



OVER THE HILLS GANG

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOL 56 | JUNE 2023



What's New! Community News

[Check out our website for more news!](#)

OTHG @ Emily Day

One of the most fun days of the year, the annual Emily Day celebration, brings hundreds of people in from all around the town to enjoy and celebrate all things great about the city of Emily. Over The Hills Gang is proud to be a part of that celebration! We had the Club merchandise booth setup for most of the day, talking with people and making new friends while we sold people all types of Club swag.



We were even in the Emily Day Parade!!

For the first time in a few years the Club was represented in the parade! 15 machines were driven by Club members (and 1 honorary non-human club member). We tossed out swag,

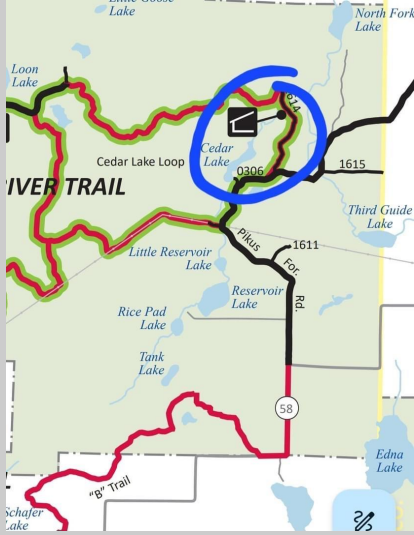


boat loads of candy, and even some freezy pops. It was all fun and games until Betty B. (the mannequin) tumbled from her perch atop Tori's machine and gave everyone a good laugh.



The Cedar Lake shelter got a little freshening up!

It's a great spot to stop on your day trip for a bite to eat or a bathroom break. It's an even better spot to stop on your night ride!



The fire pit is ready to enjoy and make some great s'mores!!



Dusty Trails

When our weather turns dry, our trails and public gravel roads that we use for connections turn dusty. I don't know of anyone that likes dust. Riders, residents, construction crews, and farmers all dislike dust. Dust blows through the air, getting into our eyes, our hair, covers our machines and belongings in every nook and cranny imaginable, into our engines, and into our homes. Worst of all, we can breathe in dust, which can affect our health.

Dust is dirt made up of bits of earthen material and other forms of particulate matter which is kicked up by tires from vehicles & trailers that become airborne. The wind then carries these airborne particles in whatever direction the wind is blowing. Unpaved gravel roads in rural areas are a major source for the creation of airborne dust. So, when the weather turns dry, many complaints about ATVs and dust come to the attention of township, county, state, and club officials.

As we all know, ATVs are only one form of vehicular traffic that creates dust, however, there are things we can do as riders to reduce dust.

1. **Ride when the trails are damp or after a recent rain** Water is mother nature's solution to dust. Moisture helps glue fine particles together and makes particles denser that prevents fine particles from becoming airborne.
2. **Slow your speed**. Studies show that a speed reduction from 40 mph to 20

mph can reduce dust by 65%. Our club recommends 15 mph in areas where residents or businesses are close to the trail, or when public roads are used as road connections.

3. **Avoid high use areas.** There are sections of our trail system that are highly used, such as road connections close to town. Plan your route to avoid these sections and where dust is contained in the forested areas of our trail.

Our club takes proactive actions working with local townships to help with dust control. One of these measures is asking our volunteer Fire Department to use their tanker truck to wet down public roads that are used for trail connections during major events. This is a temporary solution but does provide a small measure of relief. Ride Routes during events are modified to avoid high traffic areas and rerouted temporarily to avoid adding more vehicular traffic to dusty roads.

Two of our bigger actions include:

Partnering with the Outing Area Chamber. Our club works with the chamber to help fund the application of dust suppressants on public road connections such as Calcium Chloride. This product is an inorganic compound made up of salt known as a hygroscopic material. Calcium chloride (CaCl_2) absorbs moisture from the air. It can attract several times its own weight in water, dissolving into a liquid brine if the air is humid enough and the temperature is high enough. When applied to public roads the brine bonds with loose dirt particles making them less capable of becoming airborne. Calcium Chloride does have some negative effects on the environment if applied incorrectly and can be corrosive to metal parts.

Our trails are funded in part by the Minnesota Trail Assistance Program known as Grant-In-Aid administered by the MN DNR Parks & Trails Department. Dust control is not an expense funded by this program and does not fall under the category of routine maintenance. We do have major trail connections such as Sunset Hill Road, Morrison Lake Road, and Dam Road that we do petition the DNR for funds to help with the expense of Calcium Chloride application. Through club fundraising efforts, donations, and together with the Outing Area Chamber we have annually paid for dust control efforts since 2014. Our club *cannot* contract or apply calcium chloride to public roads. Each public road is managed by a Road Authority, typically with a Township, City, County, or State jurisdiction. A Road Authority is responsible for the construction, repair, and maintenance of that public road. Public roads have a mixed use which includes cars, trucks, construction vehicles, delivery vans, motorcycles, bikes, golf carts, and ATV's. Even though the road is shared public use, our club and chamber have contributed up to 100% for the costs of dust control for the section of road supporting trail connections.

