



On the Trail

SATVA Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue #3, May 2014

Finally!!!!!!

Above 20°C, clear blue skies. Awesome! Yep spring has sprung and we are really glad to have it here. We're looking forward to a long, safe, riding season.



ATV Fatality

Saskatchewan has already seen its first ATV related fatality of 2014. A 40 year old rider, with a 14 year old passenger attempted to climb a hill in the Togo area, when the quad flipped over and fell on top of the rider and his passenger. The rider sustained cardiac arrest from the trauma of the accident and the passenger was seriously injured. According to news reports and eye witness accounts, the quad was a single rider style and the riders were not wearing helmets. Our sympathies and thoughts go to the injured rider and the family.

ATV Registration

Certainly a hot topic with a wide range of opinions however SATVA feels that ATV registration is necessary to improve both the safety and the general awareness of ATV issues in the province. ATV theft is on the rise and police don't have the resources to check every quad to see if it is stolen. Also, the ability to properly identify a situation of unsafe or irresponsible riding is limited without a better method of identification. Saskatchewan is the only province beside Newfoundland that doesn't register ATV's. We will continue to lobby the government in this area.



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Remember to wear a helmet while riding an ATV!

SATVA has launched its helmet campaign and the following article will appear in a number of trade magazines and weekly newspapers as part of the campaign.

“As people gear up for another summer of ATV riding, John Meed of the Saskatchewan All-Terrain Vehicle Association (SATVA) has some advice – wear your helmet!

“Getting out on your ATV and enjoying the nice weather is a great recreational activity, but there are also hazards that accompany this pastime. Wearing a helmet is the first step in making ATV safety a priority for riders,” says Meed. “It’s such a simple thing to do, yet many riders still refuse to wear a helmet, placing them at greater risk for serious injury and even death.”

Last year eight people were killed and another 47 were injured in ATV accidents in Saskatchewan – the highest mortality rate and second highest injury rate in a year since 2000. ATVs are especially dangerous when used by children and young teens because they lack the knowledge, physical size, strength and cognitive and motor skills to operate them safely. Recent research indicates that wearing a helmet while riding an ATV reduces an individual’s risk of death by 42 per cent and of suffering a head injury by 64 per cent. Head and spinal cord injuries are among the most common injuries incurred by ATV users.

“Helmets are the single most effective means of preventing head injuries that result in death or permanent disability,” explains Meed, SATVA’s general manager. “The helmet you put on your head may be the only thing responsible for saving your life when your own judgment, skill and luck have failed to keep you safe. That is why choosing the right helmet is so important.”



There are numerous other reasons to wear a helmet. They can help you hear other sounds better since they reduce ambient wind noise. A full-face helmet can keep you from being distracted, especially if you are stuck by insects or other objects in the face. Helmets can reduce fatigue from the wind, which in turn, keeps you more alert. As well, if you wear a brightly-colored helmet, it is easier for other offroaders to see and avoid you.

Despite these benefits, some riders still feel that they don’t need helmets -- helmets will negatively impact their experience, or wearing one simply isn’t cool. Meed says the truth is that today’s helmets are very comfortable and lightweight, and provide the rider with plenty of protection from the elements. And, of course, a helmet can save your life.

There are three basic types of ATV helmets – full face, open face and off-road. Full-face helmets completely cover your face and feature moldings that extend to the chin and mouth for extra protection. Off-road helmets also completely cover the face, but provide more ventilation to the mouth and face. Open face helmets only cover the head and chin, leaving the rest of the face exposed. These helmets are usually used by those who use their quads for work such as ranching and oil field maintenance; or outdoor recreation activities such as hunting and fishing.

Meed suggests that when you buy a helmet make sure that it has the proper fit. It should be securely fastened and snug but not so tight that the helmet can't move. You should not be able to insert a finger between your forehead and the helmet lining. The padding of a full-face helmet should press lightly against your cheeks, but still be loose enough to enable you to insert a finger or two.

“While wearing your helmet, try to rotate it without turning your head. If the helmet turns enough to interfere with your vision, then it is too loose and you should try the next size down. If that one is too tight, you might want to consider a different brand,” says Meed. Another tip is to try jumping up and down and leaning from side to side to see how easily the helmet moves.

