



ATV/BC NEWSLETTER September 5th, 2007

By Moira Jaatteenmaki, Communications Director

Since the last newsletter in July, 07, the AGM and jamboree have taken place so let's start this newsletter with the President's report to the AGM. Then there is more material from the AGM and Jamboree followed by current and upcoming items.

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO AGM 2007

It has been my pleasure to work as the President on behalf of all members. The year started off by attending the National ATV Association convention in St. Johns Newfoundland. There, all provinces gave updates on what was happening in their respective province. COHV clarified the grant system for the Provinces and we all learned what was acceptable to the manufacturers to apply for funds for the various programs.

ATV/BC applied for and received in September a grant to buy equipment and set up an office with an office manager. In October, the Board of Directors chose Kamloops B.C. as the site for an office as it was centrally located in the Province and was an one day drive for members from 90% of the province if they wished to go to it. The next few months were spent negotiating a two-year lease and buying equipment to furnish the office.

Our organization was eligible for a Development grant for programs of up to \$100,000.00. In November/December, we contacted all clubs and asked for input to be sure we were working on development projects that members deemed important. Number one was land issue, number two safety instructors or lack of them and number three was communications.

After receiving input from the Board of Directors, we proceeded to apply for a grant to hire a professional person to work on our behalf on Land Issues and Communications. The applications were successful and now we have a full time contracted person who is working on our behalf. His name is Terry Wardrop and he has 35 years of experience working with government in the Ministry of Forests with responsibilities for many years in trail development.

Mr. Wardrop and I attended a meeting in Victoria with the Ministry of Tourism; Sports & Arts to work towards a designated trail system with the proper signage in place. Progress has been very rapid as four clubs were designated for pilot projects to be fast tracked through the system.

We then attended a meeting with the Ministry of Environment to work towards a Memorandum of Understanding which is an agreement in principle to work together for the better management of our sport in the Province. This agreement will be signed later this fall with the cabinet government ministers and ourselves. This agreement expresses our commitment to the core values of our sport and puts our organization in position to apply for grants from the government of British Columbia for projects that we feel are beneficial to both parties. Simply put, we agreed to work to protect the land, wildlife and ride in an environmentally friendly manner.

Communications were an important component of our grant and we have contracted Koocanusa Publications to provide us a user-friendlier web site with our ability to update more frequently in order to keep you informed.

In November, I attended the Snowmobile Show to promote our clubs and in January the motorcycle show where many people were interested in our organization.

Grant applications included a Safety course to train more safety instructors and also funding to promote our organization by having an informational and promotional trailer travel around the province to the clubs to help them promote their area and growth in membership.

I attended the Outdoor Recreation Council AGM where our director Mr. Cal Kaytor was elected to their board.

Wherever possible I attended club meetings to inform members of the happening of ATV/BC.

The board received a request in writing to convene a special meeting because 42 members wanted to change the article #19 of the by-laws. The board of

directors had already put into place a committee to update all by-laws which were presented at that meeting. Seventeen clubs with 85 members present attended the meeting and voted to change our by-laws for now and the future. Among the changes was approval to recognize a club as a voting member. The proposal of the people who called for the special meeting was defeated.

In June, it was off to Logan Lake for the Poker Ride where I and 9 other directors arrived in Logan Lake eight days before the event, as we and our volunteers who came the same day had to design the trails, install the trail signage and prepare for all procedures for the poker ride. This was a multi tasking job and took the entire 8 days as there were many things to be finalized prior to the event itself. That it was a success once again reflects the hard work of so many.

As Co-Chair of the Registration & Licensing Coalition, I attended a meeting in Victoria with Cabinet Minister Stan Hagen who indicated to us that changes were forth coming later this year.

Our club growth this year has been great I would like to welcome Nicola Valley, Greater Kamloops, Bridge River Valley, Clearwater, Comox Valley and the Vernon ATV clubs to our organization.

I feel our organization has made great strides in credibility with government as they are now coming to us for comments on many things. As well, with the office in place, we now have one place for all to contact us for information. Our office staff is now processing any request from members at a faster pace than before.

This year has been a very positive one for our organization, based on the growth of our organization and the dedication of Board of Directors. I thank you one and all for the fine work you have done for all ATVers in British Columbia.

