



## 2017 News Letter

Central Mountains ATV Association, Inc. <http://cmatva.org>



CMATVA has a full calendar of monthly guided rides, events, and activities that offer members plenty of opportunity to enjoy Pennsylvania's great outdoors. These members are taking a break during one of the association's favorite theme rides - "2016 Hobo Soup Ride."

### Come ride with us

Our 2017 calendar is loaded with exciting rides and events.

One of the things we started three years ago was planning our monthly rides out on a yearly schedule. This way our members can plan ahead on which rides they want to participate. We have some members plan their vacations around some of the long weekend rides such as the Potter County Memorial Day weekend ride, Quiet Oaks Campground weekend ride or the Houtzdale weekend camping ride.

We try to plan one big ride each year out of state. In 2016, a group of us rode the Ride the Wilds trails in New Hampshire, which included riding your ATV to the top of Mount Washington. In 2017, we are planning a trip to Ride Royal Blue Trails in Tennessee.

One of our other big rides in 2016 was the annual "Tour for Elk and Toy Drive." We had over 350 riders participate in two days of touring Bennezzette Township roads and viewing groups of elk. Over

130 elk were seen over the two days. This year, over 365 toys were collected for the Clinton County area, which "Mark the Shark" included in his Christmas toy program.

Last year we added two food drive rides. One was part of our annual "Hobo Soup Ride" and the second was part of our annual "Renovo Vista Ride" on the Charles property. We collected over 230 food items, which we donated to the Clinton County Women's Center

The CMATVA Mileage Club was started in 2013. We keep track of every mile our members ride with our association. Then in June of each year at our annual picnic we award the mileage bar that the members earned for that year in 250 mile intervals.

If you would like to join us for one of our association rides, check out the event calendar on our website. We allow everyone a free ride with the club before they join to see what our association is all about. Visit our website to download forms for membership and association merchandise. <http://cmatva.org>



## Renovo ATV Cruise for A Cure 2017

Renovo ATV Cruise for A Cure June 2016, which our association sponsors for the Bucktail Medical Center's Relay for Life team, attracted 353 riders. This was a record for this 7th annual fundraiser that raised over \$9,000 to fight cancer.

2017 will include additional trail mileage on the Whiskey Springs trail system. The event committee began working on the route in January 2017. The biggest change this year is we are holding the event in the Flaming Foliage lot and having the parking area next to Bucktail Medical with the primitive camping behind Bucktail near the pond. This year, the first leg of the ride will head toward Whiskey Springs ATV Trails from Renovo and from there on to Quiet Oaks Campground and back to Renovo with a favorite stop at Renovo Vista.

June 10 is the date for this year's event. Tickets are on sale at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/renovo-atv-cruise-for-a-cure-2017-tickets-31082554758>

Follow plans for the event at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/renovoatvcruiseforcure/>

## Membership

### CMATVA Continues to Grow

Our club was started in 2002 by Lynn Probst and Wayne Yahn. They set the bar on how our association should operate and run with guidelines for us to follow. They both were great leaders of CMATVA. We respect and thank them for the values they set for us to follow.

We started 2016 with 850 members and ended the year with 1224 members. We think our club's growth has come from having a good leadership TEAM, from providing two guided rides every month, and from extra weekend rides that involve camping. As the association was in the beginning, we remain an association that likes to ride. Members receive regular updates on rides and club news via email, Facebook, and the CMATVA website.

Summer of 2016, we had a restructure of our management team. Adding more Chairpersons and have more of our staff taking on more duties. We still have some Chairperson positions open, please contact Henry if you are interested.

## ATV Initiative

Since it was formed, CMATVA has been a strong advocate for increased opportunities for riding in our region. In 2014 the Clinton County Economic Partnership Tourism Committee began looking into the economic benefits of capitalizing on the explosion of ATV business throughout the state and in neighboring states like West Virginia and Ohio. As a member of the committee, CMATVA was asked to assist in the design of a new ATV trail system in northcentral PA with the goal of encouraging growth of tourism business. What started out as 800 miles of riding is now almost up to 1300 miles of new riding area, which we are 44% of our goal.

