



# OVER THE HILLS GANG

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOL 63 | NOVEMBER 2024

## Community News Remembering Jack

### Remembering Jack

One of the early and most active members of the Over the Hills Gang ATV Club, John Halverson, passed away on September 23, 2024, at the age of 87.

Most of us knew him as Jack, and we will miss his humor, insights, and his riding style (fast). John helped design and construct some of the area's first ATV trails, along with friends Len Hardy, Dick Beam, Jack Lysne, Jim Hilger, Doug Gifford, Brian Erdmann, and others, that later became the Emily Outing ATV Trail.

He attended countless public meetings to advocate for safe, sustainable and connected trails. John was a certified MN DNR Safety Instructor, and in 2023 helped with a Remer High School ATV safety class of over 40 students, managing the ramp obstacle.

He served as a MN DNR Volunteer Trail Ambassador, and a Ride Leader for many OTHG ATV Club events. John was one of the favorite ride leaders, taking people down trails / logging roads / water holes and whatever he thought was fun.

One of his most favorite spots, he called the Honda carwash. Many riders would comment "It's tough to keep up with that guy".

John stayed active in the club, giving advice to current trail coordinators just one week before his death. John was a



THE GOIN' TO THE LAKE crew from WCCO Television was treated to an ATV ride from the Over the Hills Gang ATV Club, starting at Granny's Bar and Grill and ending at Sweets n' Such in Emily, where they were treated with ice cream. Enjoying the ride were WCCO/CBS Meteorologist

Chris Shaffer, News Anchor Liz Collins and Over the Hill Gang ATV club members and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Volunteer Trail Ambassadors Dave Kodada, Daniel Olmschenk, Ben Allen, John Halverson, Lynn Remington, Bub Moser and Perry May.

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attending the  
under age 18



Korean War Veteran and routinely wore his hat that read "Proudly Served". Johns' wife, Brydgette (Betty) was also an active member in the club, until her passing in 2009. It is tough to watch our early club members leave us, however, they leave us with some incredible memories and great ATV trails.



*Rest in Peace John*

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

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## Media & Communications

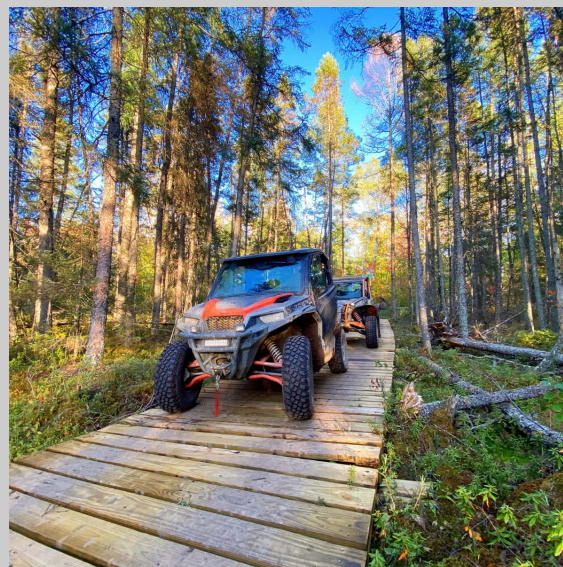
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### Marketing

Did you miss the sale on Over the Hills Gang clothing during Autumn Log N Ride? Sale prices are now online, but hurry because quantities are limited. We also have new Over the Hills Gang merchandise that would make a great holiday give. Be sure to check it out!

[Visit our Shop](#)



### Events

The club does not have meetings in November, December, and January. Join us again in February to start planning for the next season of fun!

Volunteers are needed and always welcomed!! If interested, let us know through the email below.

[Check Out Our Events Calendar](#)

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## Upcoming Events

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## *Getting Loose on the Moose* Saturday, December 14 | 11am-4pm

Join us on Saturday, December 14 from 11am to 4pm for Getting Loose on the Moose!

