



## Registration is Open for 2022 Ride & Rally



Registration for the 2022 All-Terrain Vehicle Association State Convention, the Ride & Rally, is now open. This fun three-day event being held in Fifty Lakes, MN on the days of September 16-18, 2022 is being hosted by the City of Fifty Lakes and the Over the Hills Gang ATV Club. If you like food, music, guided ATV rides, raffles, bonfires, fireworks, an ATV Fair, and more, this is the place to be! The main event webpage can be found by clicking here: [ATVMN 2022 Ride & Rally](#). If you have interest in donating, sponsoring, or advertising your business, visit the sponsor tab on the event web-page: [Sponsorship info](#). Our club will need plenty of volunteers to make this event a success, so keep watch of upcoming volunteer opportunities.

## Free Pizza Promotion Report Card

In March of 2021, OTHG President, Perry May, and Treasurer, Jim Remington, were invited to meet with Fifty Lakes Mayor Steve Dahlke and City Council members. Mayor Dahlke had one simple question: "We want to be an ATV Destination; can you help?"

Action steps included working on a new Fifty Lakes Grant-In-Aid ATV Trail, ATV Safety Information & Training, and a Fifty Lakes Pizza Promotion for every new OTHG club membership. As of March 1st, 2022 a total of 67 new memberships, which included 4 business memberships, joined the Over the Hills Gang ATV Club. This promotion officially ended March 16th. The OTHG wants to thank The City of Fifty Lakes for this Outstanding promotion and Welcome to all New Club Members.



In September 2021, Fifty Lakes submitted a proposal to host the 2022 All-Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota State Convention. Their proposal was chosen, and I believe they will be soon known as a Minnesota ATV Destination - More good things to come.

## When do Trails Open?

When the first signs of brown dirt appears from warm melting temperatures, it seems to trigger the question: When do Trails Open?

For the Emily / Outing including the Moose River ATV Trails and the Emily / Blind Lake ATV Trail, **the trail opening date is May 15th, 2022**. This date is set through our Grant-In-Aid agreements with many land-managers that these trails cross over, and can be moved later if soil conditions are not sufficient to support ATV recreation.



The OTHG ATV Club uses the name "trail" when a route or alignment is placed in the Minnesota Trails Assistance Program, also known as Grant-In-Aid. These trails are mapped, signed, receive grant funds to help maintain, carry liability insurance, monitored by MN DNR Volunteer Trail Ambassadors and regularly monitored by Enforcement agency's. Trails tend to attract amenities and services which support trail users, including rider navigation apps, such as Avenza and Polaris Ride Command. Everything else that ATV riders use to get from point A to B, we consider a user route. The April newsletter will dive more deeply into routes, why they are not mapped, and managed differently than a "Trail".

**How is the May 15th date chosen?** The state of Minnesota is made up of two climate zones, Zone 6 which is roughly south of a line from Duluth to Moorhead, and Zone 7 to the north. We are in Zone 7 and typically see more snow, colder temperatures and deeper frost depths. Historical averages tell us that most of our snow is gone by May 1st, however, ground frost can last late into May. We also have various soil types in our area, ranging from sandy & loamy, to clay & gravel. These soils can absorb winter melt differently. As a trail administrator, we need time to check the trails for down trees, missing or damaged signs, or unsafe trail areas. We also coordinate with trail systems that we connect to. Our trails connect to the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System, and their planned trail opening date is also May 15th. Mother Nature can always provide us with a surprise, such as a late season heavy snow, or early spring rains, so if soil conditions are not ready, we will delay trail opening.

**The best advice I can provide is patience.** Damaging trails early in the year creates trail issues all through the summer. The MN DNR Trail Closure page is updated every Thursday after 2pm. Follow this link for MN DNR Trail Closure Information: [ATV Trail Closures](#). Every trail is different - Know before you Go



Congratulations to our newest OTHG ATV Club Volunteer Trail Ambassadors, Brandon Baker and Shari Stephan. Both have completed training for being a Certified ATV Safety Instructor, and a MN DNR Volunteer Trail Ambassador. This brings our club total TA's up to 11. If you have interest in becoming a TA or want to know more about the TA program, contact Jim Remington at [jrem53@gmail.com](mailto:jrem53@gmail.com).

