



# VERNON ATV CLUB

Club Newsletter

December 2009



## Ride Reviews

- Mara Mountain Lookout
- Terrace Mountain Lookout
- Kettle Valley Railroad

## Vernon ATV Club Poker Ride





## Grahame Go

President  
Vernon ATV Club

This year was full of accomplishments for the Vernon ATV Club. We had several club rides in the Okanagan before and after the devastating forest fires. The Club voluntarily chose not to ride during the forest fires to reduce the spread of more fires and to allow fire crews to battle the fires with their equipment on the ground. Steve Myatt, the Club's new ride director and I had the opportunity to scout Terrace Mountain a few weeks before the fire devastation and made it almost to the top. The snowline prevented us from reaching the summit that day. We returned with several club members after the fire and witnessed firsthand the incredible devastation the Terrace Mt forest fire caused. It was like a desert with sticks protruding from the ground. The view from the summit was spectacular and gave us all a big picture on the large land area affected by the fire. We saw large patches of forests completely missed by the fire and are now like islands on the mountainside.

This year the club rode to many areas in the Okanagan, some of the rides included Spec Lake, Nicklen Lake, Fish Hawks Lake, Becker Lake, Bardolph Lake, Mara Lookout, Terrace Mountain Lookout, Blue Grouse Lookout, Elinor Lake, Aberdeen Plateau, Bear and Kaiser Bill Lakes, Little Tunnel lookout, and oth-

ers. I did a lot of riding this year and got to explore a lot of trails in our backyard. We had a blast riding and also the lunch stops where we are having a sandwich or smokies from the Flashpan. If you are interested in riding with us next season, please contact our new ride director Steve Myatt at [stevemyatt@telus.net](mailto:stevemyatt@telus.net) to get on our email and phone list. Just a reminder for our rides, you are required to wear a helmet and proper riding clothing for the weather conditions. Please plan on bringing a lunch and drinks to keep hydrated.

Our new ride director Steve Myatt was sure excited to discover new local trails here in the Okanagan. Steve and his wife Sigrid recently moved to Vernon last year and really enjoy the different riding opportunities we have which is very different to the mud trails in Fort St. John. Steve really found the Mara Mountain ride exciting, spectacular and rocky..... well we haven't brought Steve on our annual Greystokes ride yet! There is a reason that this ride is once a year or in Clint's case only once in a lifetime! Steve is really pumped on taking the club on even more rides next riding season! We are looking forward to his email invites!

Please plan to attend our club meetings where we plan on inviting special guest speakers on topics like; ham radios, chainsaw maintenance, GPS use and many others. We meet third Thursday of the month starting again in January 2010.

Ride safe and enjoy the holiday season!





## Princeton Poker Run 2009



by **Grahame Go**

The club again participated in the Poker Ride held by ATV/BC in Princeton this year. It was a lot of fun and a joy to see the members of Vernon ATV Club at the campgrounds again.



We didn't win the 1st place quad but I came close with my draw and the grand prize winner was sitting next to me at the prize drawing. We took a side trip and rode along the KVR to the town of Tulameen. We visited the local Can-Am dealer and also had lunch at the Tulameen general store/diner. (<http://www.tulameenbc.com/>) I took the longer "advanced" ride option for the ride and it was really long alright on Forest Service Roads (FSRs). I hope that they reduce the amount of FSR riding next year. There were a few riders of the teen years which had passed us on a hill climb. I was the first on scene to pull one of the riders out after his roll over. A little too much speed would be the cause.

The concession food was a little better this year, but Clint Ingham and I really liked the restaurants in town. If you have not been to an ATV/BC Poker ride in Princeton, plan for it next year! It is a lot of fun and there are many side trails to explore. For information on next year's ride, visit [www.atvbc.ca](http://www.atvbc.ca).



