

COORDINATOR'S CORNER



By Lt. Leland Owens



MINNESOTA DNR ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR

ATV/SNOWMOBILE SAFETY EDUCATION NEWS

The warm fall weather is waning, many lakes have turned and we've had our first taste of winter's cold and snow. Those of you who are snowmobile riders are getting an itchy throttle thumb. I know because I saw many sled riders in late October up in Grand Rapids at the MnUSA Fall Conference. Anticipation of the 'white' gold is in the air!

Snowmobile Safety instructors are ramping up for the 2010-2011 class season. As I write this there are **over one-hundred youth snowmobile safety classes** being offered throughout the state! They include over **fifty-five Traditional** classes AND over **forty-five CD Based** classes. If

your instructor team is interested in teaching a CD Based course, contact your local RTO or myself to get details and set up training.

Instructors, how would you rate your field day/ performance??

Is the area of the riding course free of hazards? Are you following DNR requirements regarding proper course set up? (No trail rides!!) Do you take the time to walk the course with your students and explain what is expected of them? Are the less experienced youth getting a chance to take a couple 'practice' runs on the course to gain comfort with the machine

they'll be using and the course itself?

Field days are very important!

We want to ensure the students safety first and foremost. The goal is to provide a quality learning experience and turn out trained, qualified youth. Would you want to meet your students on the trail?!

As an instructor team take the time to do some 'self-evaluation' pertaining to your last class. Identify those areas that may need improvement or tweaking. If you and your team have suggestions for us on improving the safety programs, please let us know!

Keep up the great work!

Thank You for everything you do!

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

~John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Minnesota Volunteer Safety Instructor Association—MVSIA

MVSIA was founded in 2006 at the request of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The MN DNR identified a need for a statewide organization to help sponsor training seminars and acquire/distribute funding for training aids for instructor teaching teams throughout the state of Minnesota. By working with the MN DNR staff, the purpose of MVSIA is to help instructor teams form and/or join local chapters in order to help build stronger training programs in the state of Minnesota. Through their 501(c)3 non-profit status, MVSIA is able to help chapters raise funds for various needs relating to MN DNR safety training programs. These needs may include (but are not limited to) :classroom props, firearms for classroom and range use, audio/video equipment, computers, and range/field supplies, (ex. Tall safety cones) and more.

MVSIA can and should be your first call to find out information regarding the acquisition for funding in support of the DNR education programs. MVSIA has contacts in various industries allowing for discounts on products. A list of current merchants/discounts is available upon initial chapter approval, and an annual update will be sent to existing chapters. Through MN DNR/MVSIA sponsored instructor training seminars, you will be able to learn new tips and techniques to improve your teaching skills. These seminars will be held throughout the state, making it easier for all members to attend. MVSIA's primary benefit is communication among and between chapters and instructor groups that allows mentorship and the sharing of ideas in order to ensure that our DNR instructor programs are the best quality possible. To join, or for more info contact MVSIA at:

P.O. Box 24105, Edina, Minnesota 55424
Or online at: www.mvsia.org

REMINDERS FROM RIPLEY SUPPORT STAFF

Safety Training Instructor Page on DNR Website

Go to:

[www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/instructors/
index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/instructors/index.html)

Here you will find useful information for instructors!

- You can order your class supplies on-line, request a replacement Instructor Card, find scheduled Instructor Clinics.
- You can also subscribe to our mailing list to receive important e-mails.



ATTENTION INSTRUCTORS!!

Please fill out a class registration form for every class taught, even if supplies are not needed.

Filling out rosters is for Instructors only. Do NOT allow any students to fill out the student roster that is returned to Ripley. We've gotten some with missing/incomplete information.

Also, please double check your rosters before you mail them. Make sure all necessary information is present and legible, i.e. full legal name, birth date, current address.



