



Spring greetings to all club members,

Well, it seems mother nature just wanted to be fickle again with the way our past winter has gone. Much like last year, minimum snow, some periods of bitter cold, and now recently warming trends only to be spoiled by some heavy snow falls and a wicked ice storm.

Hopefully by the time I get this out and you read it we are over the winter hump, the ground is thawing, the grass is starting to turn green and we can see the robins coming back, a sure sign that spring is finally here and our riding fun can begin in earnest.

Membership

By the time you receive this newsletter you should have received your 2025-2026 season Membership Renewal Invoice in the mail. If not, its on the way. For those that have no email you will receive the newsletter in the mail.

We hope that all of you appreciate the work that your club has done through the years and will renew your membership for this year as well. And of course, we certainly would appreciate anything you can do to promote to those that have machines and use the roads and trails in becoming members of the club themselves.

Some people may ask “ Why should I join the Club?” Well, here are a couple of reasons why one should:

1. With out an ATV/UTV Club you cannot ride on County Highways
2. Being a member keeps you current on laws and regulations
Fines can range from \$150 to \$2000 and up to a year in prison
3. Club dues are only \$15 Single-\$25 Family, a lot cheaper than a fine
4. Have a voice in protecting riding areas and developing new trails
5. Meet new people who have the same interest—the love of riding ATVs/UTV's
6. Network with newfound friends that may have similar hobby and recreational interests
7. Exchange ideas and knowledge on machine options, accessories and maintenance
8. Receive information about local and statewide issues facing the ATV community
9. Work together in keeping the trails and roads open for all to enjoy
10. Enjoy the beauty of northern Wisconsin by riding with others to show you new trails and riding opportunities

And don't forget, please make sure to send your dues in by May 1st, 2025

Trail and Route Status

As a reminder, our Funded ATV trails typically open on May 22nd. However, the opening date as we know is somewhat weather dependent. Also, keep in mind that this opening date applies only to Funded ATV/UTV trails, not private trails so this opening date does not apply to the Pelican River Forest Trails and Roads.

As part of the Oneida County ATV/UTV Council we have worked with the Oneida County Forestry Department to agree to a flexible opening date. What this could mean is that it is possible that if we have an early spring 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 obviously there are no guarantees. This is entirely dependent upon when the frost leaves the ground, spring rains and the trails being dry enough. In addition, all trails must be inspected for condition, brushing, proper signage and safety.

Should you be able to assist in spring trail preparation and/or maintenance please let Jeff Herman know.

Please watch our Web Page and Facebook page for updates as opening season nears.

Also please watch the local news, or the following county websites for exact dates.

Oneida County -<https://www.co.oneida.wi.us/departments/fr/atv-utv-trails/>

Langlade County -https://www.langladecounty.org/resources/trail_reports/

Lincoln County -<https://www.co.lincoln.wi.us/recreation/page/summer-atvutv-trail-maps>

Forest County <https://forestcountywi.com/atv%2Futv>

Vilas County

https://www.vilascountywi.gov/departments/services/parks_and_recreation/trails_recreational_opportunities/atv_trails.php In addition, Vilas County has opened up their county highways for year round ATV/UTV use.

Highways included are County Highways A, B,C, E, G, H (Town of Boulder Junction only), J, K, M, N, O, P, S and W. except for those in the town of Lac du Flambeau. Also note that not all town roads are open to ATV/UTV use. Check with local municipalities or ATV Clubs in the area to verify which roads can be used.

Hwy Q-Dump Road to Old 26

While years in the making we have finally begun the process of developing this trail. Over the winter the County Forestry Department solicited bids for the work and has awarded the project to Bowens Bus Service out of Rhinelander. Yes, it seems odd that it is a bus service but they also have a division of their business that does excavating and road building and they were the low bid for the project. The county has used them for other forest road work so there is experience with their work which has met the standards for the County.

They expect to begin work as soon as the ground frost is gone in spring, with the project timeline not expected to take but a couple of weeks depending on how the weather cooperates.

