



OHV Education News

2016 Issue 1 Winter

2nd OHV Ed News

This is the second issue of the OHV Program education newsletter. In 2016 our goals are to publish a quarterly newsletter and to distribute the newsletter as widely as possible to program volunteers, OHV recreation enthusiasts and other stakeholders, and the general public.

Program Staff

OHV Program Manager:

Matt Seidel
(505) 222-4728

Law Enforcement Coordinator:

Desi Ortiz
(505) 222-4718

OHV Education Coordinator:

Chris Johnson
(505) 222-4712

Administrative Assistant:

Garry Cramins
(505) 222-4727

www.b4uride.com

www.wildlife.state.nm.us/ohv/



Desi Ortiz, Chris Johnson, Matt Seidel, Garry Cramins. Photo: NMDGF.

Changes in OHV program staffing

In 2015, the OHV program experienced 50 percent turnover in staffing. In March, former OHV Program Manager Marc Hildesheim took a position with the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) as project manager. He and his family relocated back to Idaho, returning to their roots.

Marc now gets to travel to California and Montana and do the dirty work of conducting conferences and trail-building workshops. Marc will return to New Mexico from time to time, and he will be helping NOHVCC expand and improve OHV access in the Four Corners region in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management Farmington Field Office.

Matthew Seidel, an 18-year employee of the department and a commissioned conservation officer, filled Marc's position as OHV program manager in July. Matt grew up in the Raton area using ATVs and snow machines in a ranching environment. Matt has experience conducting hunter education classes and is certified to conduct OHV classes.

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The OHV program’s administrative assistant, Kelly Adolph, left in October to work for the Taxation and Revenue Department. Former Game and Fish Northwest Area office administrative assistant and dispatcher Garry Cramins recently filled her position. Garry is a 20-year U.S. Navy veteran, amateur radio operator, Jeep enthusiast, and dirt biker. Garry will be the point of contact for general public inquiries as well as for business issues such as purchasing and contracts.

The OHV program wishes its parting alumni and their families well, and looks forward to rebuilding with the new personnel.

OHV Program Calendar

13 Feb 10:00 am	ATV safety class	Los Lunas River Park Los Lunas NM
19, 20, 21 February	Outdoor Adventures Show	Expo NM Manuel Lujan Bldg. Albuquerque NM
20 Feb 10:00 am	ATV safety class	Aden Hills BLM OHV Area Las Cruces NM
21 Feb 2:00 pm	NM Backcountry Discovery Route	Kimo Theater Albuquerque NM
26 Feb 1:00 pm	Instructor Update	Sacramento Conference Center Sacramento NM
27 Feb 10:00 am	ATV safety class	Sacramento Conference Center Sacramento NM
5 Mar 10:00 am	ATV safety class	Aden Hills BLM OHV Area Las Cruces NM
19 Mar 10:00 am	ATV safety class	Los Lunas River Park Los Lunas NM
15 Apr 5:00 pm	Deadline for OHV grant applications	Deadline for OHV grant applications
20 Apr 5:30 pm	OHV Advisory Board meeting	NW Area office Albuquerque NM
30 Apr 8:00 am	ATV safety class	Hackberry Lake BLM OHV Area Carlsbad NM
10-15 May	Burro Mountain ATV/ UTV Jamboree	Burro Mountain Resort Gila National Forest
14 May	Outdoor Expo and Fishing Derby	Red River Ski Resort Red River NM
TBD	ATV safety classes	Northern NM when weather warms
TBD	Instructor Update	Los Lunas River Park Los Lunas NM
24-26 June	NMOHVA Sipapu Shindig	Sipapu Ski & Summer Resort Vadito NM
20-21 August	NM Game and Fish Outdoor Expo	Shooting Range Park Albuquerque NM (tentative)

NM OHV Success Featured at 25th NOHVCC Conference

In October, OHV Program staff members Matt Seidel and Chris Johnson traveled to the annual National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) conference in Folsom, California. Marking the organization’s 25th anniversary, the conference included presentations on topics from trail-building tools to successful education programs.

Greg Kirk, president of the Red Rock Motorsports Club, spoke about Adventure Gallup & Beyond, a non-profit initiative to develop and promote Gallup as an extreme sports destination. Game and Fish OHV Education Coordinator Chris Johnson discussed the new Los Lunas Educational Training Center (see in this newsletter for more about the center’s grand opening).