In 2016 CMATVA joined the PA Wilds to support safe family type ATV riding and the ATV Initiative. The Clinton County Commissioners allocated funds to pay for an economic impact study that was conducted summer of 2015. The study looked at the current trends in ATV business in our county. The results showed how much the

average person spent when trail riding in the county. We have worked all of 2016 visiting different townships talking to them about opening their roads to ATVs.

CMATVA also joined together with Snow Shoe Rails to Trails to cover the cost of signage to any township that opens their roads. Much of our work has focused on mapping the existing roads and trails that have the potential to connect towns, villages, and landmarks. Recently, we have worked on mapping out all of the open township roads in Potter County and connecting them to Denton Hill trail system and Cross Fork. We thank the SSRTA for joining with our association on this venture. Their experience in developing and maintaining the Snow Shoe Rails to Trails system has been invaluable in our discussions and planning. We also are grateful for the support PAOHV has provided in resources and contacts. 2016 was very busy with organizational activity. 2017 promises to be very productive. Stay tuned.

## New in 2017 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Poker Run

We will be having our first Poker Run this year, sponsored by Larry's Sport Center, Inc. in Galeton, Pa. You can start from either end of the poker run Quiet Oaks Campground or Potter County Family Campground with five stops between the two campgrounds. A \$20.00 entrance fee will be charged which will go towards signage for townships that open their roads to ATV's. At all seven stops, you will draw a poker chip. There will be a chance to win \$5, \$10, and \$25 winning poker chips at each stop. Please come out and ride from Clinton County to Potter County on August 19, 2017. It will start at 9am and all stations will close at 3pm.



The poster features the Central Mountains ATV Association logo at the top, which includes a motorcycle and the text 'CENTRAL MOUNTAINS ATV ASSOC. - INC.' and 'www.cmatva.org'. Below the logo, it says 'Sponsored by Larry's Sport Center, Inc. 1913 Route 6 West / P.O. Box 236 Galeton, PA 16922 (814) 435-6548 www.larrysportcenter.com'. A QR code is also present. The event details are listed as '7 STOPS' with a list of locations: Quiet Oaks Campground, Deb's Cross Fork Inn, Koney's Country Store, Germania General Store, Germania Hotel, Potlato City Country Inn, and Potter County Family Campground. The event is on 'Saturday August 19, 2017 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.' and includes a '\$20 Donation' graphic. A small map shows the route between campgrounds.



Central Mountains ATV Association, Inc. received two Grants in 2016. The first was the Yamaha Outdoor Access Grant in 2016 of \$5,000 to purchase equipment and tools to install signage for the portions of the trail we already have access to. Yamaha supplied a generator with a value of \$2,229.00 in which Peter's Marine helped us process the transfer. We also purchased a Bosch BH2770VCD Electric impact post pounder totaling \$1,564.00 and Fastenal Power tools for installing signage in the amount of \$1,213.00. Fastenal also graciously donated \$300.00 towards cordless tooling we needed. The Grant was awarded as part of Yamaha's Outdoor Access Initiative promoting safe, responsible riding and open, sustainable riding areas. The second grant was the Clinton County Tourism / Recreation Grant that is a joint program of the Clinton County Commissioners, the Economic Partnership's Tourist Promotion Agency, and the Clinton County Planning Department. They awarded us a \$3,000.00 grant to go towards signage.

### Property Donation:

We would like to thank Bob Maguire for donating the 5.4 acres of land on Sportsman Lane in Hyner, Pa. to Our Association in 2016. Bob Maguire is a great supporter of our Association, working with us on helping our association grow into the future. The property will make a great trail head for our association, with the location of the property being connected to the proposed trail which is part of the ATV Initiative we are working on. We have also received verbal commitments from Charles Construction for backfilling and leveling the lot, Saar's Tree Service for tree removal from the property, Precise Electrical for hooking up the electric service box. All of the names mentioned are donating everything to our Association. We would like to thank everyone involved.

