



## 2020 - Good Riddance !

This will be our last club newsletter for 2020, and dare I say most of us, would like to forget 2020 and welcome in 2021 with renewed optimism. Although we observed record levels of ATV's being sold, and a record number of riders out on our trails, our local businesses that rely on this influx of income operated under customer capacity restriction's or temporary closed orders. We also observed many first time riders unaware or knowledgeable in ATV safety regulations or basic trail etiquette. We had to cancel both our Pork N' Ride, and Youth ATV Safety Training events. Our club did manage a number of successful ATV rides, such as our Exploring Minnesota Ride, Ladies Only Ride, and the Autumn Log N' Ride, along with a very successful Safety Day event on July 4th weekend. Our club individual and business memberships increased, and we moved forward completing Phase II of the Emily Blind Lake ATV Trail. Together with many individual donations, and grants we received from the Minnesota Trails Assistance Program, Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative Grant, Polaris T.R.A.I.L Grant, and the IRRRB (Iron Range Resource and Rehabilitation Board), we are on target to fully fund our final Phase III construction of the Emily Blind Lake ATV Trail, tentatively planned to open in September 2021. I want to thank our club officers, individual and business members, volunteers, trail sponsors, and all who make our club one of the best and most active in Minnesota. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and hoping 2021 will allow us to get together on one of our favorite trails, or at some of the best area businesses that Minnesota can offer. Don't forget you can still get out and ride on the three loops of the Moose River ATV Trails, which are open year-round. *Stay Healthy & Ride Safe!*

OTHG ATV Club President - Perry May



### Selfie Station for Emily Blind Lake ATV Trail

One of the many cool new features for the Emily Blind Lake ATV Trail will be a Selfie Station. The MN DNR has installed ten of these on various hiking / biking trails across the state, so we will have the first on a designated ATV Trail. Yes, we are stealing this idea with pride! This particular station will be funded in-part by the 2019 MN ATV Riders donation of \$1000. Recently, club member Dean Schliek, Founder & President of the MN ATV Riders, and his wife Cassie, CEO for the Schliek family, recently visited a selfie spot in the Cuyuna Country State Recreational Area near Ironton, MN. Dean has been working with OTHG ATV Club President Perry May on the design and location for the station. Riders will be able to share their pictures with us on our home Facebook page. Selfie Stations have an adjustable shelf to set your mobile device for the perfect selfie. So we hope you all can show off your selfie skills and enjoy the beautiful area we plan to locate this selfie station.



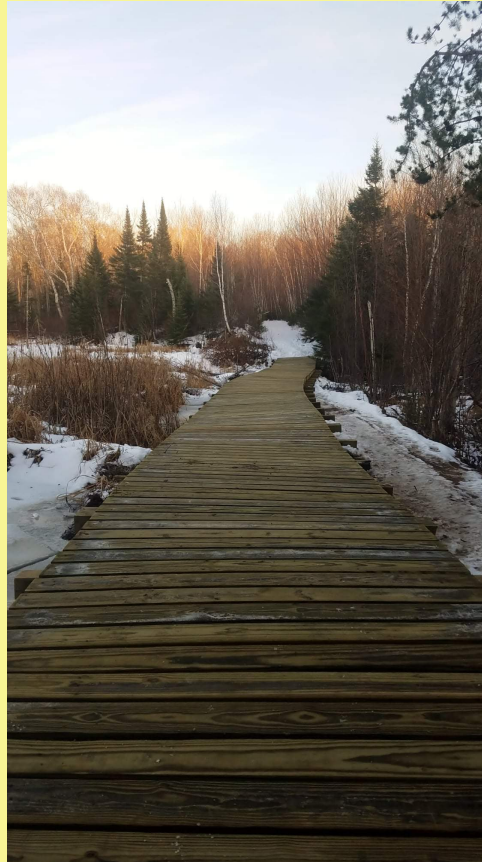


### Progress on the Emily Blind Lake ATV Trail

The colder weather and limited snowfall has made for ideal boardwalk construction weather. The cold helps freeze the swamps, and puts a little frost in the ground which helps protect the softer trail areas from the impact of larger construction equipment.

**Phase III trail construction** requires three "puncheon style" boardwalks totaling approximately 900 feet, to be constructed in the farthest NE corner of Crow Wing County and the western edge of Aitkin County. These boardwalks are designed to provide trail connections across swampy areas where wetlands need protection and ATV's cannot travel. On November 27th, twelve volunteers came out to construct boardwalk #1. Over the weekend of December 19th and 20th, boardwalk #2 will be constructed. Our final boardwalk will be constructed in the Spring of 2020, due to the need for additional funding, and the very remote construction location. We have been able to avoid the skyrocketing prices of lumber, by purchasing surplus lumber from the Voyageur Country ATV Club in Crane Lake MN which it originally purchased in 2019.

