



## ATV/BC NEWSLETTER November, 2007

By Moira Jaatteenmaki, Communications Director

Lot's of items to cover in this Newsletter – hard to know which one to start with – so I'll just pick one and go.

### **WEB SITE**

The redesigned web site is now open. This has taken several months to put together and has been made possible by a grant from COHV. While this is obviously not complete yet, it is functional and offers a much cleaner, easier and appealing format for the user. Over the next few weeks, the 'construction' areas will be filled in. We will also be introducing a forum section allowing members the opportunity to exchange ideas and information with each other as well as a question and answer section.

Did you notice the events section? This is for clubs to list their upcoming events, rides etc. This way, members will be able to participate in some events with you, join you for rides or simply say – that's a great idea, let's do it also.

We will be updating the main page regularly as news happens. We will try to bring you news from all over and items of general interest to all ATVers. So visit us often and keep us informed also.

### **2007 GRANTS UPDATE**

The grants we received from COHV this year have been used for a variety of purposes and here is a quick summary to date.

Set-up and staffing of office

Contract for Lands Issues and Communications Coordinator

Certification of 6 new Safety Instructors from different corners of BC.

Renting, decaling and set-up of promotional trailer which traveled to many areas of BC

Web site – redesign

Posters – 3 environmental and 2 safety

AV material for shows

Trail Symposium

Trail Patrol program

Grant money is received in installments from COHV. We then have to forward receipts for all expenditures to COHV for their review. Any money not used if an item comes at less than budgeted must be returned. We do not have the liberty of simply switching money between projects. The accounting process is very exact with every dollar being accounted for by COHV.

### **GRANTS FOR 2008**

The response from the clubs for ideas and suggestions for new ideas/projects for 2008 Development Grants was excellent – thank you. As a result we received 19 topics, several of them more than once.

At the Board meeting in October, Directors reviewed all suggestions and selected the following:

- Renew Lands Issues Coordinator contract
- Travel costs for LICC to visit clubs
- Renew Promotional Trailer rental, upgrade the decals and cover transportation costs
- Marketing/Grants/Fund Raiser- contract for specified objectives
- Safety Instructors – train 8 more
- Youth School Program-establish such a program by producing a manual, developing a pilot program in a school district and training instructors

All of the above will be developed into grant proposals for final Board approval in December. At this time the final value of grant available is not finalized by COHV. Should the value of the above items not cover the full amount of grant available then other(s) will be added from the original list.

### **ATV TRAIL BLAZERS RIDE FOR 2008**

Something new and exciting! No proposals were received for the 2008 Jamboree. So instead of the jamboree for 2008, ATV/BC will hold a Trail Blazers ride starting from 100 Mile House on August 18<sup>th</sup> and finishing at the Perry River on the Trans Canada about 35km from Revelstoke on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. This will be a guided, scenic,

comfortable ride of about 545Km. It will cover 4 ½ days through scenic and historic country. Part of the trail will be on the old Hudson Bay trail. There will be time for scenic stops, side trips and just generally enjoying the ride. There will be a registration fee in place, the amount yet to be determined. Full details will be forthcoming in due course but keep those dates in mind for now.

### **AGM**

This has been set for August 23<sup>rd</sup> in Revelstoke, starting at 1pm.

### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

These statements were prepared for the first time by an outside, fully independent accounting company. Statements such as these are an industry standard for an organization of this size and a non-reporting society. They are fully accepted by the Provincial Government, the Federal Government and banks.

Copies were electronically sent to all clubs and those members for whom we have an e-mail address, another first for ATV/BC.

### **PROMOTIONAL TRAILER**

After its travels around BC, the trailer was parked in a prominent spot in Surrey where it could be seen by literally thousands of passers-by prior to be returned to the dealer for the winter. This trailer got off to a rocky start due to amount of time it took to complete the decaling but once on the road it was visited by hundreds of people, most of whom were not ATVer's and were really interested in the sport and enjoyed the promos and pictures in the trailer.

### **TRAIL SYMPOSIUM**

On September 22<sup>nd</sup> in Kamloops, ATV/BC held its first Trails Symposium. There were 57 attendees representing 21 clubs, a strong indication of the interest and importance of the development, access to and maintenance of trails to all ATV riders in BC. Read the full report at [www.atvbc.ca](http://www.atvbc.ca).

### **TRAIL PATROL**

ATV/BC now has 48 certified trail patrollers. See the full story at [www.atvbc.ca](http://www.atvbc.ca).

### **3 YEAR STRATEGIC/BUSINESS PLAN**

At their Board Meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup>, directors spent several hours developing a 3 year strategic plan. This was a follow up to the planning meeting

held in Abbotsford in 2006. Facilitated by Terry Wardrop, the material developed at the previous session was reviewed and updated noting success and failures and items that had been undertaken, completed or not. We then moved into new plans and goals. This was a SWOT session which many of you will be familiar with. From this, a 3 year business plan for ATV/BC is being developed with financial self sufficiency by end 2010.

### **FUTURE OF COHV GRANTS**

Word from COHV is that the sustaining grants will run through 2010 and then end.

