

2024 Spring Newsletter



Spring greetings to all club members,

Well, it certainly has been a memorable winter for us in the north woods. From the record or near record high temperatures to the lack of any real snow and freezing cold it made for a rough season for our winter sport enthusiasts, from our ice fisherman, snowmobilers and skiers not being able to really enjoy their favorite sports to the impact it has on our local businesses. While finally some measurable snow did arrive, it wasn't long before it was gone and it was far too late to have any positive impact. I do not think that there was a winter I can remember that the snowmobile trails did not open.

Membership

By the time you receive this newsletter you should have received your 2024- 2024-25 season Membership Renewal Invoice form in the mail. If not, it's on its way. This year we decided to email the newsletter to save on printing costs, and to save a tree. For those that we have no email for you will receive the newsletter in the mail.

We also hope that the work that your club has done through the years since its founding, and especially the last two years is appreciated by your renewal. Just a recap, we opened the Hwy 8 Monico Trail as well as a section of Hwy 45, secured financing for developing Dump Rd and Old 26, received approval on developing Cemetery Rd to McGinnis Rd. and lastly working with The Conservation Fund to gain access to the Pelican River Forest.

We would like to ask that you continue to support your clubs efforts and renew your membership for this coming year, and of course, we certainly would appreciate any thing you can do to promote those neighbors, friends and family that have machines and use the roads and trails in becoming members of the club themselves.

And as a reminder, please make sure to send your dues in by May 1st, 2024

Trail and Route Status

As a reminder, our ATV trails typically open on the third Saturday in May. However, the opening date is as we know somewhat weather dependent. As part of the Oneida County ATV/UTV Council we have worked with the Oneida County Forestry Department to agree to a flexible date opening. What this could mean is that it is in the realm of possibility that if our mild weather holds, we may be able to have an earlier than normal trail opening. However, as we all know our Wisconsin weather can be extremely fickle so there are obviously no guarantee's. Please watch our Web Page or Facebook page for updates as opening season nears.

Hwy Q-Dump Road to Old 26

The funding request in the amount of approximately \$85,000 has been approved by the ORVC (Off Road Vehicle Council) to develop this into a navigable trail North to where it crosses Hwy 45 to Bessa Rd on the east side of Hwy 45. This will allow for another option to ride into the Town of Monico.

The County Forestry Department will be soliciting bids for this project in the next month or so, and we are hopeful that it will be able to be completed within 2024 for our use.

Hwy 45/Cemetery Road to McGinnis Road -Town of Schoepke

Because use of a state highway by an ATV/UTV is restricted to the 35 MPH or less speed zone we needed to find a way to gain access to County Q on the north side of the lake. The reason being is that the 35 MPH speed zone ends and turns to a 55 MPH speed limit before Hwy Q thereby making it illegal to continue any further on Hwy 45 to Hwy Q.

Our solution was to use Cemetery Road on the east side of Hwy 45 and develop a ½ mile trail north to McGinnis Road along the old railroad ROW. At McGinnis Road you can then cross Hwy 45 to the West onto the new Yamaha trail which will take you to Hwy Q. The reverse applies to go from the north side of the lake to the south side without having to go all the way around the lake to the west.

This will also connect to the new Pelican River East ATV/UTV road access via Thompson Rd north off McGinnis Road.

We have received approval from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to proceed, however initial cost estimates came back higher than expected. In order to secure the financing, we will be working with the Oneida County Forestry Department to request a grant from the ORVC and this will be submitted in April for approval. We will not know if it is actually approved until their late summer meeting usually held in August or September. If approved, construction would begin in 2025.

ATV/UTV Access to East side of Pelican Lake-Conservation Fund/DNR Recreational Easement

I am pleased to report that the State of Wisconsin formally approved and purchased the Conservation Easement from The Conservation Fund thereby securing protected public access to approximately 56000 acres of prime forest, river, watershed, and recreational land. This property is located east and north of Pelican Lake all the way up to Three Lakes.

I, like some others, had an opportunity to talk with our Governor, Tony Evers, who extended his appreciation for our support and backing of this project. During our conversation it gave me an opportunity to extend our appreciation to the Governor for taking action to secure this access for public use for generations to come.

As you know, last year we signed an exclusive use agreement with the Conservation Fund which allows for ATV/UTV access to designated gravel forest roads contained within the property on the east side of Hwy 45-Pelican Lake, allowing for access points at Hwy 45 and McGinnis/Thompson Road, Hwy B/Thompson Road in the Town of Schoepke and Hwy 8 and Browns Road in Monico.

With the state formalizing the Conservation Easement we will now be working with The Conservation Fund to develop additional access and trail systems north of Pelican Lake up to Hwy 8, and then further north up to County Hwy C.