### 501(c) 3 Non-Profit

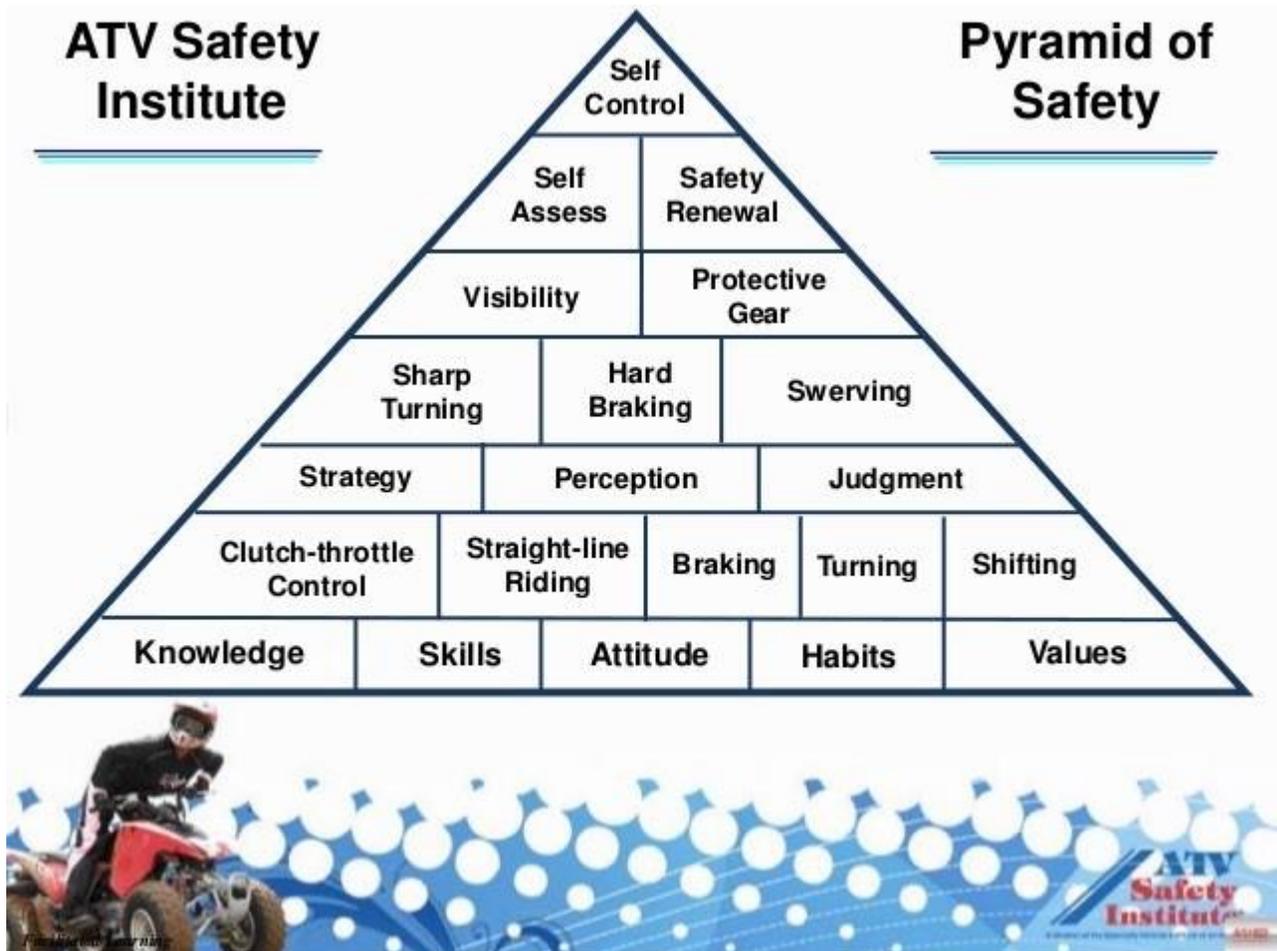
In 2016 our association became a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization which will make us eligible for grant funds to support our work on the trail expansion project.