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

Great news, while our first financing request for this project was turned down, in the ORVC in December it was approved!

This ½ mile trail is a critical connecting point where the 35 MPH Speed Limit ends on Hwy 45 to McGinnis Rd and the Romsa/Yamaha Trail so we are extremely pleased that the ORV Council saw the value in approving our request.

The county will be letting bids out for this work shortly, and we are anticipating construction can begin in the summer of 2025

ATV/UTV Access Pelican River Forest-The Conservation Fund/DNR Recreational Easement

This is just a reminder that we have entered into a 10 Year Right of Entry Agreement between the Club and The Conservation Fund which provides ATV/UTV Access on currently designated roads, as well as the ability to have access to additional forest roads in the future.

What this means is that the trails east of Hwy 45 are included, plus a trail from Dump Rd/Old 26 to Leith Rd, across Hwy 8 to Town Rd, to a forest road up to Rasmussen Rd and then to County Hwy C east of Rhinelander. This provides for an alternate route into the Rhinelander area.

In addition, it also allows the Club to develop additional dedicated ATV/UTV Trails within the forest proper should we so desire. The establishment of these trails would be the sole responsibility of the club, all financing would be either through the availability of grant money or club fund raising.

There is a second attachment to this newsletter which is a map depicting the PRF (Pelican River Forest) trails we can currently use, as well as showing the near term future trail development and road access.

These privately owned forest roads and trails are open annually from June 1st to December 1st based on contractual agreements with the DNR and The Conservation Fund.

Equipment Status

We have had our Massey Tractor thoroughly gone over by a certified dealer who identified a number of issues that needed to be worked on. While the repairs were not cheap, we felt that the repairs recommended are appropriate and justified to maintain the tractor in good running order.

Because the tractor has a cab, which had to be removed to gain access to some of the items needing replacement, it did add to the labor expense. All told, after replacing the 3 Point Hitch Lift Pump and Cylinder, a valve cover and a new blade for the Rhino grader as well as having the tractor Dyno Tested repairs came to approximately \$14500. However, we now feel confident that the tractor is in a condition to serve us well for many years to come.

My appreciation goes to Dennis Vanden Huevel for the time and effort he has put in regard to not only managing this repair but all of our equipment so If you see him out and about, let him know you appreciate his efforts as well.

Clothing and Accessories

With a new year of riding just around the corner, how about showing your club support and colors and choose from our fantastic selection of club clothing and merchandise. You can see all of what the club has on our website and Facebook page.

<https://pelchomuddnutz.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pelchomuddnutz/>

Should you have an interest or any questions regarding our clothing please email MuddnutzMerch@gmail.com

My thanks go out to Sandy Vanden Heuvel and the excellent job she has done managing our clothing and merchandise.

New Map

We have our new maps for the 2025 season. You can find them at our local business sponsors at the end of this letter, they are identified with an asterisk at the end of the business name. Should you have any questions please feel free to send them to Jeff Herman via our club email pelchomuddnutz@outlook.com

Fund Raising

We hosted our Annual Fall Gun Raffle again this past fall and chose the winners this past January. This has proven to be a great fund raiser for the club and we appreciate all those who participated and purchased a ticket.

Congratulations to the following winners: Dave Stronach, Chad Zarm, Jacob Hoffman, Dave Bilot, Mike Helland, Keith Palubicki

Rules and Regulations Reminders

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.**

In other words, unless you bought your ATV as a machine designed and built for 2 passengers you cannot ride double. Aftermarket 2nd seat options are no longer legal.

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 Optional/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.

I know many of you have installed light whips and high intensity light bars on your machines. Please make sure that you are in compliance with the above when you are out riding so you are not at risk of being stopped by an enforcement officer.

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

Recently some counties have changed their speed limits for ATV/UTV's to the posted road speed limit unless posted otherwise. It is your responsibility to be aware of what the speed limit restrictions are for the counties and towns you are riding in.

