

OVER THE HILLS GANG

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER VOL 68 | AUGUST 2025

Wet Trails





Wet Trails

Regular storms in July have delayed some trail repair activities. Trail conditions remain soft with many areas of standing water, small washouts along slopes & hills, and water logged brush or small trees leaning into the trail. We are blessed that most all water puddles on our trails have a gravel or rocky bottom. A good riding practice is to go slowly through the middle of the puddle and to not drive around standing water. You are driving an All-Terrain Vehicle, and it is ok to get your wheels wet:) Some would argue this is better than dust, and mushrooms are enjoying the moisture. We ask everyone to tread lightly until our trails firm up.

Volunteer Opportunities

We need your help to make our events happen! Volunteer at two Club events and we'll give you a complimentary membership! Get started by helping with one of these events. Email us at overthehillsgang@gmail.com if you're able to assist.

Get involved in your community by helping the Outing Area Chamber of Commerce! They help the club A LOT so let's help them right back! We have several exciting volunteer opportunities--whether you can help just once or become a regular, we'd love to hear from you. Volunteer HERE





Upcoming Volunteer Events Weekly Volunteer Events Join our core team of community helpers at our regular weekly events. Even just once or twice a month makes a big difference August 31 - Purse & Gun Bingo Location: The Pickled Loon, Outing, MN Time: Afternoon (approx. 2–5 PM, final timing TBD) Tuesdays – 5 PM The Pickled Loon, Outing, MN Folding tickets & helping with bingo September 14 – Purse Bingo at The Log Cabin Wednesdays – 5 PM Help the Chamber run another purse bingo event by spotting The Pickled Loon, Outing, MN Folding tickets & helping with bingo October 18th - Logtoberfest: World's Biggest Location: Downtown Outing (near Log Cabin) Time: Starts around 3 PM Saturdays - 5 PM The Log Cabin Bar, Outing, MN Folding tickets and possibly assisting with raffle (no bingo on Saturdays). We need ~20 volunteers to help fold 30,000 tickets for this mass



Fundraiser Raffle

This year we are holding our annual fundraiser raffle on October 4, 2025 at The Log Cabin Bar drawing at 4:30PM. This is our largest fundraiser of the year! Need not be present to win. This year's prizes are:

GRAND PRIZE - 2025 Polaris Sportsman 570 (\$7,999 Value)

2nd Place - (2) Day SxS Rentals in Outing (\$900 Value)

3rd Place - \$500 Cash

4th Place - \$250 Power Lodge Gift Card

5th Place - \$100 Power Lodge Gift Card

6th Place - OTHG Swag Bag (\$100 Value)

If you'd like to purchase some raffle tickets, they are **\$5.00 each** and can be purchased multiple ways:

- 1. They can be purchased from local Emily/Outing area businesses.
- 2. You can email the club HERE or at overthehillsgang@gmail.com requesting to buy raffle tickets and we'll email you back with how to pay for the number of tickets you want. (please allow us time to process email requests) We will then email you a picture of the tickets you purchase.
- 3. You can also send us a check with "raffle" written in the memo for the amount of the tickets you'd like to purchase and we'll email you a picture of the tickets you purchased.

If you'd like to help us sell tickets, please email us.

Media & Communications

Check Out Our Events Calendar

Events

<u>2025 Event schedule</u> is here! Go to our website and print out a copy for your fridge! HERE

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 <a href="mailto:emailto:

August 2nd: Club Meeting 9:30am at Log Cabin Bar in Emily

August 2nd: Pizza Party Ride!! See event information here



August 9th: "Riding with Rory" Suicide Awareness/ Prevention Ride

August 16th: Lions Corn Feed at Pickled Loon in Emily. Volunteering event only.

Marketing

Great deals on OTGH Merch can be found online!

