



April 2021

Acadia Area ATV'ers

Newsletter

Upcoming Meetings

Club Meeting – April 21 – Meeting at 7:00 p.m. – Club House

Ride – May 16 – Club Ride – 8:00 a.m. – leaving from the club parking area – destination TBD

Club Meeting – May 19 – Meeting at 7:00 p.m. – Club House

April Meeting

Maine CDC still limits the number of people in meetings and the limits are based upon the space of the location. Our club house limit for this meeting is 25 members. It is sad, but true, that the transmission of the virus is still rising even though a lot of people have been fully vaccinated. It is necessary to be in compliance with Maine CDC requirements for meetings. We hope that you will be understanding and appreciate our attempt at making you safe.

Membership

March, as we mentioned in our last communication was membership month. Thank you to all of you who sent in your membership form and check. We are ahead of where we were this time last year. It appears you appreciated a filled-in form so you just had to write the check. You should have received your membership card, etc. in the mail. Again, if you would like to purchase a membership for this year for a friend or family member, the coupon is below. Clip the coupon, fill it in, and send it along with a check and we will see that they get a pre-paid membership form to fill in and return.

	<p><i>Acadia Area ATV'ers</i> <i>PO Box 1671</i> <i>Ellsworth ME 04605</i></p>
<p>Name: _____</p>	
<p>Address: _____</p>	
<p>City, State, Zip: _____</p>	
<p>Phone: _____</p>	

Rides:

In anticipation of where you would like to ride this summer, here are the dates and we can select the locations at the upcoming meeting: May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17, November 21, and if it isn't too cold, December 19. Should you prefer to stay home instead of coming in person to the meeting, please feel free to contact one of our officers with your suggestions.

Trails:

I'm sure that most of you have already read articles regarding trails and what landowners concerns are. One of our business members took pictures of what they have picked up on an ATV trail. PLEASE take a bag with you when you ride. Just because you didn't litter, doesn't mean someone else hasn't and you can pick it up. Without trails we couldn't enjoy our sport. Again, it is important that we take care of the land of others. If you can find out who is throwing trash, take down their ATV/UTV number and report it to the local warden.



The items in the bed of this truck have been left by folks on one or another form of entertainment so I am not saying that anyone on an ATV, snowmobile, UTV, or truck is responsible for this. We just need to make certain that we try to our best to pick up any trash that we find on our trails or other clubs trails.

**THANK YOU FOR KEEPING OUR TRAILS PICKED UP
AND MADE CLEAN FOR OTHERS TO ENJOY AND THE
LANDOWNERS HAPPY.**

The following is an e-mail from Brian Bronson, Supervisor of Off-Road Recreational Vehicles sent to numerous ATV Clubs. The e-mail is very applicable to the Acadia Area ATV'ers trails.

I recently have heard from two large landowners Down east and they clearly want us to do a better job at maintaining their roads if we want to continue to be able to use them with ATVs. They aren't the only landowners who are saying this. The push for us to follow BMP's is real. Some areas are clearly better and others worse but very few are up to BMP standards. Some of those differences are the result of differing levels of use and some are due to different levels of maintenance.

There were several situations statewide last year where landowners had unanticipated costs fixing roads so they could get in and harvest wood. This is unacceptable to their stockholders and clients and it has already put trails in jeopardy! As you all have heard me say before it is time we become and "Asset" instead of a "liability." This means we need to step up our game and get proactive and work with landowners to pay our share of the costs of road maintenance including road grading and ditching and culvert maintenance etc. The landowners shouldn't have to send e-mails because of problems they are finding. We need to have a regular presence and be maintaining the trails. If we aren't out there regularly then we shouldn't even have it as a trail!

Most of the road system damage has resulted because we are not treating the trail like a road we have to maintain. The reality though is that most of the "trail system" is actually on private roads. The landowners are also struggling with the wood markets etc and so they have to be very frugal as well. We aren't paying them for use on their lands so the least we can do is maintain the roads they let us use so that when they need to use them they can without investing huge sums of money.

The reality is times have changed and we have to change with them. The good news is there are more people joining the sport and we have longer riding seasons, however we have also seen larger and in many cases faster machines. What all of this means is we need to think more like a business and invest the money necessary to maintain a safe workable trail infrastructure. Many clubs tell me they can't get any help. This situation has been further aggravated by the Covid Pandemic! We will always need and rely on volunteers, but we all need to use our time and money wisely to get the most bang for the buck. This means that we can no longer do it all with just club volunteers! Much of the work needs to be done by just hiring the same contractors the landowners use to accomplish the work quicker, faster, and better. The landowners

use them because they like their work so we should use them so the landowners are more likely to be happy with the outcome! Don't expect the contractors to do the work for free. They need to feed their families as well and they are so busy they don't have time or money to volunteer all the work necessary. Even if they can it will be so late in the year it is likely to get screwed up by late season weather resulting in a poor outcome.

Some of you have started doing this already, but we are all going to have to step it up to turn this around and prevent further trail closures. The bottom line is this will require more money! That became very evident as we went through the Task force Process. The increased trail funding would help significantly but it hasn't yet made it through the legislature. Hopefully it does, but in the meantime we need to use every dime we can get our hands on to do as much as we can to fix the problems. The number of registered ATVs has increased and that combined with the fee increase that passed 3 years ago has increased the amount of funding in the ATV Recreational Management Fund by approximately \$750,000. The problem is getting the process in place to get the money out on the ground and also changing the way we all think about how we do trail maintenance so we treat it more like a business investment.

As you all know I am currently going through the Administrative Procedures Act to update the ATV Municipal grant program so the ATV Program can reimburse up to 90 percent of the expenses instead of 70 percent. This should make it easier for all clubs to use the municipal grant Program instead of the club Grant Program and thereby gain access to more funding to do the work that is needed. I urge all of you to start thinking and planning now to apply for a Municipal Grant this year instead of applying for a club grant. The municipal grant is more paperwork and you have to involve your town or county but many of them have people who will help you with this process and might even help you with the local match. I will help you anyway I can as well.

Please start talking to the Foresters and contractors about what the costs will be to do this right. Some of the clubs on this e-mail have already been using the municipal grant and can tell you they have access to significantly more money. The reduction from a 30 percent match requirement down to 10 percent match requirement should make it possible for all of you to plan for significant trail projects this coming year. We will not fund any new trail projects until we get the maintenance on existing trail systems up to acceptable standards.

Last year was rough and unfortunately we lost some good people on top of all the other loss and inconvenience. We aren't out of the woods yet, but if we start making plans now to change with the times we will come out the other end in great shape. One thing I learned from last year was the businesses that laid down and gave up folded up and went away. The ones that said we can't give up we have to much invested and instead reinvented themselves and adapted in many cases made more money than they ever have in their lives!

We have a choice to make. Are we giving up or are we changing it up and taking advantage of opportunities so we come out the other end bigger and better? I vote for the latter option. Hopefully you will join me in turning things around for the better.

Let's do this!

Brian Bronson
Supervisor Off Road Recreational Vehicle Program
Bureau of Parks and Lands

MAKE SURE TO SUPPORT ALL
OF OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS
WHEN POSSIBLE. A COMPLETE
LIST IS ON OUR WEB SITE.



Northern End of Niatous Lake on ITS 84/81

Your Business Card Could Be Here

Send your card with the proper payment to Acadia Area ATV'ers, PO Box 1676, Ellsworth, ME 04605. Your ad will be seen on our website and mailed out to over 200 households. Pricing: one month - \$5, six months - \$25, one year - \$45.

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