

THE DRIVING FORCE MOTORIZED REC SCOOP

Get to know your neighbor ATV ride on Saturday July 12

CATHY LAREAU

This coming Saturday, July 12, 2025, Michelle Richardson is hosting her second annual 'Get to know your neighbor' ATV ride. Interested riders should meet at the Chippewa Trail ATV trailhead, at 14304 W Chippewa Trail, Hayward, WI by 10 am. The group will be hitting the trails at 10:30 am and should return to the trailhead by early evening.

The plan is to ride the Seeley Hills trails, then feast on pizza at Weber's Northwoods Tavern on Hwy 77, late afternoon before heading back towards the trailhead. Michelle will collect \$10/ rider at the beginning of the ride to cover the pizza and tip cost then will call in the order before we arrive at Weber's. If you wish, bring your own snacks for trailside stops throughout the day.

The Chippewa Trail trailhead has a gravel parking area for trailers, a shelter and pit bathroom — plus it's conveniently connected to Seeley Hills ATV trail #31.

Gas up your machine before you arrive at the trailhead, and there is a 24/7 gas pump located at Weber's so you can fill up if needed before the group heads out after eating.

Over the past few years, we've noticed a growing local ATV crowd in our greater Hayward area. Some folks recently moved to the area, and some, having just purchased their first machines, are newer to ATVs.

Michelle thought it would be a great idea if these people had a fun way to meet and get to know each other, all while learning more about the nearby trail systems, so last July she successfully held her inaugural Get to know your neighbor ride.

Of course, all riders and families are welcome, including out-of-towners and friends who frequently come from other areas to



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Ride organizer Michelle Richardson.

ride in Sawyer County or with the Richardsons.

Michelle and husband Gene, choose a different route for the ride each year — last year, they did a 96-mile run towards Minong, then wound their way back to Sawyer County. This year they are focusing on our own Seeley Hills trails, including some muddy, unmaintained ATV trails for added adventure.

This ride should be suitable for all skill levels and will include a variety of off-road trails- rustic natural surface trails, gravel or groomed trails, heavily wooded two-track trails, and a few short sections known for water holes and muddy areas. The only paved road riding is going to be if you ride from your house to the trailhead...

What are some tips for a successful group ride?

1. Michelle and Gene will have an informal rider's meeting before the group takes off. Please pay attention!

2. Stay to the right! We have many twisting, turning two-way trails- always stay right.

3. Wait for the rider behind you! At intersections (or where logging roads confusingly intersect the trail), make sure you slow down or wait so the rider behind sees where you are going. If every single rider does this — no one will get lost!

4. Stay in the group — don't cut out to leave early or take a different way unless you let Michelle or Gene know- and when you do this — wait until after the whole group has left before you take off on your own — otherwise some riders might unknowingly follow you home!

5. A mishmash of other tips includes- lights on, don't litter, no donuts (unless they are chocolate crème filled), legal whip light color is amber, and did I mention stay right?

As a reminder, use the Trail Treker app for your best navigation in Sawyer

County — the app is free, and the Sawyer County Summer ATV map is \$2. And you can also purchase other county's maps. Our Sawyer County Snowmobile & ATV Alliance 2024-2025 paper maps are widely available at gas stations and many local businesses.

Both Michelle and Gene Richardson are experienced local riders who know the trails well — Michelle, this ride's organizer, is all about teaching others about our trail systems, and putting local folks together so we can grow our vibrant ATV community.

If you have questions about the ride- reach out to Michelle either through their popular Facebook page North Central WI ATV/UTV Rides, or her cell phone at 715-699-2948 (texting might work best). Hope to see you all this coming Saturday! Woohoo!