



I am new to ATVing - How do I get started?

We have observed a steady increase of new individual, family and business members joining our club. New registrations for ATV's in the state of Minnesota were up another 3% in 2019 now reaching close to 320,000 registered ATV's. With this steady increase, there are also many people new to the sport that want to know the rules. Joining a club is a great place to start, and at our most recent March 7th club meeting, we were joined by a few new members who began asking the "right" questions. The following are a few answers to those questions:

Where can I find the ATV regulations? The MN DNR publishes a small booklet called OHV Regulations which covers All-Terrain Vehicles Class I & II, Off-Highway Motorcycles, and Off-Road Vehicles. The club will have these to hand out beginning the May 2, meeting. You can also find the regulations on the MN DNR website at www.mndnr.gov/ohv - Look under rules

Do I have a Class I or Class II ATV? The simplest way to describe this is defining your machine by width and weight All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) in Minnesota are:

- Class 1 ATVs have a total width 50 inches or less from outside of tire rim to outside of tire rim
- Class 2 ATVs have a total width greater than 50 inches but not more than 65 inches from outside of tire rim to outside of tire rim

Do not get caught up on the terms side by side, or UTV. MN Law only describes ATV's by Class I or II. If you are larger than a class II ATV you are an (ORV) Off-Road Vehicle. Our local trails are only open to Class I and II ATV's

Do I need an ATV Safety Certificate? - Yes, if you are born after July 1, 1987, who is age 12 or older, must have a Valid ATV Safety Certificate to operate on public lands, trails, and frozen waters, and when crossing road right-of-ways. Our club encourages riders that were born before 1987 to read the regulation booklet, attend our Youth ATV Safety Hands-On Class, and start riding on easy flat trails to gain experience as a rider.

Do I need to ride with my lights on? - Yes, if your machine is equipped with a headlight and taillight you need to ride with them on

Do I need to wear a helmet? Operators and passengers under age 18 are required to wear an approved DOT helmet when operating on public lands, frozen waters and road rights of way

Where Can I ride? This is a complex question based on where you plan to ride. You are legal to ride on all Grant-In-Aid ATV Trails for Class I and II machines. In our area we have the 56-mile Emily Outing ATV Trails that include the Moose River Trails. These trails connect to the Soo Line North Corridor Trail, where you can access hundreds of more miles of legal trails. Additional Grant In Aid ATV trails can be found on the MN DNR website at www.dnr.state.mn.us/ohv

Riders also comment that our club only maps and signs the Grant-In-Aid trails but there are many more to ride. There are many "user" trails in the area that are not mapped and signed or maintained. These trails may exist on County, State, DOT, or other land managers property that have not authorized our club to tell riders that they are open for ATV riding. We also have two large State Forests in our area, called Land O' Lakes and the Emily State Forest. These state forests are classified as Limited, meaning limited riding on forest roads and on trails designated and signed to permit specific motor vehicle use and on trails specifically designated and signed for vehicle type. Snowmobile Trails are not open to ATV riding

unless they are part of a multi-use trail which also allows for ATV's. Yellow with Black arrows are ATV directional signs. Orange with black arrows are snowmobile directional signs.

Can I ride on the Road? -It depends on the type of ATV, the type of road you are on, and the age of the operator. Bottom line is to check with the local road authority as there may be specific City or County ordinances that allow or prevent lawful riding. On township roads, reduce your speed to 20 mph or less, this reduces dust, noise, safer for you and residents, and makes adjacent property owners much happier.

When do the trails open? The Emily Outing ATV Trail can open at the earliest on May 1st, 2020. The opening can be delayed by soil conditions such as late frost out, spring rains, muddy conditions, trail damage. Trail opening dates do include the MN Hwy 6 ditch trail. We work with our land managers in Cass & Crow Wing County, along with the MN DNR, to decide when trails will open, which can be different each year. Trail Closure information can be found on the MN DNR website dnr.state.mn.us/trailclosures

In response to COVID-19 the club is making some changes so as to practice the social distancing guidance. The safety and health of our club members and stakeholders who support us is important. Our upcoming club meeting scheduled for April 4, 2020 will be by conference call beginning at 10 am. Call 605-468-8821, and enter in access code 731394 and # sign if you would like to join in. Our Youth ATV Safety class scheduled for May 23rd, 2020 has also been temporarily suspended until further guidance by the MN DNR. The Annual MN DNR Trail Ambassador Conference scheduled for April 4th has been postponed. In the coming weeks we will have more announcements of potential postponements for the ATVAM Region 3 meeting to be held on 4/18 in Ironton, and the MN OHV Trails Workshop scheduled for April 24 & 25, 2020.