Visit our Shop





Emily Day Parade



Thank you to everyone that participated with us in the <u>Celebrate Emily Day</u> parade! A special thanks to Stacey and Gary for pulling the ATV to promote our raffle. We had a total of 14 ATV's and 2 bikes riding with us.







Invasive Plant Training



Sixteen people, which included members of the Over the Hills Gang, Eagle Country, Blind Lake, and White Pine Riders ATV Clubs, attended invasive Plant Training on July 18, 2025 at the Cooked Lake Townhall. This training was facilitated by MNDNR Forestry personnel. The training was interactive and helped the attendees learn more about invasive plants in our area, how to report the invasive plants, and how to prevent the spread.



During our field training we identified and reported two types of invasive plants by our trails: Knotweed and Common Tansy.

Just one more way to help protect our forests!



Northwoods Regional ATV Trail Alliance



NWRATA Meeting July 9, 2025

The Northwoods Regional ATV Trail Alliance held their quarterly meeting on July 9th. the meeting always has a full agenda, and has strong attendance from all of the twelve clubs that make up the alliance. All club members are welcome to attend these meetings. Listed below are meeting summary points.

- 1. Sen Keri Heintzeman attended. Alliance communicated the need for an increase to GIA maintenance funding
- 2. Aitkin County Sheriff Dan Guida attended. Leading the MN Sheriffs Association and hoping to align the many county ordinances in MN Looking to work with Col. Rodman Smith (DNR) on simple teachable ATV regulations
- 3. NWRATA Award to Frank & Darlene Turnock
- 4. Discussion around emergency "call to action list" for NWRATA clubs
- 5. New MN DNR Mapgeo /Avenza Northwoods Trail Map in final draft stages
- 6. IRRRB Trail Grants opened July 1st for applications for clubs in service area
- 7. Motion to accept Central Lakes ATV Club as new Alliance member
- 8. Introduction of South Metro Club and their efforts on class 1 ATV trail management in Nemadji / Pine County
- 9. Club trail updates
- 10. Invasive Plant training in Outing on July 18th
- 11. Axtell Ride-In on 9/20/2025
- 12. NWRATA Open House Tabled until spring 2026
- 13. Vote for 1/2 throttle sponsor (\$1000) for 2025 Ride & Rally



Not a misspelling, just a new word to capture July 4th in lake country. During our July Club meeting, club Safety Officer Cindy Thompson, shared her observations of the multiple unsafe ATV riding observations she made during the July 4th Holiday weekend. As a first responder and ambulance driver, she has first hand experience responding to accidents resulting from unsafe riding. Almost everyone in attendance added their own observations. Observations include youth with multiple passengers, under 18 operators without helmets, no ATV safety certificate, Class 2 ATVs with passengers in the cargo box, speeding, highway use, no lights, and more. The big question is how we can educate visitors to our area about ATV regulations and riding etiquette to have them have a safe holiday weekend? We are going to reach out to our local Sheriffs Departments and Conservation Officers on possible ways to educate visitors, and local seasonal cabin owners, so they can all have a safe & fun holiday weekend.

Grant Manager Report

Watch for future updates on what we have been working on

Membership

Membership and Renewals

Our calendar year runs Aug 1st to July 31st.

Memberships follow the same calendar. Currently we offer a Business Membership and a Personal membership. Personal are either individual or family. All members with a valid e-mail address will receive our monthly newsletter.

Our Facebook and Website site is dynamic, filled with new events and information about the club. Your membership directly supports riding opportunities in the Emily /Outing areas by contributing to the club portion of grant-in aid matching funds needed for trail maintenance and improvements.

Local ATV Clubs maintain the trails, and without a club, there will be no trails. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to also join and participate in the activities. You can request a membership from overthehillsgang@gmail.com, or join and pay with PayPal on our website, Overthehillsgang.org You can also follow the links below.

Renewals New Members

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!

Become a Member!

Contact Us: membership@overthehillsgang.org

Volunteers Needed:

If you are interested in volunteering for any of our events, please send us an email

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

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