



OSWEGO COUNTY ATV CLUB, Inc.



P.O. Box 296, Altmar, NY 13302
P.O. Box 55, Altmar, NY 13302 (Membership only)
www.oswegocountyatv.org

OFFICERS

Steve Cronk, President 298-3312
Brad Hilton, Vice Pres. 298-3261
Mary Gaffey, Secretary 298-5444
Claudia Gamble, Treasurer 298-4829

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

George Leitinger 387-8099
Bob Kennedy 964-2568
Jr. O'Neil 669-8995 or 439-4561

Newsletters – Barb Cronk 676-3954
Webmaster - Nate Johnson 585-723-9362
Memberships - Arlene Barnard 298-5601
Campground Mgr. Bert Cronk 298-4736
Photographer/Historian -
Ron Blasczienski – 529-0157
Clothing Sales - Joyce Blasczienski 529-2120
Equipment Mechanic – Steve Crim 625-7370

TRAIL WORK COORDINATORS

Brad Hilton 298-3261 Coordinator
Bob Eggerling 668-6672 Trail Boss
Dave Gaffey 298-5444 Trail Boss
John McGrew 387-5415 Trail Boss
Todd Pfluger 298-3169 Trail Boss
Ron Blasczienski 529-0157 Trail Boss

MEMBERSHIIPS

Individual \$30.00
Family \$35.00

January 1st to December 31st



“Stay on Trails or Stay Home”

August 2010 NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING

The next Monthly meeting will be held on August 21, 2010 at 11 AM at the Half-Shire Historical Society Richland NY. (old school)



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

As you should know by now, there are committees for all our functions. Such as Trail details, Campground, Equipment repair, Benefit rides, Lawn work, etc. You must do as instructed by the chairpersons of the committees. Not your way, their way!!! These chairmen have been instructed by

Brad and me, how we want things done! Do not touch equipment until you see the chairman, or either, Brad or Me.!

Chairmen are:
Campground- Bert Cronk
Equipment Repair- Steve Crim
Benefit Rides- Mary Gaffey
Lawn work -Ed O'Neil
Trail bosses are listed in the newsletter.

President
Steve Cronk

CLUB NEWSLETTER



A newsletter raffle to help with this year's cost will continue this month. We will sell 1000 tickets at \$5. each. First prize will be \$500. with four other prizes of \$100. each. The tickets are part of the May newsletter. One of the newsletter pages will include three tickets. You don't have to purchase all three, but if you would like to buy/sell the other two you are welcome to do so. We hope all members will buy at least one ticket. All ticket holders will be responsible for mailing in the stub and check for any tickets purchased. The raffle drawing will be held at the Landowners Dinner on September 19, 2010.

Additional raffle tickets will be available at each meeting throughout the season and at all Club events. The Chairperson for this raffle is Dorine Setter who can be reached at 315-350-9609 with any questions.

Remember, if all members bought just one ticket the cost for printing and mailing the newsletter would be covered for the year. We need your help to bring you all the news you deserve.

WORK DETAILS



The Club's work details have been expanded to give all the opportunity to help out on the trails or whatever the current project may be. Work details will originate at our club property on 1939 Cty. Rte. 22, Altmar.

Below are listed the days and who you should contact if you would like to work.

Monday – Todd Pfluger 298-3169
5:00 PM

Tuesday – Ron Blasczienski 529-0157
12 PM

Tuesday – Dave Gaffey 298- 5444
4 PM

Wednesday – Bob Eggerling
-668-6672 - 9 AM

Wednesday – John McGrew
387-5415 - 5 PM

If you would like to volunteer for a work detail, call the leader for details about the work detail that you would like to work on.

We need to work on all our trails!

IMPORTANT TRAIL INFO

The Nevermore Trail to Gantley Trail and Bertha Mae Trail leading to Route 104 are now open. **The Play Pen area WILL NOT be open at the request of the new landowner. Please respect his wishes OR WE COULD LOSE THIS TRAIL!**

The Yamaha Trail is now open. The trail from Drake's Crossing to the Yamaha Trail has been slightly changed. After the cornfield you will see new signage taking you off to the right to avoid a small stream. Please follow the signs.