Aggregate testing. Unlike gravel roads, most of our trails run over soils that are made up of small fine rounded aggregate materials such as sand. Sandy soils drain and dry more quickly, resulting in a dustier environment. In areas where our trails run close by businesses or residents, we have been testing various aggregate material that are more irregular in shape and are harder to crush into finer particles which can then create dust. We have tested the red mining chip rock, dyed red from the iron ore from which it was mined, crushed concrete, crushed asphalt,

round river rock, class 5 gravel, and most recently washed crushed granite. Irregular shape aggregate helps it stay in place and not be so easily displaced by the weight (compaction) and movement of an ATV. To date, crushed granite when constrained by a fabric called geocell has shown promise in reducing dust by 75%. Although expensive to apply to the trail, our club will continue to expand the areas of testing of this concept.

Through the efforts of David Thompson, Crooked Lake Township Supervisor, dust-control alternatives to Calcium Chloride such as a product named Perma-Zyme, (substrata.us/perma-zyme) have been looked at more closely. Using a special enzyme formula, Perma-Zyme bonds soil particles together to form a concrete-like surface that lasts 10 years or more. This product needs to be mixed in with the road aggregate, and the road aggregate needs to have the correct amount of clay to help bind the loose particles together. This product was applied on the first 1.5-mile section of Sunset-Hill Road in 2022. Regular observations by township road supervisors have shown the reduction of dust when compared to sections of road without Perma-Zyme. This product is not designed to eliminate dust, however, by binding more of the road surface small particles together it does reduce airborne dust.



Protecting yourself from dust is always a good idea. When out riding wear a good dust filtration mask. A Minnesota company called RZ Mask, rzmask.com, provides a range of alternatives for the outdoor power sports industry. Wear a good set of goggles to protect your eyes. Getting grit in your eyes can be a source of irritation and can scratch your eye if not flushed out. Side sealing gaskets are a must when dealing with dust. Ride with your lights on. This is not only a MN ATV regulation, but it will protect you in a dusty environment. Your lights will help you see what's ahead and help the rider behind or approaching see you. Just like night riding, reduce your speed in a dusty environment to clearly see any hazards ahead of you. If you are riding in a group, give yourself some added space between you and the next machine in front.

Think about your machine. Dust can easily clog air filters and radiators. A dirty air filter decreases the amount of air supplied to the engine. This can lead to an increase in unburned fuel that turns into soot residue. Soot can build up on the spark plug tips making them unable to deliver a proper spark which can result in stalling, poor starting, and poor gas mileage. Even though the radiator fins may look clean and have been recently blown out with compressed air or even washed out with water, there may still be enough dust and dirt on them (usually between

the fins) to keep the radiator from effectively transferring heat efficiently. A radiator is essentially a heat exchanger. Its function is to cool the engine by “exchanging” the engine heat that has been transferred to the coolant with the cooler air that is pushing across and through it either naturally as the ATV moves along the trail or via an electric fan that pulls the air through it. By partially blocking the cooling fins with dust, an ATV may experience higher operating temperatures and overheating.

In summary we can conclude that we do not like dust. The Over the Hills Gang ATV Club understands the implications of dust and is working with our communities to reduce dust. Through our research we have not found a solution for dust elimination, however, we can all take steps to reduce dust.

Perry May
Grant Manager
Over the Hills Gang ATV Club



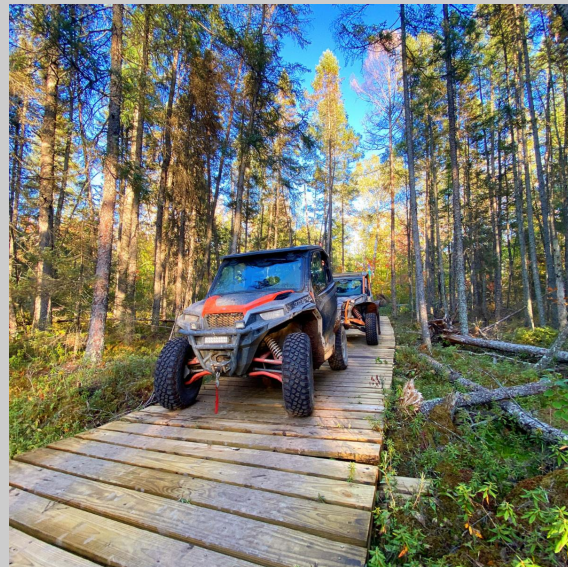
Media & Communications



Marketing

The website has all of the clothing and accessories that you can order and have shipped!

**In-person sales at the Lions Corn Feed
August 19th.**



Events

We have many events already planned and on the calendar. Plan ahead to join us and check back as we continue to add more!

