



AARON ALDRIDGE PHOTO

Michael Battista of the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department tries out the department's new all-terrain vehicle that will be used both for enforcement and education on the county's off-road trails.

## Sheriff's dept. adds new ATV

By AARON ALDRIDGE  
Contributing Writer

Off road vehicle enthusiasts in Sullivan County will soon see a new addition to trails now that the Sheriff's department has purchased its own 4-wheeler.

"We've been waiting to get a machine for a number of things," said Michael Prozzo, Sullivan County Sheriff.

The Sheriff recently purchased a green and black Arctic Cat 4-wheeler along with a trailer. Prozzo said his department plans to cover the trails throughout the county.

"Our intention is to do public relations first and then enforcement if necessary," said Prozzo.

The new machine was purchased with money from the county budget. It is equipped to handle several different types of situations.

"We can do search and rescue, speed enforcement, and educate the public about safety," said Prozzo.

Equipment on the new 4-wheeler includes

blankets, a first aid kit, radar, a tow strap, and educational materials.

Prozzo believes the new machine will last for a number of years.

"My staff takes great care of their equipment," said Prozzo.

Sheriff Deputy Denis O'Sullivan and Deputy Michael Batista will drive the new 4-wheeler; both have attended a specialized OHRV course.

"We plan to go out in four-hour shifts during both the day and night time," said O'Sullivan.

Prozzo received a grant through the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department to cover operating expenses associated with the new program.

"I will have my deputies ride with officers from other communities including Claremont, Newport, and Washington," said Prozzo.

The public will get its first look at the new vehicle this Saturday when the sheriff's department rides with the Claremont Police Department.

"I think it will be a very successful program," said Prozzo. "It's another tool for us to use."