



OVER THE HILLS GANG

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOL 66 | APRIL 2025

Trails Opening



OTHG Maintained ATV Trails open May 15, 2025

Each year we are asked when our ATV trails open. For the Emily Outing/ Moose River Trails and the Emily Blind Lake ATV Trail, this date is May 15, 2025. Why???

1. Our trail crosses many land-managed jurisdictions such as : Crooked Lake, Beulah, Smoky Hollow, Fairfield, Ross Lake, & Little Pine townships, City of Emily, Cass, Crow Wing & Aitkin County lands, MNDOT Right of Way, Land O Lakes, and Emily State Forest and a few private properties. With each of these land managers, the club asked for a permit, or a public resolution to open our trails on May 15th. As you can see, changing this date, and getting agreement from all land managers on a new date would be difficult
2. When we constructed the Emily Blind Lake Trail to the Aitkin County Trails, we also agreed with Aitkin County to match their trail opening date of May 15th.
3. Soils across the state are different. Sandy soils tend to warm quicker and provide better drainage for snow melt and early spring rain. Our area soils tend to have more clay content, which slows drainage, and holds the ground frost longer. In 2024, frost was still in the ground on Memorial weekend in some trail sections, which resulted in damage to our trail and a future trail section closure.

We communicate with the DNR and our county sponsors on a regular basis, and the best place to look for Off-Highway Vehicle closures is [here](#).

Our club Vice President, Rod Wegner also does a great job making posts on our club Facebook page, regarding trail closures for ATV trails our club maintains.

Just a note. We (DNR+Club+Local Govt Sponsor) can always delay trail opening or close trails due to poor soil conditions, timber harvests, damages or unsafe trails.

Volunteer Needed: Secretary

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 includes the Secretary. The Secretary works with the other Board of Director volunteers to discuss overall direction and operation of the Club. The Secretary has oversight of the By-Laws Committee and Nomination Committee. Additionally, the Secretary keeps all club records including minutes of meetings, roster of club members, list of committees and their members.

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

Other volunteer opportunities can be found in the Volunteer section below.

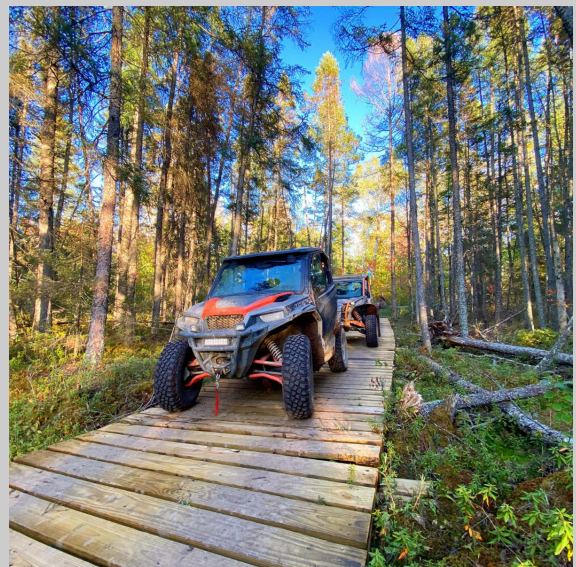
Media & Communications



Marketing

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Events

[2025 Event schedule](https://overthehillsgang.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/OTHG-2025-Schedule.pdf) is here! Go to our website and print out a copy for your fridge!
<https://overthehillsgang.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/OTHG-2025-Schedule.pdf>

These events don't happen by accident. They are planned, organized and staffed by volunteers. Like You! If you would like to get involved, check our website in the coming months, or email the club at overthehillsgang@gmail.com

Saturday, April 5: Club Meeting 9:30am Log Cabin Bar, Emily



Saturday, May 3: Youth ATV Safety Training. Crooked Lake Town Hall in Outing. Morning session at 8:30, afternoon at 12:30

Sunday, May 4: Club Meeting, Noon, Little Emily Lake Park.
Possible trail cleanup ride following meeting

Saturday, May 17: ATV MN Ride & Roast. OTHG guided ride starting in Remer
Register [here](#)

