

# Magic Valley ATV Riders

Aug 2021



**We are a family organization and welcome social interactions among all our members. Riders of all ages are welcome to join us. We are a growing, vibrant, active organization of almost 400 members! – Photo: March 27, 2021, Brigham Point ride.**

## President's Message

August has quickly arrived and with it I sincerely hope it will bring cooler temperatures. This summer has got to be the HOTTEST summer ever. We have always camped and ridden in the mountains to avoid the hot temperatures, but this year we found 90-plus degree temperatures at the 9,000-to-10,000-foot altitudes. Its no wonder there have been so many wildfires in the west.

I want to take a few minutes to talk about the trails less traveled. Lorrie and I have always been adventurous, looking for that new place to ride or sights to see. In July, we did just that. We decided we needed some escape time and headed to Featherville to camp and ride with some close friends. Now that the road to Smokey Bar is open, we ventured up to Tip Top Mine. It is a fun ride with some great sections to test your skills. The views, although reduced due to smoke from the Oregon wildfires, are still great. It just fills your mind with amazement to sit back and imagine what life was like at this altitude working at a mine in these cliffs.

After descending to the valley floor, we decided to head up the canyon to explore that trail less traveled and see what awaited us. According to some old maps the area is filled with old mining claims and some amazing scenery. The nice thing about this valley is the trail follows the creek and is protected by plenty of pine trees. This made for a

comfortable ride even though it was in the 90's. The ride back to Featherville was a bit dusty but nice and cool as it follows Big Smokey Creek and South Fork of the Boise River.

Two years ago, Lorrie and I headed out on a ride to Swanholm Lookout. However due to heavy rains in the early summer, the trail had been severely damaged, consisting of a zig-zag washout approximately 4-5 feet deep, making it impassable. So moving to present date...

After saying goodbye to our friends, we decided to take a ride to an area we have never been to, the North Fork of the Boise River. We headed out from Featherville, past Rocky Bar, and past the Middle Fork of the Boise River. Our first area was to check on the trail to Swanholm.

I have wanted to lead a ride of experienced riders to the lookout for the last two years, however, the damaged trail has kept me from doing it. We decided to check the trail as we traveled through to see if repairs had been made. As we started the climb up the trail, I was excited to see trail work had been done and our expectations were high. As we continued our climb, mind you this is not an easy trail and it is rather steep, the water bars and trails were perfect. As we arrived at the spot, we had to turn back at a couple of years ago, it was a relief to see the relocation of the trail.

We continued our trek up the trail and found the trail cat or dozer had turned around well before

the lookout. Thinking the trail from this point might not have been affected from the previous flood we continued. Though the trail was quite a bit rougher it was still drivable. We climbed higher and higher, knowing around the next bend our destination would be in sight. But that is not what we found! After maneuvering around a large, downed tree, we could see around the next bend. A gulley approximately 3-4 feet deep was staring at us. It was apparent others had ventured on and by looking at the tracks their machines did a lot of dancing. Even the motorcycle tracks showed a lot of sliding around to get through.

It did not take long to decide this was not the day to take the trail less traveled. After a couple of attempts to turn around and teetering on two wheels, I was in for the long haul to back down the trail approximately 20 to 25 yards to the switchback. This was the only safe place to turn around. Remember that downed tree? Going up, it was somewhat easy to get past, well, backing downhill proved to be a challenge. I did not realize how off camber the trail was until I started backing at a slow pace. It took a couple of tries, but I was able to get past the tree and to the safety of the switchback. It never ceases to amaze me how your senses go into overload under certain situations. Swanholm Lookout is still on my list of rides to lead, and we will return another day.

We continued our trip down into the North Fork of the Boise River and turned towards Barber Flats. It is interesting to see how the three sections of the Boise River differ from one another and each, holds its own beauty that defines our great state. The heat of the day was the only drawback. We did find some cool areas and shade to be rewarding, but still way too hot to be in the sun. We completed our trip by riding up Sheep Creek and towards the Trinity Lakes. Being a long day, we opted to leave the Trinities for another day. This trip was fun and maybe a YE 100 in the making?