## ATV Safety Training on April 30, 2022



We will be holding our annual ATV Safety training on April 30th, 2022 in the City of Fifty Lakes, MN

- AM Session begins at 8:30 am (max 20 students)
- PM Session begins at 12:30 pm (max 20 students)

### Pre-Requisites for achieving ATV Safety Certificate:

- Students must be a minimum of 10 years of age to take hands-on training
- Students aged 10-15 must complete MN Online Safety Class at [ATVcourse.com](http://ATVcourse.com) (cost \$24.95) before attending hands-on training
- Must be 12 years of age to apply for MN ATV Safety Certificate
- Students Age 16 and older or born after July 1, 1987 must complete On-line Safety Training course to apply for ATV Safety Certificate

### Pre-Registration

Contact Cindy Thompson by email at: [cindythompson0203@gmail.com](mailto:cindythompson0203@gmail.com) or mobile 763-592-9330

(Additional course information will be sent after preregistering)

Space is limited and classes are filling up. Pre-Registration is open now for either the AM or PM training session.

## Winter Grooming the Moose River Trail



Randy Avenson from the Gull Lake Drifters brought over the club's Kubota RTV 1100c w/tracks and a 6w x 12L drag to groom the Plantation loop on the Moose River Trails. This was a test to see if regular grooming on high-snow fall years will support wheeled ATV use during the winter. Blake Bogdanovich rode his Class 1 while capturing the test in pictures and video. Test took place on Feb. 20th.



Rod Wegner rode his Class II Polaris RZR to test the compaction immediately after the groom. Although the trail was freshly compacted, and without time to set-up and freeze, it was able to sustain the weight of Rod's machine.

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**The Moose River ATV Trails are open year-round for ATV riding except for seasonal closures like the spring thaw, poor soil conditions, or logging operations. These trails do not cross over or share use with any grant-in-aid snowmobile trails.**

### Upcoming Club Meetings & Events

April 2 - Club Meeting 10 am, Emily Log Cabin Bar

April 30 - ATV Safety Training, (AM & PM Sessions) Fifty Lakes MN

May 7 - Club Meeting 10 am, Emily Log Cabin Bar & Adopt a Highway Clean-Up at 11:15 am

June 18 - 20th Annual Pork N' Ride at Emily Log Cabin Bar at 10 am

Click link for full 2022 [OTHG Event Schedule](#)



Join us at our April 2 Club meeting to vote on the name for our new "Loop" Trail. The Emily Blind Lake ATV Trail joins the Blind Lake Connector, which joins the North Soo Line, which joins the Moose River Connector, which joins the Emily Outing ATV Trail. These five trails form a continuous 70+ mile loop bringing you back to the place you started. Rod Wegner started a Facebook naming contest, and over 90 name submissions have been posted for consideration. Just maybe you will also find out who was first to travel the loop. Clue word "Willow"

### Your OTHG Club Officers

Perry May, President: (term expires July 31, 2022)

Rod Wegner, Vice President: (term expires July 31, 2023)

Laurie Elsberry, Secretary: (term expires July 31, 2022)

Jim Remington, Treasurer / Membership: (term expires July 31, 2023)

Mike Meelberg, Trail Coordinator, (term expires July 31, 2022)

Terry Sewill, Trail Coordinator: (term expires July 31, 2022)

David Thompson, Trail Coordinator: (term expires July 31, 2023)

To contact a Club Officer or 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 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 [atvmn.org](http://atvmn.org) Only \$20 per year.



## A huge Thank You to all our Business Sponsors

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NORTH GIFTS, THE PICKLED LOON SALOON, UP A CREEK CAMPGROUND, VILLAGE INN, WANNEBO  
EXCAVATING, WIGWAM MOTEL

Over The Hills Gang | PO Box 40, Outing, MN 56662