## Hand Signals

How many of you know what those oncoming ATVer's are doing when they pass you with their fingers in the air? Hand signals will tell the people you meet on the trail how many are in your group. The first rider in the group is responsible for sending the first signal to the oncoming riders, or hikers, horsemen, etc. The hand signal is accomplished by holding up fingers on your left hand to represent the number of machines following yours. All members of the group should participate in sending the hand signals indicating the number of machines to follow. The message is completed by the last rider who indicates that they are the last rider by holding up a closed fist indicating that there will be no riders to follow. For example, Tom leads a pack of six people (Tom, Jim, Ed, Leroy, Dom, and Wayne). Tom meets an oncoming machine and holds up five fingers on his left hand. Jim, holds up four fingers, Paul, three fingers, Leroy two fingers, Dom his index finger and Wayne in the rear holds up a fist. If the group is especially large the riders can use a closed fist with the thumb extending behind to indicate more riders are coming. Again, the last rider would hold a completely closed fist signaling he is the last rider.

## Association Trail Riding Rules:

- Please be next to your machine at least 15 minutes before the group departs.
- Keep the person in front & behind you in your sight at all times. If you DO NOT see the person behind you, STOP on the side of the road and wait until you do see them.
- Ride with your head lights ON.
- At all rest areas pull off on the side of the trail as far as you can so you are not blocking the trail.
- Helmets: All operators must wear an approved DOT safety helmet



# CMATVA Rules and Guidelines for Association Rides

## Using the Buddy System

- Use the “buddy system”—make each rider responsible for keeping track of another person.
- Ride in a group of two or more.
- Plan your ride, and leave a copy of your plan at home or with a friend.

## Riding Within Your Personal Limits

- Know your personal limits and your abilities, and work within them.
  - Know what you can do—as well as what you can't do.
  - Don't try to keep up with your friends. If they are more experienced, you easily can get into situations that are beyond your abilities.
  - Even when you're experienced, remember that you still don't know everything. Be prepared for unexpected situations.
- But, if you always stay within your personal limits, how can you develop new skills and abilities?
  - Challenge your limits once in a while. It's normal to want to try new things. However, do so in practice situations, not out on the trail.
  - Have an experienced rider supervise your practice session and help you if needed.
  - Practice one new skill at a time, and start slowly. Trying to learn too many new things at once can be frustrating and dangerous.

## Preparing Yourself Before a Ride

Off-road riding is physically demanding, and riding for hours at a time requires stamina. To enjoy your time on the trail fully, you should:

- Be in good physical condition.
- Get plenty of sleep, and eat nutritious food before and during your ride.
- Drink plenty of water to replace fluids you lose through sweating, even in the cold.
- Avoid riding when you are ill or fatigued, which affects your judgment and reaction time and can lead to serious injury.

## Staying Alert To Avoid Fatigue

Long hours of riding added to the effects of motion, wind, engine noise, and vibration cause fatigue. Fatigue impairs judgment, slows reaction time, and can cause accidents. To reduce fatigue:

- Counteract the effects of wind, cold, and rain by dressing properly for the weather.
- Know your endurance limit, and don't drive beyond it.
- Take a break at least once an hour.

## Riding Single File With a Group

- Leave adequate space between vehicles, and maintain a safe speed. If the rider in front of you suddenly applies the brakes, you should be far enough behind to stop or maneuver in time to avoid a collision.
- Calculate safe distances using a reaction time of at least three seconds. As the vehicle in front of you passes an object, count one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, and one-thousand-three. If you pass that same object in less than three seconds, you should allow more space.
- Be sure everyone performs a pre-ride inspection. Your brakes and brake lights may work, but your safety also depends on the other riders.
- Be sure everyone in the group knows the proper hand signals for turning, slowing down, and stopping. These simple hand signals can prevent serious accidents.
- If you're not in a group and someone is tailgating you, let him or her pass.

## Hand Signals

Traveling in a group requires communication. Make sure everyone in your group understands basic hand signals.

Stop



Slow Down



Left Turn



Right Turn



Hazard Left



Oncoming Traffic



Central Mountains ATV Association, Inc. is a member of Pennsylvania Off-Highway Vehicle Association.