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**MnUSA Newsledder**

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From MnUSA <office@mnusa.org>

Date Tue 1/14/2025 12:00 PM

To millelacstrails@yahoo.com <millelacstrails@yahoo.com>



**JANUARY 2025**



MnUSA's members are invited to contact their legislators and invite them to meet you at MnUSA's 2025 Legislators' Reception to talk about snowmobiling and its importance to you.

With the redistricting and recent elections, many members have new legislators. To find “Who Represents Me” and your legislators’ contact information, go to [www.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.leg.state.mn.us) and enter your address.

On the top of the MnUSA priority list is protection of the dedicated fund and the sales tax exemption for trail maintenance materials.



# 2025 MnUSA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM!

**APPLY FOR YOUR CHANCE  
TO EARN UP TO \$3,000  
TOWARDS CONTINUING  
EDUCATION!**

*Visit*  
***[www.mnsnowmobiler.org](http://www.mnsnowmobiler.org)***  
*for more information!*



## APPLICATIONS DUE 3/31/25

### **MnUSA Scholarship Applications Now Open!**

MnUSA Charity & Awards Committee is proud to present 2025 Scholarship Program (up to \$3,000) to graduating high school seniors pursuing education in an accredited 2-year or 4-year institution of higher learning or vocational school and/or individuals currently enrolled in such a program.

Applicant Requirements –

- Compose minimum 2-page Essay (doubled-spaced and typed) from following topic: “What would you do to educate and stop riders of all ages and experience levels from trespassing and to stay on the trails?”

- Must be a good standing MnUSA member for past 3 years (if under 18 years or still in high school this will include membership as a son, daughter or legal ward of a family having current)
- Have passed the Minnesota Snowmobile Safety Course and have a Snowmobile Safety Certificate
- Complete application (preferred typed) with Student Activity Profile
- 2 Letters of Recommendation (relating your involvement with one about snowmobiling/club and one school/community)
- Include your name on all submitted pages
- Include a shoulder/head shot photo (can be your senior class photo)
- Submit to office and Committee Chairperson by mail or email no later than 3/31/25

[2025 Scholarship Application \(.doc\)](#)

[2025 Scholarship Application \(.pdf\)](#)

## MSEAF - Minnesota Snowmobiler Education and Advancement Fund

MSEAF is another Minnesota non-profit association that helps promote snowmobiling. You might know of them mostly because they organize and hold the annual veterans snowmobile ride, and also help acquire and distribute trail informational signs. MSEAF has set up a new website and new contact information!

[mseaf.org](http://mseaf.org)

763-560-8281

PO Box 28486

Minneapolis, MN 55428

**HONOR AND RIDE!**  
Join MnUSA for the 16th Annual  
Veterans Appreciation Ride

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2025**  
**GRAND RAPIDS, MINNESOTA**

All veterans are welcome to enjoy a day snowmobiling, including lodging and meals. Bring your own sled or if you don't have equipment, there will be snowmobiles, helmets, and clothing available.

Co-sponsored by MSEAF and MnUSA  
Contact: Minnesota Snowmobile Education and Advancement Fund  
PO Box 28486, Minneapolis, MN 55428  
763-560-8281 | email: [mnveteransride@gmail.com](mailto:mnveteransride@gmail.com)  
website: [mseaf.org](http://mseaf.org)

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!**



## Minnesota DNR shares reminders about the snowmobile riding season

As snowmobile riders prepare for the upcoming riding season, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds riders of important dates, safety tips and registration requirements.

While the snowmobile riding season can start as early as Dec. 1, as yet this year there are no locations in the state with suitable conditions for trail grooming. Several conditions must be met before trails are open, groomed and ready for travel:

- The ground must be frozen. Where trails cross wetlands, 15 inches of ice are needed to support the weight of trail groomers.
- Adequate snow cover of about 12 inches must be on the ground to allow for trail packing and grooming.
- Trails must be cleared of fallen trees, signs put in place and gates opened.

While snowmobilers await the arrival of more snow and groomed trails, now is a good time to make sure registrations are current and snowmobiles are in

good operating order, review safety training, and check local trail maps for route changes or new trails.