At this time, we are still working out the details for access to the property for the 2024-25 season. We do not anticipate any problems and hope to have this access defined before the formal season opening.

Securing access to this property has been a 9-year battle for the club, and a 2-year battle with local politicians opposed to it. Only through the cooperation of The Conservation Fund were we able to finally gain use of the property. Should you have an interest in learning more about the property and The Conservation Fund please follow this link <https://www.conservationfund.org/impact/blog/the-journey-to-protect-pelican-river-forest>

Hwy 45 Use

Just a reminder, Hwy 45 is approved for ATV/UTV use within the 35 MPH speed zone. This will allow access to businesses on Hwy 45, as well as allowing residents along the highway a legal way to get to the adjoining routes and trails.

Please remember that Hwy 45 is not open to Hwy Q in the 55 MPH Zone. Please do not violate this restriction because if it is abused the use of Hwy 45 can be rescinded.

General Trail Maintenance

With our existing Enterprise Forest Trail and Hwy 8 Monico Trail, as well as access to the Pelican River Forest Property coupled with the new Dump Rd/Old 26 Trail later in the year, additional work and manpower may be

needed to both police and inspect the trails as well as perform the basic trail maintenance functions of grading and brushing to keep them in safe riding condition.

If you are available during the week, and/or some weekends and are in a position to help with the trail maintenance functions it would be greatly appreciated. Please let me know if you have an interest, and if you are familiar and experienced in the operation of chain saw/brushing equipment or small to medium tractor operation.

Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held on Saturday June 8th, 2024 at the Elcho Clubhouse beginning at noon with lunch to follow. As in past years the club will furnish the main course of chicken, French Fries and Pizza, and if members would like to bring a desert and/or a side it would be appreciated.

Board of Director Elections

Board Member Steve Rochon will be resigning from the club due to having moved out of state. We would like to extend our appreciation to Steve for his years of service and work in the club.

As a result, we will have a direct opening that must be filled, and we have two other board positions up for election this year. If you have an interest in running for a board position, please let me know, or make your intentions known at our spring meeting. These positions will run for a three-year term.

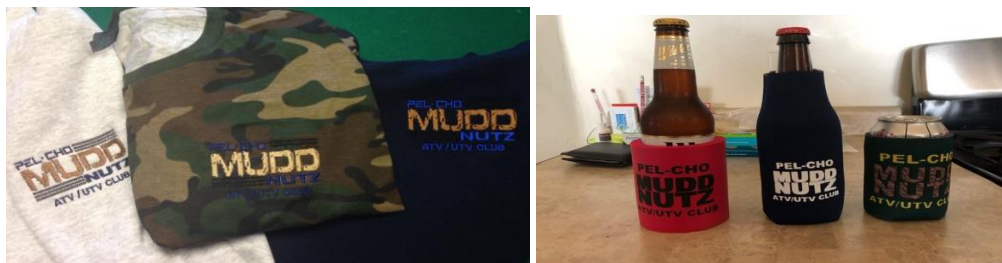
Adopt-a-Highway Program

Your club feels very strongly about promoting itself thru responsible, community orientated projects, fulfilling a civic responsibility to the community. As such we actively participate in the Adopt-a Highway Program which entails the responsibility for litter control on approximately a two-mile segment of state and/or county highway at least twice a year, once in the spring and then again in fall.

Our thanks goes out to Nancy Rasmussen for coordinating this effort and again we will be looking for volunteers for this program for 2024. Watch your email for Spring and Fall Cleanup dates and times.

Clothing and Accessories

Just an update, with our season coming upon us now is the time to wear your club colors. Our club clothing can be seen and purchased at Dave's Roadside located on Hwy G. We will also have cooler cups and club flags for sale with the club logo as well.



Should you have an interest or If you have any questions regarding our clothing and accessories please send an email to MuddNutzMerch@gmail.com

News Letter Comments, Feedback, Questions and Volunteering

The email for the club is.....pelchomuddnutz@outlook.com

If you have any questions, comments or would like to volunteer for any club event or make a donation you can easily let us know by emailing us at the above email address or my address below. We will be happy to respond to any inquiry or suggestion, as well as extend our appreciation for any additional donation or support you can offer.

