



One of our new club logos we are considering for 2021



Current Club logo since 2001

OTHG ATV Club turns 20!

In 2000, while sitting on the deck of the Village Inn, in Outing, MN a group of local riders decided to form an ATV Club, which they named the Over the Hills Gang. This original group that signed up as members in August 2000, included Earl Armstrong, Marvin Berry, Darryl (a.k.a Mike) and Darlene Michel, Ila Bogucki, Heather Olds, Brad Mitlyng, Fran and Ken Olds, Meri and Jack Lysne, Don Littleton, Laurie Blaido, Tim and Jean Prax, Chuck and Ginny Rath, and James Shellito. They were the original 18 gang members that got together for weekly rides, and explored areas that few had seen before. There were forest firebreaks that were cut to remove dry timber from the 1969 Outing tornado which served as beginning trails. There were areas that some knew as young kids, such as the play area on Dickerson Hill, the ridge behind Morrison Lake, and the area northeast of 1/2-mile hill. Yes, it was fun to go "**Over the Hills**". There were mud holes that had to be explored, and hills that needed to be climbed. Marv Berry liked electronics and he was one of the first to navigate new areas using GPS, which kept the group from going in circles, and also served as beginning routes for our trails today. The club officially was granted **Articles of Incorporation in August, 2001.**

(Pictured above: Sept. 29th, 2001 Club Meeting at Luschers Park / photo credit to Marv Berry)

During this same time, local riders began hearing about the complaints from silent sports groups. The MN DNR was also vocal, and started closing down areas in forest areas where ATV's could not operate. Anti-motorized groups pushed for no ATV's in any forest. Earl Armstrong began researching a state ATV Association named ATVAM or the All-Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota, while Fran Olds was invited to be part of the Cass County Recreational Advisory Board. The information they collected made it clear that they needed to formalize as a club, and "protect their rights to ride on public lands", promote what they felt was a safe and fun recreational sport, and begin promoting this relatively new recreational activity to the local area.

Fran Olds, was elected as the first Club President in 2001, and turned over leadership to Earl Armstrong in 2002. The club by-laws were borrowed from the Outing Chamber, and changed through the years as the club changed. Meri Lysne was elected Club President in 2003 and held that position for the next 15 years until current club President, Perry May, took-over in September 2017. Through these infant years the group began a

pig roast and riding fundraising event called the Pork N' Ride. This event began in 2002 which helped raise funds to maintain trails. The club hosted the ATVAM spring ride in 2003 and Fall convention in 2005 with over 700 machines counted driving up Patella's Rd. on their way to the Moose River Trails which opened in 1995. The club began hosting Youth ATV Safety Training which required club members to become MN DNR Certified Safety Instructors. In 2014 the first 56-mile Grant-In-Aid ATV trails named the Emily Outing ATV Trails opened after 10-years of club efforts. Meri oversaw a time of great expansion in ATV recreational riding, with 148,000 ATV's registered in 2001 to 324,000 machines registered today. As in 2001, the work of the club continues to educate new riders on regulations, riding safely and ethically, and to build more sustainable trails.

We owe much to this original group of 18 who had the foresight of putting an ATV club together. Many of the original members, were, and still are, successful community and business leaders, and maintain their club membership today. Currently the club has over 300 paid memberships which includes over 50 local businesses, and includes the communities of Outing, Emily and Fifty Lakes. All together, our club membership is around 500 members. Thank You to the 2001 Gang of 18! We hope to celebrate with you at the clubs 20th anniversary on June 19th, 2021 during the 19th annual, Pork N' Ride event hosted by the Emily Log Cabin Bar.

Sept.30, 2001 Club Ride - photo credit by Marv Berry





City of Fifty Lakes / ATV Destination

The City of Fifty Lakes Mayor and City Council extended an invitation to OTHG Club President Perry May to discuss the possibilities of a new Grant-In-Aid ATV Trail to connect Fifty Lakes to the City of Emily, and also to the current Emily Outing, and future Emily Blind Lake ATV Trails. A working group has been established, and has already met with the Crow Wing County personnel to communicate the trail initiative. Mayor, Steve Dahlke, stated "we want to be on the map and be an ATV Destination". The city would also like to promote our club, and has taken steps to offer a free 12" pizza for every new member that signs up; a limited time offer. More details can be found by visiting the 50-lakes Bar, where good food is always served. Being a club member promotes the goal of safe and informed ATV riding, and helps the establishment of new trails. The OTHG ATV Club will be holding their annual ATV Safety Training on Saturday, May 1st, in Fifty Lakes. All three safety training sessions are full.

