

Hello everyone!

My name is Mike Biese and I'm the new President of the Forest County ATV Association. I apologize for waiting a few weeks before introducing myself but there were some things that I wanted to get in order. First off, those of you who were at our annual banquet and voted for me, thank you for trusting me to lead this club! The banquet had record attendance this year and I'm sorry I had to miss it (and miss out on the fantastic meal at JARS!). I have goals and ideas for the club that I will work hard to bring to fruition.

Although some of you may not know me, I'm no stranger to the club. I've been an active member since 2012 and have been on the Board of Directors since 2019. I created and manage the Facebook page so some of you have already had interactions with me. I've worked with other club members on leading rides, organizing trail cleanup, riding in parades, and making important decisions within the structure and workings of the club itself.

In addition to the club, I'm very active in other aspects of the ATV/UTV Sport. I'm the Secretary for the Wisconsin ATV/UTV Association (WATVA), I sit on the Governor's ORV Council, I've been a Wisconsin DNR Safety Instructor since 2012, do Trail Patrol for the Trail Ambassador program, and still somehow manage to ride about 2000 miles a year in and out of Wisconsin. With the different positions I hold, I've made valuable relationships with all the clubs that surround our County. Those relationships help with different perspectives on local issues that other clubs are having as well as creating the possibility of some combined rides/events. In the end, we are all volunteers who do this for the love of the sport!

Currently, I live in Freedom, WI (near Appleton) but have a place near the Forest/Langlade County line on the Wolf River State Trail. My wife and 2 young boys enjoy riding whenever we are up there! I'm not quite 40 years old so I have a while before I can enjoy the time retirement allows but during the week, I'm the VP of Operations for an IT Consulting Company based out of the Appleton area (AIT Business Technologies). Though living 100 miles away from the club can pose some challenges, I'm a firm believer in putting the right people in the right positions and giving others the tools and direction to be successful! There is already an OUTSTANDING group of people who put a LOT of time into the trail system and our 3 State Trails. I have a few more people that I'll be adding to the mix and splitting some roles up into smaller, more manageable roles in the future. The old saying "Many hands make light work" is so true, especially in a volunteer position where our hard work allows for almost a half of a million registered ATV/UTV's to enjoy the County that we all know so well. If you are interested in helping in ANY way, even for a few hours on one day, please let me know.

I want to thank Jack for his MANY years as club president. The work he did over the past years allowed for State Trails (and expansions of those trails), new and updated grooming equipment, relationships with local Town and County officials and the growth of our club to be one of the largest around, over

350 members! We as a club voted in our June meeting to give Jack a "Life Membership" in the club and he deserves it!

This club, its operations, and its trails will hopefully see a new energy as we get some new members on board and have new projects about to start including the expansion of the Wolf River State Trail to Argonne and the Valley Trail to the Oneida County line. I have projects that I will start in motion this winter including better signage for our trails as well as some new trails that are true "off road" trails. There have also been discussions about a few club rides this year to showcase some of our hidden gems that some people may not have ever ridden before.

All of this takes time, patience, and PEOPLE. I have already reached out to some of the key players in our trail system including the Forest County Forestry Department and the U.S. Forest Service. Face to face meetings are scheduled and agendas are being drawn up. It takes an incredible amount of behind the scenes work to make things happen so I ask for your patience as we start some of the processes. If anyone is interested in what it takes, where we are with things, or offering to lend a hand, please don't hesitate to reach out to me! I plan on being an open book about everything! In my signature below is my email, phone number, and Facebook account. I'll do my best to respond as soon as possible.

Again, thank you for your confidence in me and I am excited to continue to make Forest County the best trails in the State!

Sincerely,

Mike Biese

Forest County ATV Association President

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