Sometimes you just need to get out of your comfort zone and take that trail or road less traveled. Find new adventures and places to explore. Idaho and the surrounding states are rich in history, from wagon trails to mining bonanzas, and homesteading plus ranching. Lorrie and I have learned and seen a lot of various places thanks to

the great members of the Magic Valley ATV Riders Inc. The willingness to share history and wonderful scenery is unbelievable.

Every year we hear challenges to motorized access to public lands. Challenges with biases and false assumptions. When I attend meetings regarding access, I am quick to shut down the false assumptions that ALL Motorized Users are creating issues surrounding access to public lands. As an Off Highway Motorized User, I too have been appalled by the way some motorized users treat our public lands.

I for one, firmly believe Public Lands belong to all of us and are managed by various government agencies. We as Motorized Users enjoy many of the same historic locations and scenic views as any non-motorized user. In fact, a non-off highway motorized user travels to the trailhead by motorized vehicle. Hum, funny how that separates them from us. To blame all motorized users for causing motorized access issues is like blaming all hikers, backpackers, mountain bikers, and equine riders for all the trash left at remote campsites and user made non-motorized trails. We all have those persons who think public lands belong to them and they will do as they will. We all, motorized and non-motorized users need to step up and say enough is enough.

So, the next time you want to take that trail or road less traveled, Leave No Trace, and leave the area as you found it or even cleaner than you found. We all must do our part to keep public lands open to all regardless of the way you choose to enjoy it.

Kent Oliver – President

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## Message from First Lady

**A**ugust is here! It arrived packing a backpack full of school supplies in anticipation of the start of the school year. School will be here before we know it. So, all you teachers and students, get in as much fun in the sun and last-minute trips as you can.

Let's see what fun facts we can learn about August. August, which is the eighth month of the year, is named after Augustus Caesar, the first Emperor of Rome. The Latin term Augustus means set apart or esteemed. For us living in the Northern

Hemisphere, it takes us into late summer and early Fall. For all you star gazers, you can all look forward to various meteor showers this month. The famous Perseids meteor shower takes place up until the 24th of August. So, if you are up late at night, look up towards the sky and maybe you will see a meteor show. Some fun dates are August 3rd- National Underwear Day, August 5th- National Cat Day, August 5th-11th is National Smile Week, August 9th- National Rice Pudding Day, August 16th – National Rum Day, and August 20th is World Mosquito Day just to name a few. So, get out of the house, grab a bowl of rice pudding, cuddle up to your cat and watch a meteor shower and slap a few mosquitos.

I hope you have all had an opportunity to get out and enjoy some outdoor activities. Maybe you went for an ATV ride, or did some camping, or wet a worm trying to catch a fish. It's never too late to get out and take in an activity. Several of you have been asking if we have sold our house. Unfortunately, we have not. The market has slowed down, and our home is in a price/size category that is not moving right now. We are told it only takes one buyer and we are waiting for that one!! We did sneak away for a weekend and went camping near Featherville. It was very hot!!!! We explored a couple of mines and new country on the north fork of the Boise River. The one day it was 102 and riding felt like a blow torch. Kent wanted to check on the trail going to Swanholm fire lookout. The trail cat had been on it, and we were excited that the trail had been worked. Well, the excitement ended as we came around a switchback and started up the steep part of the trail and found a very deep washout in the road. Kent had to back the RZR down the trail to the switchback to get turned around. I walked back down that section of the trail, while he tried to keep at least 2 tires on the ground. Overall, it was a great weekend spent with friends exploring and visiting with each other next to the river.

My word for the month is: giggle. The definition of giggle is, to laugh lightly in a nervous, affected, or silly manner. A light silly laugh. I love to hear people giggle. There is nothing more contagious than to hear a small child giggle. It is such an honest sincere sound. When was the last time you giggled? Was it a nervous giggle on a trail, or because your best friend just told you something

funny? Take a minute and find something to giggle about. It will do your soul good.