Social Media



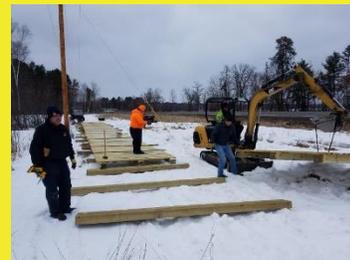
In today's world of websites, smart phones, and applications (apps) that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking the OTHG ATV Club is proud to have one of the best managers of this medium in Rod Wegner, a.k.a High Lifter Rod. Over the past year Rod has grown our Facebook page from 300+ likes to now approaching 2000 likes. Rod posts videos, pictures, maps, and relevant information regarding our trails and events, and posts information about other ATV club events around the state. He is constantly refreshing our club website, and most recently Rod and his wife Jessica have created a Volunteer Tab to allow for a simple way for people to get involved. Along with Jim & Brenda Anderson he is also exploring online marketing of Club apparel.

You can click this tab. Rod is also our Polaris Ride Command Trail Manager, always looking to create a better rider experience. I encourage you all to join our club FaceBook page and visit our club website at www.overthehillsgang.org - Click on the Get Involved Tab!, Check out Volunteer Opportunities, and End of Season savings on select apparel



1000 Feet of Boardwalk

The Emily Blind Lake ATV Trail Construction continues to progress. During the days of March 13 & 14, seventeen club members put down 85 sections / 43 tons of puncheon style boardwalk sections across the low wet area, south of Emily along MN Hwy 6. Currently, ATV's using MN Hwy 6 shoulder or road bed is illegal, so this boardwalk will provide a legal means to get in and out of the City of Emily. The boardwalk needs to be leveled, safety marked, gravel ramps created and turnouts created to be usable. Thank you to Dan Switzer at Cass County Construction, Lake Emily Resort, partial funding through Yamaha Outdoor Initiative Grants, and volunteers Jim Remington, Scott Rayman, Matt Stevenson, Ron Cardinal, Terry Sewill, Mike Melberg, Tim Sink, Patrick Liebl, Terry Tuckenhagen, Jim Anderson, Perry May, Jim Edmonds, Tom Strack, Dean Schleik + 3 tool helpers



COMING SOON - Pork N' Ride RAFFLE Tickets

Watch your mail - In early April, we will be sending out to all members a recap of 2019 club activities, the 2020 event and ride schedule, and additional club news. We will include a \$20.00 packet (10 tickets at \$2.00 each) of Raffle Tickets for the Pork N' Ride Prize Drawings, which will be held on June 6th, 5 pm, at the Log Cabin Bar, Emily, MN. Last year we gave away \$2000 in cash prizes, and over 50 gift certificates or articles of apparel. This year we are adding a \$300 Polaris Outdoors Adventures Rental Gift Card from Power Lodge Brainerd which could be used to rent a Polaris General at Land O Lakes Marine. Need not be present to win the raffle prizes, Power Lodge Rental Gift Certificate, and selected Gift Cards/Certificates from business members.

- We are planning for a smaller box raffle where you can purchase tickets, (only the day of) for selected prizes at the Pork N Ride event. You must be present to pick-up your prize if selected.
- The Pork N' Ride while being a very popular event, is also our largest Fund Raiser to raise money needed for matching funds in the Minnesota Trails Assistance Program. (GIA)
- Included in this mailing will be a reminder of when your membership expires and instructions for renewal, which can be included with your raffle ticket payment.
- If you do not wish to participate in the raffle tickets, or hopefully would like more tickets please send an email to Overthehillsgang@gmail.com and we will accommodate your request.
- Thank you for your help to maintain, improve ,and build local ATV trails. We are currently responsible for 72 miles of State Grant in Aid trails.

Your OTHG Club Officers

Perry May, President ptmdmay@comcast.net

Lynn Remington, VicePresident, l54rems@gmail.com

Linda Thurk, Secretary, lmthurk@emily.net

Jim Remington, Treasurer /Membership, jrems53@gmail.com

Dave Kodada, Trail Coordinator, davekodada@gmail.com

Rod Wegner, Trail Coordinator /Social Media, hiker_rod@yahoo.com

David Thompson , Trail Coordinator, tamarackplace@yahoo.com

General Club Email address, overthehillsgang@gmail.com

Mailing address

Over the Hills Gang

PO Box 40

Outing, MN. 56662

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