Registrations for new snowmobiles must be purchased in person at a deputy registrar of motor vehicles or at the DNR License Bureau in St. Paul. Renewals of registrations and state trail passes for snowmobiles not registered in the state of MN can be handled in person at these same locations or on the [\*\*DNR's licenses and vehicle registrations website\*\*](http://mndnr.gov/licenses) (mndnr.gov/licenses).

The DNR shares information about snow depth and state-managed trail conditions on its [\*\*DNR snow depth and groomed trail conditions webpage\*\*](http://mndnr.gov/snow_depth) (mndnr.gov/snow\_depth). Local trail conditions are often posted online by tourism associations, chambers of commerce and volunteer snowmobile clubs. To find the nearest club, visit the [\*\*Minnesota United Snowmobiler's Association website\*\*](http://mnsnowmobiler.org) (mnsnowmobiler.org).

Important snowmobile riding safety tips include:

- Be weather aware and don't ride in adverse weather conditions.
- Check the trail conditions and weather forecast for the destination before leaving home.
- Measure ice depth before riding on lakes and rivers. The DNR recommends a minimum of 5 to 7 inches of new, clear ice for snowmobiles.
- Always stay on designated snowmobile trails. Venturing off trails can result in accidents, loss of trails from landowners, and trespass violations.
- Don't drink alcohol and ride. Alcohol is a factor in more than 60% of fatal accidents in Minnesota.
- Always wear a quality DOT-approved helmet and facemask.

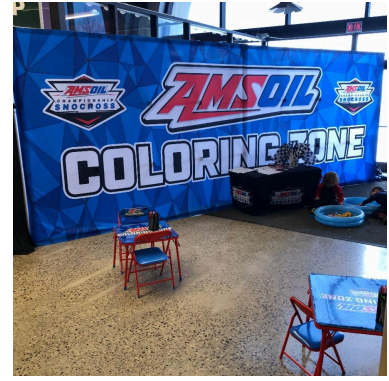
An interactive snowmobile trail map can be found on the [\*\*DNR's snowmobiling website\*\*](http://mndnr.gov/snowmobiling) (mndnr.gov/snowmobiling). Paper trail maps can be requested from the DNR Information Center. Email [\*\*info.dnr@state.mn.us\*\*](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us) or call 888-646-6367 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday.

Contact: [\*\*Wade Miller\*\*](mailto:wade.miller@state.mn.us), state trails and snowmobile program consultant, 651-259-5643

## **MnUSA at ISOC!**

MnUSA had a booth at the US Air Force Snocross National January 10th and 11th at Canterbury Park in Shakopee. Over the two-day event, many attendees stopped by our booth to register for a free MnUSA Cookbook, pickup a renewal for membership or even a new membership.

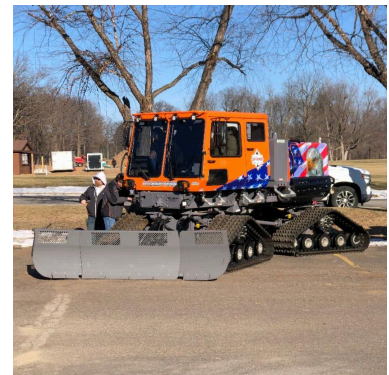
In addition, MnUSA had current supplies of the magazine, many stickers, DNR quadrant maps, and coloring books for the kids. The event was on the horse track at Canterbury with many international racers, as well as American and upper Midwest racers vying for a podium and medal's. Thanks to all the attendees that stopped by our booth.



## MnUSA at The Great MN Groomer Show!

MnUSA had a booth at the Great MN Groomer Show in Deerwood MN at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge. The event was well attended by groomer operators throughout the state and other states, over the two-day event.

If your club was in the mood to purchase a new groomer, or drag, this was the place to be. Thanks to all the MnUSA members, directors, and attendees that stopped by the booth and registered for a free MnUSA cookbook. Information about next years event will be forthcoming.





## Snowmobile Event Dates

The ISMA has released the official international dates for snowmobile events this season!