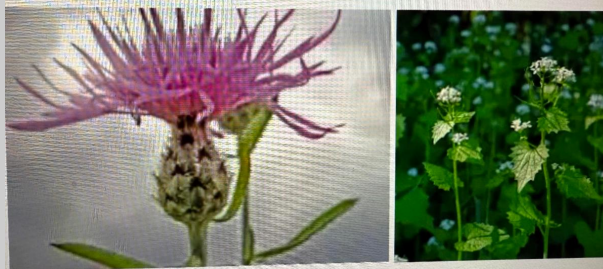
[Check Out Our Events Calendar](#)

ATVMN Ride & Roast



The annual ATVMN Ride & Roast is being held in Remer this year on Saturday, May 17, 2025. Perry May from Over the Hills Gang ATV Club will be the ride leader for Ride #2, which will leave from Remer, travel south on the Soo Line Trail, circle around the Moose River Trails, and return to Remer. Cost per rider is \$25, which includes a bag lunch, hot dinner, and entrance into the door prize drawing. If you are interested in going on this ride, or other rides that also will be leaving from Remer, please go to membership/atvmn.org/rideroast/. You can also register to ride on your own from Outing, and get all the included goodies. Hope to see you there!

Invasive Terrestrial Species & Play/Clean/Go



Invasive Terrestrial Species & Play/Clean/Go

I recently attended a DNR meeting at Park Rapids, Mn for clubs that maintain recreational trails in the Northwest Region. One of the informative discussion topics was regarding invasive species which are hitching a ride via our ATV's in and around our forests. These invasives can include the Common Tansy, Garlic Mustard, Leafy Spurge, Common Buckthorn, Wild Parsnip, and Spotted Knapweed. Invasive species have many ways of spreading, including human activity. For instance, invasive plants store seeds in the soil, so muddy boots or muddy vehicles can carry them to new areas in their tread. Some invasive plant seeds have special hooks to help them hitch a ride. This enables invasive plant seeds to hitch a ride on our shoes, socks, pants, and shirts. As a club we are going to take some education initiatives for riders on our trails, such as informative signs at parking /meeting areas, brochures, and possibly looking into a wash station. There are two good websites to learn more about this topic:

Playcleango.org/invasives-101/ and dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrial/ohv.html

As ATVers, the best thing we can do is to clean our machines before and after we ride in a new area. Secondly, increasing our ability to identify an invasive will help us direct resources to kill these invasives before they spread more. Keep our forests clean!

Grant Manager Report

Watch for future updates on what we have been working on



ATV Safety Training Hands-On Course

Training Date: May 3, 2025

AM Session: Begins at 8:30 am (20 students max.)

PM Session: Begins at 12:30 pm (20 students max.)

Location: Crooked Lake Town Hall, 6300 Woods Bay Drive, Outing MN 56662

Pre-Registration: Contact Cindy Thompson by email at cindythompson0203@gmail.com or mobile 763-592-9330 (Additional course information will be sent after preregistering)

Cost: Hands-On Course \$0.00 – Sponsored by Over the Hills Gang ATV Club

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 (cost \$34.95) 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 Online Safety Training course to apply for ATV Safety Certificate

Training conducted by MN DNR Certified Youth Safety Training Instructors

Meet and discuss MN ATV Regulations with MN DNR Conservation Officer

Successfully complete your OnLine and Hands-On Safety Training and apply for MN ATV Safety Certificate (Need to be 12-years old to apply)

Membership

Would you like to EARN your membership? You can do so by volunteering for at least 2 hours at 2 Club Events, or by performing 4 hours of Trail Work. Check our last newsletter for the results of this offer in 2024!

Volunteers Needed:

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

- Club Officer Position- Secretary
- Youth Safety Class: Training course support- May 3rd
- Trail Maintenance (weather permitting)- May 4th
- ATV MN Ride and Roast: group ride sweep- May 17th
- Adopt a Highway Clean up: on Cass County Road 58 in Outing- June 7th
- Pork and Ride: Ride leaders and club booth attendants- June 14th

Volunteers are an important part of our club and all of the events we put together!

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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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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