

December 2011

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Club Talk

A Message from the President

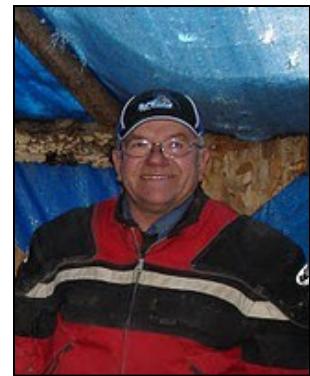
2011 started off with me QUADLESS..... So I wasn't able to ride in all of the events. I did manage to get the loan of a Polaris Ranger from Mountain Toys for the March ride at McLean Creek and was able to transport the fixings for the cookout during the event.

During the May long weekend I was still without a machine so I just camped and enjoyed the weather and the comradeship of some of our members that like to stay back in the campground.

Around the middle of June Bow Cycle Sports contacted me and informed me that they had a loaner Can-Am

800 Max for the club's and my use. The ATV was to be used on stewardship projects and events for the balance of the year. This was great news and I gladly accepted Bow Cycle's and Can-Am's offer. I picked up the ATV towards the end of June and the first part of July. I and a few other members attended the CASI safety training that was being held at Hidden Trails Adventures & Training Ltd. facility in the Ghost Waiparous area. This is a very informative course and I encourage all of you to take it.

This Summer I was very busy with family and work. I attended many Rodeos



CARA President Don McKay

throughout Alberta and my Daughter Rebecca was crowned Princess at the Airdrie Pro Rodeo on July 2nd 2011. Rebecca made appearances at most of the rodeos throughout the province and I was happy to be part of it with her and attend as many Rodeos in support of my daughter.

Labour Day weekend we were out at Waiparous once again for the CARA/Bob Bolton 5th Annual Pig Roast. The event was well attended by the members and I was able to lead some rides and I was quite happy to be able to ride the trails again.

During the Fall I was very busy with work and I also attended the Canadian Country Music Awards in Hamilton Ontario during



Don McKay is presented a Can-Am 800 Max by Brad Linderman from Bow Cycle.

A Message from the President *continued...*



Don loaded up with supplies for the ride to Margaret Lake during the Rebels Ride.

"It snowed approximately 30 cm of snow the night before and during the day but that did not deter our dedicated volunteers"



A shipment of Rig Matting is dropped off at the MS Camp.

the middle of September. I had attended the Dreams take Flight fundraiser in July and had the winning bid on a pair of tickets for this event. Dreams Take Flight is a great charity that takes kids with cancer to Disneyland for a weekend. I had a great time at the awards and I also was able to help a child go to Disneyland.

I attended the Rebels pre-ride where we cleared trails of downed trees and cut a stack of wood for the coming Rebels Ride up to Margaret Lake. This was the 8th year that we have held the Rebels Ride and we had a great turnout once again. I

was able to haul in some of the supplies for the BBQ with a trailer and the Can-Am. Evan Peters was there with his Rhino and Garry had the Polaris Ranger that AOHVA had the use of from Cycle Works. With the help of these machines we were able to transport the supplies and door prizes to Margaret Lake and to get the smokies cooking before the groups started to arrive.



All of our rides were a tremendous success as we see the club grow more and more each year. Thanks to all the directors and the numerous volunteers who continue to make the club grow. You make the many events and projects successful.

In closing, I would like to thank all the members for their continued support.

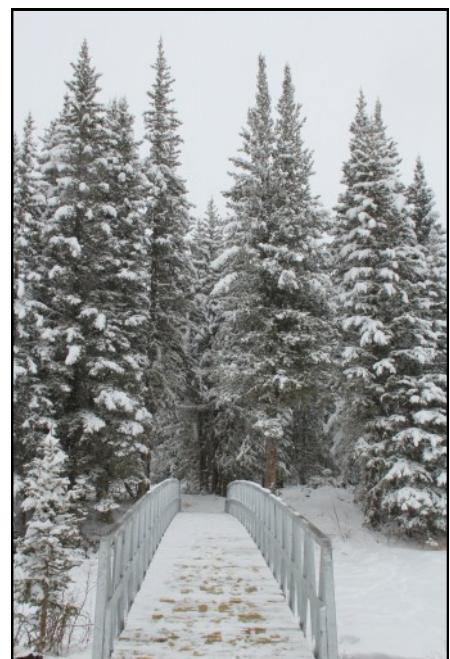
Don navigating the ATV course held at Hidden Trails Adventures & Training Ltd. during the CASI course held in July 2012.

2011 Stewardship Initiatives *By: Garry Salekin*

Burnt Timber Bridge Decking

On April 2nd the Calgary ATV Riders completed the decking on the 80 ft. Burnt Timber Bridge. It snowed approximately 30 cm of snow the night before and during the day but that did not deter our dedicated volunteers, neither did the fact that a large portion of the bridge decking planks were stolen within 24 hours of them being dropped off. Approximately 20 volunteers showed up to get the job done. After a morning of hard work, a barbecue lunch was provided by the club and enjoyed by all. By the end of the day we could see the end result of a job well done.

An almost completed bridge (except for side rails that were stolen the night before) is ready for



Right: A little muscle moves the Rig Matting into place.

Below: 80 Ft Bridge in the Burnt Timber area.



Lost Knife Trail Washout

This past summer in the month of June, the culvert on the Lost Knife Trail was replaced due to washout; the new steel culvert replacement was 36 inches diameter and 18 feet long. The equipment used was a mini track hoe, donated by Hertz Rentals, and a dump trailer supplied by Canmore ATV Tours. The Calgary

The culvert is dangerous for riders who come upon it.