*This guy ran around the horse track every day... look how much weight he lost during the Poker ride week! Here he is again with the reenactment of the A-Arm breaking on a fellow club member's rig!*



*Hmm Lee, something doesn't look right with your quad?*

During the actual poker ride, there was an incident with a Vernon member's brand new Polaris 800. The ATV must have hit a rock or stump and the A-Arm collapsed. It is very fortunate that he was able to create a temporary fix to the situation and hobbled out to complete the poker ride.



**Vernon ATV Club at the Princeton Poker Run**



## Terrace Mountain Lookout

## Ride Review

Grahame Go

The day started with club members meeting at Vernon's DND grounds. We drove down through Kelowna and over the new bridge to the Bear Creek Forestry Road. We drove to the lower pits to park our rigs. With the ATVs unloaded we quickly got together and discussed the safety guidelines for the riders and that you have to wait at each turn until the next rider confirms and takes over the waiting position. Common errors during an ATV outing consists of:

- Speed - rushing and trying to do too much too quickly
- Driving too fast for the conditions i.e. steep, wet and rough ground
- Misjudging the ATV's capabilities and limitations
- Overconfidence, complacency and lack of concentration
- Overloading, uneven loads and loads carried on slopes
- Turning too sharply
- Lack of knowledge, skill, ability and experience
- Maintenance and the use of correct tires.

Often along the trail it's really dusty so you tend to hang back so that you don't choke on the dust. This sometimes poses a problem if the rider in front of you does not stop at a turn to let you know which way to keep going on the route. This safety rule should be



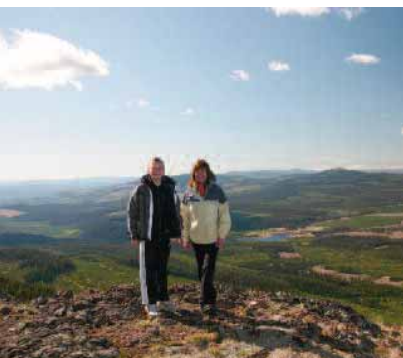
Getting ready to hit the trail

reciprocated by waving to the rider ahead to let him/her continue on while you take their position and wait for the next rider. Often times when riders forget to wait, the next rider gets pretty frustrated if they take the wrong fork or turn in the road. Now.... If you don't like the person behind you..... oh nevermind.

Even though the Terrace Mt Fire has been out for weeks, the smell of small hotspots was still in the air. We had a great ride and with the fire, it was a little hard to navigate trails and get bearings again. Good thing for GPS. The last kilometer is steep and narrow, we went up slow because of the amount of loose rock. We had lunch on the top of the mountain and was greeted with a 360 degree spectacular view.



Terrace Mt fire devastation





## Kettle Valley Railway Chute Lake Road

This is a spectacular club ride that I have done four times this year. It is full of stunning views and history. We start off the ride at Gilard FSR, the whole gang about seventeen of us headed up to the Bellevue trestles. We then headed off down the snow covered Chute lake road and went up the Elinor FSR to Elinor Lake for lunch. The lake was dried up

and it was chilly with snow on the ground so we got out of the open and made lunch around the corner out of the wind. After lunch we headed down the road and stopped at some old rock ovens which was used by railway workers to cook in. There were several rock ovens along the way, each rock oven historic site is well marked. Some of these rock ovens are originals and some are rebuilt. The next stop was at Adra Tunnel, this tunnel had a mid tunnel cave in



Elinor Lake

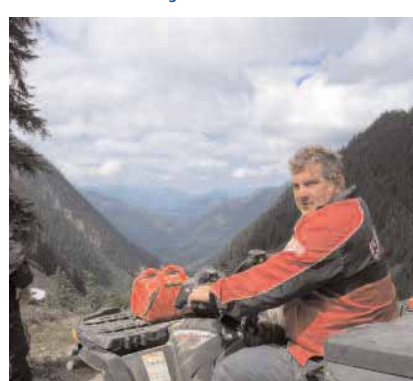


so you can no longer drive through. But with Ken's wind up flashlight and an assorted number of cell phones, we climbed in the tunnel for a quick exploration. Aaron was our leader (bear bait) through the dark tunnel. I figured I could run faster than him out so I let him go first. At mid tunnel you can see the hole through the ceiling about 20ft up. As we mounted our ATVs, one has to wonder what a feat it was to build railroads in this province. We headed down to the last viewpoint which was



