

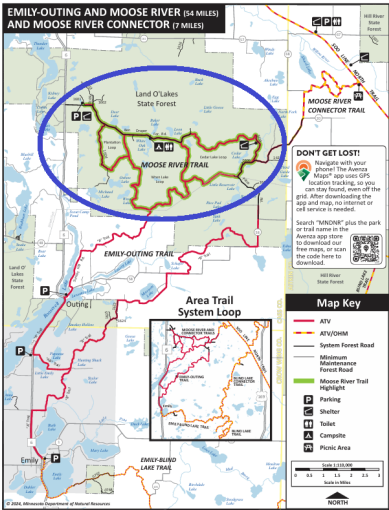


OVER THE HILLS GANG

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOL 63 | NOVEMBER 2024

Winter ATV Riding in MN Trail Updates



Nobody wants the ATV riding season to end. On the Moose River ATV trail system, it doesn't have to! Located 7 miles north of Outing, on Draper Tower Road, 29 miles of rugged Class 1 & 2 ATV trails are available for your year-round riding enjoyment

Moose River ATV Trails

When open

Closed 11/9 - 11/24 for firearms deer season.

Normal season:
Year-round (except firearms deer season)

[view closings list](#)



That's not all! 19 other trails are open for winter riding across the state!



Check out the MN DNR's convenient list of trails, which you can sort to show all the Winter ATV trails at the top. [MN DNR](#)

Winter ATV trails will close on March 15th for the Spring thaw, and open for the Summer riding season according to the date on the DNR website

Recently, the MN DNR opened up a winter season for their Grant In Aid (GIA) program, which allows clubs to draw on grant funds for the maintenance of trails during the winter. For the 2024-2025 winter riding season, the Over The Hills Gang is teaming up with the Ideal Sno Pros snowmobile club out of Ideal, MN to groom the Moose River trails with the goal of keeping them passable by a stock Class 1 ATV.



The Sno Pros will use their tracked UTV, pulling a small Arrowhead groomer to keep the snow pack at a manageable 12".



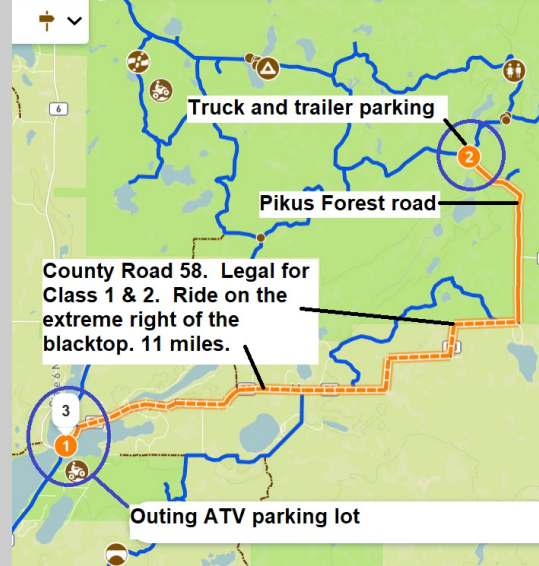
If you've ever attempted to ride through snow deeper than that, you'll know that sometimes it doesn't go so well!



The Plantation and Wren Lake Loops will be one-way signed and groomed, but the Cedar Lake loop will be left untouched for riders who like to test their machine against the full depth of Old Man Winter.



Draper Tower road and the ATV parking lot will be kept plowed for easy access by truck and trailer.
 You can also park at the intersection of Pikus Forest road and the Cedar Lake Loop.



If you don't mind a bit of road riding, parking in the town of Outing is possible as well, giving you access to gas and food to supercharge your adventure!

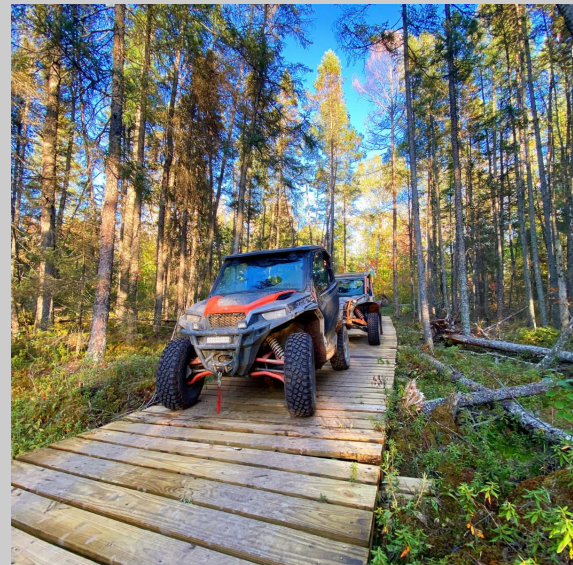
Media & Communications



Marketing

OTHG will have a trail side merch booth on Saturday, December 14 from 11 to 4 at Draper Tower Road parking lot. Stop by and do some holiday shopping! If you can't make it, shop online at our online store!

[Visit our Shop](#)



Events

Our last meeting of the 2024 year was October 26 at Fifty Lakes Bar and Grill. Elections for Board of Directors took place. Steve Beneke was re-elected President Perry May was re-elected Grant Manager Terry Sewill was re-elected Trail Coordinator

Thank you Steve, Perry and Terry for volunteering to serve another 2 years.

Nobody was elected to the Secretary position.
 A huge thank you from the club to Becky

Tuckenhagen for serving as our Secretary for the past 2 years

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

[Check Out Our Events Calendar](#)

Upcoming Events

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

Join us on Saturday, December 14 from 11am to 6pm for Getting Loose on the Moose!