February 8, 2025: International Snowmobile Ride Day

Feb 8-17th is Take a Friend Snowmobiling campaign

We encourage all clubs to hold events in your local areas to help promote community and togetherness through snowmobiling this February! ISMA has provided some great insight and recommendations in the attached press release:

[ISMA Press Release](#)



DECEMBER



JANUARY

## MINNESOTA SNOWMOBILING DIGITAL DECEMBER AND JANUARY ISSUES

Minnesota Snowmobiling is available digitally through our website... and now the Newsletter! Should you want to read Minnesota Snowmobiling digitally online, and no longer desire a mailed copy, please send an email to [office@mnusa.org](mailto:office@mnusa.org), asking to be removed from our mailing list.

## Calling all Snowmobile Clubs!

Wyoming High Country Lodge is currently offering the *Snowmobile Club Discount* to club members and their families. Groups of 10 or more will receive 10% off their stay on any combination of rooms or cabins using code **SNOWCLUB25**. We offer an array of cabins and lodge rooms to accommodate families, friends, and large groups.

The adventure starts as soon as you arrive with access to trails right from the lodge as well as backcountry riding close by. Whatever your group's skill level there are places for you to ride and enjoy the beauty of the Bighorn Mountains. For those without their own snowmobiles, or those who prefer not to bring them along, we partner with Sled Wyoming for all your rental needs. When riding is done for the day, hang out in the lodge drinking coffee and hot chocolate by the fireplace. All of your meals are included in your stay. Breakfast and dinner are served hot and lunch is packed ready for your mountain view rest stop.



Wyoming High Country Lodge  
(307) 529-0914  
[wyhighcountry.com](http://wyhighcountry.com)

To reserve your group, call or go online using the promo code **SNOWCLUB25**. We are happy to assist you with any questions you may have or additional information.

Snowmobile Rentals: <https://www.sledwyo.com/>

Cabin & Lodge Room Information: <https://www.wyhighcountry.com/>

Interactive Trail Map: <https://wyo.evtrails.com/#>



## Message from Polaris Ride Command:

I'd like to invite your club to partner with our team on Ride Command, joining the over 900 clubs across the Snow Belt already partnering with us. **Thanks to the Minnesota clubs that have already joined Ride Command.**

If your club does not currently have a member who is the designated Ride Command trail manager, here are some details about the program.

How to put Ride Command to work for your club and its business sponsors

Ride Command, the leading mobile app and website for trail riders, has the power to provide snowmobile clubs and associations with greater visibility, trail mapping with real-time accuracy, and the ability to help your club raise funds in the process.

Ride Command has partnered with hundreds of clubs and associations across the Snow Belt, helping them:

- Manage their designated trail system on the Ride Command map, right on their computer. Add, update, reroute or temporarily close trail segments for real-time accuracy.
- Prevent illegal, off-trail riding on private property by showing all legal routes.
- Add waypoints with photos for trailheads, parking, scenic spots and more.
- Use the new Community feature to publicize club rides and events,

Working with our Ride Command team of life-long riders and mapping / GIS professionals, your snowmobile club is able to:

- Create Premium Points-of-Interest for their business sponsors that sell food, fuel and lodging — on the Ride Command website and free mobile app — so visiting riders have all the information they need to plan rides and find rider services while out on the trail.
- Include those POIs as part of their business membership or sell the “digital ads” on an annual basis.

Suggested price for each premium marker can vary and is entirely up to the club based on the business's trail location, rider traffic and price charged for ads on their printed map. **Clubs collect 100% of the proceeds.** Polaris receives no funds from this program.

## How to Partner with Polaris as a Ride Command Club

1. Designate one person to serve as your club's Ride Command trail manager. Have that person go to the Ride Command website [ridecommand.polaris.com](http://ridecommand.polaris.com), scroll down to the bottom of the page and tap "Club/Trail Manager."
2. Complete and submit a Ride Command club application. It will be reviewed by the Ride Command team, and a welcome letter will be sent to them, complete with details on how to get started maintaining trails, creating waypoints and POIs, and more, right on their computer.
3. Your club's trail manager will receive our Ride Command trail manager newsletter, with news and updates to share with your club.

Complete Details Are On The Attached PowerPoint Presentation

The attached PowerPoint presentation can be shown at your club meeting. It explains the rider benefits of using the Ride Command website, mobile app and in-vehicle display, as well as the club benefits of partnering with us.

I live just east of Outing, MN, and work with snowmobile clubs in Minnesota and a dozen other states. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

I look forward to helping your club make the most of Ride Command!

