Piney Rail Riders Newsletter

May 2025

President Message Hello all Piney Rail Riders ATV Club Members

Welcome to the Piney Rail Riders! I want to take the opportunity to show you the ropes. Our trail starts at Piney Dam road, this is off Route 68 south of Clarion. You travel back Piney Dam road about 4 miles, cross the bridge to the left and our trail head is on the left. There is a sign out by the road and sponsor banners at the back of the parking area.

If bridges and heights aren't your thing, we have another trail head at mile marker 8.5. This is in the town of limestone, back limestone road and can you guess the name of the trail head? That's right it's Limestone trail head! Travel back limestone road about 1.5 to 2 miles and you'll see the same blue sign by the road and sponsor banners back by the tree line. This is the only place we have a port-o-potty too. At this trail head you have the option to go in either direction. If you want to travel west back towards Piney you will travel out Limestone road, cross route 66, travel along Piney Meadows Campground and watch for the trail on your right, it will take you back up to our trail.

This is an old rail bed, so for the most part it travels in a straight line. But like any other rail bed, it used to have bridges and overpasses. Some of those have been taken out, which now gives us detours where we have to use township roads to jump off and jump back on the trail. The first detour is after mile marker 14.5, you will travel up the hill, travel along the dirt road (love road) and drop back down onto the trail. Mile marker 15 is in the middle of that hill.

The next detour will be at mile marker 16.5. This is a nice overlook that used to have an old boat at it. We've nicknamed this place SS Minnow.

There are still a few pieces of the boat there. The work around would require that somewhere around mile marker 16 you would take a right onto Swine ford road, travel to the next 4 way intersection that will be Love Road and Duck Road, make a left and follow that to the main road, make a right. This is Route 949, you will travel a short distance and make a left onto Dickey Road, this is a bit of a blind turn, be safe! At the Y stay to the left and you will intersect with the trail again. To continue heading East make a right onto the trail.

A few things about the detours, we have 3 blue dots painted on trees to help guide you. We do not have the mile markers past 16.5. If you visit the SS Minnow you will see that it is not an ideal situation for entering the highway. So we stopped there for the mile markers. This is a VERY dangerous area. PLEASE use the detour around so we do not have any accidents or worse. Riding is not worth risking your life. We are working on getting the hill re-worked and making it safer for everyone.

Another point to mention, After leaving the Piney Trail head you will cross 5 railroad bridges before you cross your first road. From there our trail has 22 road crossings. One about every mile or so.

If you have Polaris ride command or Lifetime trail maps you can find our trail there.

We do have several stop signs, some more towards the East have mysteriously disappeared, we will get new ones up, we also have road signs to get put up too. If you would like to volunteer for this project just email or message (my cell is 814-316-5804).

Please use the bridges to cross the creeks. We have a part of the trail in the Brookville area that does not have a bridge across it. For now that is the end of the trail. We don't want to create a situation that will result in fines for crossing waterways.

The trail is open all year, we just ask that during hunting season, September through January, that you avoid riding Saturday mornings to give the hunters the opportunity to have the woods to themselves. No matter what side of hunting you fall on, this is done to respect others.

We have been working since 2016 for our seat at the table when it comes to how we are viewed in the communities we travel through. Doing donuts or throwing gravel on township roads doesn't win us any points. Running loud music in the middle of the night through areas where there are houses doesn't either. This isn't being a buzz kill, it's showing respect in order to earn respect. We are moving forward, if we are constantly having issues with township roads we will never have the cooperation we need to grow.

Growing up the only places I had to ride were old strip jobs and trails in the woods where I had no idea who owned it. We have an opportunity to give them water holes to get wet, a few hills to climb but nothing that you couldn't use as a teaching moment for young riders. This is a great opportunity to teach young riders the proper way to share a trail with others, to respect the machine they ride and the area they ride in. A great moment to be an example for the young ones watching.

