

Woodtick Wheelers ATV Club June 2023 Newsletter



The Woodtick Wheelers MN DNR Volunteer Trail Ambassador's, along with Cass County Sheriff Department and MN DNR - completed the first of three classes we are holding this year.



Photo by Scott Agre

The Volunteers that help make the ATV Safety Program successful.

Craig Wadzink The Woodtick Wheelers Vice President and Safety Officer is asking club members to pass the word of the upcoming ATV Safety Field Day's that are now on the DNR Schedule for registration. He is also asking Certified Youth Safety Instructors to sign up to assist with the classes and field days. Contact Craig W.

There are still slots available in our June 10th 2023 classes. morning and afternoon classes

See the Flyer below for details.

Also see the Sheriff's Corner article at the end of this newsletter.. (ATV Safety, mentions Woodtick Wheelers)



**Woodtick Wheelers ATV Club, in Collaboration with the
Cass County Sheriff's Office – Presents**

(2) ATV Safety Field Day Classes

Dates: June 10, 2023 – AM & PM classes

- ❖ Students must be a minimum age of 10 to attend the Hands-On Safety class
- ❖ Students ages 10 – 15 must complete the ATV Safety Online Course at ATVcourse.com (cost \$29.95) prior to attending the Hands-On Safety class
- ❖ Classes are open to ALL individuals who want to learn how to better operate an ATV and learn MN DNR laws and regulations to abide by

AM Session: Begins at 9:00 am (25 students max.) – arrive 45 min. early for reg.

PM Session: Begins at 1:00 pm (25 students max.) – arrive 45 min. early for reg.

Location: Walker Area Community Center, 105 Tower Ave, Walker, MN 56484

Pre-Registration: Contact Craig Wadzink by email at cdwadzink@gmail.com or by mobile at 763-300-0094 (Additional class information will be sent after pre-registering)

Cost: ATV Hands-On Class \$0.00 – Sponsored by *Woodtick Wheelers ATV Club*

Pre-Requisites for achieving ATV Safety Certificate:

- ✓ Must be a minimum of 12 years of age to apply for ATV Safety Certificate
- ✓ Students age 16 and older, or born after July 1, 1987, must complete the ATV Safety online course to apply for MN DNR ATV Safety Certificate (Not required to attend an ATV safety hands-on class)



Adopt-A-Highway



Above- The official Sign on State Hwy 200 near Whipolt beach of Leech Lake

Left- The volunteer clean up crew enjoyed lunch on the club at Anderson's South Shore Resort & Burger Grill.



Look at the excitement the Woodtick Wheelers Club has volunteering to help improve the community!

Be sure to help out next spring when we will clean up again.

And thank you to club board member Scott Agre for coordinating the clean up team.

The State trails officially opened May 1st. Looking at the list before you go out is the way to know if the trail you are planning to ride on is closed or not. Some of the state trails are still closed due to late spring thaw. Check the DNR website before you plan your ride. Usually updated Thursday by 2:00 pm. <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ohv/closures.html>

The Woodtick Wear online store has Closed. The Tee Hive is producing the ordered items now.

Items should be shipping approximately June 1st.

Thank you to club members who ordered items.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Reminder