Visit our Shop

Check Out Our Events Calendar

marketing@overthehillsgang.org

events@overthehillsgang.org

Upcoming Events

Next Club Meeting: August 5th at 10am at the Log Cabin Bar in Emily, MN



Safety and Trail Updates



Volunteers Needed

Our Trail Coordinators are looking for trail volunteers to monitor a section of trail for missing/damaged signs, unsafe trail conditions, trail braiding, boardwalk repairs, etc and report back to the Trail Coordinators. Monitoring should be done every 2-4 weeks throughout the riding season. Mileage will be a reimbursable expense.

Listed below are the sections that we need volunteers to help monitor

- Emily Blind Lake Trail (Emily to Blind Lake Connector)
- "B" Trail from Mill Rd to the Cass County Line
- "B" Trail from the Cass County Line to the Cedar Lake Loop
- "A" Trail from Sunset Hill Rd to the Wren Lake Loop
- Plantation and Wren Loops on the Moose River Trails
- Cedar Lake Loop on the Moose River Trails

Contact us if interested: trailcoordinators@overthehillsgang.org

Membership

Contact us if you would like to become a member!

New members are added to the newsletter mailings and will receive a confirmation letter at the end of the month that they join. Included in the letter is an Over The Hills Gang decal. Trail repair volunteers that are not members are given a complimentary one-year membership. By becoming members they are also covered under the Club's insurance if injured working on the trail.

If you are a member and are not receiving the newsletter, please see contact information below.

[Become a Member!](#)

Contact Us:
membership@overthehillsgang.org

Nominations

Manage the collection of nominations for outgoing Club officers and Directors and recruit members for committees. The committee shall work under the oversight of the Secretary.

Committee members:

1. Becky Tuckenhagen
2. Dan Barrett
3. Kim Dylla
4. Mike Melberg
5. Jim Remington
6. Rod Wegner

By-Laws

Update as required

Committee members:

1. Perry May
2. Tim Sink
3. David Thompson
4. Kim Dylla

Thank you to our Business Sponsors!!

218 SIGNS AND GRAPHICS | 401 MANUFACTURING | ALEX HARTMANN RE/MAX RESULTS | ALL PINE INN
ANDERSON CARPET SERVICE | ANGELL'S HIDEAWAY | ANIMAL HOUSE PET RESORT
ASCEND NORTH ADVENTURES | BRAINERD WATERPROOFING | BROTHERS MOTORSPORTS
CASS COUNTY CONSTRUCTION | CENTRAL LAKES LANDSCAPING | CHOPPER CITY SPORTS
CLASSIC RENOVATIONS | CROOKED LAKE CAFE/SHADOW PIZZA | CROSBY-IRONTON COURIER
DENISE GORSUCH RE/MAX RESULTS | DINERS CHICKEN SHACK | DUNMIRES | EMILY ACE HARDWARE
EMILY GREENS GOLF COURSE | EMILY MARKETPLACE | EMILY MEATS | EMILY MOTOR SPORTS | FAHEY
FLOORING FARM ISLAND REPAIR AND MARIBNE | FRANKS RESORT | FRONTIER CABINETS | HONSA
SURVEYING | INSTANT SPACE RENTAL | JUST ADD VODKA DESIGNS | LAKE COUNTRY PROPERTIES | LAKE
EMILY RESORT | LAND O LAKES MARINE | LOG CABIN BAR

MARK BRADLEY LLC | MOONLITE BAY | MORITZ EXCAVATING AND SEPTIC | NAK MACHINING
NORTHERN LAKES ELECTRIC | NORTHWOODS LAWN CARE | OUTING YARN SHOP | OWLS AND THINGS
PINE RIVER STATE BANK | PINECROFT VENTURES | POWERLODGE, | POWERLODGE ADVENTURE RENTAL
PROGRESSIVE FOREST PRODUCTS LLC | RAYS SPORTS | R.P.M OF EMILY | RED PINE COOKHOUSE
REDDINGS SPORTS AND SPIRITS | REMER CUSTOM DOCKS AND IRONWORKS
RICE CONTRACTING | SEABERG MOTORSPORTS | SHADBERRY LIQUOR STORE | SKIRTS N DIRT
SWEETS AND SUCH/UP NORTH GIFTS | THE CHANNEL BAR AND GRILL | THE PICKLED LOON SALOON
TREMOLO COMMUNICATIONS | UP A CREEK CAMPGROUND | UP NORTH ELECTRIC LLC
WANNEBO EXCAVATING | WIGWAM MOTEL

OTHG Board of Directors

Steve Beneke, President: (term expires Oct 31, 2024)
Rod Wegner, Vice President: (term expires Oct 31, 2023)
Becky Tuckenhagen, Secretary: (term expires Oct 31, 2024)
Jim Remington, Treasurer/Membership: (term expires Oct 31, 2023)
Mike Meelberg, Trail Coordinator #1, (term expires Oct 31, 2024)
Terry Sewill, Trail Coordinator #2: (term expires Oct 31, 2023)
David Thompson, Trail Coordinator #3: (term expires Oct 31, 2023)
Perry May, Grant Manager: (term expires Oct 31, 2024)
Tim Sink, Director at Large: (term expires Oct 31, 2023)

[OVERTHEHILLSGANG.ORG](https://overthehillsgang.org)

[G](https://www.google.com)

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