
ATV MN Wins National Award

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ATV Minnesota
"Your Voice For ATV Recreation in Minnesota"
Member Newsletter
October 23, 2024

*382 New Members This Year
Welcome...Let's Ride!*



ATV Minnesota Named To NOHVCC Hall Of Fame

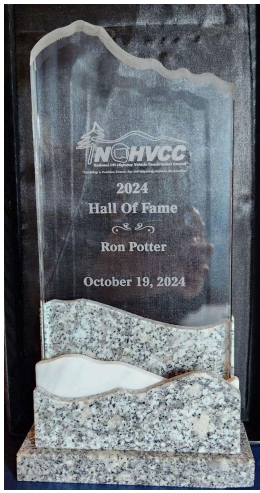
Each year, the awards banquet is a major highlight of the annual conference of the National Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC). This year, the list of award winners includes five Minnesota groups and individuals. Congratulations to all!



1) **ATV Minnesota** was named to the NOHVCC OHV Club Hall of Fame. A new category this year, the award was created to recognize clubs that excel at what they do, have received recognition from NOHVCC numerous times, and continue to have a positive impact on the OHV industry. In 2018, ATV

Minnesota was named NOHVCC Association of the Year. Fifteen other individuals and groups in Minnesota have won NOHVCC awards in the past including, most recently, Perry May, who was named NOHVCC Volunteer of the Year in 2019. "ATV Minnesota is hands down one of the most successful and active OHV Associations in the nation," said Dan Kleen, Board President Emeritus with NOHVCC. "They are a perfect example of how to run an association by keeping its 70 member clubs working together and well informed."

2) **Ron Potter**, ATV MN president, was named to the NOHVCC Hall of Fame. Throughout his career, Ron has made many positive contributions to motorized recreation across the U.S. and Canada, including during 37 years at the Minnesota DNR,



working with off-road and snowmobile clubs to plan, design, fund and build trails, and promote safe, responsible riding.

"I don't know of anyone more deserving of the NOHVCC Hall of Fame than Ron Potter," Dan Kleen said. (Shown in the photo above presenting the award to Ron.) "He has been a champion of our sport in both his amazing DNR career and as a proven leader of ATV Minnesota after his retirement."



3) **Voyageur Country ATV** was named the NOHVCC Club of the Year. Organized in 2015, it quickly grew from 66 members to over 700. Its list of accomplishments in 10 years is impressive. Just one example is the 185-foot single-span steel bridge it built over the Vermilion River, connecting and expanding both snowmobile and ATV trails. The US Forest Service Eastern Region recognized the club with its 2020 "Honor Award", for its partnership with the Superior National Forest to build the bridge. The

club's 250-mile trail system has greatly increased tourism, one lodge reporting a 10-fold increase in reservations during the ATV riding season.



4) **Eric Senarighi**, president of the Carlton County Riders, received a Special Recognition Award. Year after year, his focus is promoting youth and adult ATV safety. This year, the Minnesota DNR named Eric the 2023 ATV Safety Instructor of the Year. He received the same recognition from the DNR in 2021. Eric created the club's "Lids for Kids" safety program, which gives each student who completes the hands-on ATV youth training course a brand new helmet. In 2019, after the untimely death of his friend and club member Kyle Ringhofer, Eric created the "Klick it for Kyle" program, promoting ATV safety with a memorial ride and, working with ATV MN and

Polaris, created and distributed a unique shoulder pad for side-by-side seat belts as a reminder to riders to buckle up. He is also an active member of the ATV MN Safety Committee, doing outreach on ATV safety across Minnesota, and more recently in Iowa.

5) **Polaris** also received a Special Recognition Award, for the work it put into hosting this year's NOHVCC conference, attended by 120 people, and a huge success. Polaris is the first ATV manufacturer to host the 3-day event, held October 17-19.

Shown in the photo, Marc Hildesheim (left), NOHVCC executive director, presents the award to Matt Schiller (right), digital product leader at Polaris, and Chris Gamache, RIDE COMMAND trail manager and chief organizer of this year's conference.