2010 ATV and Snowmobile Safety Instructor of the Year Nominations



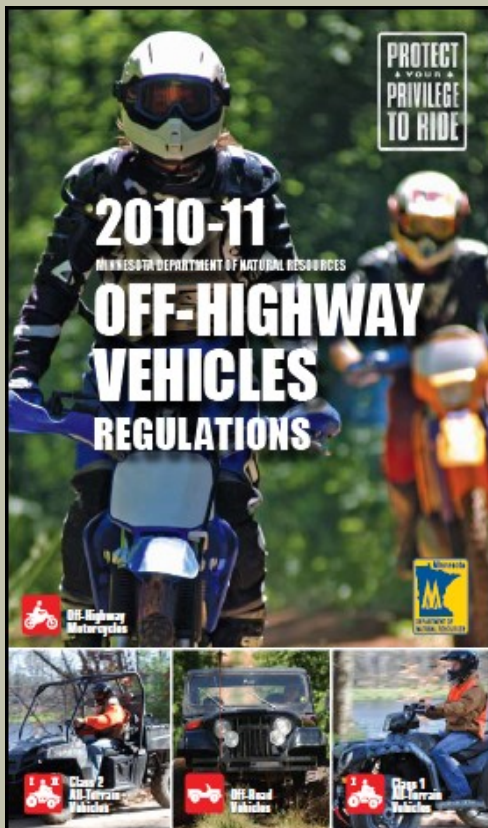
As the year 2010 draws nearer to the end, it's time once again to consider those volunteer instructors we know that have gone above and beyond in serving their communities in ATV and Snowmobile Education & Safety. Each year we take the time to recognize an individual who has given greatly of themselves for the important cause of youth education and safety. If you have someone in mind please take the time to nominate them for this annual award. Instructor nomination forms can be found on the DNR Volunteer Instructor web page:

www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/instructors/index.html

Snowmobile Safety Instructor of the Year nominations are due no later than January 10th, 2011. ATV Safety Instructor of the Year nominations are due no later than March 18th, 2011.

'Thank You' Instructors, for all you do!!

New ATV & Snowmobile Regulation Booklets!



You should be receiving these NEW regulation booklets with your class materials. If you haven't seen the new regulation booklets you can pick one up at your local DNR office or DNR license agents. If you need extras just go to the instructor web page to order more.

WHAT'S NEW?

- ATV maximum weight for Class 1 & Class 2 changes
- Non-Resident ATV trail pass changes
- Non-Resident youth training options for ATV & OHM
- Snowmobile-Optional collector registration



Can You Name Your Local CO?

Hopefully you can! If not the DNR has added a **NEW** Conservation Officer locator feature to the website. Go to: www.mndnr.gov and click 'contact us' in the upper right.

You can access a conservation officers name, location, and phone number by clicking on the state map given or by entering a city or address.

Have you invited your Conservation Officer to your safety class??

COs attending DNR education and safety programs is very important. They explain the OHV/Snowmobile laws and common violations. Often it's the only time students (& parents) get to meet a CO. As soon as you know class dates, give your local CO a call or email. A Conservation Officer attending your safety class is a valuable experience for all involved!

Third Annual After Action Meeting

Trail Ambassadors, a reminder to you about the upcoming 'After Action Meeting'. We will review the 2010 Trail Ambassador year, look at the gathered data and discuss how we can do things better next year. See you there!

WHEN: Saturday, January 22, 2011

TIME: 10 a.m.— 2 p.m.

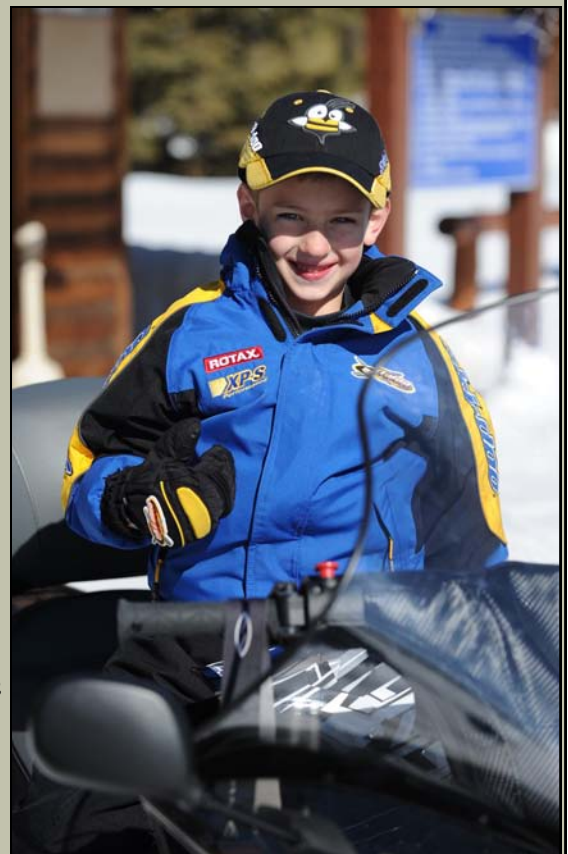
WHERE: St. Joseph Church, Social Hall, Grand Rapids