Both presenters highlighted the role played by OHV grants from the Trail Safety Fund. The City of Gallup and Adventure Gallup & Beyond have received \$60,000 in grants over the past few years for OHV facility maintenance and infrastructure improvements. The Village of Los Lunas has received multiple yearly grants used for construction and maintenance of what has become the premier OHV safety training facility in the state.

Conference attendees visited the Prairie City State Vehicular

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Recreation Area (SVRA), and saw the facility that includes the world-famous Hangtown Motocross Track. They also toured kid/beginner/novice-friendly tracks, 10 miles of OHV trails, an Environmental Training Center featuring OHV safety classes and ethical use trails, and even a small OHV-focused general store.

Though trail mileage is limited, Prairie City SVRA provides urban riders in the Sacramento area with easy access to skill-level appropriate riding while giving refuge to wildlife in an ever-more developed area of northern California.

During the awards banquet at the conference, the New Mexico Off-Highway Vehicle Alliance (NMOHVA) was named State Association of the Year. Joanne Spivack, NMOHVA's past president and state NOHVCC partner accepted the award for NMOHVA.



Photo courtesy of NMOHVA



New OHV Grant Program Cycle Begins

The Department of Game and Fish has released the new 2016-2017 OHV Grant Program application and instruction. As in years past, grants from the Trail Safety Fund, established by the OHV Act and supported by OHV registrations, will be available to qualified not-for-profit organizations and government agencies.

Applications will be scored on how the awarded grant will benefit recreational use of OHVs and OHV safety and education. If the project includes OHV areas or trails, the locations must be on lands open to the public for OHV use.

The program encourages projects that demonstrate public support, leverage matching contributions from partners, and maximize statewide and regional/geographic benefit.

The program operates on a reimbursement basis. Applicants must demonstrate they have the financial capacity to incur project expenses prior to reimbursement via invoice to the OHV program. Project invoices are accepted quarterly to minimize cash-flow issues for grant project fiscal agents.

Past awarded projects include trail building, re-routing, restoration, signage, and development of OHV safety education facilities. Got a great new idea? The OHV program personnel want to see it! Download the application and instructions from wildlife.state.nm.us/ohv/ohv-grant-information, provide the required supplemental materials, and return it before the deadline. All applications must be postmarked or received at the OHV program office by 5 p.m. on April 15.

2015 Calendar Year Training Statistics

County	Classes offered	ATV Classes	MC Classes	ROV Classes	Students Passed
Dona Ana (Aden Hills)	4	3	1		10
Eddy (Hackberry Lake)	2	2			0
Guadalupe (Santa Rosa)	1	1			6
Luna (Deming)	1	1			5
Otero (Benson Ridge)	9	9			22
Rio Arriba (Medanales)	7	7			17
San Juan (Farmington)	2	2			6
Sandoval (Rio Rancho)	9	6		3	38
Santa Fe (Moriarty)	4	2		2	16
Valencia (Los Lunas)	11	11			39
Totals	50	44	1	5	159

	ATV				Agency ATV	
	Youth pass	Youth no-show	Adult pass	Adult no-show	CIN	No CIN
Dona Ana (Aden Hills)	10	6	0	0	0	0
Eddy (Hackberry Lake)	0	2	0	2	0	0
Guadalupe (Santa Rosa)					6	0
Luna (Deming)	1	0	4	0		
Otero (Benson Ridge)	17	2	5	0		
Rio Arriba (Medanales)	10	5	4	1	3	2
San Juan (Farmington)	0	0	2	0	4	0
Sandoval (Rio Rancho)	24	4	4	1		
Santa Fe (Moriarty)	8	0	0	1		
Valencia (Los Lunas)	25	6	2	1	12	0
Totals	95	25	21	6	25	2

	Off-highway motorcycle				Agency ROV	
	Youth pass	Youth no-show	Adult pass	Adult no-show	CIN	No CIN
Dona Ana (Aden Hills)	0	0	0	0		
Eddy (Hackberry Lake)						
Guadalupe (Santa Rosa)						
Luna (Deming)						
Otero (Benson Ridge)						
Rio Arriba (Medanales)						
San Juan (Farmington)						
Sandoval (Rio Rancho)					10	0
Santa Fe (Moriarty)					8	0
Valencia (Los Lunas)						
Totals	0	0	0	0	18	0

Summary of 2015 OHV Training Statistics

In Calendar Year 2015, the OHV program offered 50 classes in 10 counties at 12 training sites. These included 44 ATV classes, five ROV classes (to various government agencies' employees), and one off-highway motorcycle class.