Free Pizza

**Join the Over the Hills Gang
ATV Club @ Fifty Lakes Bar**

FREE

12" Heggie's Pizza of your choice
See Bartender for details



Over the Hills Gang
ATV Club
www.overthehillsgang.net

Cash or Credit/Debit Card Accepted

ATV Trails are Closed until May 15th



Trail gates are closed, snow fence being put up, and closed signs posted. The Emily Outing and Moose River ATV Trails are closed until the expected opening on May 15th. Reminder: ATV 's are not allowed on any Grant-In-Aid snowmobile trails, groomed or ungroomed between Dec. 1st and April 1st. Highway and County road ditches are also very vulnerable to damage during spring thaw. The MN Highway 6 ditch between Emily and Outing is also a grant-in-aid trail and closed to ATV's until May 15th. Trail and /or ditch damage now can possibly delay trail opening. Going around trail closed signs can be a trespassing violation . Many forest roads and forests also close during spring thaw. Check seasonal or temporary Road, Trails and Forest

closures at: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/trailconditions/index.html> Know before you Go

New ATV Safety Brochure



In an effort to get more ATV Safety Information into the hands of local residents, visitors, and ATV riders to our area, Jim Remington, led an effort to create a new one-page, two-sided, tri-fold brochure. The information in the brochure does not replace the MN DNR Off-Highway Vehicle Regulation booklets, but highlights top ATV violations, ATV Riding specifically in Crow Wing & Cass County, and some riding tips that will help keep you safe on the trails. Contributing information for this brochure included our local MN DNR Conservation Officers Chelsey Best, and Calie Kunst, along with Cass and Crow Wing Sheriff Departments. The club plans to print and distribute these brochures to area businesses in the Spring before trails open. The full brochure can be viewed on the Clubs FB page or at www.overthehillsgang.org under the Trails & Maps tab.

Bits & Pieces

The OTHG ATV Club joined the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber of Commerce. We will be co-hosting an after hours business event with the Cuyuna Iron Range Riders ATV Club on October 21, 2021 from 4pm to 7pm

2021 Trail Map revisions are in the works. Jim Remington is leading the effort on new or revised business ad's for the map. We are targeting May 15th for distribution of maps.

Our OTHG 2021 Ride & Event schedule is complete and posted on our website at www.overthehillsgang.org. The largest change to the schedule is the date for the Pork N' Ride which will be held on Fathers Day weekend June 19th, 2021. Historically, this event has always been held on the 1st weekend of June. Considering the ever changing Covid 19 restrictions for gatherings, and the volunteer resource needs to complete 450 feet of puncheon boardwalk in the spring for the Emily Blind Lake ATV trail, members attending our February Club meeting voted to move it back a few weeks. We have a Pork N Ride information page under the events tab on our website.

On February 26th in Backus, MN, club members Mike Melberg, David Thompson, Rod Wegner, Jim Remington and Perry May met with Cass County Land Commissioner Kirk Titus, and County Forester Amy Rand to discuss possible trail issues and changes. Cass County is our Grant-In-Aid sponsor for the Emily Outing ATV Trail. No new trail route changes or additions to report at this time.

On March 9th, OTHG ATV Club President Perry May along with Snowbirds Snowmobile Club President Dean Kapler were invited to the Emily City Council meeting to discuss ATV and Snowmobile traffic flow through the City of Emily. A plan to improve rider traffic through town will be presented at the April council meeting. Largest concerns include better signage to inform riders to keep-off city sidewalks, and larger and more Trail Route signs through approved city streets.

Enbridge Line 3 pipeline work continues in the Moose River ATV Trails area. By May 1st, the pipeline should all be in the ground and covered. We are working directly with Enbridge contacts and the DNR on how we should sign and direct riders to the trails when making a direct crossing over the pipeline.

Tim Sink will be our clubs new ATVMN voting representative. Each ATVMN club gets one vote for officer elections, bylaw changes, or issues concerning clubs or the association. The Club President is typically the voting member, however, since OTHG Club President, Perry May, is also on the ATVMN Executive Board, he is only allowed one vote for his position, and cannot also vote representing the club.

Next OTHG Club Meeting is on April 3rd, 2020, beginning at 10am at Emily Log Cabin Bar

Proud to be an ATV MN 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 ATV MN news happening across Minnesota and how ATV MN is working for you. Get a free subscription to Minnesota Wheelin Magazine as part of your membership. Join today at www.atvam.org



TEE SHIRT BLOWOUT

We have limited quantities of shirts in odd sizes, We are blowing them out to make room for the new 2021 Apparel Line. Quantities are limited and there will be no back orders or rainchecks. If your choice is not available I will contact you with what is available or a refund.

Pork and Ride Youth T Shirts \$ 10.00 each

Medium available in Pink, Fuchsia, and Gray

Large available in Pink, Fuchsia, and Gray

Pork and Ride Adult T Shirts \$10.00

Small, available in Burnt Orange, Sage, Brown, Tan,

Medium available in Sage, Brown, Tan, Gray

MN ATV Adult T Shirts \$10.00

Large, SS Gray shirt Pink/Black Logo

X Large, SS Gray shirt Pink/Black Logo

2X Large, SS Gray shirt Pink/Black Logo

2X Large, SS Gray shirt Orange/Black Logo

3X Large, SS Gray shirt Orange/Black Logo

Your OTHG Club Officers

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

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

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

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

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

Rod Wegner, Trail Coordinator /Social Media: hiker_rod@yahoo.com (term expires July 31, 2022)

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

General Club Email: overthehillsgang@gmail.com

Mailing address

Over the Hills Gang

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