**RSVP: To Deb Quinn,
debra.quinn@state.mn.us or 1-800-366-8917, ext. 2465 by January 2, 2011**

International Snowmobile Safety Awareness Week January 16-22 2011

Snowmobile clubs across the state are awaiting inches of the white stuff. Meanwhile they're making plans for rides, events and snowmobile safety classes during the upcoming International Snowmobile Safety Week. Snowmobiling is a fun and exciting family activity enjoyed by over 4 million people across the United States and Canada. The sport is a safe and an enjoyable form of recreation if done properly and with respect. The purpose of International Snowmobile Safety Week is to expose people to safe snowmobiling practices and to demonstrate how operating safely can prevent mishaps.

It's the perfect week to hold a DNR youth Snowmobile Education and Safety course! As instructors you contribute greatly to the safety of the sport thanks to you training the future generations on the ethical and responsible way to operate a snowmobile. Your contribution is an investment into the future of outdoor motorsports safety!!



ATV & Off-Road Motorcycling Benefits Health, Eh?!

Our neighbors to the north have recently released results from a health study which looks at possible benefits to motorized recreation. Here is a portion of a recent news release:

Toronto, Ontario, October 6, 2010 – The Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council (COHV) and its funding partners were pleased to learn in the first published report on “Fitness and Health Benefits of Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Riding” that All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and off-road motorcycle (ORM) riding is good for body and soul. The news gets better; the second publication in this series of four reports has confirmed that 96.6% of ORV riders consider themselves to be both positive, optimistic thinkers, are “expected to have lower levels of stress and depression...and a higher overall life satisfaction”.

This second report – entitled “Health-related Quality of Life of Habitual Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Riders” (Health & Fitness Journal of Canada 3.1 (2010)) – is the first study of this scope exploring quality of life issues of off-road riders. A secondary purpose was to compare the levels of mental and physical functioning Quality of Life (QOL) of recreational off-road vehicle riders to Canadian population norms.

“Research has consistently shown that physical activity increases independent living in older adults.” stated Liz Jansen, Chair of the Motorcyclists Confederation of Canada (MCC). Jansen added, “Non-traditional forms of physical activity such as recreational ORM riding are becoming increasingly popular among segments of the population for whom traditional forms of physical activity (i.e.: jogging, swimming, resistance training) are impractical, unavailable or unappealing.”

“Health and exercise are top of mind for most families and for the health care system in Canada.” added All-Terrain Quad Council of Canada (AQCC), President Danny Gagnon. “This study proves what our ATV club members have been saying all along -- that being out on the trails on your ATV is not only fun but contributes to individual and family emotional well-being and physical fitness.”

For more information contact: Jo-Anne Farquhar, COHV Director of Communications & Public Affairs jfarquhar@cohv.ca

Do you need additional Instructors Certified or have program questions? Contact the Regional Training Officer (RTO) in your area.