Rig Matting

On August 30th the club volunteers installed a number of pieces of rig matting; a trail hardening alternative and trail surfacing product that will prevent erosion and enable the trails, that



Volunteers pose for a picture after a long wet day of work.



would normally erode easily, sustainable, on the Burnt Timber Reroute Trail. The matting was donated to the AOHVA by AB TrailNet. Each piece weight is about 450lbs and can be loaded by using an ATV winch and

AOHVA donated their time and funds to replace the culvert and make this necessary repair.



Portions of the culvert are exposed due to erosion making it dangerous for riders.

"Stewardship is an essential part of the clubs activities and we could not do it without volunteers like you"



Water erodes away the banks holding the culvert in place.

CARA Members Matching Donation



A student is evaluated during the FREE youth information session held at the Ghost Airstrip during the May Long Weekend.

“emphasis is placed on safety and safe riding practices”



Bonny Lackey from Hidden Trails Adventure & Training Ltd.

During the 2011 membership drive at the Calgary Motorcycle show one member from the Calgary ATV Riders Association matched dollar for dollar 100 memberships purchased during the show. We would like to thank everyone who renewed their membership during this time making the Membership drive a successful one. Mr. Johannes Kingma was presented a

CARA jacket for his donation. Johannes knows the importance of our strength in membership numbers which gives OHV'S a voice and united front to the Provincial Government.

Only 3 members at this time own a CARA exclusive jacket. The jackets are reserved for those members who make a considerable contribution to the club either through volunteers

work or monetary donation. We look forward to presenting more jackets this year at our 2012 AGM. At least 4 jackets will be given to long standing well deserving members during our AGM in April 2012.

Our AGM is held mid-April at the West Hillhurst Community Association. Check your email in Early April for the date.

CARA FREE Youth Safety Information Sessions

For the past 1 ½ years the Calgary ATV Riders has offered their members free Youth ATV Training sessions for their children during the May and September Long weekends. Our hope is to expose young students and students of all age's ways to ride more safely by presenting these responsible viewpoints on safety and expose riders and the general public to proper and prudent ATV operation.

With more and more families riding together on private and public trails, en-

rollment in these information sessions is a fun way for any child to learn the basics of riding an ATV. Parents too learn and understand key principles to ensure family members reduce risk and increase their enjoyment every time they ride. During each lesson emphasis is placed on safety and safe riding practices and each student is evaluated on performance, interaction and skill and given feedback. The lessons are taught at an appropriately slower, more controlled speed and instructions are

appropriately geared toward the younger students.

Instructor, Bonny Lackey of Hidden Trails Adventures & Training Ltd. and a CARA Director, volunteers her time and years of AT-Ving and teaching experience to create a safe and enjoyable experience for our children. ATV's and equipment are supplied by our friends at Ralph's Motorsports who recognize the importance and impact this program can make on our youths.

ATV Basics: Kids on Wheels

Note to Parents: Is Your Child Ready to Ride?

It is your job to assess whether your child is truly ready to ride. To make an informed decision, you must consider several factors.

- **Physical Development:** Can your youngster sit comfortably on the ATV and reach the controls easily?
- **Motor Skills:** Is your child's coordination adequate for the challenge of riding an ATV?
- **Visual Perception:** Does your child have good depth perception, peripheral vision, and the ability to judge distances?
- **Social/Emotional Maturity:** Will your youngster understand the risks involved in riding an ATV, make good decisions to avoid accidents, and drive responsibly?



All smiles from the group of kids who loved taking the course.

Age and Engine Size

For your child's safety and comfort, you must match your child with an ATV engine size that is appropriate for his or her age group:

- Ages 6-11: Under 70cc
- Ages 12-15: 70 to 90cc
- Ages 16 and older: Over 90cc

"You will be your child's teacher and safety advisor, so you must be familiar with your youngster's abilities and ATV they will be riding"

Your Role as a Parent

You will be your child's teacher and safety advisor, so you must be familiar with your youngster's abilities and the ATV they will be riding. You will need to know the controls, handling characteristics, maintenance requirements, and proper riding techniques. Supervise your child during riding practice, and encourage good riding habits and appropriate behavior.

CARA's Recommendations for our Children's Safety

- Children must be directly supervised (within eyesight) while riding.
- Allow your child to ride only a size of engine that is appropriate for them.
- Children should never carry a passenger while driving an ATV
- Wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) helmet, gloves, long sleeves shirt and pants, boots, chest protector
- Ensure the helmet is fitted properly. A helmet that is too big can and will fall off in the event of an accident.
- Attach a flag to the back of the ATV making them more visible.



After a job well done there are high fives all around!

The safety of our children and yours is our number one concern!



Ron Edwards getting ready to ride!

“Wow, what a great bunch of people!! We had a fantastic weekend and look forward to meeting you all again.”



Meadow Creek Bridge construction in 2008. The bridge is now closed in need of repair due to the large amount of snow and rain in 2011.

CARA/Bolton 5th Annual Pig Roast *Written by Ron Edwards*

The Calgary ATV Riders 5th Annual Bolton Pig Roast, Ride and Campout was held on September 3, 4, & 5, 2011 at the Ghost Air strip Group Campground.

There were two official ride days, Saturday and Sunday, with unofficial rides on Friday and Monday. The weather was warm and sunny, although there was heavy frost each night. The trail conditions were excellent with the trail improvements between the campground and the gravel pit, and into Cow Lake being very noticeable and much appreciated by the less experienced riders. A new bridge near signpost 73 greatly improves the safety at a creek crossing, as well as making the trail more sustainable.

On Saturday and Sunday groups were divided into their varied speeds with a Family group, Intermediate group and Advanced group. Each group sets a safe speed for the experience level of the group. The Sunday family group encountered a couple of fun mud holes. At one mud hole/rut, some riders stood on the running boards, with one hand on the rear carrier and the other on the accelerator to keep the quads from tipping. The presence of experienced leaders, ready to steady the quads, if necessary, changed this mud-hole from a potential hazard into a fun experience. At a somewhat challenging hill with a washout crossover, less experienced riders followed the line of more experienced riders up the hill. The group safety was enhanced by CARA leaders who were able to assess the varying abilities of the family group and again stood by at a critical part of the hill.

