

## THE DRIVING FORCE MOTORIZED REC SCOOP

# Mother's Day mish-mash

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Mother's Day weekend greeted us with a beautiful, cooler and sunny Saturday. Perfect weather for a short ride after work before the weekend's festivities began.

The entire northern region of the state is under extremely high fire danger, due to the dry, windy conditions, so that was a concern as I headed out on my Wildcat Saturday afternoon. I met up with a couple that I sold a home to recently-motorsports enthusiasts who bought their retirement home right on the trail system. Because of the high fire danger, we chose mostly road riding today, so they could learn more about the road routes in our area.

I do not enjoy road riding. I might as well be driving my car, with all its built-in car comforts, but it's good for riders to learn our route system and how to legally get around, so off we went for a road tour after a light lunch stop at Nelson Lake Landing.

Late Saturday afternoon, I made my way to the Veterans

Center, downtown Hayward, for the North Country Riders ATV Club's annual Spaghetti Feed fundraiser. This is one of our club's major fundraisers, and we use the money to help pay for many ATV projects throughout the year that are not covered by the state ATV funding program — such as road route signs, trail connector projects, and specialized trail signage.

I arrived midway through the event and hungrily feasted on a plate of spaghetti, with breadsticks and salad, while visiting with folks. We had a great turnout, and our club members ran the event flawlessly. Long tables covered with fantastic gift baskets and silent auction prizes lined the back room of the Vet Center. A huge thank you to all the sponsors who donated prizes—we could not do this without their support!

Never, ever, do I seem to win anything at any raffle I go to, so I was surprised to win a squirrel-proof bird feeder with a 50 lb sack of sunflower seeds. Apparently, I was sitting at a 'lucky table' with

some of my riding friends; the Richardsons, Helgesons, and Carlsons, because collectively we racked up a lot of raffle and silent auction wins!

North Country Riders is launching a membership drive — keep an eye out for more information soon, but for now, mark your calendars for July 10th at the Chippewa Trail trailhead for a fun cook-out!

Someone turned the heat up for Mother's Day as temperatures soared into the 80's. My kids live far away, most in other states, so this year, Mother's Day I love yous were all done by phone. Afterwards, I took a little early day spin into town for a few errands before it got too hot out- and couldn't help but notice how the rec deputies were monitoring the Nelson Lake area.

We've been pushing to slow riders down through our neighborhood routes and the added presence of law enforcement really helps to get the point across. A few small groups of riders drove by as I was visiting friends

on Small Road after my town errands, and I was thrilled to see them driving respectfully! Please continue to spread the word about slowing down through our residential neighborhoods.

I hope everyone had a great Mother's Day — the greenhouse in town was wall-to-wall cars so I assume a lot of planting went on throughout the weekend. Me, I'll wait till closer to Memorial Day as I am not the person to cover or care for plants when those sporadic late-May frosts hit. Any plant that makes it at my house is hardy I tell you, because I do not have a green thumb.

Keep an eye on our Alliance Facebook page for trail announcements too. Although Sawyer, Bayfield, and Ashland counties have not officially closed trails (as of Sunday May 11) due to the extreme fire danger, Burnett and Douglas Counties have. Seems we are always doing some kind of weather dance nowadays — get going on your rain dancing folks, we need it!