From 11 to 6 we will have a self guided "Campfire Crawl" winter ATV ride on the MOOSE RIVER ATV TRAILS. There will be 5 bonfires staffed by volunteers offering a variety of food and hot beverage options. Parking is available at the Draper Road ATV parking lot, west of Hwy 6 along the edge of Draper Road, and at the intersection of Pikus Forest road and the Cedar Lake loop of the MRT.

Parking is challenging in the winter so please be patient.

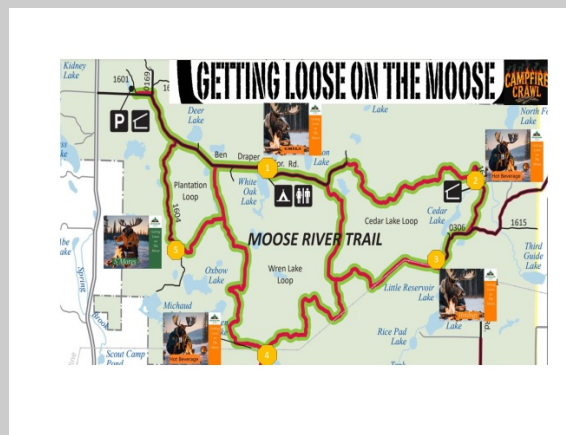
After the ride, join us at the Village Inn in Outing from 4 to 6pm for social hour with food and drink specials and door prizes.

We will also be handing out the Getting Loose on the Moose sweatshirts that everyone purchased.

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



Click here for printable [Map](#)



Mark Your Calendars:

The Eagle Country Snowmobile & ATV Club in Remer, MN will be hosting the ATV Minnesota 2025 Ride & Roast on May 17, 2025.

The Over the Hills Gang ATV Club will be guiding one of the rides on that day.

More information along with registration will be posted on ATVMN.org



Trail Updates



Trail Counters

On our Emily/ Blind Lake ATV Trail (EBL) we use a Traf-X Counter to count ATV use on the trail. This provides a reliable number of trail users, which we use to help support our grant maintenance needs and to show a correlation to economic input into our local businesses.

The counter is actually a magnetometer that is programmed to sense an ATV crossing a magnetic plane.

Trail count for the EBL was 19,056, which was slightly down from the 2023 number of 20,066.

The very wet weather in the spring, and the dry weather in late summer and fall may have contributed to this slight downturn. Overall Northwoods ATV trail numbers placed in Aitkin County, not counting EBL numbers were up to 127, 508 compared to 2023 numbers of 117,614.

We do not have counters on all sections of the trail.

Our Emily Outing counter was

vandalized in 2023, so we do not have a count for 2024.

Our club trails remain one of the most popular riding destinations in Minnesota. Thank you to our Trail Coordinators Terry Sewill, Tim Sink, and Kent Korman for contribution to this success.

Grant Manager Report

Watch for future updates on what we have been working on



A total of 26 ATV fatalities have been recorded in Minnesota in 2024. This is a large increase from 2023 (15) and from 2022 (22). These are preliminary numbers, and final ATV safety statistics will not be released until after January 1. Some additional interesting statistics include:

- 18 of the 26 fatalities were older than 37 (No ATV safety certificate needed if born before July 1, 1987)
- 58% of the fatalities occurred in a Class 2 (side by side style) machine
- 62% (16) of the fatalities occurred on Road Right of Way
- 27% (7) of the fatalities occurred on Private Property
- 11% (3) of the fatalities occurred on Public Trails
- 50% (13) of the fatalities involved alcohol
- 81% (21) No operator/ passenger wearing helmet or seat belt

The OTHG ATV Club holds it's annual Safety Training class in the Spring and we like to stress some key safety habits for keeping you safe on the trails.

- Public Trails are the safest place to ride (They are maintained, signed, mapped with regular monitoring and enforcement)
- Wear a DOT approved helmet- it is the law for operators or passengers under 18 years old

- Wear seatbelts if provided by the Manufacturer- it is the law for operators and passengers under 18 years old
- Get ATV Safety Certified- It is the law for anyone born after July 1, 1987
- Do not operate an ATV while impaired - We need you to be your best when operating your ATV
- Stay informed- Know Regulations, Join a Club, Get Involved

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

Membership

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

Nominations

OTHG needs a volunteer to serve as Secretary on the Board of Directors

The management of the Club is vested in the Board of Directors which is made up of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Grant Manager, Trail Coordinator #1, Trail Coordinator #2, Trail Coordinator #3 and Director-at Large. The Board of Directors discusses overall direction and operation of the Club. All decisions of the Board of Directors shall be brought to the Club members to be voted upon at the next meeting.

In addition to serving on the Board of Directors, the Secretary shall keep all club records, except financial and grant records, including minutes of meetings, roster of club members, list of committees and their members; shall send out notices of meetings. The Secretary shall have oversight of the By-Laws Committee and Nomination Committee. The Board of Directors serve a term of two years.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email us at overthehillsgang@gmail.com.

OTHG would like to thank outgoing Secretary Becky Tuckenhagen for the 2 years she served. Becky is a tireless supporter of all things ATV as a board member of 3 different organizations, the Blind Lake ATV club, the Over The Hills Gang ATV club, and is Secretary of the Northwest Regional Trail Alliance. Here she is pictured helping build the first batch of Puncheon style bridges used on the Emily Blind Lake ATV trail. She helps with trail building and maintenance whenever possible, and rides her Class 1 ATV all over Minneatoat with her husband Terry.



By-Laws

No new updates

Committee members:

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

Thank you to our Business Sponsors!!

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OTHG Board of Directors

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

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