The Dam Rd. Trail will be open on June 1st for the remaining season.

OSWEGO COUNTY FAIR CAR PARKING

Many thanks, to all the volunteers that gave of themselves each day at the fair in the sweltering sun to help keep our club running by their diligence and hard work. Also to all that donated money, food and drinks.

NYSORVA RAFFLE

This raffle has been a great fund raiser for our Club. For each ticket we sell the Club receives \$2.50 of the \$5. cost. Again this year we have been asked to participate in this raffle and hope that you all will take tickets at the next meeting to sell. The raffle drawing is in October, 2010 with a give-away totaling well over \$1000. You might even be lucky enough to win this drawing and help the Club.

ATV PATROL

The ATV Patrol is set and presently out patrolling trails looking for violators such as speeders, aggressive riders, loud exhaust, and non-club members on the trails. Members need to follow all NYS Laws, and club rules at all times.

You can contact Brad Hilton at 298-3261 or Steve Cronk at 298-3312 with any information of violators.

WORKERS DINNER

August 28th has been chosen for a Thank You Dinner to recognize all the workers who have put in countless hours to make our riding fun and stress free and keeping our trails in great shape.

The dinner will be held at You Guys Place in Altmar for all who have worked a minimum of 20 hrs. at trail duties, club events, or fair parking. Such members may also bring 1 guest.

Time to be announced at a later date.

Happy 25th Wedding Anniversary to Frank and Jean Shepard!

President's News

Now is the time to start looking for sponsors for our Aug.7th memorial ride in memory of Dave Leone. We have 10 stops. Having a stop sponsored by your business is \$100.00. Or a business sign put up on our fence for \$50.00. Please contact the president Steve Cronk @ 298 3312.

Attention!!!! Per the land owners request The Gaffey-Nevermore trail Rt. 104-Austin Road will be closed Each year on September 1st; absolutely no one is to ride on it!

At our July 17th meeting the 50-50 was \$.70.00 won by Barry Moot!
Congratulations!

A member made mention at our last meeting that there are 60 and 70 year old people out there volunteering and they won't be here forever!

It certainly would be nice to see some new faces volunteering for anything that needs doing. Let's give some of our other volunteers a break and do our part. It takes team work to keep this club running so we can all enjoy the benefits.

Please be careful to not tear up the trails. Let's keep our land owners satisfied with our respect of their property!

If you see a land owner, please, tell them Thank You! For allowing us, to enjoy riding on their property!

Correction: Cody Mattison was the banner holder at the Orwell old home days!



Blazing new trails: ATV club seeks more paths and places for responsible riding

Published: Thursday, July 01, 2010, 5:27 PM Updated: Friday, July 02, 2010, 10:16 AM in the Post Standard.

When Steve Cronk bought his first ATV (all-terrain vehicle) in 2000 for hunting and pleasure riding, he was surprised to learn afterward that he couldn't ride on state-owned lands.

"I couldn't ride it anywhere but my own property," he said.

The frustrated Altmar resident decided to organize an ATV club with the intent of getting members, getting some political clout — and most important, stringing together a list of private property owners and towns in Oswego County that would allow ATVs to travel across their land and roads.

Today, the Oswego County ATV Club is the largest in the state, with 1,204 members.

With pride, Cronk, 55, said, "Our trail system is the best and the largest — 107 miles."

That's significant, he added, because despite backing a wintertime snowmobile trail system and helping to provide insurance coverage for snowmobilers, the state of New York has essentially turned its back on ATVs.

"They will not work with us in any shape or manner to get public trails open for ATVs," he said.

"There are several thousand acres of state land with trails. We cannot use them. The state hasn't got off its butt to see the money that could be made with ATVs."

Eileen Larrabee, a spokeswoman for the state Parks Department, said ATVs are banned in all state parks. "Our position is that ATVs are not compatible with the other more passive recreational activities that occur in our parks. We'd be concerned about damage to infrastructure, the wear and tear on our trails, erosion. Part of our agency mission is to protect our natural resources (plants, wildlife)."