The value of riding with the Club was also apparent when a bolt fell out of the control arm of one of the quads. The wheel flopped over and pulled the driveshaft out of the differential. Luckily, this happened at low speed. Repairs, which included a modification to the draft shaft, were undertaken on site and the quad made it back to the campground on its own power, albeit missing a few ball bearings. This incident highlights the need to check the bolt

torque on a regular basis.

On Sunday, there was a Youth ATV Safety Course offered by Hidden Trails Adventures and Training Ltd. with club member Cynthia Fex assisting as a range aide. Six young people in the 6 to 12 age group and three in the 13 to 16 age group learned sharp turns, quick stops, turns and swerves. As well, they were taught about how to handle blind spots.

Social activities included the roasting of a whole pig donated by Bob Bolton, with the BBQ roasting done by Nick Portiek from Bluffton, AB. Over Seventy people attended the roast and brought pot luck items to supplement the roast pork. There was also a treasure hunt for children with several prizes for each participant. Roaring fires in the large open fire pit in the cookhouse rounded out the fun in the evenings.



A Big Thank You to our Dedicated Volunteers and Members

The Calgary ATV Riders Association have held several well attended, well organized, fun and safe events in since 2006 through to 2011. These included: a family day at McLean Creek, a ride and cookout at McLean Creek in March, a poker rally in April, a three day campouts at Ghost Airstrip in May and September, Hunter Valley Loop in June, Thunder in the Valley in July, a three day campout in August at

Caroline, the annual Rebels Ride to Margaret Lake in November as well as numerous ad-hoc rides throughout the year.

There is a lot of behind the scenes work by the executive and volunteers that make these events so successful. Every ride and group has a leader and at least one tail-gunner that enhance safety; volunteers do advance scouting and clearing of the proposed trails, arrange for and

transport food, coffee and hot chocolate to events, collect fees, manage the website, arrange for safety courses, attend and defend the Club's interests at various meetings, make trail improvements, and so on.

Thank you to everyone who have made the past years successful and filled with adventure. The Calgary ATV Riders could not have done it without the members and their support.



Riders prepare to leave on a club ride held at McLean Creek.

Our Youth Get Involved *By: Cindy Fex*

My name is Cynthia. Most of you know me as Kevin's daughter or the girl covered in mud on the training course or maybe you know me as the girl who plays and looks out for all the kids and dogs on the trails and at the campouts. This past summer I had the opportunity to work and help with training with Bonny Lackey from Hidden Trail Adventures & Training Ltd. It has been the absolute best knowing that I'm helping to educate people in a fun way so they not only learn how to ride but how to do it safely. On the training course at Hidden Trails I'm called a "Range Aid". I help by doing demos and watching, supervising, or correcting the class. Even when I was doing my training I still learned a lot even

though I've been riding since I was about 9 years old. Working with Bonny this summer has given me the certification that I've taken a training course for ATV and UTV's (side by sides).

The course covers pretty much everything and has some really neat methods you've never heard of but use every day. One of these is "SIPDE" or Scan/Search, Identify hazards, Predict what could happen, Decide what to do, and finally Execute your decision. You also learn a variety of techniques to use while riding. Even I find when I'm out on the rides I'm explaining all the techniques I've learned to make riding much easier and more fun to anyone having trouble. I really

LOVE how both hidden trails and the ATV riders work to help the environment and increase how people safely ride their OHV's.

I recommend everyone to take the course. I guarantee it will help you if you ever get into a situation where you're not sure what to do.



Cindy is all mud and smiles after being playfully thrown into a very muddy puddle.

"It has been the absolute best knowing that I'm helping to educate people in a fun way so they not only learn how to ride but how to do it safely"



Top: Donna Lagasse having some fun!



"At no time did anyone make me feel like I was holding everyone up. They were just out to enjoy a day of quading in the woods" Donna Lagasse



Baseline Mountain Fire Lookout. One of our Caroline destinations.

My Experience as a new Rider with CARA By: Donna Lagasse

My name is Donna, but you may know me as Mud-D. I found out about this group when a CARA member (Jason/Outieman) and I were talking on another forum. He told me about this CARA group and mentioned that there was going to be a Rebel's group ride on June 13, 2010 in Burnt Timber and I was welcome to join everyone.

I had to really give this some thought. Keep in mind I'm a female, going by myself to join a group of people I've never met before, in a far off place (Burnt Timber) that I've never been before, to do something I've never done before (mountain trail riding). I checked out the forum on ATVFrontier.com and liked what I read. There was a lot of banter, a lot of words of encouragement and just a general feeling of camaraderie.

I was thrilled when I arrived. There were trucks and trailers everywhere, men, women and children, young and...those with more life experience. Because it was such a small group we all rode together on what was considered a Family ride.

I liked that fact that not only did they have one of the experienced riders (Brad / Grandpa) lead the

ride, there was also another experienced rider at the back of the pack to make sure everyone was okay. I am a mudder who was not familiar with trail riding. Various people gave me tips throughout the ride, which I appreciated. At no time did anyone make me feel like I was holding everyone up. They were just out to enjoy a day of quading in the woods.

As I went on more and more rides with the group it was staggering to see the number of quading enthusiasts in the area. By my third trip I felt like I had been with the group for years.

