning platform. At its core, Trailblazers are built around

a simple idea: learning safety should be as engaging and rewarding as the adventures young riders dream about having.

The [*ATV Adventure Academy: Trailblazers*](#) experience introduces youth to foundational safe-riding practices in an engaging, trail-themed digital environment to make learning fun while sparking interest in outdoor adventure and future riding experiences. Built around interactive choices, animated sequences, and a trail map with progressive levels, the *Trailblazers* safety adventure immerses youth in scenarios that help them explore responsible riding practices, including selecting proper gear, making safer decisions, and recognizing trail signs. With youth involved in the creation of the experience from the start, it's designed for ease and engagement.

"We provided feedback on the flow of the experience and age-appropriate play and questions," said Minnesota 4-H ATV Safety Ambassador, Rebecca Anderson, "I've personally learned that ATV safety is something that needs to be taught, not assumed. It's important to me that other youth learn ATV safety as well, so I wanted to help make it fun because when kids enjoy it, they actually remember it. That's how you build good habits early."

While the content is geared towards youth ages 10-13, the adventure is open to anyone curious about ATV safety and serves as an accessible starting point before moving onto Minnesota 4-H's hands-on ATV Safety programming or other state-certified trainings and ASI (ATV Safety Institute) certifications.

"Trailblazers is designed to meet youth riders at the beginning of their safety journey and help build their confidence through engaging, scenario-based learning," said Korinne Caldwell, Polaris Employee Health and Safety Manager, ASI/ATV Instructor and ROHVA Certified Instructor. "By introducing foundational safety principles early, and in ways that reflect real riding situations, we're helping young riders develop the habits they need to ride responsibly and safely. When youth understand these skills, they're better equipped to enjoy the

freedom and adventure of being outdoors with confidence. That's why Polaris is committed to advancing youth rider safety, and why Trailblazers plays such an important role in that mission."

The launch of this safety adventure marks the latest milestone in the long-standing [collaboration between Polaris and Minnesota 4-H](#). Since 2019, the partnership has supported youth ATV and UTV safety education through hands-on training, safety displays at farm safety events and county and state fairs, and expanded curriculum and volunteer training reaching more than 800,000 youth. Building on this foundation, Polaris and Minnesota 4-H are sharing resources and learnings to support multi-state program pilots, including current collaborations with 4-H partners in Wisconsin and Utah, extending responsible riding education to more youth and families.

About University of Minnesota and Minnesota 4-H

Minnesota 4-H is the largest youth development program in the state, serving 58,000 youth in the 2024/2025 program year. The program, run by University of Minnesota Extension, is developed using rigorous educational standards and is designed to nurture youth into becoming innovators and leaders.

For more news from U of M Extension, visit www.extension.umn.edu/news or contact Extension Communications at extdigest@umn.edu. University of Minnesota Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer.





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.

*****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.

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.



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