

Curriculum Vitae
Thomas S. Yager
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Mr. Yager has in-depth experience, knowledge and expertise in off-highway vehicle safety, operation, and training relating to all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), recreational off-highway vehicle (ROVs), off-highway motorcycles (OHMs), and snowmobiles.

Areas of expertise include:

- Manufacturer recommended operational procedures
- Proper personal protective equipment and apparel
- Industry guidelines for age of rider to size of ATV/ROV
- Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) ATV requirements
- American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards for ATVs and ROVs
- OHV owner and operator responsibilities
- Use of OHVs by children and parental responsibility
- OHV training and industry supported rider/driver education curricula
- OHV use in commercial, industrial and government agency applications

Work Experience:

Since 1988 he has served in various positions for the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA) and its ATV Safety Institute (ASI) division. SVIA was incorporated April 12, 1983 in the District of Columbia as a national not-for-profit trade association representing ATV manufacturers and distributors. SVIA members have included; Arctic Cat, BRP, Bush Hog, Cannondale, CF Moto, Honda, John Deere, Kawasaki, Patriot, Polaris, Suzuki, Textron Off-Road, Tomberlin, and Yamaha. Mr. Yager served as Vice President, Training and Standards from 1993 to October 2020. In December 2007 the Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA) was incorporated in the State of California as a Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation. ROHVA's member companies have included Arctic Cat, BRP, Honda, John Deere, Kawasaki, Mahindra Vehicle Sales and Service, Polaris, Textron, Off-Road, Yamaha, and Yanmar. In 2008, in addition to his work for SVIA, Mr. Yager was selected as Vice President by the ROHVA Board, a position held until October 2020.

Prior to working in the powersports industry Mr. Yager taught Automotive Mechanics at both the high school and adult levels and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Vocational/Technical Education. In 1982 Mr. Yager successfully completed Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) training gaining certification as motorcycle safety Instructor. At the invitation of the MSF, Mr. Yager attended and successfully completed a Chief Instructor training program in 1983. In 1985 Mr. Yager accepted employment with MSF as Manager, Education.

Mr. Yager has operated OHVs since the 1970s shortly after ATVs were first introduced into the U.S. In 1985 Mr. Yager was trained and certified by the SVIA as an ATV Instructor. In 1988, he furthered that training and expertise by becoming an ATV Safety Institute (ASI) Licensed Chief Instructor. Mr. Yager has conducted training in the United States, Canada, England, and Germany and prepared individuals from 37 countries for licensure or certification under guidelines established by the SVIA/ASI and ROHVA respectively and remains a credentialed, active trainer.

ASI Instructor training and ROV DriverCoach training is conducted only by Licensed ASI Chief Instructors and ROHVA certified DriverCoach Trainers. Mr. Yager has prepared both ASI Chief Instructors and ROHVA DriverCoach Trainers from the U.S., Canada, England, and Australia.

Curriculum Development

Mr. Yager has directly contributed to the development and maintenance of the ATV RiderCourseSM and ROV Basic DriverCourseSM curricula and associated Instructor and DriverCoach Guides. Mr. Yager was also a contributing team member on the development and maintenance of both the ATV e-Course and ROV e-Course on-line training programs as well as various safety publications produced by the SVIA/ASI and ROHVA. Mr. Yager was also a major contributor in the development of MilMo, the on and off-road military motorcycle operator program.

Youth Safety

In 1989 Mr. Yager served on the national design team for the National 4H to create a design process for the 4-H Community ATV Safety Program to address the question: "What can we do to reduce the number of ATV-related injuries and fatalities among youth?" Initial members included: American Honda Motor Corporation, American Farm Bureau Federation, ATV Safety Institute, Bureau of Land Management, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Foundation for Off-Road Vehicle Safety, 4-H volunteer leader associations, National 4-H Council, National Safety Council, Forest Service, Cooperative Extension System and various state public health departments, Native American health organizations, wildlife, fish and game agencies, emergency medical organizations, law enforcement agencies and other agencies and organizations. The resulting work laid the foundation for ATV safety activities that continue today with the 4H community.

The Boy Scouts of America approached Mr. Yager in 2009 to assist them in designing and implementing a pilot program to evaluate ATV riding as an activity within scouting. In 2010 the first 3 Councils were approved as part of the pilot. Based on the success of the pilot program in 2010 and 2011 the program was approved in 2012. Today over 700 Camps offer ATV programming to youth that promotes safe and responsible use of ATVs.

Professional Development & Quality Assurance

Mr. Yager has conducted more than 15 professional development workshops for ASI Instructors, Chief Instructors and ROHVA DriverCoach Trainers. In addition to personally conducting on-site Technical Assistance Visits (TAVs) and Quality Assurance Visits (QAVs) Mr. Yager is responsible for the Instructor/Chief Instructor Licensing and ROHVA DriverCoach/DriverCoach Trainer certification appeals process. In this role he reviews and makes decisions whether to uphold or reverse licensing/certification revocation actions at the ASI or ROHVA when appealed by the licensee/certificate holder.

Standards

SVIA and ROHVA are accredited Standard Developing Organizations by the American National Standards Institute. Mr. Yager has coordinated ANSI related activities for both SVIA and ROHVA leading to the approval of both the American National Standard for Four Wheel All-Terrain Vehicles, ANSI/SVIA 1 approved and published in 2001, 2007, 2010, and 2017 and the American National Standard for Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles, ANSI/ROHVA 1, approved and published in 2010, 2011, 2014, and 2016. Mr. Yager assisted SVIA and ROHVA in the most recent revision of the ATV and ROV standards leading to ANSI approval in 2023.

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

Mr. Yager has testified before the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) in field hearings relating to ATV safety held in Charleston, West Virginia on June 5, 2003 and in Anchorage, Alaska on July 8, 2003. These hearings discussed the operation of ATVs by both adults and children. Mr. Yager served on a panel before the Commission relating to the ATV Petition on March 22, 2005 and was a presenter at the CPSC's ATV Safety Summit on October 11, 2012. Select CPSC staff have been trained in ATV operation by Mr. Yager in 2005, and 2012.

Media

Media including print, radio, and television have requested interviews regarding OHV safety from Mr. Yager. He has appeared on the nationally televised CBS Early Show, Consumer Watch segment in January of 2005. Mr. Yager provided training to a Wall Street Journal reporter for a story in January of 2007 and has been quoted in local and national media.

Education & Training:

Bachelor of Science, Vocational/Technical Education 12/92
State University of New York, College at Oswego, Oswego, NY

Certificate of Achievement, Automotive Mechanics Occupational Competence, 3/80
State University of New York, College at Oswego, Oswego, NY

FAA Private Pilot Certificate, 3/90, Instrument Rating - SEL, 5/97
Lenair Aviation, Santa Ana, CA

DriverCoach Certification 10/11, DriverCoach Trainer Certification, 10/11, DriverCoach Trainer Facilitator, 10/11
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association, Irvine, CA

Instructor License 1/85, Chief Instructor License, 10/88, Chief Instructor Trainer 4/90
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America/ATV Safety Institute, Irvine, CA

Instructor Certification 4/82 expired, Chief Instructor Certification 4/83 expired
Motorcycle Safety Foundation, Irvine, CA

Publications:

Promoting Safe and Responsible ATV Use in the United States, published in the
Transactions of the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference
Wildlife Management Institute, 2004

Presentations:

Since 2000 Mr. Yager has given over 50 presentations regarding OHV safety in 22 states and 3 countries.

Awards:

2006 Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC) Chairman's Award for outstanding service to the industry on the SVIA Technical Advisory Panel.

References

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