Some of the things I noticed, and really liked, right from the start were the rules the group has:

- Helmets are required.
- When there are a lot of riders, they are broken up into groups:
- Family - includes kids and smaller quads. Easy terrain, slow speeds, and shorter distances.
- Beginner - adult riders with little or no experience. Easy terrain at slower speeds.
- Intermediate - adult riders with a fair amount of experience. Terrain will be more challenging and speeds a little faster (where safe).
- Always ensure any fires started are fully extinguished.
- Always pack out any garbage you have.

Extreme - adult riders with a lot of experience and very comfortable with difficult terrain and higher speeds. In other words....Hold On!

- If there are not enough people to break off into smaller groups, they will follow the comfort level of the least skilled rider.
- There is a trail leader (the person at the front) and a tail gunner (the last person in the group) for each group. They have walkie-talkies (FRS radios) to communicate with each other.
- Riders are instructed to check on the person behind us. Wait for them if required. Go back if you have to. The group up front will wait.
- When you come to a fork in the trail, ensure the rider(s) behind you know which way to go.

The camping trips were always fun. These random camping or campground based events would usually involve entire families, including so many four-legged

My Experience *continued...*

kids. I was amazed at how many dogs jumped on the back of the quads when they started up. They were just as anxious as their owners to get out for a day of riding.

We'd come back after riding the whole day, change and just relax. Conversations by the fire included a recap of the day. Critters we saw (I'll never forget the bull or the bear), the funni-

est stuck (everyone knew he was going to tip, but just wanted to see him do it), the longest wheelie (of course that would be Jason), the change in the terrain since the last trip because of the rain, the stupid people who think they can drive a vehicle over a bridge designed and built for quads, you name it. The guys would discuss the upgrades they want to make to their bikes, especially Brad and

the 30" tires we all know he wants oh so badly.

I have to say, this was the best summer of quading I've ever had. Was it the trails? Although they are beautiful, no, it was the people. You can't help but make friends and have a good time when you go out with the members from the Calgary ATV Riders Association (CARA).



Riders stay warm and dry in the Ghost Cookhouse during our Family Day ride.

"You can't help but make friends and have a good time when you go out with the members from the Calgary ATV Riders "

Hunter Valley June Ride *By: Christine Ross*

The club started the summer rides in June and our Hunter Valley excursion. What a great area to ride. The hills are long and never ending, the scenery is majestic and the fact that most of us only ride their once a year means it's different every time. About 25 members from the club met at the kiosk at Hunter Valley Road and the Forestry Trunk Road where we headed out and crossed the 80ft bridge built a few years back by CARA. Our destination was Angel Camp where we made a fire and had an old fashioned weenie roast and then up to a high point where we could see the most spectacular view. It was then down again all the way home. The trails in the Hunter Valley area are not for the beginner riders and thanks to Garry our ride

leader (CARA's Vice-President) we navigated the trails with ease. There is a certain amount of skill involved when riding up and down the steep valleys but everyone did a fantastic job looking out for one another and we all made back in time to go into Cochrane for Chinese food, a standing after ride tradition. We can't forget to mention the troubles along the way and making sure it is publicized for everyone to read. One of the perks of developing the newsletter is that nobody reads about my "mishaps". On the way up to Angel Camp our director Alec needed to be towed through just about every creek crossing there was due to a wet belt. During our lunch break and after a lot of tinkering and realigning the seal he was back riding

the trails unassisted. This is not the first time I have seen Alec on the back of a tow rope. It has taken him a bit of work a few shackles and a lot of cursing but I think his troubles are finally over and he has been riding the last few rides unassisted.

Those of us on the ride still talk about it. It was a fun day for all of us, so much fun that the club has decided to substitute the Caroline ride for the Hunter Valley Camp and ride. The decision was made due to the Caroline area being completely logged. Camping spot are limited or no longer exist as well as the trails. I hope to see you all out at our first annual Hunter Valley Camping and Riding Event held during the August Long Weekend in 2012.



Our Director Alec takes a break before heading out on the trail.



With very few hills, trails along the Iron Horse are not for those seeking an adrenalin rush.

"The Iron Horse Trail is the roadbed of former train tracks between Smoky Lake, St. Paul, Bonnyville, Cold Lake and Heinsburg."



A great spot for a lunch break.

Iron Horse Trail Review *By: Ron Edwards*

I recently drove sections of the Iron Horse Trail in Northern Alberta. Here are some of my impressions, along with tips that may be useful to others considering this trail.

The Iron Horse Trail is the roadbed of former train tracks between Smoky Lake, St. Paul, Bonnyville, Cold Lake and Heinsburg. So the hills on the trail are very gradual and not for those seeking adrenalin highs. The scenery is interesting for those into the beauty of train history, farmland, golden fields, rolling hills and small ponds. I like that kind of scenery, so I have driven the 600 kms from Calgary to the staging areas three times in the last 2 years. The peak season for colour would be mid- September, after the leaves have turned and before the wind has blown the trees bare. Something I recommend everyone take the time to see no matter where they are.

I found the most interesting of the three trails to be St. Paul to Heinsburg, about 65 kms one way. There are some nice ponds between St. Paul and Elk Point, an Eco Info Centre right off the trail at Elk Point, a salt mine at Lindbergh, nice views of the North Saskatchewan River between

the salt mine and Heinsburg as well as a very nice rest stop and campground which costs \$10 a night. There are some interesting railway items at Heinsburg as well as a warm up picnic shelter with free firewood (the main door is usually locked so we use the side door). There are rest stops with outhouses and picnic tables about every 8 or 9 kms along this route. This portion of the trail is smoother and less dusty east of Elk Point. You can legally drive to gasoline stations at Elk Point, just south of the salt mine near Lindbergh, and at Heinsburg. Some of the gates near Heinsburg were only about 6 inches wider than my quad, so this could be an issue for side by sides. I would budget about 6 hours for a pleasant round trip, which I define as frequent photo ops, lunch and enjoyment of the rest stops.