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Dave Halsey, trail ambassador Ride Command email: [dave.halsey@polaris.com](mailto:dave.halsey@polaris.com)



## Signs Needed!

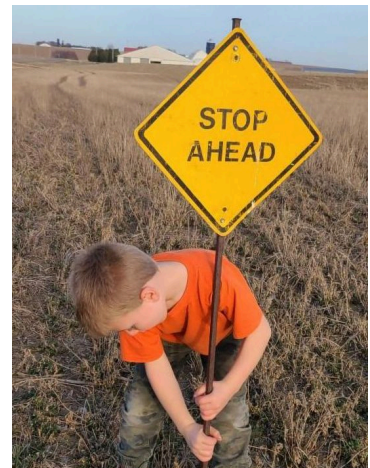
Lake of the Woods Drifters is looking for the following trail signs. If your club has an extra available, please reach out to them at:

[lakeofthewoodsdrifters@gmail.com](mailto:lakeofthewoodsdrifters@gmail.com)

Signs needed:

Corridor 94 East/West (25 of each)

Corridor 55 North/South (25 of each)



## Minnesota Snowmobile Club Donates to Birchwood Four Corners EMS

The Sno Barons snowmobile club, based in North Branch, Minnesota and best known for their annual Haydays grass drags held in September every year that is acknowledged as the largest





snowmobile related event in the world recently donated \$1500 to the Birchwood Four Corners EMS in their effort to raise funds for their UTV rescue vehicle.

The money will go towards the purchase of tracks that can be used during the winter months to make the UTV more efficient in getting around when snow is on the ground. The tracks cost approximately \$27,000.

The Sno Barons were asked to make the donation by Steve Bethke, current president of the Birchwood Bobcat Riders and a member of the Sno Barons club for 41 years.

According to Bethke, the Sno Barons dedicate a portion of the money they make each year at Haydays to support other clubs in Minnesota and Wisconsin with issues involving snowmobiling. "Having been an active member of the Sno Barons when I lived in Minnesota I was aware of the club's commitment to helping other clubs. With snowmobilers most likely to benefit from the ability of the rescue vehicle to reach them on the trails it seemed like a good match", said Bethke.

At their December 14th monthly meeting the Bobcat Riders matched the Sno Barons with a \$1500 donation of their own for a total of \$3000 going to the Birchwood Four Corners EMS.



### **Good Time Riders host landowners' event**

The Good Time Riders Snowmobile club is in the southeastern area of the state (Mower County) bordering Iowa.

With the lack of snow in this area, we have had to find other things to do such as UTV rides and hotdog roasts and a pizza party.

Each year over 60 landowners are invited to the Adams American Legion for a meal of freshly grilled hamburgers, salad, chips, and cookies. Members donate door prizes that include gift cards, cash, pie certificates from Bubble's café and a quilt. We are not sure which they like best...the food or the door prizes.

This is a great time for our club members to get to know who's land we are crossing. We encourage the land owners to come to us if they have a problem with a trail or riders causing an issue.

### **Congratulations to Rick Voghart on receiving MnUSA Region 5 Unsung Hero award for 2024!!!**

Rick is with the Caledonia Sno-gophers snowmobile club. He has been active with the club since the 70's doing almost everything at one time or another for the club including many years of



safety training. Thank you Rick for everything you have done over the years!

Al Christain with the Sno-Gophers submitted Rick for the award and is presenting it to Rick here.



**ULTRA club has a new drag.** This will fit behind our toolcat to groom those hard to maintain places like the underpass and other in town areas.

Now, we just need more snow!

Want to see your clubs amazing events and work featured here?  
Please send your stories to the MnUSA Office at [office@mnusa.org](mailto:office@mnusa.org)!



**LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR WINTER RENDEZVOUS!**

MnUSA room blocks have been released to the public.  
Be sure to reserve today before they are gone!



# MnUSA Winter Rendezvous

Hosted by MnUSA Region 1

South Shore Hotel on Lake Bemidji

Bemidji, MN

February 6-9, 2025

## Lodging

Rooms are available at the South Shore Hotel on Lake Bemidji and DoubleTree in Bemidji. They are connected to each other and located right along the snowmobile trail. Rooms are \$129 + tax (single) or \$143 + tax (double). Book under the **MnUSA room block** until **Jan. 8** for this special rate.

