



Change, Cancel, Suspend or Postpone

In response to COVID-19, these words have come part of our daily lives. In regards to the OTHG ATV Club, we changed how we conduct club meetings either by conference call or outdoor meetings where we can physically distance from one another. We rescheduled our annual Pork N Ride event that was to be held on June 6, 2020. Following direction by the MN DNR, we suspended our Youth ATV Safety Class scheduled to be held on May 23rd, 2020 and we postponed dates for our Adopt-A Highway Clean-Up, Trail Prep Days, Trail Ambassador Monitoring, and future club events to hopefully later dates. In reference to MN Governor Walz Emergency Executive Orders, and CDC (Center for Disease Control) guidelines, we are asked not to promote events that encourage people to congregate in large groups. We can however enjoy Outdoor Recreation, such as getting out and ride. The trails are dry and in good shape, except section closures, where we need to repair last years damage, and the pending bug hatch has not yet arrived. Stay safe, stay healthy, and I hope to join with you in an ATV ride this year.
OTHG ATV Club President Perry May

Pork N Ride 2020 Canceled Autumn Log N Ride Enhanced

For the first time in eighteen years we needed to cancel our annual Pork N Ride event scheduled on June 6, 2020. The individual rides could have possibly been accomplished with physical distancing, however, the raffle, dinner and networking could not. Our host, the Log Cabin Bar, would possibly be open with restrictions, yet, we still cannot promote events asking large groups of people to congregate. The good news is that we are going to make this years Autumn Log N Ride, scheduled on October 3rd, 2020 larger, and include our rescheduled Pork N Ride fundraising raffle, dinner, and guided rides. Our Chair for this event, Jim Remington, is preparing to send out the raffle tickets in June along with the anticipated changes that we will need to adapt, to hold this event. Stay-Tuned!



Moose River Trail Turns 25!

Years before the Over the Hills Gang ATV Club formed, the MN DNR Forestry Division helped create the 26-mile Moose River ATV Trails which opened on May 6, 1995. Using abandoned snowmobile trail loops and bear hunter user trails as a base, DNR personnel, such as now retired Forestry Technician Dean Horbach, mapped and created new trails to create the trails we enjoy today. The Moose River Trails expanded with the addition of the Moose River Connector in 2012, connecting the trails to the North Soo Line Corridor Trail, resulting in access to the towns of Remer to the north

and Palisade to the south. In 2014, the Emily-Outing ATV Trail system was connected allowing access to the towns of Outing and Emily. Together these connections allow a rider to access hundreds of miles of legal Grant-In-Aid ATV trails. The Moose River Trails continue to change over time. Riding pressure, combined with soil compaction and erosion, has exposed rocks that make the trail more challenging for some, and more back-breaking for others. Some trails that once ran along the side of logging roads have moved to the road surface making for a mix of easy to more difficult riding sections. Each year poses new problems, i.e. blow downs, soft soils, washouts, flooding, or new logging activity. Heavy maintenance of the Moose River Trails is maintained by the MN DNR, with help for lighter maintenance needs from the Over the Hills Gang ATV Club. To read the full article of the Moose River 25-Year Anniversary, go to the Official Publication of Minnesota's OFF-ROAD Community, Minnesota OFFROAD, April/May 2020 publication - Free if you are an ATVAM member and can be found on www.atvam.org when posted



Tree Granny Keeps Watch

One of resident guardians and trail watcher of the Moose River ATV Trails is Tree Granny. Some believe her first name to be Aspen, Hazel, or Willow. Keep a close eye out and you may just catch a glance of her watching you.



Adopt a Highway 2020

Twelve volunteers came out to clean up 4-miles of Cass Cty 58 from Luschers Park in Outing to Morrison Lake Road on Saturday May 9th. First time event Chair Rod Wegner even ordered in some snow to help our volunteers keep cool while they walked the ditches. Thank you Rod for organizing and to all who came out to keep our community clean



Trails Update

The dry spring has provided healing for most of our trails. In 2019 we opened trails late on Memorial weekend, and we closed trails one week early in the fall due to soft soil conditions. We were left this year with many rutted sections of trail, culverts that had either washed out or lifted up from the frost, over zealous beavers constructing dams across our trails, and downed tree's due to soft soil around roots combined with strong winds. We put together a repair plan that helped open most of the trails on May 15th. We hired a licensed beaver trapper who removed a total of 20 beavers along our trails and township roads that were flooded over. A

severely damaged section of the "A" trail going north from Sunset Hill Road to the Wren Loop of the Moose River Trails will need to remain closed for at least another 30- 45 days. We are also dealing with a water spring on this section of trail that percolates water out onto the trail, resulting in the trail being soft and soupy. This section always has had water holes, which we are trying to maintain for the "mudders" while also providing alternative dry or hard bottom safe routes around the water holes. This section of trail is challenging to repair, and we ask for your patience as we construct a more sustainable trail for all types of riders to enjoy.

We have temporarily postponed any new construction work on the **Emily Blind Lake ATV Trail Connector**. We have our hands full dealing with the "A" trail repairs, we are waiting for our 2020 Grant-In-Aid funding, and we need to watch our budget. The club has to match 35% of all expenditures on new construction and by cancelling our Pork N Ride, we will be without \$10,000 or more in fundraising funds to help fund on-going construction at a more faster pace. We are still projecting a trail opening in September 2021.

We have been blessed with a **solid numbers of volunteers** that have come out to help. Volunteers who can run heavy equipment such as skid steers and excavators, along with volunteers that are not afraid of

some heavy lifting, or getting down on their hands and knees to screw in a new boardwalk deck board, or picking up supplies at the lumber yards. We need all of you, and cannot thank you enough for all of your efforts!



Upcoming Events

June 6, 2020 - Club Meeting, 10 am, Outdoors under canopy at Emily Log Cabin Bar. We will be maintaining our physical distance and encourage you to wear a mask. Informal ATV ride after meeting - Bring your own lunch

Tuesdays beginning May 19th - Trail work days. Each Tuesday we will tackle a new small project. Contact overthehillsgang@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering or would like to know about the Tuesday project. Meeting place and times will change for each Tuesdays and we will try to post details on the club Facebook page.

OTHG Apparel on Website

You can now order OTHG Labeled Apparel on the website. Sizes available are listed and there are many limited editions at huge discounts. We will be adding more apparel and options for apparel as needed. Payment is easy with Paypal account or using credit/debit card with the security of Paypal.

www.overthehillsgang.org/membership/#merchandise



¾ zip fleece sweatshirt - Grey

Your OTHG Club Officers

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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