In 2015, 159 people completed our hands-on training, of which 95 were under age 18, 21 were general public adults, 27 were agency ATV riders, and 18 were agency ROV operators.

Hands-on classes offered to the general public had a no-show rate of about 20 percent, compared to approximately 40 percent in 2014. The improvement may be the result of a concerted effort to send out confirmation e-mail messages and phone calls prior to each class as well as an incentive program giving helmets and goggles to youth completing the classes.

There was little demand for off-highway motorcycle classes in 2015. The department offered one class and no one registered. OHV program staff expect demand to increase as our motorcycle training fleet becomes available. Several government agencies have already expressed interest in off-highway motorcycle training for employees.

Our New Mexico-specific online training courses continue to be an attractive alternative for parents needing to get their children safety permits quickly. Our three NM-certified vendors had 325 students complete online training, and thanks to El Niño, 50 people completed online snowmobile training.

New Machines for Training and Outreach

After some delay, the OHV program is purchasing four Honda CRF230F off-highway motorcycles. The full-sized dirt bikes provide the ability to conduct safety training classes for the general public and for agencies whose personnel require certification, even if students lack access to suitable training machines.

Honda CRF110F and CRF50F youth-sized machines have been available for some time, but the program lacked full-sized motorcycles for adults and bigger youth to use. The low seat height and electric starting features of the 230s promise to make these machines well-suited as learner machines for most adults and older youth riders.

The OHV program is also purchasing a youth-sized snowmobile, a Yamaha SRX120, as part of the annual outreach effort at Expo New Mexico, and as a training resource to use when hands-on snowmobile training is offered (weather permitting).

Social Media Links

The OHV Education program is online:

Facebook: [facebook.com/NMOHV](https://www.facebook.com/NMOHV)

Twitter: twitter.com/NM_DGF_OHV

Waterproof ATV Range Cards

ATV safety course instructors who got caught in the rain may have discovered their range cards weren't up to the challenge. The newest printing of the cards should remedy the problem. The printer found a different waterproof card stock that is also lighter and thinner.

The printing contractor also used the waterproof stock for our new tactical curriculum to be offered to law enforcement agencies around the state. The off-road motorcycle curriculum will be updated and reprinted on the waterproof stock and the program will be looking for instructors interested in conducting those classes with the new dirt bike training fleet.

The ATV course reprinting provided the opportunity to revise the diagrams and improve the instructions given to students. Content and structure of the course remain the same, but provide more detail about machine controls and the warned-against behaviors that get riders hurt or killed. Instructors and students will find the changes make understanding the material easier and clearer.

Expect announcements for instructor updates to be held this spring, as noted on the events calendar. An update for the instructors will be conducted at the Sacramento Camp and Conference Center, and a separate update at the Los Lunas Educational Training Center at Los Lunas River Park, where attendees can see and ride the new intermediate skills trail.

OHV Ambassador Program 2015 Activities, Changes in Store for 2016

In 2015 OHV Ambassador Program volunteers participated in multiple outreach events, but didn't get to do much riding. We intend to make changes to improve the OHV Ambassador experience and make volunteer efforts more satisfying.

The biggest effort this year was the ATV Safety Trail Experience at the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Outdoor Expo. This year's event saw more riders on more machines take their first ride on an ATV.

This labor-intensive event required lots of help each day in the August heat. As always, there is no way OHV program staff could have done the work of running the Safety Trail Experience without the generous time contribution of the Ambassador volunteers.

Other outreach events included the Outdoor Adventure Show at Expo New Mexico (formerly Bob Gerding's Expo), the Hawgz Outdoor Expo, day camps with Los Lunas Parks and Recreation, Kids' Safety Day at Home Depot, and Camp Corazones Children's AIDS summer camp.