As for the state Department of Environmental Conservation: "The department does not have an existing ATV program on our lands, but neither is there an absolute prohibition. There are limited circumstances where the DEC does and has allowed public ATV access pursuant to the highway law," said Maureen Wren, a DEC spokeswoman.

Cronk, highway superintendent for the Town of Albion, vice president of the Altmar Fire Department and animal control officer for the towns of Orwell and Albion, talked this week about his club and the outdoors activity that he loves.

What's the one thing that would surprise people about ATVing?

"They'd be surprised at how enjoyable it is to ride an ATV and that 70 percent of the members in our club are retired people. The average age in our club is 55. We have one member who's 84 and rides every weekend. We also have four paraplegics in our club."

I'm sure you've heard it, but many critics of ATVs point to their noise, that they rip up trails, etc. How do you respond to such criticism?

"I hear that all the time. With organized riding and trail maintenance, we don't do any more damage to trails than horses or mountain bikes. On our trails, which we privately patrol, the speed limit is 25 mph. Those who don't follow those rules are rejected from our club and not allowed to ride our trails. We also required that any ATVs in our club can not make a noise louder than 82 decibels. We have a decibel reader to check that. Our club has bylaws and a code of ethics. You don't follow them, you're out. In addition, talk to our local businesses. They'll tell you about the tremendous business our members have brought in. Some of our trails are also open to horseback riders."

Have you had any bad accidents on your trail system?

"We haven't had any serious accidents on our trail system since it was opened in 2002."

Talk about your ATV trail system.

"We have people coming here from all over the Northeast — as far away as Delaware and Maine — to ride it. We have sections we groom and sections that are not groomed. We have mud bogs and hills to climb, and sections for good straight riding. For the rough riders, we have some pretty rough terrain. Right now our system crosses land owned by 82 different property owners. We also have worked with towns for permission to ride sections of their roads."

What does it cost to join your club and what do you get for your membership fee?

"The cost is \$30 per person, or \$35 for a family. You get to use the trail system."

What kind of trail maintenance do your members do?

"We drain water in some areas, put down gravel in others. We also cut brush and remove fallen trees, along with building bridges and stuff like that."

You mentioned you have to buy your own insurance? Isn't that expensive?

"Yes. The money for our club's insurance comes from fundraisers, chicken barbecues, benefit rides. We're parking cars this week at the Oswego County Fair to raise money."

What kind of ATV do you drive? How expensive is it to get into this outdoor activity?

"You can get into it for less than \$5,000 for a whole new machine. Less, if you buy used. I ride a 2006 Honda."

What's your most memorable outdoor experience on an ATV?

"Keep in mind, for many, ATVs allow people to experience nature in ways that they never would have experienced. I had an incident up near Barnes Corners in Lewis County. I was leading four others when this big black bear crossed our path. He was about 25 feet away from me. He stood up on his hind legs to let us know it was his country. We stopped, let him look us over and he went on his way."

CNY ATV clubs:

Local clubs include Oswego County ATV Club (oswegocounty.org); Oswego Valley ATV Club (oswegovalleyatvclub.com); All-County ATV Club in Montezuma (allcountyatv.net); the Sherburne Wheelers (sherburnewheelers.com) and the recently formed, Apple Valley Wheelers ATV Club in the Amber area.



ADDITION TO PRESIDENTS NEWS!!!!!!

NEW ACCESS TO ROUTE 104, LAND OWNER SPECIFIED THAT WE STAY ON TRAILS DO NOT WANDER OFF TRAIL. IN OTHER WORDS IF THERE IS A MUD HOLE GO THRU IT DO NOT GO AROUND IT. STAY ON TRAIL!!!!!! IF WE DO NOT DO THIS WE WILL LOOSE IT!



August 7, 2010



"DAVE LEONE MEMORIAL RIDE"

9-11 AM REGISTRATION &
RIDE ENDS AT 5 PM @

**CLUB HOUSE
1939 COUNTY RTE. 22
ALTMAR, NY**

\$10. entry fee



BEST 5 CARDS WINS

**Chicken BBQ, hotdogs, hamburgers
and beverages will be available !!!**

**PROCEEDS GO TO THE
OSWEGO COUNTY ATV CLUB**

Camping available, call 298-5444 details

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