Be safe and stay happy. I will see you, just around the bend.

Lorrie Oliver

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## Trapper Creek Road Closure

**D**ue to the thunderstorms that occurred last week, and also due to the Badger fire, a portion of the Trapper Creek road is now closed due this 12 foot deep washout in the area of the FS Spring road. We do not know the exact location of the washout, but we assume it is south of the FS Spring and Trapper Creek road junction (on the upper end of the Trout Creek trail.



# Upcoming Mackay Campout

## Update from Ron:

Mackay Campout and Ride will be held at the Mackay Tourist Park on August 19th through the 23rd, 2021.

### Directions to the Mackay Tourist Park:

Turn Southwest on Capital Ave. Continue 6 blocks and turn Northwest on Vaden Street. Park is straight ahead.

Check in is after 10 am on Thursday August 19th! **(Please do not show up before 10 am)**

Check out is before 10 am Tuesday August 24th.

The Tourist Park has implemented some new rules that are a big change from previous years. Instead of parking multiple RV's in a spot, they have divided the park into single, designated sites. They only allow your RV and one licensed vehicle per space.

I know some of you may have guests stay with you or need an extra vehicle to transport machines. I have contacted the Mackay City office and they are checking into overflow parking.

Here is a link to the Mackay Tourist Park website. <http://mackayidaho-city.com/home-3/>

Please review the rules and look at the park map to understand how the RV spaces are arranged. The older section of the park has 15 spaces and trees. Trees may drip on your RV's, vehicles and ATV's. Outside spaces 16-24 are in the open with no trees (great for solar panels!)

Park is dry camping only and the cost will be around \$10 per site for the event. You can pay me at the campout.

As of now, we have 22 sites reserved and 3 couples staying at the other RV parks with hookups. I am in the process of recruiting at least 2 more ride leaders so we can keep our rides to 10 machines or less per group.

### Ride schedule:

- Thursday - no planned rides
- Friday - organized club rides
- Saturday - no planned rides (Organize your own ride, visit the museum, take a hike or relax)
- Sunday - organized club rides
- Monday - organized club ride or rides

If you enjoy hiking, I highly recommend Hidden Mouth Cave and also Lower Cedar Creek Spring.

<https://www.freearenas.com/hidden-mouth-cave-near-moore-idaho.html>

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/scnf/recreation/recarea/?recid=76598&actid=50>

Saturday evening we will get together for a simple hotdog roast and pot luck. I will have a fire going to roast hotdogs. In case of fire bans, I will have gas grills available for backup. Bring your own hotdogs, buns and something easy to share (salad, dessert, chips, fruit)

Looking forward to seeing everyone for a safe and enjoyable camp and ride.

Any questions? Call or text me at (208) 731-4404 or email [ron.mothershead12@gmail.com](mailto:ron.mothershead12@gmail.com)

Ron Mothershead

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## Wildflower of the Month

**T**his month's wildflower of the month is Fireweed! This is a tall pink flower that blooms later in the summer than other wildflowers. As the name suggests, it is one of the first plants to colonize an area after it has burned. You can often observe it growing the whole summer before it blooms, as it grows taller than most other wildflowers before it blooms. Look for Fireweed while you're out riding!

Here's what the Forest Service website says about Fireweed: Fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*)

*By Edna Vizgirdas*

Fireweed is a tall showy wildflower that grows from sea level to the subalpine zone. A colorful sight in many parts of the country, fireweed thrives in open meadows, along streams, roadsides, and forest edges. In some places, this species is so abundant that it can carpet entire meadows with brilliant pink flowers.

The name fireweed stems from its ability to colonize areas burned by fire rapidly. It was one of the first plants to appear after the eruption of Mt. St. Helens in 1980. Known as rosebay willowherb in Great Britain, fireweed quickly colonized burned ground after the bombing of London in World War II, bringing color to an otherwise grim landscape.