Ron Karcher, Curtis Miera, and their crew of volunteers did all the heavy lifting of putting on the simulator event for the children attending Camp Corazones at the Santa Fe National Guard Amory. They came up with the idea, made all the contacts, got access at the armory, hauled the simulator, set it up, ran it, and broke it down each day. Thank you.

Jewel Cabeza de Vaca, the camp director, said, "Camp Corazones was a great success!! Thank you!! The children had an awesome summer camp experience, wonderful memories to take home, and fun and good times they will remember."

The department has hired a volunteer coordinator, Ms. Darcie Shalip, who comes to Game and Fish from a similar position with New Mexico State Parks. Darcie helped program managers recruit and train volunteers, developed partnerships with compatible organizations, and created policies and materials to make management of volunteers more effective.



ATV Safety Trail Experience participants wait to ride at the Game and Fish Outdoor Expo. Photo: NMDGF.

"Volunteers are a critical resource for the department and my goal is to help streamline as much of the volunteer program's administrative tasks as possible so that the program managers will have more time to focus on their programs," Darcie said. "Establishing a foundation of consistent guidelines and procedures for the department's volunteer programs is vital to its success. Not only will this help to ensure that everyone is in compliance with the laws and regulations we're governed by, it will also help to ensure that all our volunteers are protected."

The OHV program anticipates Darcie's efforts will help the Ambassador volunteers feel more appreciated, better utilized and essential to the mission of the OHV program and the Department of Game and Fish.

The New Mexico Department of Game & Fish OHV Trail Ambassador Program was created to allow volunteers to work with federal, state, and local public lands agencies; public safety officials; and the general public to promote responsible OHV recreation in the state.

Trail Ambassadors serve in two ways: as volunteers riding New Mexico's public lands and as certified safety instructors conducting OHV safety training in accordance with NM statutes. For more information about the Trail Ambassador Program please contact the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish OHV program office at (505) 222-4712.



Photo: NMDGF

Village of Los Lunas Educational Training Center Grand Opening

On October 9, 2015, officials from the Village of Los Lunas and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Off-Highway Vehicle Program celebrated the grand opening of the Village's OHV Educational Training Center (ETC). The event included brief comments by officials, demonstration rides for interested spectators, and a cook-out hosted by the Village Parks Division.

“Special thanks go out to the Village of Los Lunas and their council for having the vision to partner with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish in bringing this project to fruition,” said Matt Seidel, the OHV program manager. “This facility is the first of its kind in New Mexico and among only a few in the nation.”

The facility, located at Los Lunas River Park, incorporates a range for OHV safety classes, an impact-managed trail featuring obstacles for practicing intermediate skills, and a shelter with concrete pad and metal tables. The Los Lunas Recreation Division makes the shelter available to the general public for special group events.

The ETC project scope included disposing of debris from the demolition of the old Highway 6 bridge over the Rio Grande and replacing dead or diseased cottonwoods. Reineke Construction, a company specializing in sustainable recreation trail design, construction, and maintenance provided the initial design concept under contract to the department. Divisions of the Village of Los Lunas Community

Services Department performed all the work in cooperation with the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District.

Reflecting on the three-year project funded by Village general revenue and grants from the state's Trail Safety Fund, Village Community Services Director Michael Jaramillo said: “Coordinating this project with the various governmental agencies has been challenging. However, in the end, we came together for the common good of offering off-highway education to the public. Our children now have access to learn OHV operator safety and outdoor recreation stewardship.”

The River Park site began hosting ATV and dirt bike safety classes in 2012. Rangers from the Village's Open Division serve as certified OHV safety instructors with administrative support from the department's OHV program. The ETC will be accessible to students taking the OHV safety classes.

OHV Advisory Board Changes

The OHV Program staff wants to thank former OHV advisory board member Ron Schubert, who finished his appointed position in September 2015.

Ron is one of those guys who can always be counted on to show up. Not many people make the effort to go sit in legislative subcommittee meetings when they could be out riding.

A replacement for Ron's seat on the board has not been announced. To volunteer, go to the Governor's Boards and Commissions application page at governor.state.nm.us/ApplyForBoards.aspx



Photo courtesy of Ron Schubert

**NM Department of Game and Fish
Off-Highway Vehicle Education Program
3841 Midway PI NE
Albuquerque NM 87109**