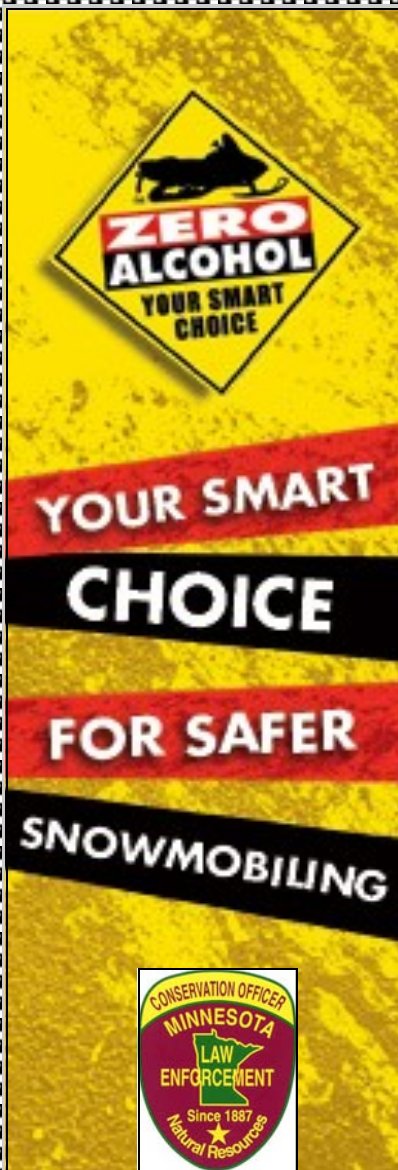
RTO Names, Phone Numbers and E-mail:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| <i>NW Jon Paurus</i> | 218-360-0167 |
| jon.paurus@state.mn.us | |
| <i>NE Shelly Patten</i> | 218-244-8051 |
| shelly.patten@state.mn.us | |
| <i>Central Frank Rezac</i> | 320-230-8549 |
| frank.rezac@state.mn.us | |
| <i>SW Metro Ross Opsahl</i> | 651-686-7998 |
| ross.opsahl@state.mn.us | |
| <i>NE Metro Bruce Lawrence</i> | 651-674-2705 |
| bruce.lawrence@state.mn.us | |
| <i>Southern Jeff Fleming</i> | 507-765-2724 |
| jeff.fleming@state.mn.us | |
| <i>Rec. Vehicle Coordinator</i> | |
| Leland Owens | 763-753-1887 |
| leland.owens@state.mn.us | |

WE NEED SNOWMOBILE SAFETY CD COURSE INSTRUCTORS!

The new CD course is being welcomed with open arms by the public. The CD course involves the convenience of the student learning in their own environment, then they attend a classroom & field training date.

What we need now is to add to the number of instructor teams who teach the CD course. It's easy, in fact only one team member needs to attend a two hour training session. Then they are equipped to go back and inform the rest of the instructor team. CD course's are a quality learning experience for the student while alleviating some of the time demand on our volunteers. Contact Your RTO to Arrange a Snowmobile Instructor Clinic Today!!



ZERO ALCOHOL Campaign

Minnesota DNR Enforcement Education and Safety section is joining the International Association of Snowmobile Administrators (IASA) in endorsing and promoting the position of **Zero Alcohol** for snowmobilers. Incident data clearly shows that alcohol consumption is a major contributor to a large percentage of preventable tragedies. In Minnesota nineteen people lost their lives during the 2009-2010 snowmobiling season. Over 70% of those fatalities involved alcohol. To save lives and reduce injuries, the IASA and MN DNR advocate that every snowmobiler take the personal responsibility of choosing to ride 100% alcohol-free at all times.

Because studies prove that impairment begins with the first drink, Zero Alcohol means absolutely no consumption of alcohol by any participant prior to going snowmobiling or during any ride. Alcohol impairment begins with the first drink and increases risk factors such as speed, night time operation and road crossings.

Thus, the IASA and MN DNR Enforcement Education and safety strongly encourage all snowmobilers, instructors included, to set an example to all riding companions young and old, to practice Zero Alcohol as part of their own regular safe riding

habit. It's the smart choice for safer snowmobiling.

**Never drink and drive,
or ride with those who do!**



24?, 30?, 40?, 60? or 100?—How many students are ‘to’ many?!!

