



# Riding with CARA

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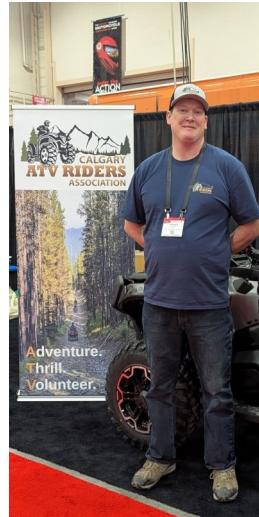
## Message from the President

Good day members and friends!

Cheers to another year having come and gone! What a year we've had. It's been no stop adventures and hard work on the trails.

I want to start out by making this short and sweet. Thank you everyone for helping out and making all the events special and memorable. Without any of the volunteers all of the work wouldn't be possible.

This year I had so many events that I absolutely loved to take part in and one of them was helping run the booth at the Calgary Motorcycle Show. The



was a very thrilling event for me as it was the first of its kind ever in the motorcycle shows history.

This upcoming year is going to have just as many or even more exciting things happening and it will be great to take part in all of them.

I hope to see you all on the trails and at all of our events in this upcoming year!!

show was a little different than what we've done in the past. CARA and AOHVA helped to run a first time riders booth to aid people or kids that have never been on an ATV before. This

## 2025 Event Numbers

Ride	2023		2024		2025	
	Units	Riders	Units	Riders	Units	Riders
Family	21	33	15	21	24	35
Night	22	30	11	13	27	41
Poker		33		96		120
May Long	0	0	21	35	16	23
Steward-		46		79	364 HRS	62
Kids Ride	9	13	10	15	2	1
August	0	0	0	0	69	114
Septem-	33	41	28	37	23	37
Rebels	17		22	27	28	37

# Stewardship 2025



This year's stewardship was a little different than years past. It started with a team going out during the week before to start working on the north section of Cow Lake to clean up some bad washout. The same time we had another team working on the Lesueur Trail going north from the gas plant heading towards some deep mudholes and wash out. Unfortunately the Lesueur team couldn't make it as far

as they wanted due to some major problems on the trail. They did manage to get a fair ways in and got some trouble spots dealt with.

The trouble we had this year was the weather did not cooperate with us; lots of rain and snow. Who would have guessed snow in June? This weather unfortunately caused us to cancel litter picking that weekend.

Have no fear though we did get out again to do litter pick-

ing and fix more on Cow Lake loop in September. Luckily we had some great weather for stewardship round two.

The litter picking team managed to cover a large area this year and filled half of a dumpster. Kudos to the Trash Pandas! (as they like to be called).

## Cow Lake

**"Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much" Helen Keller**

Cow Lake Loop this year took an absolute kicking with all the rain we got later in the year. Many spots that were good in June didn't survive later in the year.

This June the equipment headed out and worked from the Ghost Airstrip, WP 117 to WP115; the north section of Cow Lake. It took two days for hard work but all the wa-

ter bars and trouble spots taken care of.

Good thing we had some time and energy left to get more work done from the Waiparous Creek Staging area later in the year. There were two bad spots that needed lots of work near the lake. Though long days, the work got done.



## Lesueur Trail



Lesueur trail was on the books to get a few more clean ups this June but unfortunately it turned into far more than expected.

We discovered in June when the equipment started on its long few day journey. The trail was in far worse shape than we knew. The ruts and plugged water bars was absolutely mind blowing. We found of all

things plugging the water bars was floor joist from a house build and massive amounts of logs.

With this amount of plugged drainage the water just continued down the trail and kept eroding the trail and made the ruts worse. The plan is to head out in the new year and fix these issues and hopefully keep the trail safe for more years.