Fireweed is the official floral emblem of the Yukon Territory in Canada.

A member of the Evening Primrose family (Onagraceae), taxonomists previously included fireweed in the *Epilobium* (willowherb) genus, but it is now placed in the *Chamerion* (fireweed) group. The Evening Primrose family contains about 200 species worldwide.

A hardy perennial, fireweed stems grow from 4 to 6 feet high but can reach a towering 9 feet. The numerous long narrow leaves scattered along the stems are the origin of the species name "angustifolium" (Latin for narrow leaved). The leaves are unique; leaf veins are circular and do not terminate at the leaf edges. A spike of up to 50 or more pink to rose-purple flowers adorns the top of the stems from June to September. The four petals alternate with four narrow sepals, and the four cleft stigma curls back with age. Each flower is perched at the end of a long cylindrical capsule bearing numerous seeds. Seeds have a tuft of silky hairs at the end. A single fireweed plant can produce 80,000 seeds! The delicate fluffy parachutes can transport seeds far from the parent plant. The fluff was used by native peoples as fiber for weaving and for padding.

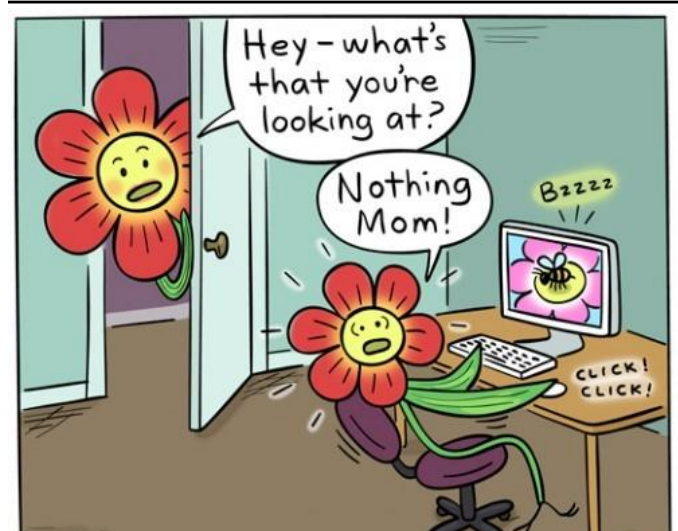
Fireweed was important to native people around the world. Choice patches of fireweed were even owned by high-ranking families in British Columbia. Tea was made from the leaves. High in vitamins A and C, fireweed shoots provided a tasty spring vegetable. Flowers yield copious nectar that yield a rich, spicy honey. Today, fireweed honey, jelly, and syrup are popular in Alaska where this species grows in abundance.

Fireweed can be a beautiful addition to the home garden. Since it reproduces readily from rhizomes as well as from seed, fireweed can quickly take over a garden if left unattended. You will be rewarded for your efforts however, since the colorful flowers are sure to attract lots of pollinators.

Amy Larson



Amy Larson



## Upcoming Rides & Events

Here are the rides and campouts that are penciled into the calendar. Please watch the calendar on the website for up-to-date information.

1. Aug 19-23 – Mackay – Ron Mothershead
2. Sept 9-12 – Jarbidge – Jerry Kriegh
3. Sept 24-26 – Public Lands Campout
4. Oct 2-3 - Pole Creek – Kent

See the calendar on the website for more details, and other anticipated, but not scheduled rides and events.

Please remember, we welcome and encourage [spontaneous rides](#) if you decide to go riding. Please give us three days' notice though. Keep in mind that we cannot guarantee that it will get on the calendar or e-mailed to the club as we may be in the mountains and unable to get to it.

Aaron Larson – Ride Coordinator

## Thinking of You

Amy Larson – Foot surgery



## New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members to the club: No new members in July.

Linda Stimpson

## Membership Dues!

Dues are \$20 for a single person and \$25 for a family.