South Shore Hotel on Lake Bemidji: (218) 751-3600

DoubleTree: (218) 441-4400



More event info at  
[mnsnowmobiler.org](http://mnsnowmobiler.org)



## Registration

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name or Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (print clearly): \_\_\_\_\_

Registrations postmarked by Dec. 31, 2024	Registrations postmarked ON or AFTER Jan. 1, 2025
Adults # ____ x \$90 = \$ _____	Adults # ____ x \$120 = \$ _____
Youth (13-17) # ____ x \$50 = \$ _____	Youth (13-17) # ____ x \$70 = \$ _____
Children (under 13) # ____ x \$0 = FREE	Children (under 13) # ____ x \$0 = FREE
VIP Ride # ____ x \$20 = \$ _____	VIP Ride # ____ x \$25 = \$ _____
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____</b>	<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____</b>

Meals and event registrations can be purchased individually until **Feb. 1**. Ask for prices. Meals are not guaranteed for late registrations. Registrations are non-refundable, but are transferable.

## Payment

Make checks payable to **MnUSA Region 1** and mail to  
Gail Friborg, 37857 Fairground Rd, Bagley, MN 56621  
Email: [pfgf@gvtel.com](mailto:pfgf@gvtel.com) Phone: (218) 556-9613

PRINT WINTER RENDEZVOUS REGISTRATION FORM

WINTER RENDEZVOUS T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

**TIME'S ALMOST UP!**

**\$25**

**\$25**

**\$30**

**\$35**

**FINAL DAY TO ORDER  
RENDEZVOUS SHIRTS IS  
JANUARY 15TH!**

**CONTACT  
JOELLE @  
218-280-3277**

**T-shirts needs to be ordered by January 15th! Submit your order today!**

## RENDEZVOUS VENDOR REGISTRATION FORM

**Vendor Ads deadline has been extended to January 17th! Submit your ad today!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN 25 New Market Snomads Vintage  
Snowmobile Show

JAN 25 Classic Cruise Ride South - ULTRA  
Snowmobile Club

JAN 28 MnUSA Legislators' Reception

FEB 1 St Stephen River Runners 6th Annual  
Vintage Show and Ride

FEB 2 Hot Dogging on the Trail for WCSA with  
Rockford Ridge Riders

FEB 6-9 MnUSA Winter Rendezvous

FEB 8-17 International Snowmobile Day and  
Take a Friend Snowmobiling

FEB 8 Moose Horn Rod & Gun Club Vintage  
Ride

FEB 15 Finland Vintage Snowmobile Event

FEB 15 ULTRA 22nd Annual Detroit Lakes  
Vintage Rally & Swap Meet

Visit [www.mnsnowmobiler.org](http://www.mnsnowmobiler.org) for more information and to see the full MnUSA Calendar!

## FULL EVENTS LIST

messages from

# The MnUSA Office



## REMINDER! WE HAVE MOVED!

Please be sure to send any mail to our new office address at:

MnUSA  
14000 Sunfish Lake Blvd NW Ste L  
Ramsey, MN 55303

[office@mnusa.org](mailto:office@mnusa.org)  
763-577-0185

## ROSTER REQUESTS AND SUBMISSIONS

Rosters are available through the office anytime by request and can be sent via email or mail!

**To save time, money, and materials, rosters are no longer being mailed out to clubs unless requested through the office.**

**Also, all communications from the MnUSA office to the clubs will be via email only (mostly through this Newsledder). Please be sure to have an email on file with the office to receive these communications.**

When returning your rosters, please be sure to send them to  
OUR NEW ADDRESS in Ramsey, MN.

### ROSTER DATA ENTRY UPDATE!

Rosters are now delayed due to the large influx of renewals this time of year. We are 1-2 weeks behind on processing but will be sure to have everything caught up before the end of the month. Please bear with the office as we try

### DEC MEMBER DATA

*All membership renewals were held the month of September so October data reflects both months*

DEC Renewals/New Members: 1,268  
,8  
Total Memberships: 8,963

and stay caught up during this busy time.