The staging area at St. Paul is very large with a serviced campground adjacent to the staging area. The staging area is easy to find in the north east part of St. Paul, 42 St. & 53 Ave north of the Co-op Store. GPS coordinate: N53 59.723 W111 16.189 If staying overnight, I recommend Kings Motel on the west edge of town. Although much older than the new motels, the

parking for quad trailers is very convenient.

The trail from St. Paul to Mallaig, about 25 kms one way, is mainly through grain fields, with more bush near Mallaig. There is an interesting rest stop at Mallaig at the former railway station, and you can legally drive into Mallaig for gasoline.

You can take a quad trail, west, then north, then east from St. Paul to Bonnyville and Cold Lake. However, I chose to drive to Bonnyville and stage there. The staging area in Bonnyville is not marked. To find it, drive east on Main Street almost all the way through town, to the corner where there is an Esso, a Sobeys and a Subway. Turn north on 46 St. and go to the big new RCMP building. Turn left on 54 Ave at the RCMP and go about 300 metres west, past the car wash (under construction as of October 2011) and turn right into a field. You can park within a few metres of the trail. GPS coordinate: N54 16.332 W110 43.949

It is about 40 kms from Bonnyville to Cold Lake. The first 29 kms are kind of boring and mostly adjacent to Highway 28. However, about 5 kms west of Cold Lake is the Beaver River Trestle Bridge, almost half a

Iron Horse Trail Review *continued...*

kilometer long, which crosses a deep wide valley. (See Pictures) At the west end of the trestle is a quad trail that descends steeply to the valley floor, from which you can get great pictures of the wooden timbers. For anyone interested in trestles, this makes the trip worthwhile. There is a big staging area at Cold Lake, just past the quad turnoff to the air-

base gates.

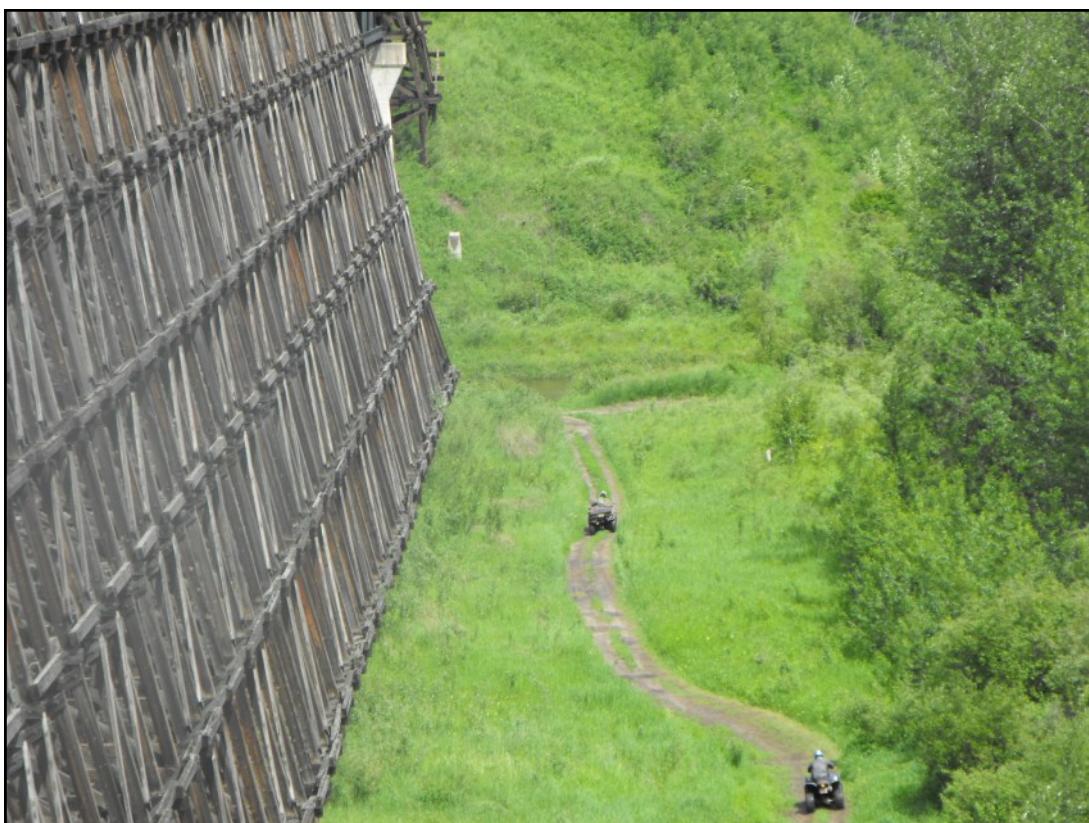
Since these trails are so easy, speed is a temptation. There are quite a few cattle gates, with pipe stile workarounds. Staying alert while driving this easy is sometimes challenging but extremely important as you never know what or who will come around the corner and at what speed.

There is a sign on the trail that says: "Sled Smart, Stupid Hurts" I think the same applies to anyone on a motorized vehicle no matter where you ride.

I recommend everyone take a couple of days and ride the Iron Horse. If anything else you can say you've done it!



Beaver River Trestle Bridge



Photographs taken by Ron Edwards: Riding into the valley below the Beaver River Trestle Bridge located 5 km west of Cold Lake.

"The scenery is interesting for those into the beauty of train history, farmland, golden fields, rolling hills and small ponds"

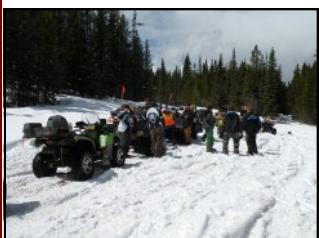


A view from the base of Beaver Trestle Bridge...it's a long way up!



The groups of riders get ready to leave for their ride.