Some of our instructors are so dedicated that they take on ‘extra’ youth in their class. The intent is admirable but often the results are less than desirable. We recommend a class of 24 students with six instructors on the team. Anything more than a 4:1 student to instructor ratio threatens the quality of the training. What can be negatively affected by an instructor team that takes on too many students?: Control and management of the classroom, Student safety, Student’s retention and understanding of the material, Overall experience by student(s) and parents, and the list goes on. The bottom line, unnecessary headaches and hurdles arise when class size grows. Keep your class size manageable! Learn to say ‘No’! Consider conducting an additional class if the students are many. Join up with another local instructor team to meet the demand. Call an RTO and set up an instructor clinic to add to your team.

Remember, youth safety classes should be an enjoyable, positive experience for everyone involved!

NEW NW Regional Training Officer!

Earlier this fall RTO Todd Manley accepted a new position as 1st Lt. for District 8 which covers Duluth, Cloquet areas and the Marine Unit. Currently the 'acting RTO' for the NW is CO Jon Paurus. Jon was working the Hill City station before acquiring the RTO assignment. So for all of your instructor training needs in the Northwest contact Jon at **218-360-0167** or jon.paurus@state.mn.us

A FIRST of it's Kind!

It's rare that we here of any 'first's' taking place anymore, but what happened on a sunny Saturday in October was definitely a 'First'. Typically in DNR State Parks, Program Naturalists, like Amy Funk who works at Tettegouche State Park, will offer a variety of programs. Everything from orienteering, snowshoe making, and even educational nature hikes that focus on the parks historical, natural and cultural features. Tettegouche is unique in that it has a little over six miles of ATV trails within the park. There are many more miles just outside park boundaries. Well on Saturday, October 16th Naturalist Amy Funk presented a first. She lead an interpretive ATV trail ride about the Lake Superior Highlands on the Red Dot grant in aid trail. 18 riders attended. Mitch & Amber Dow, both DNR Trail Ambassadors had signed up to attend the interpretive program but when Amy discovered they were Trail Ambassadors she asked them to be trail sweeps. The Dows chaperoned the event as Trail Ambassadors, answering questions and providing literature to the group. In Amy's words the Dows "were very knowledgeable about the trails, and helped to ensure the safety and enjoyment for all our participants."

Thanks for the good work Mitch & Amber!

**Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year to you and yours...
May you have a safe holiday season!**

Below left: Amy Funk, Interpretive Naturalist Tettegouche State Park. Right: Amber Dow, Volunteer Trail Ambassador



The group of happy riders from the first interpretive ATV trail ride, Red Dot Grant in Aid Trail.



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**MINNESOTA DNR ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION
INSTRUCTOR**

Department of Natural Resources
Division of Enforcement, Education Section
15011 Hwy 115
Little Falls, MN 56345-4173
Phone: 1-800-366-8917
Fax: 320-616-2517
Email: enforcement.education@dnr.state.mn.us

*Modeling safe, responsible, &
ethical behaviors*



Websites and Information

INSTRUCTOR WEB PAGE:

www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/instructors/index.html

**Register your class online &
sign up for Instructor
Email Notifications**

RELATED WEB SITES

*All Terrain Vehicle Association of
Minnesota*
www.atvam.org

*American Council of Snowmobile
Associations*
www.snowmobilers.org

American Motorcyclist Association
www.ama-cycle.org

ARMCA District 23
www.armca.org

*Canadian Council of Snowmobile
Organizations*
www.ccsoccom.ca

*International Snowmobile Hall of
Fame at:*
www.ishof.com

*International Snowmobile Manu-
facturers Association*
www.snowmobile.org

*Minnesota United Snowmobile
Association*
www.mnsnwmobiler.org

*Minnesota Volunteer Safety In-
structors Association*
www.mvsia.org

MN 4WD Association
www.mn4wda.com

Motorcycle Safety Foundation
www.msf-usa.org

*National Off-Highway Vehicle
Conservation Council (NOHVCC)*
www.nohvcc.org

US ATV Accident Statistics
www.atvsafety.gov

**Student must be 11 or
older at the start of any
Snowmobile Safety or ATV
Training class.**

***Please notify us
of any change
in contact information that
you might have.***