A large **Thank You** goes to Bruce Beste from the VC ATV Club who has been instrumental in coordinating the sale and delivery with us. We are also impressed by the large number of volunteers, including members from the Blind Lake ATV Club, willing to spend a day or two constructing these boardwalks. With Covid restrictions in place, we need to limit how many, and where each volunteer will be working. Rod Wegner recruits all of our volunteers, and Jim Remington does a great job providing lunch for the volunteers, while keeping us supplied with all the needed tools and fasteners. Terry Sewill and Mike Melberg have been super volunteers, driving to Crane Lake to load and unload lumber on their trailers, and using their personal equipment to prepare the work area and place boardwalk sections. ***We are truly blessed with the many volunteers wanting to see this trail get completed in 2021.***



## New Magazine!

For those of you that are ATV MN members, a.k.a. ATVAM, (only \$20) per year, you will be receiving six issues of a new magazine in 2021 called **MINNESOTA WHEELIN**, published, printed and mailed by Pro Print, Duluth. Watch for it, arriving in the mailbox of all individual, family and business members of ATV MN in January. This magazine is the go to magazine for Minnesota ATV enthusiasts, with fun rider photo's, planned articles on club riding events across the state, the latest ATV news about trails, and special interest topics. The December issue of *Minnesota OffRoad* will be the last one published by MSPN. If you would like to become a member or would like to gift an ATV MN membership please visit [www.atvam.org](http://www.atvam.org) - A perfect Holiday gift

**ATTENTION!** All current advertisers and those interested in advertising in *MINNESOTA WHEELIN*, the new magazine. ATV Minnesota business members get a 10% discount on their ad schedule, and another 10% if they buy all six issues published in 2021, starting with the Jan/Feb issue. To receive a media kit and rate card, contact Creston Dorothy, owner of Pro Print at: [cdorothy@proprintus.com](mailto:cdorothy@proprintus.com), or call 218-722-9805. Over 320,000 registered ATV's in the state of Minnesota - Advertise your business or community today!

Feel free to contact OTHG Club President, Perry May, at 612-919-5806 for more information.

**ATV Rider Alert!** Construction on the Enbridge Line 3 pipeline is beginning in our area, which does affect the Moose River ATV Trails. For ATV riders that ride the Moose River Trails in the Winter, be aware that there may be some temporary trail closures on the south ends of the Wren and Cedar Lake Loops as

pipe trenches are dug and pipe placed in the ground. The Pikus Forest Road on the east side of the trail system will also be busy with large trucks hauling equipment and pipe. The construction may last into early spring 2021, so please watch for warning signs, and visit the MN DNR website for trail closure information. We will do our best to also post closure information on our website, as soon as we are notified.

## Club Membership & Clothing

Looking for that perfect holiday gift for your ATV Family and Friends?

Consider gifting an Over the Hills Gang ATV Club membership. Send the name(s) of people you would like to gift, their address, phone number, and email address, along with a check of \$30 for each membership to OTHG ATV Club, PO Box 40, Outing MN 56662. We will send a card or an email acknowledgement to the recipient of your gift.

If membership is not on the list, how about some club gear, like a T-Shirt, Sweatshirt, or Bandana. Contact Jim Remington at [overthehillsgang.org](http://overthehillsgang.org) for clothing selections or gifting questions. Clothing Ships postage free!

*Many members are hesitant to join a club, or to get involved involved with club activities such as club rides, trail work, or fundraising events. One of the best things your membership dues provide are needed funds to maintain, improve, or build new Grant-In-Aid ATV Trails. Without your membership dues and donations, we would not have ATV trails in Minnesota. Thank you for your continued support!*



### ATV Safety Corner - Do Nots on Donuts

Riding on township or county roads to make trail connections are a privilege. Speed, Dust, and Noise are common complaints from ATV's using roads. Another complaint comes from road authorities regarding the destructive damage done to gravel roads by riders making a donut. The ridges left in the road need to be graded out. Sometimes two inches of material needs to be bladed down to remove these ridges. The cost of grading is incurred by local government units which maintain the road, and results in increased taxes to local property owners. For the rider, this is a very unsafe act. Considering you're not strapped into the seat at all, if you go crashing, you're gonna go flying! Nothing sounds more painful than that! The high center of gravity of the rider on a class I ATV, combined with the centrifugal force of the spin, will typically cause a roll-over, or the rider being thrown from the machine, resulting in possible head trauma and broken bones. Respect our roads and yourself. Ride as if everyone is watching, Speak as everyone is listening, Post and if everyone is reading.



### **Your OTHG Club Officers**

Perry May, President: [ptmdmay@comcast.net](mailto:ptmdmay@comcast.net) (term expires July 31, 2022)

Lynn Remington, Vice President: [l54rems@gmail.com](mailto:l54rems@gmail.com) (term expires July 31, 2021)

Laurie Elsberry, Secretary: [laurieelsberry7@gmail.com](mailto:laurieelsberry7@gmail.com) (term expires July 31, 2022)

Jim Remington, Treasurer / Membership: [jrems53@gmail.com](mailto:jrems53@gmail.com) (term expires July 31, 2021)

Mike Melberg, Trail Coordinator, [Mike.melberg@gmail.com](mailto:Mike.melberg@gmail.com) (term expires July 31, 2022)

Rod Wegner, Trail Coordinator /Social Media: [hiker\\_rod@yahoo.com](mailto:hiker_rod@yahoo.com) (term expires July 31, 2022)

David Thompson, Trail Coordinator: [tamarackplace@yahoo.com](mailto:tamarackplace@yahoo.com) (term expires July 31, 2021)

General Club Email: [overthehillsgang@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.atvam.org)