"Without group support, there would have been a very real possibility of some riders spending the night in the cold"



Drawing cards at a check stop on the trail of the Poker Rally.

Deep Snow Challenges Riders at Poker Rally *By: Ron Edwards*

The Calgary ATV Riders 4th Annual Poker Run and Geocache Event was held on April 30, 2011. The event was attended by over 100 people, with 91 registered riders.

There was deep snow in some places that challenged many machines, especially the 2wd ATV's. The leader of one group of 50 riders encountered an impassable washout filled with snow. All 50 riders were bumper to bumper behind him, necessitating the 50th machine to back up, then the 49th, and so on, until the leader was able to reverse and create the detour.

All but one group made it back to the BBQ, more or less on time, but the last group had to deal with sev-

eral bog-downs. They were two hours late, but there was still plenty to eat. The value of riding with the club rather than as individuals was again very apparent. Without group support, there would have been a very real possibility of some riders spending the night in the cold. The family group encountered a nasty hill on Sylvester Trail, and the option of having the ride leader take some of the quads up the hill added to the safety of the lesser experienced riders.

Several generous merchants and individuals donated so many prizes that everyone seemed to get at least one prize. The sponsorship of the BBQ by Ralph's Motor sports was especially appreciated. Even the latecomers

got their share of the prizes. And of course, the poker hands were a big payoff to several lucky players. The Geocachers seemed to be a little diabolical this year, but with a cooperative effort, the caches and the resulting poker hands were discovered by most groups.

The number of volunteers who helped with this event was huge. They hid geocaches, organized the poker hands, collected prizes, led and tail-gunned various groups, organized, transported and cooked a lot of food. Their efforts made for a satisfying and safe ride. CARA is lucky to have such dedicated leaders and helpers who make these events so much fun for the rest of us.

Calgary ATV Riders Corporate Sponsors

Bow Cycle Motor Sports

7309 Flint Road NW

Calgary AB

403-441-1299

www.bowcyclesouth.com

403-230-1920

www.cycleworks.com

Destination Cycle

3-73 East Lake Crescent NE

Airdrie, AB

403-948-6940

Bow Ridge Sports

229 Charleswood Avenue

Cochrane AB

403-032-2019

www.bowridgesports.com

1020 Meridian Road NE

Calgary AB

403-569-9555

www.gwcycleworld.com

Cycle Works

4127-6 Street NE

Calgary, AB

First Aid Kit Maintenance *by: Robert Wambold Calgary Search and Rescue*

Everyone carries some kind of first aid kit on their ATV (if you don't you should) but how many of us remember to do maintenance on it? Most people probably just buy a first aid kit and throw it in the ATV and are happy knowing it's there. However like many things if you don't do some general maintenance on your first aid kit you can run into problems when you really need it.

You're probably wondering "What is there to maintain in a first aid kit?" There can be a number of things medications, ointments and alcohol swabs can expire, leak or dry out. Or you used the first aid kit a couple of

times and there are a few items that need to be replaced. Maybe you got your ATV a little wetter than you planned a few rides ago and the first aid kit got soaked and contaminated. You don't want to discover any of these situations when you need the first aid kit.

What's the easiest way to maintain the first aid kit on your ATV? Just pull it out of the ATV every six months or so and take a quick look through it. Replace any items that are expired, damaged or expended and re-familiarize yourself with what's in the kit and where it's located. When you restock the aid kit always throw in extra

Band-Aids. This seems to be the most common item that gets used out of my first aid kits. If you ride with children try to include some different color Band-Aids or even some with different cartoon characters on them. Being able to choose a Band-Aid will help distract the child from the minor cut or scrape. I also tend to save a couple of pink Band-Aids for the guys who hurt themselves while doing something stupid.

These are just a couple of simple steps you can take to make sure the first aid kit on your ATV is in good shape if you ever need it.



Calgary Search and Rescue Team with their Mule.

"Everyone carries some kind of first aid kit on their ATV (if you don't you should) but how many of us remember to do maintenance on it?"

Calgary ATV Riders Corporate Sponsors *continued...*

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A group of riders take a break and have some fun.



Christine out on an ad-hoc ride in the winter.

"The rumble of over forty-five machines preparing to ride up to Margaret Lake renews the passion for riding throughout the Majestic Southern Rockies"



Wild horses are seen throughout the Ghost Waiparous area year round.

8th Annual Rebels Ride November 5th 2011 *By: Christine Ross*

The moment you stepped out of your vehicle and your boots hit the freshly fallen snow at the South Ghost Staging Area your breath crystalizes in the cold air you know it was going to be a cool but great day for a ride. The sun was shining with the promise of warmth as the parking lot filled with excited riders ready for a full day of riding with friends. The rumble of over forty-five machines preparing to ride up to Margaret Lake renews the passion for riding throughout the Majestic Southern Rockies. With everyone geared up, waivers signed and a little envious of Brad's (Grandpa's) heated boots we head off in three groups taking various trails to a BBQ of smokies, hotdogs, chips and Tim Hortons coffee and hot chocolate waiting for us at Margaret Lake approximately 30 km away. The fresh dump of snow we had throughout the night has made the trails just slippery enough to help a novice rider improve on his/her limited skills and the experienced rider ready for some fun!