A reminder to all clubs to **please check your rosters when we send them to you for any errors or omissions. This is more important than ever now that we are starting to work in the new system!**

Ind/Fam Club Members: 7,705  
Ind/Fam MnUSA Members: 869  
Business Club Sponsors: 288  
Business MnUSA Sponsors: 101

## MEMBERSHIP MATERIALS UPDATE

Materials are on a temporary hold yet again until we can figure out a process that is not only cost effective, but efficient. Here are some of the issues we continue to have with this process:

1. Hard cards take weeks to order and need to be matched to letter.
2. Punch cards are too thick to get through our folding machine.
3. The cost of materials has increased in the past few years while membership is also decreasing. We need to prioritize where our money goes and how much is allocated to each membership benefit.
4. We are now looking at digital membership cards and emails to help save on printing materials and postage.

## WEBSITE UPDATE

We have been hard at work for over a year now on our new website and membership portal platform. While we wanted nothing more than to launch this in 2024, we also do not want to release anything unless it can offer the user experience we want to stand behind.

We have To Do List actively being worked on by our developers and our office and are hopeful to get this launched in the near future!



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

The MnUSA office needs your help! Committee Openings:

**Communications Committee - Social Media**  
**Corporate Service Committee - Safety**

Please reach out to the office with any questions or interest.  
office@mnusa.org or 763-577-0185



## 45th Anniversary Merchandise

Help show your support and spread the MnUSA message!

**Colors available:** Heather Blue and Gray

**Sizes and Pricing:**

All Sizes: \$10 (M limited availability)

**Hats available** in colors shown in photo for \$20

For Ordering Information:

Dick Theis: 763.494.3838 or

dickt.barbc@gmail.com

Merchandise now available in the office  
or can be shipped directly to you for  
just \$5/item!



## 2025 CALENDAR WINNERS!

JANUARY 2025 Raffle Calendar Winners

ALL 2024 Raffle Calendar Winners



## 2025 Raffle Calendar Drawing!

The Fundraising Committee was in the office on January 9th to hold the annual Raffle Calendar Drawing! Winner were selected for entire year and winners will be announced at the beginning of each month!



## **JANUARY 2025**

RAFFLE CALENDAR PHOTO WINNER

**DICK TURNBULL**

*"This pic is from the CJR/NSST. Enough sled traffic smoothed this section out early in the year."*



# PHOTO CONTEST!

## 2026

## ENTER TO WIN!

MnUSA's fundraising committee is seeking photos of Minnesota trails and trail activities to use in the 2026 MnUSA Raffle Calendar. Promote your club and favorite trails by providing a photo and tell us who took the photo, where the photo was taken, and any relevant information or story.

### HOW TO ENTER

- Take photos during the 2024/2025 season
- Email your photos to the MnUSA office before April 19, 2025 at [office@mnusa.org](mailto:office@mnusa.org)

### PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

- Photos are 8.5x11 landscape ratio when printed
- 300 dpi resolution preferred for submissions
- Images are subject to cropping and resizing.
- MnUSA retains the rights to images submitted for promotion.

### PRIZES

Prize money will be awarded for each photo used.



**MINNESOTA UNITED  
SNOWMOBILERS ASSOCIATION**

**Enter by April 19!**

# WHAT DO YOU THINK?

### LAST MONTH'S RESULTS:

Would you buy a snowmobile themed license plate if available through the DMV?

YES: 69%

NO: 31%

Want to know what others are doing? Want ideas from other clubs? Feel free to submit questions for the "What do YOU think?" Poll!

Do you own an ATV and belong to ATVMN?

Yes, I own an ATV and belong to ATVMN.

Yes, I own an ATV, but do not belong to ATVMN.

No, I do not own an ATV or belong to ATVMN

**Mike Clevenger**  
*President*

**Scotty Harder**  
*Vice President*

**Janet Widness**  
*Secretary*

**Gordon Heitke**  
*Treasurer*

**Scott Wakefield**  
*Director at Large*

**MnUSA**  
14000 Sunfish Lake Blvd NW Ste L  
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[office@mnusa.org](mailto:office@mnusa.org)  
**763-577-0185**  
[www.mnsnowmobiler.org](http://www.mnsnowmobiler.org)

**Office Hours:**  
Monday - Friday  
8am - 4pm

**Directions to Office**



MnUSA | 14000 Sunfish Lake Blvd NW Suite L | Ramsey, MN 55303 US

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