Please mail your payment to PO Box 0767, Twin Falls, ID 83303, bring your payment to the next meeting, or [pay online](#). Debit & credit cards accepted. [Click here](#) to download an application.

Linda Stimpson

## Flags

If you would like to buy a brand-new orange MVATVR flag for your ATV/UTV, there are still a few available. They are \$20 each



We also have American flags printed on the same material the club flags are printed on. They are also \$20 each.

Call Brad Stimpson (208-308-8526) to purchase them or see him at the club meetings!

Brad Stimpson

## Club Logos

If anyone wants to have the club logo printed/embroidered on a t-shirt, jacket, etc., [Quick Draw Embroidery & Screen-printing](#) has our logo on file.

You can buy the shirt/jacket/hat from them, or, bring your own. The price is reasonable and depends on how large you want the logo to be.

They are located at 3790 N. 3386 E. in Kimberly. 208-735-8804.

## Pictures

If you want to see all of the pictures of past club rides and events, go to the club website and they are under "Latest News" or "Image Gallery" Many of the photos this newsletter are hyperlinks to the image gallery the photo can be found in as well.

## The Fine Print

I fully understand that ATV activities involve risks and dangers of serious injury up to and including death. I fully accept and assume all such risks and all responsibility for losses, costs and damages I may incur as a result of my participation in the activity. Rides are open to current MVATVR members and invited guests

# Trail Difficulty Guide

**Level 1 - Beginner:** Gravel or dirt surfaces that are relatively flat and wide. Generally wide enough for an ATV to pass a full-sized vehicle. May be dusty but are relatively smooth with no rocks or roots protruding more than three inches above the surface. Ride distance will be short, speeds very slow.

**Level 2 - Advanced Beginner:** Mild ups and downs, some narrow, mild rock, mostly roads and jeep trails, minor off camber. Two-wheel drive ok.

**Level 3 - Intermediate:** Loose gravel, sandy, rocky or rutty surface. May have short sections that are narrow. Can have blind turns, switchbacks, steep or roller coaster grades, some off-camber side hills, minor drop-offs, ruts and frequent changes in riding surfaces. Occasional obstacles may strike the frame. Four-wheel drive may be needed depending on conditions. Pace of ride will be a little faster, distances and length of ride will be longer.

**Level 4 - Advanced Intermediate:** Rocky surfaces, sharp turns, switchbacks, steep grades, narrow passages, low overhangs, ledges and large rocks. Can be slippery and muddy when wet. May have tree stumps, limbs or other debris. Machines with low ground clearance may strike or high center on obstacles. Four-wheel drive highly recommended.

**Level 5 - Expert:** Very rocky, steep, off camber, high water crossings, large ruts. Large obstacles in trails, narrow with big drop offs. Four-wheel drive required, may need winch.



## Club Rules

The Magic Valley ATV Riders (MVATVR), Inc. would appreciate you being considerate of others and observing the following rules/guidelines while participating in club activities. Obviously, any actions that are unlawful or unsafe are prohibited.



1. Pets should be kept on a leash of no longer than 6 feet during any rides, campouts or other MVATVR events. Please be a responsible pet owner and respect the rights of others.

2. Idaho State Law states that being under the influence and/or consuming alcohol or illegal drugs while operating an OHV is illegal and therefore will not be tolerated by MVATVR, Inc.

3. Generator use should be with consideration for others in camp and a recommended quiet time from 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM needs to be observed.

4. By operating your machine in a safe responsible manner, waiting at intersections and corners, you can insure that fellow riders will not be left behind and everyone will have an enjoyable ride.