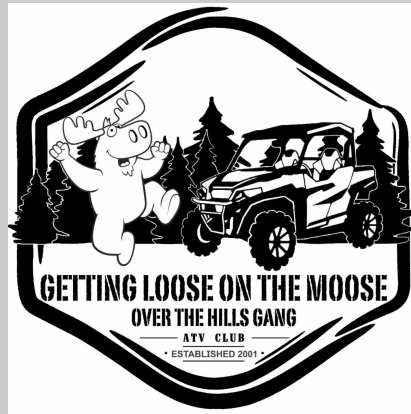
Again this year we will have a "Bonfire crawl" winter ATV ride on the Moose River Trail.

There will be 4 bonfires staffed by volunteers, offering a variety of food and hot beverage options.

Parking is available at the Draper Road ATV parking lot, or west of Hwy 6 along the edge of Draper Road.

Parking is challenging in the winter so please be patient.

Details subject to change so watch our website and Facebook page for updates on this event and all our club events.



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## Past Events:

**Autumn Log N Ride** was a great success. We had a great turnout of ATV riders and the weather was perfect for a Fall ride. Our club volunteers sold raffle tickets, merchandise, and brats. Thank you Log Cabin Bar for hosting this event for us.

Thank you Emily Meats for donating the brats and buns. The day ended with the Annual Raffle Drawing, thank you to everyone that bought raffle tickets supporting the club. Our winners were:

- 1st Place- 2024 Polaris Sportsman 570- Brad Schlagel
- 2nd Place- \$900 Power Lodge Gift Card- Brian Foster
- 3rd Place- \$500 Cash- Zach Kuechle
- 4th Place- \$250 Power Lodge Gift Card- Wayne Jorgenson
- 5th Place- \$100 Power Lodge Gift Card- Krista Hastings
- 6th Place- \$100 OTHG Swag Bag- Mary Kottke
- 7th Place- ATV Helmet- Ryan Aarestad
- 8th Place- \$100 Chopper City Gift Card- Kathie Huettl
- 9th Place- \$110 Chopper City Gift Card- Andy Heid





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## Trail Updates

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### Northwoods Happenings

The Northwoods Regional ATV Trail Alliance (NRATA) held their quarterly meeting on October 9, 2024 at the Village Inn in Outing. The OTHG Club is a member of this current 8 club alliance that manages over 500 miles of a connected trail system in north central Minnesota. The next meeting is January 15, 2025 in Aitkin. Here are some of the key items discussed.

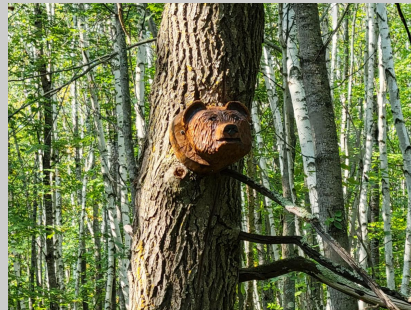
- The development of an electronic map that would include all 11 trail segments on one map to be available using Avenza.
- Eagle Country Snowmobile & ATV Club, based out of Remer, will be hosting the 2025 ATV Minnesota Ride & Roast on Saturday May 17, 2025. See [ATVMN.org](http://ATVMN.org) for details
- A second Northwoods grant of \$250,000 has been approved for use in 2025 to repair segments of the NRATA System. The



Northwoods Trail System is poorly marketed. It is the largest connected trail system in Minnesota, and in the upper midwest. The trail allows a rider to ride into Wisconsin and Michigan. Each year Trail Counters continue to show an increase of riders on this trail system providing much needed income to rural communities. Look for a plan to hold a NRATA open house with tourism and legislative officials in the near future

OTHG has asked for \$25,000 of this grant to use on the southern part of the Cedar and Wren loops of the Moose River ATV Trails

- The Range Riders ATV Club out of Grand Rapids, who hosted the MN Ride & Rally, and manages the UPM Blandin Trail, attended this meeting and is considering joining the alliance. THE UPM Blandin is part of the Northwoods Trail System and a beautiful 21 mile trail connecting from the Rabey line trail north to Pokegama Lake. Zorbaz is a great tider destination on the north end.