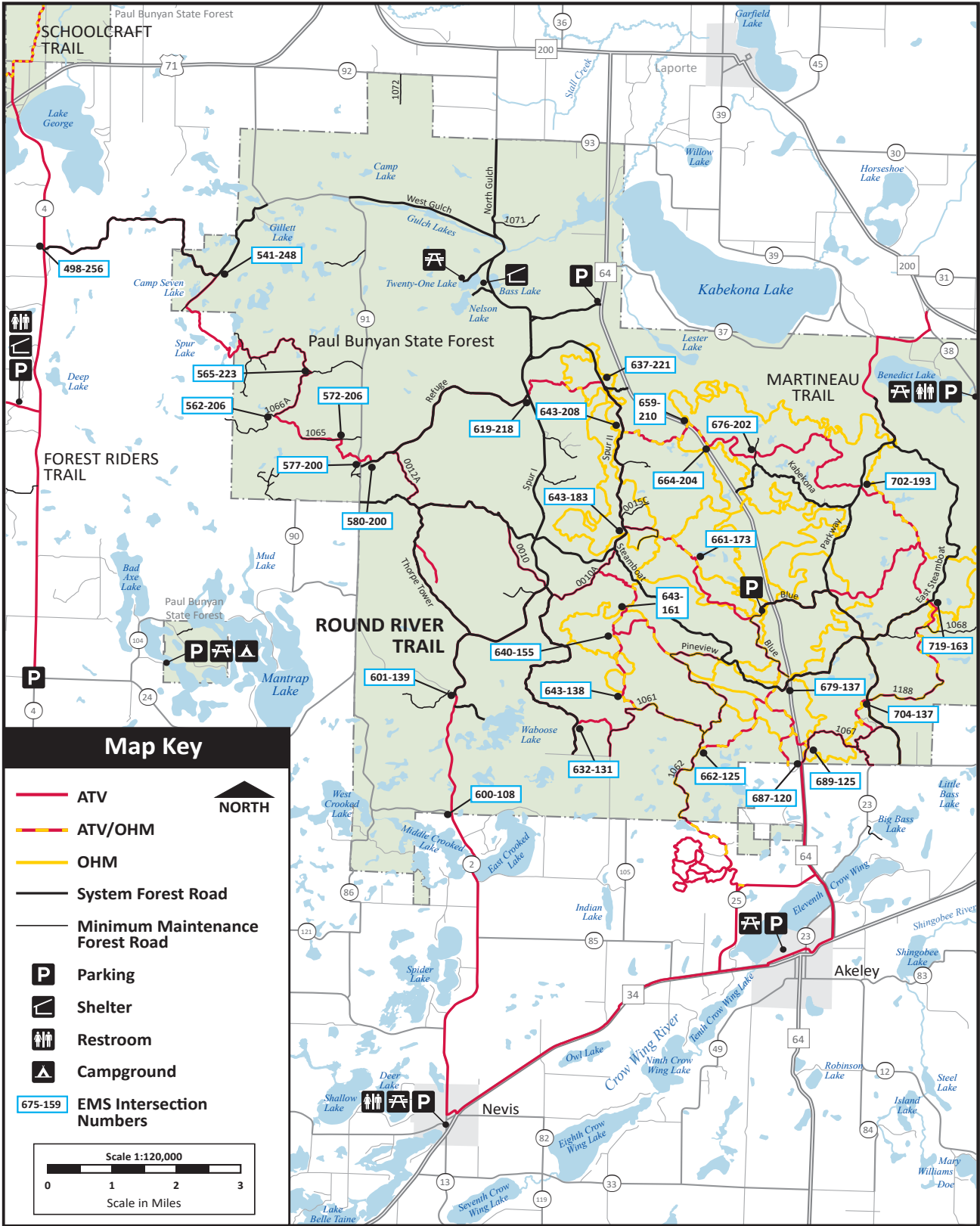
Trail Ambassador Volunteer Opportunities @ State Fair,
For the Woodtick Wheeler Club, MN DNR Volunteer Trail Ambassador's that want to spend some time at the Minnesota State Fair, sign up is required before June 7th. See the email you received for the link to view slots available.

June 3 - Our first Club Ride! Paul Bunyan State Forest, Round River Trail System. Start time of 9:00am. **Meet in Stompin' Grounds parking lot for the ride.** Ride for 3.5-4 hours, then end up at the Stompin' Grounds for lunch on your own. Ride leader Paul Vashro pavashro@gmail.com. Always a fun ride!

Round River Drive Trail

Located on a combination of state forest roads and trails in northern Minnesota,
The Round River Drive Trail showcases the diverse terrain of the Paul Bunyan State Forest. Miles of trails twist and turn while climbing in elevation and narrowing past moraines and potholes. Trail is provided by the City of Akeley and Hubbard County and maintained by the Akeley Paul Bunyan
ATV Trailriders and by the Timberland Dirt Devils clubs.

See Trail Map below!