Little Tunnel where we took a group photo. The return trip took us up the main Chute Lake Road where some of our group was fortunate to see some deer. (Good thing Harold didn't have his gun with him) The trip down took us down a rocky riverbed and a skidder trail back to the trucks. It was a great day for one of the last rides of the season.

See you next season!

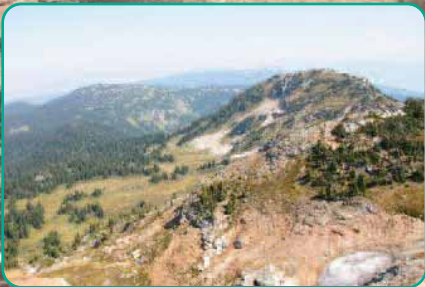




## Mara Lookout

Despite the smoky haze from the Terrace Mountain fires, the ride up to Mara Mountain Lookout (1,682m) was very striking as the year before. There are many stunning views along the way such as the Shuswap River along Mable Lake Road. We turned onto Hupel Forestry road and drove up to the Mara Mt turnoff. Here we unloaded our rigs and started up the trail. The road is deactivated meaning that there are many runoff ditches to go over. Careful attention on the trail is needed here because these little ditches creep up on you. If you are not ready, you may be tossed off your ATV. There are many rocks on the trail so we took it slow. Once near the top, there is a stunning alpine meadow with an abundant amount of wildflowers. We stuck to the trail respecting the delicate alpine grass and its beauty.

We didn't get to view much at the usual viewpoints along the way due to the heavy fire smoke. We seem to climb through a low layer of smoke and once above the smoke we were in a slight haze so the view was improved drastically. For my friend Dan Passmore this was quite the change from the time we came up last year in the rain and clouds. Dan and I bought our ATVs together at the same time and we don't often get to ride together, so this was fantastic. Inside the lookout is a guestbook which we signed. There was another ATV club there from Revelstoke so it was getting crowded on the mountain lookout. From there we could see Mable Lake, Hidden Lake and on a clear day you can see Todd Mountain. We had a great day and a fabulous mountaintop lunch.





## Vernon ATV Club's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual POKER RUN

**T**he Vernon ATV Club hosted the second annual Poker ride this year on the King Edward Plateau. This year's poker ride organization was severely delayed due to the local forest fires. The Vernon Club really got together as a club and worked hard in preparing the trails, obtaining sponsors and organizing the ride. Even though we didn't get spectacular numbers to attend due



### Pre-ride instructions

to the weather, it was still a huge success. The club organized several work parties and we did lots of trail work and cleared overgrown trees and shrubs from old trails. We had a lot of fun working together and now we have some new trails to ride on. The main corporate sponsor was Banner Recreational Products from Vernon. They provided sponsorship money, prizes and also gift certificates for substantial savings off a new Can-Am or Kawasaki product. There were so many sponsors, that I could not list in this space. Thanks to the hard work by members like Dennis Teale. Please visit our website and take a look of the tremendous support the Vernon ATV Club received and please take some time to visit some of these sponsors and let them know how much you appreciated their support for our club.