Here is the complete list of award winners from the 2024 NOHVCC conference:

Special Recognition: Polaris, AMA, Donner Pass Trail (CO), Eric Senarighi

Club of the Year: Voyageur Country ATV

Rob Perrin Program Manager of the Year: Desi Ortiz, NM Game and Fish

State Partner of the Year: Charles Sims, Oklahoma

OHV Club Hall of Fame: ATV Minnesota

NOHVCC Hall of Fame: Chris Gamache (Trail Manager with Polaris Ride Command, formerly with NH Bureau of Trails, has worked on motorized recreation his entire career), and Ron Potter (see above notes).



The annual NOHVCC conference brings together off-highway vehicle (OHV) clubs, state and provincial OHV associations, as well as DNR, Forest Service and BLM leaders from across the U.S. and Canada. It includes two days of presentations on OHV issues and success stories, a full-day "mobile workshop" that includes trail-building demonstrations and a ride on local trails, and an awards banquet.



This year was the first time an ATV manufacturer has hosted the conference. In fact, year after year, Polaris is often the sole OEM sponsor, and has provided vehicles for the trail rides at conferences in Florida, California, Montana, and many other locations. This year's presentations were held at the Polaris Bass Creek headquarters, and the field day/mobile workshop was at its Wyoming facility and trails. Polaris engineers talked about their work

advancing ATV technology, including research to make vehicle tires quieter, a topic that created great interest, questions and conversation. "It was the most informative mobile workshop ever," said one participant. Learn more about NOHVCC, its mission, state partners, resources and much more at nohvcc.org.

Arrowhead Coalition Of Trails Brings Together Many Stakeholders

By Beth Pierce, executive director, Iron Range Tourism



On October 16, 2024, Iron Range Tourism and the St. Louis and Lake County Regional Railroad Authority hosted the Arrowhead Coalition of Trails (ACT) meeting in Virginia, MN. The event was designed to bring motorized and non-motorized trail groups together, along with land managers, elected officials and planners/engineers, to discuss collaboration and cooperation

around trail development and maintenance in the northern part of the state.

Nearly 90 people registered for the event, which included a presentation by Brigid Tuck of the University of Minnesota Extension Service, titled "Economic Contribution of ATV Trails to Koochiching, Lake and St Louis Counties," and one by Andrew Oftedal with the Council of Minnesota Parks and Trails, titled "Redhead Mountain Bike Park and Giants Ridge Mountain Bike Trail Visitor Survey Reports."

There were also small group discussions on topics ranging from shared maintenance equipment and facilities to standardized signage, collaborative marketing, and safety campaigns, from improved communication between user groups to trail-to-town access, and more. "Everyone in the room really gets it," said Beth Pierce, event organizer and director of Iron Range Tourism. "They know that trails make communities attractive to visitors and new residents, and that we all benefit from scenic and well-mapped, well-maintained trails. A lot of good ideas for how to work together came out of this meeting and hopefully this is just the beginning."

ATV clubs in the northeast have been meeting regularly for years. There are trails task forces in both northern St Louis County and Itasca County. But this is the first large-scale event that put many of the day's topics on the table for motorized and non-motorized groups to brainstorm together. Several committees were formed by attendees, with the idea that solution-based discussions would continue over the winter and a second ACT meeting would be held in the spring.

In addition to Iron Range Tourism, the event was sponsored by Barr Engineering, Bolton and Menk, Widseth, and Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation.

Military Crossroads Dedication

Voyageur Country ATV, in northern St. Louis County, added a unique destination to its trail system. On October 5, as part of its annual fall ride, the club dedicated its new Military Crossroads and Frontline Pavilion. It included the raising of the American flag by veterans, joining flags from all branches of the military.

The new stop on the trail includes a pavilion, toilet, and two kiosks, one with memorial plaques available by donating to the club. See more photos and details at the club Facebook page.