Also, regarding e-mail, we are trying to limit postage expense for the newsletter, if you can receive it via e-mail but are getting postal mail now, ***please let us know to change to your e-mail address to simplify things and minimize cost.***

Recent Law Changes-Reminder

There have been a number of recent law changes regarding ATV/UTV use in the last couple of years. However, I still see many people that do not seem to be aware of them so I thought it best to include this reminder. The most important I have summarized below. For a comprehensive listing please cut and paste this link to go to the DNR Website. <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/atv>

ATV Passenger Rules

Previously only on the roadway were passengers restricted only to those ATVs that were designed and intended for passengers. Now that requirement has been extended to all other areas. ***ATV operators cannot have a passenger riding in or on any part of an ATV that is not designed or intended to be used by passengers. If the machine did not come from the factory as a two-up machine, after market seating is illegal***

Lighted Headlamp Display Requirements

Previously ATVs and UTVs were required to have a lighted headlamp & tail lamp during hours of darkness or during Day light hours when within a highway. ***ATVs and UTVs are now required to have a lighted headlamp & tail lamp at all times during operation.***

New ATV & UTV Auxiliary Lighting Restrictions

No person (except EMS personal) may operate an ATV or UTV that is equipped with any of the following:

1. A lamp that emits any color of light other than white or amber and that is visible from directly in front of the ATV or UTV.
2. A lamp that emits any color of light other than red, yellow, amber, or white and that is visible from directly behind the ATV or UTV.
3. A flashing, oscillating, or rotating lamp that emits any color other than yellow or amber.

Any person operating an ATV or UTV must dim his or her high-beam headlamps and any auxiliary lamps when within 500 feet of an approaching ATV/UTV or vehicle, and within 500 feet to the rear of another ATV/UTV or vehicle. In addition, an operator must dim his or her backup lamps unless actively backing.

Speed and Law Concerns

The law for ATV/UTV speed is the lesser of 35 MPH or the posted speed limit, no exceptions.

For those that have a hard time doing that, where are you going to ride that \$15-\$25,000 machine when everything is shut down, and who is going to buy it from you when there is nowhere to ride. THINK ABOUT IT!

Closing

As our season is rapidly coming upon us, now is the time to go over your machine to make sure it is trail ready for riding.

- *Reinstall the battery if you removed it for storage, and charge it fully. Be sure the battery holds a charge.
- *If you did not change the oil and oil filter before storing the ATV, do so now. Also check the spark plugs
- *Check all the lights, and replace any burned-out bulbs.
- *Check the tires for damage and inflate them. Tires may wear or flatten if left on the ground for long periods of time.
- *Check for damage caused by rodents, such as blocked pipes or chewed wires and cables.
- *Check for any other damage that may occur during storage. For example, parts made of rubber or plastic may deteriorate over time.

And two of the most important items to check

*Is your registration current?

*Refresh your memory on Wisconsin ATV/UTV Rules and Regulations, as well as all of the courtesy hand signals.

For more information, please refer to the following link <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/atv/>

Remember most trails are set to open in late May, but it is entirely dependent upon how our spring thaw goes, and how the trails dry up, so again watch our Facebook or Web page, or Oneida County information for exact opening dates.

We thank each and every one of you for being a member, and hope to see you out enjoying the trails and routes as our season opens. Remember, please drive safe, drive sober, drive responsibly, and enjoy your fun with the club.

Gary Dominski

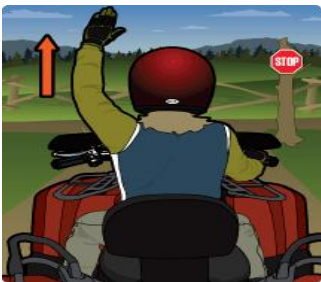
Club President

presidentpelchoatvutvclub@yahoo.com

Just a courtesy reminder to all of our members

Hand signals while riding helps people around you know what you are doing and where you are going, leading to a safer ride and more enjoyable riding experience

Stop



Slow Down



Left Turn



Right Turn



Oncoming Traffic

Pat Your Helmet



ATVs Following

Show number of fingers shows number of machines following

Closed Fist shows you are last rider



Enjoy the ride, ride safe, ride responsibly and obey all laws and speed limits, maximum of 35 MPH or posted speed on all roads

Please patronize our business sponsors whenever you can, they are great supporters of your club

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Antigo Bass Lake CC **
Artist Jennifer Miller –
The Riverview Studio
Billy Timber's **
Clear Lake Resort **
Boiling Springs Tavern **
Covantage Credit Union
CJ's Elcho Clubhouse **
Christians Campground **
Dettman's Auto
Elcho Shell **
Enterprise Autobody
Enterprise Forest Products
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Fischer's Meat Products
Fishers Bar – Hwy 17**
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Gerrit's Lakeview Inn **
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The Dock Bar Restaurant **
The Winding Trail Grill and Bar **
Twin Oaks Resort **
Vern's Antigo **
Weaver's Resort and Campground
Antigo Area ATV Club
Parrish Highlanders ATV Club
Pickeral Pearson Wolf River Riders
Hodag 4 Wheelers

**** Denotes businesses where you can obtain a trail map for \$2.00 Donation**



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