June 10th ATV Safety Field Day. There are still some slots available for the **June 10 AM & PM** classes for youths 10-15 years of age and. Attendees must complete the on line course prior. See flyer attached for details. Feel free to print out the flyer and post where interested parties can view

June 24 - Club Ride, Swatara MN. Soo line North parking in Swatara, ride out on the Hill City Quadna Mountain trails. Back for cookout at Swatara parking area, menu to be discussed later. Then ride on the blind lake trail for as long as the group decides, then back to Swatara.

Mid Week Rides! There was interest stated by many club members for mid week rides. Lets do it! If you are looking for meeting some where. send me an email, and I can forward to the membership letting them know about it, There needs to be some coordination on where, when and who is going to show up. Keep it fun and safe!

**The Club ride schedule is on the Woodtickwheelers.com website.
We will also post rides to our Facebook page**

If any Club member in good standing is interested in committing some time to help the club thrive and grow, you can do this by becoming a board member. Send me an email expressing your interest so I can contact you when an opening occurs.

The Woodtick Wheelers Board of Directors, -Paul Vashro President, - Craig Wadzink Vice President/Safety Officer, - Dave Shaw Treasurer/Membership, - Scott Agre, - Chris Emerson, - Heather Emerson, - Brian Markley, - Julie Bell, - David Kane.

MN DNR TA'S - Are there any Woodtick Wheelers ATV club members interested in becoming a Volunteer MN DNR Trail Ambassador?
Contact TA Grant manager Chris Emerson or
Club President Paul Vashro for more information.
Or review the DNR website.

www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/vehicle/ta/index.html



The "Minnesota DNR Volunteer Trail Ambassador Program" was established by the DNR Divisions of Enforcement, Parks & Trails and Forestry. The program exists to promote safe, environmentally responsible operation of OHVs through informational, educational contacts and monitoring efforts. Oversight and management of the program is the responsibility of the DNR Division of Enforcement, Safety/Education section.

Also anyone born after July 1, 1987, or who is 16 years or older must complete the ATV safety online course to be able to utilize MN DNR GIA Trails.

Emerson's donated the use of their youth ATV



Photo by Paul V

Heather Emerson Testing the rider course on youth ATV that Her and Chris Emerson volunteered to many class participants so they could complete the field class requirements. I believe I saw at least 5 students come thru the coarse on this unit!

Thank you Chris and Heather Emerson for this helpful act.

The Woodtick Wheelers Club

Send your interesting Pictures and stories to the club at pavashro@gmail.com

Don't forget to say thanks to all the businesses that support our club! And Please continue to support them:

American Legion Post 202 / Hackensack, Arrowhead Builders Supply / Longville, A&N Computers / St Cloud, Bear Pause Theater, Big Dipper Restaurant, Birchwood Char House and Bar/ Hackensack, First National Bank North, Hartmann Recycling / St. Cloud, Ironside Trailer Sales & Service / Harmony, Larson Construction, Lakes Area Powersports / Walker, Loney Sales and Service / Walker, North Lakes Marine & Auto / Longville, Ray's Sport and Cycle / Grand Rapids, Remer Motel & Campground, The One Stop / Longville, Select Seamless Gutters / Cross Lake, Trosen Electric / Hackensack, Stomping 'Grounds / Akeley, Swanson's Bait and Tackle / Hackensack, Southside Fuel Plus,
(Let us know if we forgot anyone)

“Parting Shot”



Photos by Tom Lehr

Tom says he rode the same route the day before with no issues.

Who else is glad winter is over?

“Come Ride With Us!”

Visit WoodtickWheelers.com Follow us on Facebook

As always open the Woodtick!

Sheriff's Corner

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SHERIFF'S CORNER

Volume 5 / May 2023

Last month we covered boating and water safety, along the same format this month and applicable as the seasons change to different types of recreation and the spring trail closures come to an end, we need to address ATV safety and our response to ongoing ATV complaints, crashes, and incidents, and specifically youth safety while operating ATVs.