Roseau/LOW Sportsman's Club 18th Annual Fun Run

By Loren Arveson, Northwest Regional Director

September 14, 2024, marked the Roseau/LOW Sportsman's Club's 18th Annual ATV Fun Run, which was a huge success! Held in the beautiful Beltrami Island

State Forest, located in far north Minnesota at trail head Carp's Pit, 420 registered riders gathered to enjoy a warm and sunny day of riding, making it the club's largest turnout to date. Each year the club chooses a theme-based ride and this year's theme was "Gunsmoke." Starting with registration in the early morning, riders were corralled in groups of 20-30 machines and let loose to ride at 15-20 minute intervals, from 9 a.m. to high noon.



The ride was 45 miles of dusty trails amid changing autumn colors. There were five game stops along the way for riders to challenge themselves and win prizes. While some folks took the competition to heart, others just had a good time. There were folks that dressed to the "Gunsmoke" theme and they looked amazing! Beautiful dames and handsome cowboys were sprinkled among the crowds of riders. A good time was had by all throughout the day, along with local raffles, a salsa contest and a hearty meal fed to the riders upon their return. Mark your

calendar for Sept 2025 when once again, we will be having our 19th Annual Fun Run.

A Dealer's Fall Poker Ride

By Ken Irish, Southern Regional Director

Over 250 people came out to ride with Cannon Power Sports on October 6, 2024, during its first annual fall poker ride. The dealership's doors opened at 10 a.m. and people came early to get their poker cards and raffle tickets for a chance to win door prizes. The DNR



OHV Trail Atlas and regulation book were available, as well as complimentary Minnesota Wheelin magazines from ATV Minnesota. The group left at noon from the parking lot, riding to their first stop at Brewster's Bar & Grill in Lonsdale. Riders then traveled 40 plus miles along county roads, scenic bluffs and many farm fields. They made poker-card stops at Welch Mill, Dan's Bar & Grill, Trophy House, Round Up and the R Bar, the final destination

in Randolph, for BBQ pulled pork sandwiches, smoked chicken drumsticks, chips and beverages.

Rick Chapman, owner of Cannon Powersports, called for the grand prize for the best poker hand for an ECOXGEAR soundbar valued at \$499. Second place was \$25.00. Third place was an FXR T-shirt, and many other caps and T-shirts were raffled. Riders came from the cities of Vermillion, Hampton, Lakeville, Farmington, Waseca, and Inver Grove Heights. Cannon Powersports is in Cannon Falls, Minnesota.



Save The Date!

ATV MN Legislative Summit

December 7: 8 a.m. to noon

McQuoid's Inn, Isle, MN

(Submit your club's resolutions soon)

It's important for ATV Minnesota, its members and member clubs, to have a collective voice, communicated through our lobbyists to the State Legislature, to form bills and direct funding that create a positive future for ATV recreation in Minnesota. That process starts with the

annual ATV MN Legislative Summit.

Plan now for your ATV club to be represented at this important meeting, either in person or on Zoom, December 7, 8 a.m. to noon, at McQuoid's Inn, 1325 State Hwy 47, Isle, MN 56342. Registration will be posted soon on the ATV MN website.

This is an opportunity for ATV clubs to submit resolutions to be prioritized and voted on, giving ATV Minnesota and its lobbyists direction and priority on what Legislative issues will be pursued during the 2025 Legislative Session. All ATV Minnesota member clubs are invited to send representatives; each club gets one vote on resolutions and issues.

The resolution procedure and form example were mailed to all club representatives.

Mail or email resolutions to arrive by end of work day, November 29th.

Remember, all resolutions must be signed by the club president and someone from the club must be present at the Legislative Summit to explain the resolution and answer any questions. Please contact the ATV MN office or the Executive Board with questions.

ATV MINNESOTA
"Your Voice To Ride"

Seventy 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). *Photo: Ron Potter, ATV MN president, answers a question during his presentation at the 2024 NOHVCC Conference.*

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



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 riding 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 the 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, 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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