Ride Safe Ride Responsibly.
Beverley A Felske President

2. Report on the AGM 2007

ATV/BC held its annual general meeting for 2007 on Friday, August 17th at the Summerland Rodeo grounds. Attendance at the AGM was 99 members from 13 clubs as well as 2 corporate members.

The meeting started at 7pm with the presentation of the reports from Executive members and Directors as well the Land Issues and Communications Director. These reports were all circulated in advance to all clubs both by hard copy and electronically.

Next item was the election of the Directors. There were 9 vacancies this year, 8 two year terms and 1 one year term. 7 nominations had been received by the deadline and there were 6 nominations from the floor. Each nominee had the opportunity to address those present with their election 'speech'.

Voting resulted in the following: Elected for 2 year terms were: incumbents Tom Dickson (Revelstoke), Wayne Dreger (Campbell River), Bev Felske (Quad Squad South Cariboo), Gordon Galloway (Elkford), Moira Jaatteenmaki (Revelstoke), Sarah Johnston (Creston). New members for 2 years are David Galloway (Elkford), and Dennis Webb (Vernon). New member for 1 year term is Jeff Mohr (Ridgeriders Prince George)

Directors with one year still in their terms are: Zan Boyle (Cowichan Valley), Monika Ferguson (Valley Trail Riders), Bob Johnston (Cowichan Valley), Cal Kaytor (Explorers), Walter Levick (Quad Squad South Cariboo), Bob Orr (Prince George),

While the votes were being counted, clubs present gave a short update on their activities over the past year which showed the many diverse activities our clubs enjoy.

Then about 50 people enjoyed a wine and cheese reception sponsored by Oasis Insurance. However, the Directors had to leave to attend a short Directors meeting to elect the Executive. The results of this are: President, Bev Felske; 1st Vice, Zan Boyle; 2nd Vice, Walter Levick; Secretary, Sarah Johnston and Treasurer, Gordon Galloway. The first new board meeting has already been held – 7.30am on Sunday morning! Various jobs/assignments were gone over, new ideas presented and items needing immediate attention covered.

3. ATV/BC JAMBOREE 2007

ATV riders gathered at Summerland to experience Okanagan riding at the 2007 Jamboree. 114 riders registered for the event with most of them camping at the Summerland Rodeo grounds.

Summerland ATV Club had laid out runs of various lengths and ability which left from the Rodeo Grounds - always a popular aspect of the Jamboree as it saves trailering. All trails were self guiding which meant that riders could leave when they wanted and thus spread riders out through the trails.

One ride followed the KVR all the way to Osprey Lake where the local store did a good business in ice cream bars. The ride we were on proved to have an unexpected twist. We merrily rode along until we came to a junction and took the wrong fork. As a result we rode the loop backwards along with many others who did the same until someone moved the marker at the junction. So we found of course all the markers were backwards for us, we went down a steep, rough hill that we should have ascended instead. Then we met several who had taken the correct trail and had a good laugh at our expense. Forwards or backwards, it was still a good trail.

The yellow trail was the extreme challenge. We talked to one woman who said her friends had persuaded her to try it. She made it but confessed that there was one section where "I was absolutely terrified". She was laughing about it now and pleased with the experience. We also heard comments that people were happy to be able to ride trails which at times tested themselves and their riding ability instead of simply following logging roads.

After we cleaned off the dust, we gathered Saturday evening for the banquet attended by 140 people. Then we gathered in the bleachers where just about everyone registered received a door prize. However, the BIG draw for the evening was for a Kymco Mongoose 250 ATV donated by Kymco Canada. This was won by Sarah Johnston from Kitchener, BC. That she was delighted to win was very obvious by the huge smile on her face which lasted all evening. Congratulations, Sarah – enjoy!

The evening ended with a country and western band that had the toes tapping until 10pm.

A good day of riding and socializing with riders from all over BC was enjoyed all. Thank you Summerland ATV Club.

4. ATV/BC PROMOTIONAL TRAILER

Thanks to a grant from COHV, we have been able to lease this trailer and put all the decals and fittings on it. BC Government supplied the funds for the travel costs. The trailer is traveling around BC this summer to educate and promote ATV/BC, our clubs and all aspects of ATV riding. As it visits various areas of the Province, response to date has been very positive from the many people who have visited the trailer. Many new members have joined the local clubs and others took away good information.