The weight of a helmet is another consideration. Try wearing the helmet for 10-15 minutes and see if it places too much weight on your head. If it seems too heavy, then choose another since the wrong helmet may prevent you from seeing clearly in all directions.

There are other features you should consider as well. See if the air vents can be opened or closed for hot or cold weather. You may also want a visor that is adjustable to your style.

If you have an older helmet, double check how long the manufacturer recommends when it should be replaced. Most helmets deteriorate with age and usually have to be replaced after five years. This is because glues, resins and other materials in the helmet eventually break down and affect the interior liner. Hair oils and cosmetics can also impact helmet durability as well as normal wear and tear.



“A helmet is only good for one impact,” says Meed. “If you dent or crack your helmet, you must get a replacement helmet right away. Helmets are made in such a fashion that a blow will impact their integrity, even if it is not apparent while viewing.”

After you've purchase your helmet, it is important to properly maintain it. Many helmets feature removable liners that can be thrown into the washing machine (to be on the safe side, let it air dry rather than using the dryer). If the liner isn't removable, clean it with soap and

water.



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Meed says that ATV use continues to increase in Saskatchewan, which makes it even more important for people to wear their helmets. There are about 8,000 quad style and side-by-side ATVs sold each year in the province.

“Accidents are never planned. Wearing a helmet is one of the best ways to protect yourself in the event of an accident so you don’t become an ATV statistic.”

Trespassing Initiative

Trespassing is a serious issue, and ATV riders are required, by law, to obtain permission from property owners before operating on their land. SATVA will be joining the SSA and the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation in a program to raise awareness on this issue.

June is Recreation and Parks Month

June is Recreation and Parks month and SATVA joins with the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreations Association and the Saskatchewan Trails Association (both of which we are members of) in supporting this initiative. For more information on activities for this event go to SPRA’s web site at <http://www.spra.sk.ca/news-events/june-is-recreation-parks-month/>

Club Memberships are Due!!

Just another friendly reminder that club memberships are due for 2014 and if haven’t already done so should be sent in at your earliest opportunity.

Rallies - Upcoming Rallies

- Ahtahkakoop Spring Derby – May 24, 2014
- Meadow Lake Rally – May 24, 2014
- Run-A-Muck Rally (Foxford) – May 31, 2014
- Love ATV Rally – June 7, 2014
- Grassland Mud Drags – June 14, 2014 (Alberta)
- Yorkton ATV Rally – June 28th, 2014



St Walburg Rally – photo by Ostacruiser



Wawota Rally – photo by Dave Arndt

For a more complete listing of rallies, with contact information, check out the SaskHardcore ATV forums at <http://saskhardcoreatv.proboards.com/>



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Dealer/Manufacture Members

A number of ATV dealers are members of SATVA, along with several of their dealers. Check the SATVA website for their names and locations. Their support is greatly appreciated.



CASI ATV Training



As always we'd like to remind riders that Saskatchewan has 6 certified CASI ATV instructors in the province. ATV training is required, by law, for anyone 12 to 15 years old (and anyone who doesn't have a driver's license), when operating on public property. As well this training is valuable for anyone to improve their safety and riding skills. To sign up for an ATV Safety Course, visit www.satva.ca where you'll find a link on the main page to register online.

Discounts

Don't forget as a SATVA member you are offered a 10% discount on personal ATV Insurance through OASIS insurance, and a 10% discount on purchases at Mark's Work Warehouse. We will continue to explore more opportunities to help our members with savings.



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Social Media

SATVA's social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter offer ATV users a quick reference to things that are happening in the ATV world. We try to keep the sites updated with the most current information. Please take a moment to check out our sites and provide comments.

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/175643119160177/>



Twitter <https://twitter.com/InfoSatva>



As always I welcome your comments, suggestions and am willing to debate the issues with you. Contact me directly by email at info@satva.ca, or comment on our Facebook group. We also follow the Saskatchewan ATV Hardcore forums so feel free to voice your opinions there as well.

John

John Meed, General Manager/Newsletter Editor



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St. Walburg Rally - Photo by Ostacruiser

***'Ride Safe. Wear your Helmet,
and Don't Drink and Quad'***



Saskatchewan
Parks and Recreation
Association