



On the Trail

SATVA Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue #1, January 2016

A Year in Review

2015 offered both successes and disappointments for ATV riders, as is typical of any year. A wet, late spring meant riding didn't get off to a quick start in the Spring, however the warmer than normal, fairly dry Fall and Winter meant riding went well into the Winter months.

A major accomplishment for SATVA was the partnering, (through National Trail Coalition/Federal Government funding) with Saskatchewan Parks in the rehabilitation of the ATV trail in Moose Mountain Park. The ATV trails in the park were in jeopardy of being closed completely and the project was able to ensure the ATV trails would remain in the Park for the future. As one of only three Provincial Parks that have ATV trails, Moose Mountain's ATV trail provide a necessary opportunity in the south east part of the province for recreation ATV riding on a groomed and managed trail. This is the first time SATVA has truly partnered with government on a project and may provide the opportunity for further agreements and project with the Province.

Unfortunately, dealings with Government in other areas such as registration did not prove as fruitful. Even after a record number of ATV related fatalities and calls from public and other organizations, we could not get Government to move on the registration issue. However, we did receive some concession in that Government agreed to review training requirements for ATV use. This only makes sense as mandatory training is required for other motorized sports, such as snowmobile, boating, and motorcycles. There will be Spring election (April 2016) so we would ask all members and all ATV enthusiasts to approach their MLA with their concerns and hopefully these issues will become an election issue.

There were a number of ATV rallies last year, many of which were well attended, however increasing pressure from land owners and the public had convinced some rally organizers to not hold a particular rally. This was really evident in the Fall where there were far fewer rallies. Some ATV rallies have become known as places where ATV riders misbehave, (stunting, drinking, property damage, not wearing equipment, etc) which has helped fuel the discontent with the rallies from some quarters. It's difficult for rally organizers to take on the role of



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enforcement as they are just trying to fundraise for a good cause. We would like to see more police presence at rallies to curb some of these problems.

All in all, 2015 was a good year for ATV riders, especially weather wise. But we need to work on safety issues and we need to improve the general perception and “reputation” of ATV riders. We are looking at a project called “Ride for Dad” which is a fundraising project for prostate cancer awareness. They run this event in Manitoba each year and have gotten good reaction from it.

MLA Letter – ATV Registration

We still need your support. With a Spring election coming we really need you to send a letter to your MLA already please consider doing so. You can find a “fillable” letter to your MLA that you can send in on our website www.satva.ca or on our Facebook group. If you’re not sure who your MLA is you can find out at this web site <http://www.legassembly.sk.ca/>. Please pass this post along to anyone you feel might be interested.

Even if you aren’t in favour of ATV registration it is still important to contact your MLA and discuss ATV issues with him/her. They need to know that ATVing in the province is growing (especially in the recreation area) and that the government needs to take the issues seriously.

Membership

A reminder that club memberships are due. We realize that many clubs won’t get together until closer to Spring, but we count on your support to function. Notification letters have been sent to the club contacts. Online registration is available for club members and individuals who want to join SATVA. Go to www.satva.ca under the “Membership” tab.

Snowmobile Trails

A reminder that even though the weather and low snow ground cover in some parts of the province may allow for ATV riding, ATV usage is not allowed on designated ATV trails during the winter. Please don’t ride your ATV on designated Snowmobile trails.



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Know your Limits



We still have posters for the “Know your Limits” safety campaign. You can contact me at info@satva.ca if you would like some posters. There is no charge for these.

Rallies and Activities

Spring rallies have not been posted yet however keep an eye on <http://saskhardcoreatv.com/> (Sask Hardcore ATV forums) for updates. A date has been posted for one rally;

Ahtakakoop Cree Nation – May 21, 2016 (mark your calendars)

Manufacture Members

A number of ATV manufacturers are members of SATVA. Their support is greatly appreciated.



CASI ATV Training



As always we'd like to remind riders that Saskatchewan has 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.

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>





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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



SaskTrailRider – Nisbet Forest (picture courtesy of Mitchell Derksen)



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

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