## New Trail Additions

Little Bear has made his way out to the "A" trail somewhere north of Sunset Hill Road. Little Bear is a chainsaw carving donated to our club by chainsaw artist Brian Worth. If you get a chance to ride the Prospector Loop Trails in the Ely area, watch out for more carvings by Worth.

### Steel Bridge:

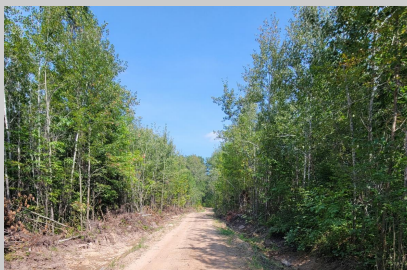
The steel bridge is located just north of Heartland Sports and Storage on our "A" trail in the MN Hwy 6 right of way. The club replaced the old Hilger bridge that spans a small creek feeding South Roosevelt Lake. The original wooden bridge was rebuilt twice by the club, once in 2012, and again in 2016. It was again sagging from the increasing ATV traffic and heavier class 2 ATV's. The new steel bridge is 9 feet wide and rated for 5 tons. This allows our Trail Coordinators to cross over the bridge with skid steers and tractors while performing trail maintenance.



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## Grant Manager Report

The OTHG has asked for \$25,000 of the \$250,000 Northwoods grant to use on the southern part of the Cedar and Wren loops of the Moose River ATV Trail (see Northwoods article above)



One of our missions for our club is to promote ATV Safety, especially for children. Here are a few statistics that highlights this mission

In the US there have been over 4,000 children 15 years of age and under who have been fatally injured in ATV or UTV accidents since 1982.

- In 9 of 10 fatalities, the victim is not wearing a helmet.
- In 95% of fatalities the victim had not received safety certification.
- 92-97% of child ATV / UTV related fatalities, the child is on an adult-sized machine.
- 63% of all fatalities are due to rollovers
- 70% happen in the right of way.

The data concerning injuries is alarming. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, 40,000 to 55,000 children are visiting Emergency Rooms each year, due to ATV/ UTV related injuries. 27% of these require hospitalization and can involve multi-system injuries including traumatic brain injury (leading cause of fatality), broken bones, internal organ injuries, spinal cord injuries, paralysis, burns, and amputations.

For children under 18, wearing a DOT approved helmet is the law as an ATV operator or passenger.

A MN ATV Safety Certificate is also mandatory for anyone born after July 1, 1987 and is at least 12 year of age to operate an ATV on public trails.

Watch the DNR website for additional classes and availability. [MN DNR ATV Safety Class Schedule](#)

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## Membership

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Contact us if you would like to become a member!

New members are added to the newsletter mailings and will receive a welcome packet by the end of the month that they join. Included in the packet is a confirmation/welcome letter, Over The Hills Gang decal, a trail map, info on annual events and fun volunteer opportunities!

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](mailto:membership@overthehillsgang.org)

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## Nominations

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Over The Hills Gang is looking is looking for a new Secretary to join our Board. If you are interested in joining our great group of Club Officers, please contact us at [overthehillsgang@gmail.com](mailto:overthehillsgang@gmail.com)

The Nominations Committee manages 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
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# By-Laws

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No new updates

Committee members:

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

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## Thank you to our Business Sponsors!!

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## OTHG Board of Directors

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Steve Beneke, President  
Rod Wegner, Vice President  
Becky Tuckenhagen, Secretary  
Melissa Sink, Treasurer/Membership  
Tim Sink, Trail Coordinator #1  
Terry Sewill, Trail Coordinator #2  
Kent Korman, Trail Coordinator #3  
Perry May, Grant Manager  
Mike Kautz, Director at Large

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[OVERTHEHILLSGANG.OR](http://OVERTHEHILLSGANG.OR)

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