Not only do we have the trail but we have the club. We have a weird, crazy, fun family. We do rides, we have members that get their friends together and do their own rides. We have old, young, and middle aged people that all share the same passion for this hobby. Don't know anyone? We are all friends you haven't met yet. We also have a Facebook page called Ride the Pine, to be approved you have to be a member and answer the questions. If you invite a friend or family member they have to be a member and answer the questions as well. In there, we share lots of information, about the trail, about rides, about our machines, everyone can ask questions and get answers.

Our members have a sense of pride in ownership of the trail. We clean up when we see something that needs to be cleaned up. We report back to maintenance when there is a tree or something blocking the trail and it gets cleared. We help each other, we leave no man left behind.

I hope all of you enjoy the trail as much as we do! Cinnamon, President

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CLUB NEWS!!

Shapiro-Davis Administration Invests Nearly \$1 Million to Expand Motorized Recreation on Piney Rail Trail Corridor for ATVs, Bikes, and Outdoor Recreation

Lieutenant Governor Austin Davis and Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn visited Limestone Township, Clarion County, to celebrate the addition of the 24-mile Piney Rail Corridor for motorized and non-motorized recreation. This \$937,900 investment - funded through DCNR's All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Management Restricted Account Fund and awarded to Piney Rail Riders - supports the Shapiro-Davis Administration's commitment to expanding outdoor recreation and boosting rural economic development across Pennsylvania.

"The Shapiro-Davis Administration is dedicated to supporting our growing \$19 billion outdoor recreation industry for the benefits it provides to local communities across the Commonwealth," said Lt. Governor Davis. "These types of investments are critical to ensure ATV riders have safe, high-quality opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and to create new memories in nature."

The acquisition of the Piney Rail Corridor by Piney Rail Riders ensures the long-term conservation and use of the trail, while contributing to local economic growth and community development. Poised to become a premier destination for outdoor recreation in western Pennsylvania, the corridor highlights the power of community action, sustainable recreation, and the economic benefits that follow.

"The Piney Rail Corridor is a wonderful example of how strategic investments in outdoor recreation improve quality of life and drive local economic growth," said Secretary Dunn. "This trail will connect residents and visitors to the natural beauty of western Pennsylvania, creating new opportunities for exploration, recreation, and community development."

Speakers Include:

Kenny Shaffer - VP of Piney Rail Riders
Lieutenant Governor Austin Davis
Cindy Adams Dunn - Secretary of DCNR
Jessica Funk Seary - Jefferson County Director of Economic Development
Representative Josh Bashline
Representative Brian Smith
Wayne Brosius - Clarion County Commissioner
Braxton White - Clarion County Commissioner

CLUB NEWS!!

Thank you to everyone who attended our event on Memorial Hill on April 17, 2025.

The purchase of the trail has been made possible by DCNR, our sponsors and, most importantly, our members.

The hard work that has went into creating Piney Rail Riders and preserving the 23.7 mile railbed is coming together nicely and all because of YOU...the members.

As we continue to progress in our goals, we owe it to all who have become members, participated in our fundraisers, attends our meetings, purchases our merchandise, represents the club at events and makes everyone feel like family.







MEMBERSHIP

We have 537 members and counting. Let's spread the word of our trail and club. If you know anyone that is interested in joining Piney Rail Riders:

We have a couple ways to join:

- on line at <u>pineyrailriders.org</u> (ctrl left click on this link which takes you to the website and click on membership tab not arrow)
- through the mail
- at monthly meetings

In the 2025 packet you will receive:

- membership card
- trail map
- your numbered sticker
- calendar of events that includes meeting dates and any events the club has planned
- dates of local poker runs by other organizations in the area that we do not organize, only promote

We now offer the following:

- lifetime membership for a donation of \$1,000.00
- lifetime sponsorship for a donation of \$1,000.00

OUR MEMBERSHIP LOCATIONS



MEMBERSHIP

Membership cards will be back this year. Your card will have the names of our sponsors that will offer a discount to you **ONLY WHEN YOU SHOW YOUR CARD**. We have some great businesses including East American Motorsports, i.e. Insurance, J&B Motorsports, M&S Meats, Microtel Inn & Suites, Stiller Motorsports and Country Palace II. As we add sponsors that will offer a discount, we will post them on our website and in the newsletter. **Please note that not all sponsors offer a discount.**

COMMITTEE HELP

We are always in need of help with our committees. Merchandise, Events, Equipment, Ride and Sponsorship are all open. If you are able to volunteer your time for any of the committees, please contact one of our officers.