The family group consisting of various levels of experience take the Lost Knife trail while the Intermediate groups head up Lesueur Creek Trail for a bit more of a challenge in the rocky

and steep terrain. As the temperature rises so does the terrain elevation with the groups meeting along the intersecting trails at one point or another. Plenty of smiles are seen along the way with some on clean faces and some on muddy faces with a grin of pure enjoyment. Around 12:30pm the groups start to roll into Margaret Lake where the food is being cooked by none other than our esteemed President Don McKay, our Treasurer Evan Peters and his wife Gina. On hand to help out with the delivery of the food are the Calgary Search and Rescue crew and our Vice President Garry Salekin. The Rebels Ride would not happen without the support of this team. They have the challenge of not only cooking for 45 hungry riders but the delivery of the food and prizes as well. It is not easy navigating the trails from four corners up to Margaret Lake with carafes of hot liquid and enough prizes for everyone...it's like Santa and his never ending sack of goodies for the kids. With full bellies and warm hands from the roaring fire prizes are handed out to every member. Some receive hats, T-shirts, mugs and water bottles while others receive helmets, goggles, riding gear and much more

from generous donators. After the wheeling and dealing and trading of prizes the groups are back on their ATV's riding down the trails while the setup crew now packs up the BBQ gear and heads back to the South Ghost Staging area.

It's late in the afternoon as the groups pull into the staging areas at different times, some early enough to socialize with other members and others roaring in from their long ride ready for the traditional stop at the nearby town for another great meal and a drink with friends before heading home. By the time you hit the pillow you have been away from home for over 14 hours, your body's stiff from the long ride but you have a smile on your face as you fall asleep dreaming of the next time when you get to do it all over again.

The Calgary ATV Riders would like to thank the following sponsors for their donation of prizes at the 8th annual Rebels Ride held on November 5th 2011.

Bow Cycle, Destination Cycle, Ralph's Motorsports, ESPS, IHS Energy, GW Cycle, Cycle Works, Mountain Toys and Walt Healy.

A Message from Bob Bolton as he Retires from Riding

When Christine asked me to write a short history of my involvement in quading, I thought that my story may be interesting only to my Grandchildren (and maybe not even them!). However, my story parallels the development of the ATV phenomenon and perhaps may shed some light on where we are in Alberta at the moment with regards to access to back country by Off Highway Vehicles.

As everyone knows, young people, and some not so young, are fascinated by motor driven transportation. Devices that were invented to assist in outdoor work projects have always been adapted for recreational use and the larger recreational market encourages rapid technology development that is again adopted by industry, completing a cycle. I was no different.

I bought my first quad in about 1990, a Suzuki 400cc manual shift machine that had selectable 4 wheel drive and hi-lo range, which meant that it was great for plowing deep snow, pulling a small disk or harrow and the racks could (and did!) carry fence posts, rolls of wire and other ranch necessities and yet people fought to be the one to do the job because they could get to drive Suzi!

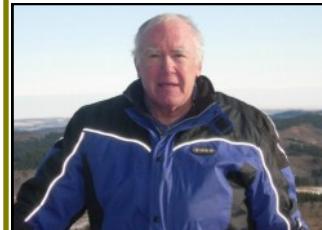
The next machine, a Suzuki Eiger 400cc with Automatic Transmission similar to a snowmobile's CVT and again selectable 4 wheel drive and hi - lo range. This was my wife's machine and we spent many happy hours riding recreationally in the forests north and west of our small ranch. These machines were near ideal for the multi-use environment of a ranch and for recreation as well.

Around 2003, we sold our ranch and brought the quads down to our home in Calgary. I built a small shed to hold the quads and purchased a light trailer to haul them around then set out to see where we could ride and the people at Walt Healy directed me to McLean Creek, saying that there was a group of ATV riders that congregated there on the weekends. The next weekend I arrived early and the truck that pulled in beside me had a happy rider named Tony who quickly introduced me to another Terry who suggested that I just follow them and they would show me around. They not only showed me around but thoroughly terrified me and securely hooked me into the pleasures of mountain quading. Over the next weeks, I met an ever ex-

panding group of happy riders who had labeled themselves "The Rebels" on an internet forum devoted to quading in the Southern Rockies. I was amazed that these people, mostly in their 30's and early 40's, accepted an old guy (at that time about 65) as an equal rider. My life experience as a geophysicist and international oil company executive was far removed from the experiences of these young people yet the common denominator of the ride allowed us all to fit together seamlessly.

For the first few years, we rode wherever there was a cleared track, from Alberta and into Eastern BC we rode old seismic lines that had been cut in ever denser grids in the never ending search for oil and gas. The general philosophy of the Rebel group was to not destroy the nature of the wilderness that we enjoyed and to not leave garbage behind. The thousands of kilometers of trails that were accessible ensured that no trails were overused. The development of hand held GPS devices allowed almost anyone to make extended back country trips and to safely return home.

The convergence of ATV technology, GPS technology and a booming economy allowed very rapid growth



Bob Bolton one of our club founding members retires.

"I was amazed that these people, mostly in their 30's and early 40's, accepted an old guy (at that time about 65) as an equal rider"



Bob Bolton helps out on a multi-use bridge build in 2005.

A Message from Bob Bolton *continued...*



Snow can make hills interesting for some rides to get up and down.

"I would not have missed the opportunity the meet all of the great people in the ATV community for anything"



Kevin Fex, our long standing Director has fun on the trails in the Crowsnest Pass where an old skidoo was left where it broke down.

of the ATV community and as always the inclusion of extreme machines, riders and practices. The fact that most "city" people had no knowledge or experience with these new activities, coupled with sensational reports of a few ATV rider accidents created a fertile ground for environmentalists to influence politicians to restrict access to wilderness areas by ATVs. Responsible ATV riders were not organized to fight this activity and generally had a poor understanding of the agendas being pushed by international "Green" movements.

As luck would have it, I had a lot of experience in dealing with politicians and bureaucrats as an industry representative in the oil business as well as providing policy advice to Canadian and Foreign government bodies. I suggested to my friends in the Rebels group that we form a club to focus our lobbying efforts and to provide reasoned policy responses to the rapid growth of restrictive regulatory steps that the Alberta Sustainable Resources Department (SRD) were implementing at the request of environmental activists.