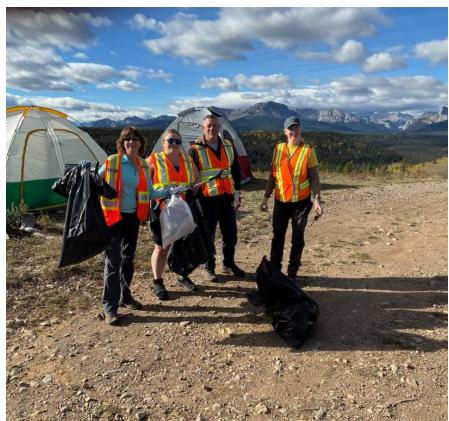


# Volunteers working hard



## Hard work keeps trails sustainable!!

The incredible hard work all these volunteers do is absolutely mind blowing. Without any of these hard working members we would never be able to keep the trails in the condition they are today. It's not just trails we have to work hard at, it's picking up garbage from the side of the road and random campsites. Our Volunteers are always there!



# 2025 Adventures in short



We had a few different adventures happening. CARA and AOHVA started off helping run a first time riders event at the Calgary Motorcycle show. This event helped to show kids and even adults who have never been on a ATV in there life and the proper way to use it. This was lead by a licensed instructor.

Next up was night ride in McLean creek. What a beautiful night it was. It was a little

cold but clear. We ended up getting a little snow fall as the ride went into the night but nothing too much anyone couldn't handle.



The Poker Rally was a massive hit this year once again with participants from Edmonton and beyond that wanted to run the course. CARA raised \$1,552 for trail maintenance.



**“Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved”**

**Mattie Stepanek**

## More adventures?

The Family Ride was rescheduled due to the weather from February to April, beautiful day for a ride and ending with a bbq! Demo days started off for May long this year. We had Basecamp Motorsports come out and bring units for people to try out and they even brought out an ATV for kids. It was a great opportunity to catch up with everyone from the long winter.

August long weekend we headed down to ride with the Crowsnest Pass Quad Squad. What a massive turn out from CARA and CNPQS. The first day we got some good rain on Saturday but the ride pushed on and everyone had a great adventure. Next day the weather was much better. No rain a little cool in the morning but was perfect riding temperature in the afternoon. Many

of the groups headed up to the plane crash. Its always a great ride to get up to the crash and remember the people that lost there lives.



## Final rides of the year!!



September long was a little different this year with having our Kids Ride during this event. We are building the next generation one kid at a time by trying the youth ATVs that Basecamp donated for the event. There might have even been a prank happening with a certain Renegade rider too.

The final ride of the year we the Rebels ride in Fallen Timber. It was a great ride and it was an amazing turnout of people. We had 37 people come out to enjoy this wonderful day. The ride did have some thrills and spills this year. While we had a few incidents this year, our Emergency Response plan has made us pre-

pared. We are grateful to everyone who helped out. Safety first!

# Pictures from the year's fun and excitement



# Margaret Lake project



**"We're all water from different rivers, that's why it's so easy to meet; we're all water in this vast, vast ocean, someday we'll evaporate together." — Yoko Ono**



Phase I of the Margaret Lake project was completed in 2024, this past fall we rotated onto the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase that included restoration activities around the lake. As part of our partnership with the Ghost Watershed Alliance Society (GWAS),

Trails for Tomorrow (T4T), AOH-VA, and Freshwater Conservation Canada we aimed to restore degraded aquatic and riparian habitat within the Margaret Lake area

through targeted rehabilitation measures in key locations.

By Ken Spring

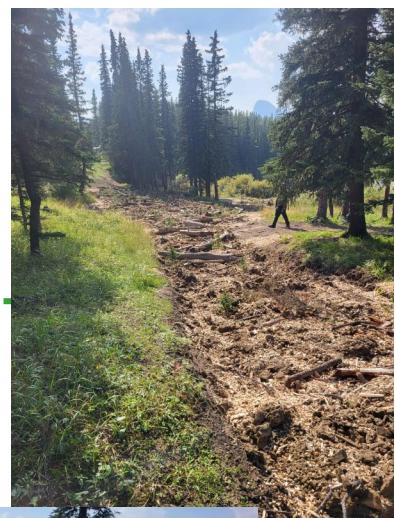


The completed work at this location was in response to ongoing trail integrity issues and threats to the adjacent watercourses, and particularly the water quality of Margaret Lake. The area we restored was approximately 1000m<sup>2</sup> in size. The existing trail, from the west side to the lake was not fully removed. Instead, it was converted into a smaller, walkable pathway to allow for day-use. This route is approximately 100-115m in length and was decommissioned using soil

decompaction where necessary and the distribution of large woody debris and staking.