Our office receives a large number of ATV complaints year-round, along with inquiries and questions on the legal operation of these machines. Our deputies spend a considerable amount of time enforcing these laws and regulations and providing educational efforts on legal operation to riders. Sadly, we also respond to and investigate numerous injury crashes and four fatality crashes in 2022 involving ATVs in Cass County. We would like to review legal ATV operation and considerations between Class I and II ATVs prior to your ride.

We feel strongly about education and value its usefulness. Education is the key to safety and preventing crashes and incidents from occurring. If you were born after July 1, 1987, Minnesota law requires you to complete an approved ATV safety course. Many riders that we encounter do not know about the safety certificate requirement and do not have the certification. This makes their operation of an ATV illegal and are often cited.

After you have completed your safety course, you will receive a safety certificate, which you must carry whenever you are riding an ATV or UTV on Minnesota's public lands. Cass County collaborates with the Woodtick Wheelers ATV club offering safety classes usually in May and in June of the year. (June 10th 2023)

Additional Information on courses here:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/vehicle/atv/index.html>

Another common infraction that we encounter is helmet use. Anyone under 18 years of age must wear a DOT-approved helmet. This includes Class II use.

ATV traffic and complaints are not new to Cass County, but the number of complaints and their severity has increased drastically over recent years. Most complaints stem from rural areas where ATV traffic is going through from one riding area to another. Many of these complaints are property damage, trespassing, and damage to roadways or ditches, rights of ways, and in some cases private fields. This spring, Cass County Sheriff's Office will be conducting high visibility patrols in these areas that we have noted to be high in complaints and high traffic areas. This same patrol was conducted last year with good results. We will continue to patrol and enforce ATV laws, offer education, and issue verbal and written warnings along with state citations. It is no secret that we will be out enforcing these things – we want you to be aware of that and if your riding habits need to be changed, we encourage you to do so on your own without creating incidents that we will respond to.

MN DNR has defined Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) to include:

- All-terrain vehicles (ATVs)
 - Class 1 ATVs have a total width of 50 inches or less from outside of tire rim to outside of tire rim (conventional ATVs with handlebars)
 - Class 2 ATVs have a total width greater than 50 inches, but not more than 65 inches from outside of tire rim to outside of tire rim (side by side machines)
- Off-Highway Motorcycles (OHMs)
- Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs) such as 4x4s.

ATV General Operations

- A valid driver's license is required to operate an ATV on a road right-of-way.
- Class 2 ATVs must be operated on the far right-hand side of a County or Township road, unless prohibited by local regulations. If traveling at a slower speed than other traffic on the township road, the ATV should be driven as close as practical to the right-hand edge of the road. It is illegal for the Class 2 machine to operate in the ditch in this instance.
- Class 1 ATV operation – Class 1 must be operated off the roadway in the ditch area of a public roadway. On a bridge, a roadway shoulder, or the inside bank of a public road, right of way is necessary to avoid obstructions to travel or in environmentally sensitive areas. You must remain in the farthest right-hand lane, enter the roadway within 100 feet of the bridge, obstacle, or area, and make the crossing without delay.
- You may operate a Class 2 ATV on private land without a valid driver's license. With a valid driver's license you may operate on frozen lake surfaces, state forest roads, designated Class 2 trails and use areas. If not prohibited by the road authority or other local laws, you may operate with a valid driver's license on the shoulder or extreme right side of county roads and on the right side of township roads and city streets. Operation in road right-of-way of a trunk, county state-aid, or county highway may only be used to access businesses or make trail connections. A left turn may be made if it is safe to do so.
- Class 2 ATVs may not be operated on the shoulder of a state trunk highway.

It is important to educate yourself on these laws, as well as guests and relatives that may be coming to your residence or cabin to recreate. By following these laws closely and respecting private property, we can continue to participate in this sport and use trail areas to recreate safely. As always, we encourage safe and legal riding and operating for all ages of enthusiasts.

If you have specific questions that you would like answered in this column or in person, please feel free to contact me anytime using one of the following methods:

Email:

bryan.welk@casscountymn.gov

Phone:

218-547-1424 | 1-800-450-2677

By Mail/In Person

Cass County Sheriff's Office

303 Minnesota Ave W

PO Box 1119

Walker MN 56484



Thank You Sheriff Welk!