After I was given the ok by pre-ride trail inspectors Don and Kevin, the registration table was opened for participants. This year's Poker ride started from the Coldstream Ranch sort yard where participants were greeted by some cold resistant registration table volunteers; Gail, Monique, Barb, Tanja, Lorraine and Jayden. After obtaining their Poker cards and drawing their first hand, riders went up by Brett Bolton's property. Speed patrol officer Webb was on hand to ensure that riders respected a speed restriction for this part of the ride. Riders were then treated to magnificent

views while maneuvering the transverse in the canyon area. At the top of the canyon and prior to a steep incline, riders were greeted by the friendly faces of our first Checkpoint couple



Steve and Sigrid. After drawing cards, riders then went through Kevin's "Sucking Head Wound" trail with a nice detour through a cedar forest that was added to the poker ride. After completing the puddle maze, riders were

met by Harold and Rod at Checkpoint 3 prior to tackling the club up "Fan" hill. Poker Ride riders then preceded on a trail passing Kaiser Bill Lake. This last part of the Poker Ride meandered down a revitalized down Red Rock Rim trail. Vernon Club members spent hundreds of man hours looking for this old trail and then clearing the bush and shrubs to make it passable by ATVs and Rhinos. Completing the Rim Rock Trail, riders were treated to spectacular views at Checkpoint four where Ken, Gil and Linda. Riders were slightly delayed by a Rhino who experience a major cut in his tire sidewall. The rider was quickly fixed thanks to his riding

buddy and Lee & company. The riders were treated to a gourmet bake potato and chili prepared by Clint's mom Marian, boy was the chili designed to take the chill out of your body or what? It was a great event and the Vernon ATV Club should be proud of themselves for making this year's ride a complete success! Looking forward to next year's event where our club will be hosting the ATVBC's AGM in Vernon. We had a great time putting this event together. The Vernon ATV Club really got to know one another well and had a great time with the event.





## Canada Safety Council ATV Safety Courses

Courses instructed by Dennis K. Webb, certified Canada Safety Council ATV Safety Instructor.

The course is informative and fun and you will get a feeling of confidence as the day progresses and you complete each lesson and apply as you learn the theory directly to the practical riding applications. The course usually takes place on Saturday or Sunday and is 6 to 8 hrs long. Weekdays are available as long as there is a minimum 6 students for each class. The cost for ATV/BC members is \$75. Commercial rates are \$175 for non-members or WorkSafe BC approved Certificate. You must be 16 years of age or older to attend. Children's classes are available but are limited to children only and must be attended by a parent or guardian. Expect weather changes as course is outdoors.

### Course Benefits:

- Increased Safety and Environmental Awareness
- Certification by the Canadian Safety Council
- ATV Rider Course Handbook
- Graduate Certificate, wall and wallet-card
- Discount on ATV Insurance Rates
- Personalized Training
- CSC Certification is recognized by the Workers Compensation Board of British Columbia and is a requirement for ATV use in the workplace.

### Course Requirements:

ATV of suitable size and in good repair.

### Safety equipment:

- DOT approved helmet
- Eye protection
- Gloves
- Boots
- Long sleeved shirt and long pants

To enroll in a class please contact Dennis Webb at 250-545-8837 evenings or 250-260-0786, e-mail [denniskwebb@shaw.ca](mailto:denniskwebb@shaw.ca)

# VERNON ATV CLUB

## Board of Directors

Grahame Go	President
Clint Ingham	Vice President
Gail Milchalko	Treasurer
Gloria Phelan	Secretary
Steve Myatt	Ride Coordinator
Don Smirl	Director
Dennis Webb	Past President

### Website

[www.VernonATVClub.ca](http://www.VernonATVClub.ca)

### Email

[Info@VernonATVClub.ca](mailto:Info@VernonATVClub.ca)



*Interested in becoming a member?*

You can sign up as a member at any one of the following businesses or by emailing us at [Info@VernonATVClub.ca](mailto:Info@VernonATVClub.ca)

- Vernon Brake & Spring
- The Block Shop
- Vernon Insurance

The cost is \$55 and this price also includes your membership into ATV/BC.

An associate membership for the Vernon club only is \$15

# BANNER RECREATIONAL PRODUCTS