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

Age Requirements

- Riders must be at least 16 years old and have a WI DNR ATV safety certificate to operate an ATV or UTV by themselves on any road route.

- 12–15-year-old youths are permitted to ride ATV's (not UTV's) on a road route **ONLY IF** accompanied by a parent or parent approved adult.
- ATV and UTV operators born on or after Jan. 1, 1988, who are at least 12 years old for an ATV (and at least 16 years old for UTV) must complete an ATV safety certification course to operate in Wisconsin.
- Any person, operator or passenger under the age of 18 **MUST** wear a helmet that is approved from Wisconsin DOT. A bicycle helmet does not qualify as a legal helmet.

For more information please refer to the following link [ATV | Wisconsin DNR](#) (Control and Click Mouse)

Up Coming Events

Annual Meeting-~~Note~~ DATE CHANGE

Our annual meeting will be held on **Saturday May 17th** 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.

Please note that this meeting date is earlier than our previous meeting dates. We had a conflict in dates so it was decided to move the meeting to May for this year.

Board of Director Elections

We have three board members whose term is up this coming 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.

Brat Fry's

Please mark your calendars; our annual brat fry's will be coming soon. We sponsor these in conjunction with the Pelican Lake Women's Civic Club each Memorial Day and 4th of July weekend.

This year Memorial Weekend Fry will be on Sunday the 25th, and the 4th of July Weekend Fry will be on Saturday, July 5th. Again the two clubs will be featuring Brats, Burgers, Dogs, Club Clothing, and great tasting homemade pies and a lot of craft vendors on display.

Pre-season Machine Reminders

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

*Hopefully you either disconnected the battery or had a maintainer on it. Regardless, make sure you fully charge it, and it holds a charge.

*If you did not change the oil and oil filter before storing the ATV, do so now.

*Check the spark plugs and replace them if necessary.

*Check your belts, how many hours are on it since the last replacement.

*Check all the lights and replace any burned-out bulbs.

*Check the tires for damage and inflate them as they may 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.

***** 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.

*Then fill the fuel tank with fresh gasoline and go for a short ride to make sure everything works and runs as it should. The last thing you want to have is a break down miles from home!

Closing

My appreciation is extended to all our members for your support in joining the club, renewing your memberships, and helping in any way you can. Remember, drive safe and sober the rest of the year and I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting, on the trail, or bump into you at one of our sponsors.

Thank you,

Gary Dominski

Club President

presidentpelchoatvutvclub@yahoo.com³

Welcome to our new members

Roy Allard

Mike and Lise Allard

Antigo Area ATV/UTV Club

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

Antigo Yamaha **

Antigo-Bass Lake CC Investors LLC**

Billy Timber's **

Clear Lake Resort **

Boiling Springs Tavern **

CJ's Elcho Clubhouse **

Christians Campground **

Dettman's Auto

Dive on 45

Enterprise Autobody

Enterprise Forest Products

Enterprise Storage

Fischer's Meat Products

Fishers Bar - Hwy 17**

Fuel Powersports

Fuller's Sales & Service **

Gerrit's Lakeview Inn **

Ken's Country Bar-Hwy G**

Great Northern Campground**

Lake George Campsite & Bar**

R & L Property Management

The Next Trail

Mark Foyse-BMCI Construction

Musky Mart **

Norm's Hollow**

Oneida Construction

PB&J's Place-Hwy 45

Pelican Lake Campground **

Pelican Lake Chamber

of Commerce

Roadside Pub **

Rocky's Roadhouse **

Rock n Dick's **

Spencer's Country Store **

Sokaogon Chippewa Community-

Mole Lake Casino **

Summit Gas-N-Go **

The Boondocks - Monico**

The Winding Trail Grill and Bar **

Twin Oaks Resort **

Vern's Antigo **

Antigo Area ATV Club

Parrish Highlanders ATV Club

Pickeral Pearson Wolf River Riders

Hodag 4 Wheelers

Weavers Campground and Resort **



Financial Sponsor of the Romsa ATV Trail