At that time, an organization known as the Alberta Off Highway Vehicle Asso-

ciation (AOHVA) existed in Edmonton which was recognized as representing ALL off highway activities (Skidoos, motorcycles, trucks, and ATVs). I was elected to the governing Board of the AOHVA to represent Southern and Central Alberta regional interests. We quickly recognized that this was not the proper way to represent our interests and found that a group in the Crow's Nest Pass had formed a club (the original Quad Squad) that was somewhat effective in influencing SRD policy in that region by being very active in forest stewardship, building sustainable trails and bridges and teaching new members how to responsibly ride to ensure continuing access to a region to enjoy their ATVs.

We rapidly formed an equivalent Calgary club, the Calgary Quad Squad since renamed as the Calgary ATV Riders to provide the same mechanism as the original Quad Squad but were not soon enough to prevent a unilateral draconian move by SRD to limit our access to trails in the Ghost region to only a few tens of kilometers now known as the Ghost Forest Land Use Zone or the Ghost FLUZ.

An official advisory group

was then formed by responsible back country users to try and reopen trails. This advisory group had members from all stakeholders in the Ghost FLUZ area. I was asked to represent the OHV community and elected vice chair of the group and then Chair.

Over the 5 year period that I have been involved in the Ghost Area Management Plan Group (GAMP), we have not accomplished much to improve trail system in the area. It has become clear that SRD has to respond to "green" politics and to continue to restrict access by motorized recreationalists to the Ghost FLUZ. I and others have spent hundreds of hours to attempt to create a sustainable trail system in the region but without much success. The existing trail system forced upon us without thought by SRD is unsustainable. The Calgary ATV Riders have a battle to overcome and the hope is the Government recognizes their efforts.

In summary, I would not have missed the opportunity the meet all of the great people in the ATV community for anything. Now with my retirement from riding I look forward to the annual Pig Roast and in a small way to repay the kind-

A Message from Bob Bolton *continued...*

ness and companionship that I have found amongst fellow quaders. There are too many people to mention that have meant a lot to my enjoyment of quad-ing. People like Don McKay , Evan Peters, and Kevin Fex, who tirelessly work to ensure that people enjoy the mountain ATV experience, like Todd La-mond and Christine Ross who are always available to

carry out the necessary club functions, like Gary Salekin who is the quiet builder who has accomplished so much these past years.

I still own my King Quad as well as my original Eiger that just does duty as a snow plow these days. My decision to retire from riding was hard and I will see you all at the 6th annual CARA/Bolton Pig Roast in

September. I hope I can meet you all on the trail again someday.

And remember, no matter where you go, there you are...



RETIREMENTS

Bob Bolton , one of the founding members of the Calgary ATV Riders has decided to hang up his riding boots. Bob has been one of the most active members in the club for the past 8 years. We will still see Bob at our annual Pig Roast held in September each year but he will be missed on the trail by all.

MEMORIALS



It is with great sadness we announce the passing of a long standing member of the Calgary ATV community. Renee "Sunny" Byrne-Wall passed away suddenly on Tuesday, November 1, 2011 in Calgary, Alberta at age 38 yrs. To many of us she was known as 'Sunny', which was exactly what she was, a sunny, delightful, fun-loving gal. Renee was well known for her pink tassels that hung on her handlebar. Sunny attendance at a clean-up of McLean Creek after a destructive long weekend was filled with memories for those who were there. Renee "Sunny" Byrne-Wall will be forever missed and our heart goes out to her husband, children and extended family.

First Aid Kit Necessities

Basic Medical Necessities

- Adhesive tape
- Aluminum finger splints
- Antibiotic ointment
- Antiseptic solution
- Bandages of various sizes
- Instant cold packs
- Chemical hot packs
- Cotton balls and cotton-tipped swabs
- Disposable latex or synthetic gloves (at least two pairs)
- Disposable mask for CPR
- Gauze pads and roller gauze in various sizes
- First-aid manual
- Petroleum jelly
- Plastic bags for disposal of contaminated materials
- Safety pins in various sizes
- Scissors, tweezers, and a needle
- Soap or instant hand sanitizer
- Sterile eyewash, such as a saline solution
- Triangular bandage
- Any type of bulb suction device for flushing out wounds

Medications

- Antidiarrheal medication (essential for preventing dehydration)
- Over-the-counter oral antihistamines
- Aspirin and non-aspirin pain relievers
- Calamine lotion
- Over-the-counter hydrocortisone cream
- Personal medications
- If prescribed by your doctor, drugs to treat an allergic attack, such as an auto-injector of epinephrine
- Syringe, medicine cup, or spoon

Emergency Items

- Small, waterproof flashlight with extra batteries
- Candles and matches for cold climates (never underestimate the life-saving abilities of fire)
- Sunscreen
- Mylar (space) emergency blanket
- Shovel
- Knife
- Rope



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CARA Clothing is available Through our website.

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Call Christine @ 403-968-4749
for more information.

2012 CARA Membership Renewal and Drive

Now more than ever Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) access and random camping is under attack in our region. Our Club is an established and vigorous provincial leader that is a balanced and environmentally conscious defender of multi-use trails. Your voice must be heard to preserve our sport and places to ride. If

you access the back country and are a members you are interested in being involved in an organization that makes a difference then come **Join Us!**

Please continue to support the **Calgary ATV Riders** by renewing your membership. Our annual memberships are only \$30 per family and cover the

period from January 1 to December 31. Corporate memberships are \$100. Current

Members who joined at or after Labour Day weekend, are considered members for that quarter as well as for 2012. Membership forms to **CARA** can be downloaded on-line at www.calgaryatvriders.com.

Calgary ATV Riders Association Mission Statement

To promote responsible use of Alberta's Southern Rockies & to ensure the conservation & preservation of our wilderness areas for the continued use by those who come after us.

Keep it Green, Keep it Clean