The east side of the lake and the narrow strip of trail leading to the lakefront from the parking area was also reclaimed using bioengineering techniques including the distribution of mulch produced on-site, large and small woody debris and leaf litter. We also used live staking of willow, poplar, and dogwood, and a

log crib wall/soil wrap construction. We then transplanted some smaller shrubs/conifers into the project site for future growth and stability on the terrain. The new area consisted of a small walking pathway for day-use.



We look forward to working on phase 3 and 4 in the coming years with everyone.



We then turned to the parking lot where we enhanced the parking area using a geosynthetic mat. The current parking area was filled with dead fall years ago and was starting to erode and did not allow for proper drainage. With using the geosynthetic mat this product combines geogrid technology for applications that required additional filtration and or separation. It allows for strong mechanical interlocking with the soil being reinforced while providing said separation and filtration.

# Don McKay Memorial Weekend

By Dan Kruse

This year we had the honor of having two amazing people win the Don McKay award. These two are incredibly hard working individuals that never shy away when help is needed or even things fixed.

Malcolm is our club's resident fixer. He helped out to fix a few broken things during the Ride 4 Smiles event. We've all heard his line "it's do easy even you can do it". He has even managed to teach the club's Vice President how to use a chainsaw. When it gets cold out or even the sun goes down at night you can count on not being cold as Malcolm seems to have some of the largest campfires around!! Who could forget his massive condo he brings when shelter is needed to keep people dry if it's raining or even just to give some shade.



Teresa is the second winner of the Don MacKay award for this year. She is always willing to help and look out for those that tend to get overlooked. She is the ultimate tree trimmer when it comes to trail clean up. When the time comes to do dishes she is right there putting on a pair of gloves and jumping right in to help with no questions asked. During

many events Teresa has volunteered to go grocery shopping, organize trailers and even help out kids during our events. Now the biggest task that Teresa has is trying to keep Malcolm in line and we all know how hard that is to do.



We want to give you both a huge thank you for all the hard work you do. Without volunteers like you many of the jobs on and off the trails would never get done.

THANK YOU!



# River to Rails Jamboree

By Ken Spring



***“Because in the end,  
you won’t remember  
the time you spent  
working in an office or  
mowing your lawn.  
  
Climb that damn  
mountain.”***

**jack kerouac**

This past summer Sheri and I attended the River to Rails Jamboree in Idaho, where we rode some of the original trails that the first Milwaukee Electric Train first ran. This year's event had over 100 campers and over 200 participants from all over the USA as well as western Canada; strange you have to go to Idaho to meet fellow riders from Alberta and BC. We camped next to the beautiful St. Joe River, just out-

side of the small town of Avery. We ended up riding a combination of quad trails as well as old logging roads that have grown into great trails to tour the great valleys and mountain tops.



The event was well organized with a BBQ supper and pancake breakfast where we were able to mingle with fellow riders. We ended up not finding Sasquatch on one of the riders, maybe next year? CARA donated a few great prizes for the rides and events throughout the weekend, they were very grateful. It was also strange to legally ride the highways in the area on quads and side x sides. We only took the highway once to get back to our camp spot as we had a long day, but it was nice to get back quick.



# CARA Corporate sponsors

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[www.bowridgesports.com](http://www.bowridgesports.com)

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**Starlight Canada**  
[www.starlightcanada.org](http://www.starlightcanada.org)

## 2026 event schedule

**Jan 30-Feb 1** Calgary Motorcycle show  
**Feb 15** Family Day ride at Waiparous  
**Feb 28** AGM/GM (Location TBD)  
**March 7** Night Ride at McLean creek  
**April 11** Poker Rally at McLean creek  
**May 14-18** Prairies to Peaks ATV Rally  
**June 12-14** Stewardship  
**Seb 4-7** Don McKay weekend at Ghost airstrip  
**Sep 19** Ride 4 Smiles at Ghost airstrip  
**Nov 7** Rebels Ride at Fallen Timber



### 2025/2026 Calgary ATV Riders

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