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## Board of Directors

- Kent Oliver ..... President & Special Projects  
208-731-0089..... [mvatvriders@outlook.com](mailto:mvatvriders@outlook.com)
  - Aaron Larson... VP, Newsletter, & Ride Coordinator  
208-312-4867..... [vp@mvatvr.org](mailto:vp@mvatvr.org)
  - Linda Laudert ..... Secretary  
208-316-1810..... [ls\\_laudert@msn.com](mailto:ls_laudert@msn.com)
  - Rob Hendrickson ..... Board Member  
420-9402 . [hendricksonrobandlola1998@gmail.com](mailto:hendricksonrobandlola1998@gmail.com)
  - Linda Stimpson..... Treasurer & Memberships  
208-308-5350..... [treasurer@mvatvr.org](mailto:treasurer@mvatvr.org)
  - Dixie Best..... Event Coordinator  
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  - Gary Aufderheide..... Board Member  
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  - Ron Mothershead ..... Board Member  
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  - Brad Stimpson..... Board Member  
208-308-8526.....
  - Ted MacNeil ..... Board Member  
208-293-6349..... [tcmacneil@hotmail.com](mailto:tcmacneil@hotmail.com)
  - Randy Graham ..... Board Member  
208-308-6176..... [onthegorandy@gmail.com](mailto:onthegorandy@gmail.com)
  - Stan Mai ..... Public Lands Director, Emeritus  
208-293-5669..... [mvatvs@msn.com](mailto:mvatvs@msn.com)
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**Magic Valley ATV Riders, INC. (MVATVR)**  
 PO Box 0767, Twin Falls, ID 83303-0767  
 Application for Membership



**PLEASE PRINT ALL ENTRIES**

Spouse 1 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse 2 First Name (and last if different): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Family Members: \_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse 1 Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse 2 Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse 1 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse 2 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you have no email address your club newsletter will be mailed to you via USPS.**

Type of membership. Select One:       New       Yearly Renewal

**Membership year is January to December. New memberships received after July 31<sup>st</sup> will be half rate and after November 1<sup>st</sup> will be credited for next year. Your email address will be taken off the mailing list as February 1<sup>st</sup> of the new year if dues are not paid current.**

Please select one:       Individual \$20.00 per year       Spouse/Family @25.00 per year

**Photo Release: I / We understand MVATVR cannot control who takes pictures and of what on the rides. We also understand MVATVR cannot control what is placed on social media. We understand MVATVR receives photos and video from members which is posted on the web site. We understand it is our responsibility to tell anyone who is taking pictures or video on a ride or at a function we do not want to be photographed. We do give MVATVR consent to use our picture on the website with our name and limited demographic information in the "members only" section of the website.**

Please initial:      \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I agree      \_\_\_\_\_ No, I don't agree

**READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING**  
**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK / HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT**

**I / We recognize that riding an ATV/UTV is a hazardous activity that can result in serious personal injury or death. I / We accept the risks inherent to riding with a group including, but not limited to, obstacles on and off the roads and trails, rapidly changing weather, limited visibility, variation of slope and steepness on and off the trails, surface or sub-surface conditions on and off the trails and roads, collisions with other ATVs/UTVs including other riders, and collisions with devices used to mark the boundary of trails or roads.**

**In consideration of my / our participation in the events and rides of the Magic Valley ATV Riders, Inc., and related club rides/events, I / we hereby release and agree to hold harmless the Magic Valley ATV Riders, Inc., its volunteers, officers, directors and agents, and all club members of the Magic Valley ATV Riders, Inc., and their volunteers, officers, directors and agents from all claims and demands related to my / our participation in rides and events organized, sponsored, supported and/or promoted by Magic Valley ATV Riders, Inc. and/or its club members.**

**I / We have carefully read this agreement and the release of liability and fully understand its contents. I / We are aware that this release of liability is a contract between Magic Valley ATV Riders, Inc. (and its club members) and myself / us and I / we sign it of my / our own free will. My / our signature signifies that I / we have read and agree with this release.**

**The above and foregoing shall also apply to any minor child of mine accompanying me or participating in the events and activities above-described.**

**By signing this agreement, we agree to abide by all club bylaws and rules.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_