Inside the trailer are displays from several of our clubs – more are being added as it arrives at different locations. By the time it reaches Vancouver – its last destination – it will contain quite a display of ATV activities and areas traveled. There are also many different brochures on ATVing, environment and safety.

So far the trailer has been to the Cariboo, then Revelstoke, Sicamous, Summerland for the AGM and Jamboree. It is presently in the Kootenays then will go to the south Okanagan, Vancouver Island and finally to the Lower Mainland.

At all stops, the visitors to the trailer have been very interested in all the information on ATVing and fascinated by the photo displays. Members manning the trailer have done a great job explaining and promoting our sport.

So far each visit has produced ideas to improve the layout, content and display of the trailer. If funding is made available for 2008, the trailer will once again travel the Province generating interest in ATVing, educating all who visit it and promoting our message of riding safely, riding responsibly.

5. TRAIL DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM

On September 22nd in Kamloops, ATV/BC is holding an ATV management workshop. With the continuing double-digit growth of motorized

recreation, ATV/BC and COHV have long recognized the issues associated with the increased popularity of ATV use in British Columbia and the need for management to provide quality recreational opportunities by having a viable, designated trail network for all ATVerS in B.C.

The workshop objectives are:

- To discuss principles of successful ATV trail management
- To provide a basic understanding of “how to apply for trail designation of ATV trails” in British Columbia.
- To provide an understanding of the tools available to successfully plan and design sustainable ATV trails.
- To show examples of success stories in order to build confidence that high-quality OHV trails can be balanced with environmental protection.
- To develop a Trail Patrol Program.
- To provide a forum for networking.
- To help foster a working relationship between enthusiast groups, Government, and other stakeholders.

This workshop will be divided into three parts.

a. Trail Development and how to apply for trail designation. The presenter for this is Mr. Terry Wardrop who has been working for ATV/BC as Land Issues Coordinator since May 01, 2007. He has 35 years of working experience in government with the Ministry of Forests in Recreation. He has developed a manual of steps required by the government to follow to designate trails. Each club will receive a copy of this manual

b. Development of a Trail Patrol Program. Presenters are Mr. Ron LaRoy, Mr. Tom Dickson and Ms Beverley A Felske
These people have many years of recreational experience in outdoor recreation and the Trail Patrol program from the snowmobile world. They have extensive knowledge on trail riding and what one may encounter on same. They have participated in rescues, and many other tasks regarding a trail patrol program. Each club will receive trail patrol vests.

c. Development of an ATV, Observe, Record and Report program.

The Ministry of Environment Conservation Officer Ms Carmen Solowoniuk will present this program which is mainly how to report trail incidences and to whom they should be reported.

The Symposium is being held in Kamloops at the Executive Inn starting at 10am and concluding at 5pm. Each Club are invited to send a maximum of four attendees. Registration must be done by September 14th. Full information and registration forms have been sent to all clubs and are available also at atvbc@telus.net. There is no fee for this Symposium.

This Symposium is a major first for ATV/BC in the important issue of trails – registering, designation, development and our rights to ride them. Members will receive instructional and reference material that will be invaluable in these issues. Trail Patrol and Observe, Record and Report programs are also important issues for ATVerS.

6. NEW ATV/BC WEB SITE

Our current web site has been in place without really any changes to its layout for 3-4 years. As a part of a grant application to COHV, we applied for and received funding to redesign the web site and cover maintenance costs. The objectives of the redesign were overall to make the site user friendly, easy to navigate and easy to do regular updates. We also wanted the home page to be visually appealing with clean, uncluttered lines. We wanted a listing of subjects on one side with drop down menus, a member’s only section and some kind of a forum where there could be an exchange of information and discussions on specific subjects. As well, archiving of articles for future reading is needed. The web site is well under way and is being developed in 4 stages. Stage 1 will be up and running in the near future with the other stages to follow. We will advise you as soon as the site is open.

7. BOARD MEETING, OCTOBER 20TH, 2007

The new Board of Directors will be holding a meeting in Kamloops on October 20th. These meetings are open for observation to any ATV/BC member who wishes to do so. More information will be sent closer to the date.

8. ATV/BC POSTERS

A part of grant money was for the design and printing of several posters on safety and environment. These posters contain BC scenes and riders as well as the ATV/BC logo. Poster #1 has already been distributed; posters 2,3,4,5 are in the final proof stage and will be printed very shortly.

9. NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board of Directors 2007-2008

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