



Happy Holidays from The OTHG

Emily / Blind Lake ATV Trail Approved !

Wade Miller, Brainerd Area Supervisor, MN DNR Parks & Trails, and Tom Strack, Crow Wing County, Environmental Services Specialist, have informed the Over the Hills Gang ATV Club that our Grant-In-Aid Trail application to construct the 16-mile Emily to Blind Lake ATV Trail was informally approved at the MN DNR Central Office in St. Paul. The formal funding grant is not valid until all signatures from DNR and Crow Wing County, our trail sponsor, are on the grant application.

This trail development process started in 2012, and the OTHG ATV Club jumped on-board after a MN ATV Association Region 3 meeting in March 2014. We have received great support from our trail sponsor Crow Wing County, our soon to be alliance partner Aitkin County, and DNR Parks & Trails, with connecting the Emily /Outing ATV Trail to the Blind Lake ATV Connector Trail. Thank you to the numerous hours club, county, and state people have put into attending township, city, county, and DOT meetings to inform stakeholders of this proposed trail. When complete, an ATV rider will be able to travel a loop connecting the Aitkin /Itasca Northwoods Regional Trail System, Soo Line North Corridor, Blind Lake Connector and Trail, Crow Wing County Emily / Blind Lake, Emily State Forest, City of Emily, Cass County, Emily Outing, Land O Lakes State Forest and Moose River ATV Trails.

Upon the formal execution of grant between sponsor and state we can transition from GIA process step 5 into step 6, which is project permitting and construction. Exciting times and thankful for all parties connected to

this OHV trail development process. Look for further announcements as we get the formal grant agreement in hand.

Congratulations to Jim and Brenda Anderson for completing the required training to become certified ATV Youth Safety Instructors and MN DNR Volunteer Trail Ambassadors. The Andersons join other OTHG Club Trail Ambassadors Perry May, Dave Kodada, Jim and Lynn Remington, Dan Olmschenk and Jim Wensel.

Trail Ambassadors ride various ATV Grant-In-Aid trails, reporting dangerous trail conditions, helping and informing riders by, giving direction, handing out maps, regulation booklets, and maybe a coupon for an ice cream cone for Youth under 18 wearing helmets. They maintain certification by helping with Youth ATV Safety Training held annually.

Over The Hills Gang TA's logged over 70 hours riding the trails in 2018. We are always looking for new volunteers.

Talk to either Perry May or Jim Remington if you would like additional information as additional training classes are available during the "off season"

Congrats to our New MN DNR Volunteer Trail Ambassadors



B Trail Flooding Update

As many riders observed this past year, the water on the B Trail by Reservoir Lake was 12 inches deep in July, 24 inches deep by late August, and 48 inches deep by end of October. What was fun and challenging became **impassable** later in the year. The Moose River runs close to our B trail which is also dual snowmobile and ATV trail. Our local rodent engineer, the beaver, has constructed a very large dam at the exit of Reservoir Lake just off the Pikus Forest Road

which is causing this trail flooding. The OTHG has recently worked with MN DNR Forestry, Wildlife Services, Parks & Trails, Cass County Land Department, Snow Birds Snowmobile Club, and a private land owner to get a permit for dam **removal**. We plan to breach the dam in the Spring of 2019, and then bring in fill to raise the trail bed. Although many riders like to see water on the trail, this trail section is currently part of the lake, and it would be illegal to ride into if we do not lower the lake level. Beavers are very active in this area. In 2017 we installed a Clemson leveler to deal with a flooded trail issue due to another beaver dam on the **opposite** side of the trail.

The Northwoods Regional Trail System (NWRTS) has opened up discussions on the possibility of adding the Over the Hills Gang ATV Club along with its trail sponsors Cass and Crow Wing Counties, to join the county alliance which originally formed this Regional Trail System. This also would mean the addition of

the Emily /Outing and Emily /Blind Lake ATV Trails into the NWRTS. Currently the alliance is made up of trails that connect in Aitkin and Itasca Counties. With the future addition of the Mille Lacs East ATV Trail Development, and the Emily Outing area trails, the NWRTS would be one of the largest interconnected ATV trail systems in the United States. As a club we are exploring this opportunity for area economic development, ATV rider opportunities, along with the requirements to be part of the alliance.

Upcoming Events

February 2, 2019 - OTHG Club Meeting, 10 am - Granny's Bar & Grill

February 23, 2019 - 5th Annual Polar Bear Ride - 11:00 am Thunder Lakes Deer Haven. See event Flyer on OTHG Website or Facebook page

March 2, 2019 - OTHG Club Meeting, 10 am -Granny's Bar & Grill

March 30 & 31, MN ATV Association Vision Meeting. Location TBD

April 6, 2019 - OTHG Club Meeting, 10 am -Granny's Bar & Grill

April 27, MN ATV Association, Region 3 meeting, Ironton, MN Legion Post #443, 9am to 1pm



5th Annual Polar Bear ATV Ride Saturday February 23, 2019

Details:

- Meet at *Thunder Lake's Deer Haven*, 4309 MN Hwy 6, ten miles north of Outing or eight miles south of Remer
- We will be leaving Thunder Lake's Deer Haven parking area at 11am, crossing the ice on Big Thunder Lake, and driving our ATVs to the Moose River ATV Trail via township roads
- Truck and Trailer Parking available
- Ride for 1.5 to 2 hours (temperature dependent)
- Grilled Cheese and Chili at Thunder Lake's Deer Haven for \$5.00 after ride
- Registration is Free; Encourage everyone to bring non-perishable food items or cash donations for the Local Food Shelf
- Dress Warm - Some years were minus 0 degrees, but we had fun!
- Open to all members and non-members
- Call or email Perry May to RSVP or for any additional information:

Email: ptmdmay@comcast.net
Ph. 612.919.5806



Santa's Elves preparing for the annual Children's Christmas Party held on December 8th, 2018, at Granny's Bar & Grill. Over 120 children visited Santa, had a delicious lunch, and received special gifts. A HUGE THANK YOU to the Outing Chamber of Commerce and your proceeds from charitable gambling



MN ATV Association Executive Board (www.atvam.org)

From L to R, Secretary Nick Wognum, 2nd VP Mandie McGinnis, Treasurer, Ervin Kleinschmidt, President, Ron Potter, 1st VP, Perry May, Director at Large, George Radke.

This group is hard at work, recently meeting with the MN DNR in St. Paul to discuss multiple ATV related topics, holding a Legislative Summit to discuss and approve resolutions for regulation changes, future trail funding and future camping and riding access areas.

Proud to be an ATVAM Club

The Over the Hills Gang ATV Club is a proud member of The All-Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota, "Your Voice for ATV Recreation in Minnesota". Keep current with all of the MN ATV news happening across Minnesota and how ATVAM is working for you. Join today at www.atvam.org



Your OTHG Club Officers

Perry May, President ptmdmay@comcast.net , Lynn Remington, Vice President, l54rems@gmail.com, Linda Thurk, Secretary, lmthurk@emily.net , Ben Allen, Trail Coordinator, brodycarswell@gmail.com, Jim Remington, Treasurer /Membership, jrems53@gmail.com, Dave Kodada, Trail Coordinator, davekodada@gmail.com. Rod Wegner, Trail Coordinator /Social Media, hiker_rod@yahoo.com, General Email address, overthehillsgang@gmail.com