SPONSORSHIP

Clarion Rod and Gun

**Country Palace – 5% off 1 dozen regular priced wings

Drew's Septic Tank Pumping LLC

**East American Motorsports – 10% off parts & accessories

Extreme Metal Products

Fox Farm Inn

**ie Insurance (Lifetime Sponsor) – Ask for qualifying discount(s)

**J&B Motorsports – 10% off service fees

**M&S Meats – 10% off with membership

**Microtel Inn & Suites – 10% off

Palmor's Country Store

Palmer's Country Store
Piney Meadows Campground
Rickard Trucking
Sarah's Snack Shack
Snow Shoe Rails to Trails
Sportsmen Outfitters

**Stiller Motorsports – Ask for qualifying discount(s)
Vinyl Graphics Unlimited LLC (Lifetime Sponsor)

**Show your membership card and ask about the Piney Rail Riders discount at these local sponsors. Watch our website for additional sponsors that may offer discounts.

If you or someone you know who is interested in becoming a sponsor, please go to <u>pineyrailriders.org</u> for more details.

SPONSORSHIP

2025 SSRTA EVENTS

Saturday, July 19th

Best Line Powersports/SSRTA Chicken BBQ - Members, ride as you please and return to Gillentown Trail head at 11:30am for meal. Meal available until all food is gone. Public welcome for meal and take out will be available.

Saturday, September 27th

Carns Equipment/SSRTA Pig Roast - Members, ride as you please and return to Gillentown Trail head for meal starting at 11:30am until all food is gone. Public welcome for meal and take out will be available.

Saturday, October 11th

2025 SSRTA Raffle - A free meal will be served around noon until all food is gone. Raffle starts at 2pm. Event held at the Gillentown Pavilion

You must be an SSRTA member to operate a buggy

2025 PINEY MEADOWS EVENTS

Saturday, May 10-BB Shoot 10am-? Rain/Shine (safety glasses required) \$10/person

Saturday, May 17-Mothers Day Bingo 6pm-8pm \$25/person

Friday, June 6-Movie Night (FREE) Starts at Dark

Saturday, June 7-VW Cruise (Event by Knox Patton III) 10am-1pm Car Show

1pm departure for cruise(approximately 50 miles) return to park for music and raffle

Saturday, June 14-Fathers Day Texas Holdem-Poker Tournament Registration at 1pm Game starts at 2pm \$10/person entry fee

Saturday, June 21-Mini Bike Race 10am registration \$20/rider Race at noon-5pm

Saturday, July 5-Independence Day Celebration 10am-10pm Mini Bike Race 10am-3pm Wiffle ball to follow, LIVE MUSIC, Fireworks at Dark

Saturday,July 19-Cornhole Tournament Registration 10am Games start at 11am Random Team Selection

Saturday,August 16-Mini Bike Race 10am registration \$20/rider Race at noon-5pm

Saturday, August 23-Back To School Yard Sale 10am-3pm

Saturday, September 13-Mini Bike Race 10am registration \$20/rider Race at noon-5pm

Saturday, October 25-Trunk or Treat 6pm-7p

EVENTS/RIDES/FUNDRAISING/MEDIA/ NEWSLETTER NEWS!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

5/10 Maintenance Day

5/15 Monthly Meeting @ Clarion Eagles

5/17 Club Trail Ride

5/17-18 Tour De Forest

6/7 Maintenance Day

6/15 Sligo Poker Run

6/19 Monthly Meeting @ Clarion Eagles

6/28 Maintenance Day

REMINDER:

Tour De Forest **IS NOT** a Piney Rail Riders' sponsored event. All questions should be directed to Marienville Fire Department.

Sligo Poker Run **IS NOT** a Piney Rail Riders' sponsored event. All questions should be directed to Sligo Fire Department.