Developments/Project Grants will be scaled down progressively and may also end at end of 2010.

### **POKER RIDE 2008**

Plans are still to be confirmed for Poker Ride 2008 but are well underway. Mark June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008 on your calendar and once we finalize the location, we will let you know.

### **XMAS OFFICE SCHEDULE**

The office will be closed over the Christmas holidays from December 24<sup>th</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING**

This is in the hands of the Provincial Government and needs to be signed off by four Cabinet Ministers. This is a critical document for ATV/BC in so many ways. Not only does it establish many standards and principles but it identifies our rights as ATV riders.

### **ADVENTURE TRAILS**

Got some spare time? Then spend it with your young ATV rider by going to [www.adventuretrail.ca](http://www.adventuretrail.ca).

### **SHOWS**

ATV/BC will be participating in three major shows over the winter. They are the Snowmobile Show in Abbotsford on November 23-25. The Motorcycle Show on January 24-27 and the Sportsman Show on March 7-8.. These shows are very important for raising our profile with the public, providing information on all aspects of our sport and generally educating everyone on who we are and what we do. This year, we will have a professionally produced DVD presentation with pictures from every corner of the province as well as our posters and brochures. Cal Kator and

Monica Ferguson are the Directors in charge of these vents for us.

## **SAFETY DIRECTOR**

As Zan Boyle is now the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for ATV/BC, he has stepped down as Safety Director and Dennis Web was appointed to take his place. Dennis will be contributing to the safety section on the web site and we will have something on safety in each newsletter.

In September, 6 ATV/BC members traveled to Green Lake to train as safety instructors, Dennis among them. This extremely intensive and demanding course is taught by Bill Hinde, Chief Safety Instructor for BC. I have talked to one participant and he was very impressed with the quality of the course and the instruction given.

Here are two accounts of the course from two of the participants and future newsletters will have other accounts.

My 0.02 cents (Robert Hergott)

In 2004, a few years after moving to Fort St John, I was introduced to the world of Quading in North Eastern British Columbia by a few friends that had lived here for many years. Don't get me wrong, I had quaded before on the farm, doing laps around the field while rounding up the cattle (who despised the quad I am sure) and a little "roaring around" in the local gravel pits. Over the next year and a half, I tore around the local countryside in a world of Quading never experienced before by myself. Along the trails, the same thing happened time and time again... One would meet new people who would share knowledge of trails,

techniques, repairs, food, clothing... whatever one needed. Tow ropes and weird looks were passed my way more than once, usually followed by "well, what did you think was gonna happen".

It was usually during these trying moments when my love of the sport of quading grew in leaps and bounds as I realized how truly blessed we are to be able to do this great sport in an area as scenic and economically sound as we are. In 2006 I had the pleasure of purchasing my own quad and hit the trails even further. One thing I came to appreciate quickly was the amount of good safety tips my fellow riders passed on, and the number of people we met on the trail who still rode incorrectly or without proper safety gear. With very few qualified safety instructors in the north, the demand for a safety instructor was high and requested by my fellow M.O.O.S.E ATV club members. When ATV BC decided to put on a course and help fund the costs, I jumped at the chance, often bugging ATV BC time and time again to ensure I was the one who "got to go".

The course was no different than any other quading activity I had experienced in my few brief years in the sport. A group came together, tips and tricks were shared by all, openness and joking abounded everyday, with all knowledge passed and received with the greatest of appreciation to ensure that we all made it past any obstacles we may have encountered.

Whether we were from the north, the island, or any of the flat spot in-between, the week long course opened our eyes to things we had yet to learn, and allowed to have the confidence to pass this knowledge along in a professional manner. The common drive for safety of the students and teacher could not have made for a better course. I sincerely thank the COHV, ATV BC, and Bill Hinde for the opportunity of a lifetime.

Darren Day

My quick and brief thoughts regarding the ATV safety training:

My wife and I have 2 little boys and we had deliberated extensively whether or not I could afford the time to put into this training and then afterward offering the courses if I were to successfully complete the training. ATving is the one hobby and pastime that I personally hold above all others, as it takes me out of the hustle and bustle of the busy city and work life and gets me into the mountains and nature that I love. My wife understands this, and was the one that finally told me to go otherwise I would probably regret it later.

So with that, I packed up my gear, loaded the truck and drove the 4 hours to 70 mile house wondering what types of folks I might be taking this course with and what my expectations of the course were. I have to say, that there was indeed a diversity of ages and backgrounds amongst the folks that turned out for the training. Yet, throughout the week, with our common goal of promoting safety and respect for this sport, we created a bond and friendship with one another that would last a lifetime.

My expectations were definitely met as far as course material and training that was provided. The Canadian Safety Council has a good program, and I believe that all ATV riders would benefit from the safety course no matter how much experience they have. As an instructor, I drove home after the week of training with a sense of accomplishment that comes from passing a relatively rigorous training program (typically 12 hour days). But even more so, I left feeling a new responsibility for this sport and a desire to share this with everyone I ride with, whether through example, or through a formal training class environment. Thanks ATV/BC and Canada Safety Council for making this opportunity available to us.