

Rider Etiquette

The BV Quadriders is a club that believes riding on designated trails protects the environment!!

The BV Quadriders promotes safe and responsible riding on trails. It believes that education and awareness programs will further protect the natural environment. At the same time, the utilization of a trail network provides for a unique opportunity to experience nature. ATV's provide and allow for an increased mobility for a variety of users.

Our environmental guidelines address the biotic (living organisms) and abiotic (non-living) components of all ecosystems, and are directed to all trail users, including ATV riders.

The BV Quadriders believes the future of utilizing a trail in the outdoors is directly related to how clubs and its members use it today.

1. Extra's for your ATV:

- A rearview mirror is highly recommended to keep an eye on the rider behind you.
- Extra gas, in can securely attached to the bike, is a good idea for longer rides.
- A tow rope or strap, in addition to a winch, is very useful in muddy spots.
- First aid kit.
- Tire repair kit.
- Trail map.
- Lunch and snacks, plus water.
- Bug spray in spring, dust masks in summer safety vests during hunting season.
- Wear a Helmet

2. Before we ride:

- Show up at the departure point about half an hour early for bike checks ride instructions.
- Sometimes last minute cancellations occur due to bad weather or poor turnout.
- Check the oil, gas and tire pressure on your ATV.
- Make sure your ATV lights are working (lights on for all club rides).
- The route, difficulty and approximate duration of the ride will be described. Doing this in advance is a problem, because the route may change due to

- weather, trail conditions or group ride preferences.
- If in doubt about anything related to the ride, please ask.
 - The lead and tail riders will be identified.
 - Turn on your ATV lights!

3. Ride group formation:

- A group consists of lead, middle and tail riders, all riding in single file. On longer rides the tail may change. At departure, the tail counts the riders.
- The lead sets the route and maintains a comfortable speed for the whole group.
- Don't go ahead of the lead rider, without permission.
- Let the tail rider know if you have to temporarily fall back.
- If you have to drop out of the ride, make sure the tail and the riders in front and back of you know about it. If you're not sure of the trail, an escort may be required.
- Always keep your lights on - this makes it much easier for the rider in front of you to check your position.
- Keep an eye on the ATV behind you - if you can't see it, slow down or stop. This is extremely important for keeping the group together.
- When the trail branches, make sure the rider behind you can see which branch to take. This is another important precaution for keeping the group together.
- Leave enough braking space between you and the bike ahead, this will vary with speed and trail conditions. Some ATV's with hi/lo gear ranges must come to a complete stop to shift ranges.

4. Problem spots on the trail (mud pits, deep snow, steep grades, highway crossings, etc)

- Signal a bad spot by raising and waving either hand. Some problems, like trail washouts, may not be obvious.
- The lead & more experienced riders evaluate the difficulty to determine if the group can safely get through.
- After getting through a tough spot, move ahead a sufficient amount on the trail to allow the rest of the riders come through - give a helping hand if necessary.
- On very steep terrain (up, down or sideways), let the rider ahead of you clear the section and then proceed yourself.
- At busy highway crossings the lead rider may stop and signal the other riders to cross when it is safe to do so.

5. Pit, lunch stops:

- The frequency of stops will vary with each group and the time for the stop does not begin until the last riders come in.
- The lead & tail check the riders to make sure no one got lost and ask if the pace of the ride is ok.
- To get the new riders familiar with the trails, locate the group's current position on a map.
- If you want to do some extra riding during a stop, tell the lead or tail.
- Be careful with cigarettes in dry conditions and cleanup any litter.
- As the group leaves, the tail verifies that all riders are present.

6. At the end of the ride:

- The tail & lead check that all riders in the group have made it back. If you're dropping out before the end of the ride (to get gas, go home, ride some more, etc) please tell the lead or tail.
- Give the lead, tail or ride coordinator some idea of how you liked the ride.

7. Practices Guidelines:

Please check out the B.C. Governments FOREST AND RANGE PRACTICES ACT REGULATIONS

- yield the right-of-way to other trail users who are approaching or passing.
- Ride on designated trails. Do not utilize CLOSED trails. 'If you don't know, don't go!'
- Avoid sudden stops and starts and quick directional changes with acceleration.
- Avoid sensitive and restricted areas at all times, especially wetlands, lakeshores, steep stream banks and hills.
- Cross at designated crossings and utilize bridges when available. Cross watercourses at 90-degree angles and drive carefully and slowly
- Do not venture out on new, non-ATV designated trails
- Comply with all applicable legislation and/or municipal bylaws
- Keep in mind the following statement: 'expect/respect other users.'
- Signal when approaching from behind. In particular, be certain to communicate with those walking pets and riders of horses, be sure to remove your helmet when near horses and stop to let **THEM** pass you.
- Avoid running over young trees and shrubs, particularly in the spring and the growing season of the summer.

- Do not trespass on private property and do not utilize single-purpose trails designated for other activities (non-ATV).
- Promote parking and dismounting from your ATV to walk to sensitive, scenic, historic and cultural areas.
- Enjoy wildlife viewing opportunities, avoid stressing any species particularly during the rearing stages. Keep an appropriate distance.
- Respect and be courteous to other users who are also using shared use trails.
- Adjust riding behavior according to season and location.
- Ride within your abilities.
- Do not cut switchbacks or take shortcuts.
- Keep your speed and engine rpm low and steady when approaching other riders, homes, etc.
- What you pack in, pack out - do not litter

Note: Guidelines will be altered as required. The BV Quadriders invite any comments related to its guidelines.

8. BV Quadriders Winter Riding Policy:

Dated: Aug 16th, 2005

"No BV Quadriders member will utilize any trails that are groomed in the winter months unless they are expressly designated for the purposes and use of the ATV club. This includes, but is not limited to, those trails maintained by snowmobile or ski clubs."

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