PEW PEW RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

Tickets are now available. They are \$15 each and you must be 18 years old to purchase. One ticket = one chance. The winner will be drawn at our August 9 Friends and Family Day at Memorial Hill. Winner does not need to be present to win. If you would like to sell or purchase tickets, contact Deb Clinger through Facebook or text Cinnamon Vosburg at 814-316-5804. Please follow our members-only Facebook page for more details.





TRAIL NEWS

RADIO COMMUNICATION

Keep in touch with other riders in case of breakdowns or emergencies. Below are the most common channels that riders in the area use:

Radio Channel 2 or FRS2 Frequency 462.5875

TRAIL ETIQUETTE

Please remember that Piney Rail Riders has access to the railbed only and any side trails that are not leased or maintained by the club must have permission from the land owner to access. As respectful riders, please keep your speed and noise to a minimum when passing camps or houses, and if you see suspicious activity or items that should not be on the trail, take a picture and contact Bob Guthrie or any officer.

REMINDER

Remember that we have logging being done on the trail. We are trying to keep the trail open during this time and we ask that you be courteous and patient when riding. Be **ALERT** that there may be trees on the trail during the process. If you see where they currently are working, snap us a photo and share the location. Thank you for your help and your patience.

MAINTENANCE DAYS

April 12 was our third maintenance day of the year. We had 9 volunteers with 42 man hours. Thank you to all who came out to help. Our next day will be May 10 at the Limestone Trailhead @9 am and we will be working on cleaning up where the logging is finished. Please follow our members-only Facebook page for more details and for weather updates.

Maintenance
Bob Guthrie
bobbyg43@yahoo.com

Piney Rail Riders...PO Box 265, Strattanville, PA 16258...email:info@pineyrailriders.org...website:pineyrailriders.org

TRAIL NEWS

RESTRICTIONS

The creek crossing at One Eyes Valley (between East Reidsburg Road and the Allision Intersection) is blocked off. We are working with DEP to meet their requirements so we aren't fined for anything. **PLEASE DO NOT CROSS ANY CREEKS**. If there isn't a bridge, it's not a crossing.





TRAIL RIDE

We will start the riding season this year with an out and back on Saturday, May 17. Leaving Piney Trailhead at 10am and stopping at Limestone Trailhead and continue out the trail to Route 28. Coming back we will jump off at Bish Road and head to Reigning Cardinals for a bite to eat. A full tank is good for a leisurely ride with several stops to chat. A cover charge of \$10.00 will be charged per person and probably a 50/50 if Deb Clinger wants to. The club will be donating half our proceeds to one of our members Crystal Hargenrader who has been diagnosed with cancer and is having a benefit the same day.

MAPPING

The trail is now mapped and loaded on Polaris Ride Command.

BRIDGE/EQUIPMENT NEWS

BRIDGE UPDATE





Josh Sommers is currently working on finding guard rails for our completed #2. The current bridge wide enough and will comfortably fit a sxs. Using caution and not speeding will ensure your safe passage over the bridge.

We also received a load of bridge ties. We should have enough to redeck another bridge.

EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

The spring grant deadlinemissed the grant submission for March of this year. The next round is August/September. Our application will be ready and submitted.

We are happy to announce we have been awarded \$10,000 from recent grant submission to Polaris. The grant is to be used toward equipment for the trail. Currently, we are looking to put that money toward a purchase of a tractor. Thank you everyone who helped with this process.

North West PA Atving received grant money and purchased a skid steer. The project has fallen apart and we are looking into if they can transfer it to us instead of returning it and the grant money to DCNR.

RIDING THE TRAIL

When riding, venture out and use our gracious sponsors for lodging, gas and food. Some of the places cannot be reached by machine, so you will need to drive your vehicle. Follow their website or facebook page for specials and summer hours.

Piney Meadows Campground

9281 PA66 Fairmont City, PA 16224 814-715-3681

Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham Clarion

121 North Point Drive Clarion, PA 16214 814-227-2223

Palmer's Country Store

10695 PA-66 Clarion, PA 16214 814-764-5930

Sarah's Snack Shack

66 Kemry Road Rimersburg, PA 15248 724-664-5477

