

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 2025

Upcoming Projects

We have several major projects lined up this year! Permits for Lee Gulf's four crossings—two bridges and two culverts—are officially in hand. Additionally, the DOT permits for Ives Road, Glendale Road, and Main Street have been approved. Our goal is to kick off work on everything this spring. Singing Waters will reopen Memorial Day weekend, and we've already started getting calls about the reservation system. We will have the system back up for reservations soon.

2025 OHV Permits

Permits are now available to purchase online. \$65 for first OHV, \$20 for each additional. \$20 discount if you are a club member. 3-day passes are available.



Looking for Trail Ambassadors

Become a Trail Ambassador! You'll play a vital role in the expansion and retention of our trails. Your responsibility would be to ride the trails at your convenience. By actively riding the trails, you'll help us identify areas in need of maintenance and repairs promptly, and help preserve our trail system, ensuring it remains accessible and enjoyable for generations to come. Contact the office if you are interested!

Community Feedback & Goals

We're asking the community for **YOUR** feedback. For each section of the survey you complete, you will be entered into a drawing for a **FREE 2025 ATV Permit for the Lewis County ATV Trail System!**

The survey can be found on our social media platforms. Help us create our goals for 2025!





ATV Roundtable January Meeting Recap

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the first ATV round table meeting of 2025. Below is the recap of the discussion that was had during the meeting. We encourage all who would like to attend to join in person or virtually.

Trail System Updates and Community Engagement:

Kristen shared progress on community feedback efforts, with over 40 responses from three distributed questionnaires. The insights will guide the upcoming survey focused on partnerships and resource optimization. A SOAR analysis is planned to identify strengths and opportunities, setting strategic goals for trail development.

- Community feedback and questionnaires
- SOAR analysis and planning

Lobbyist Efforts and Trail Development Updates:

Larry Dolhof discussed the Greenway Bill introduced by Senator Serrano, aimed at regulating New York trails. The bill, backed by a bicyclist interest group, lacks support from the Department of Parks and Recreation. Lobbyists are working to either halt the bill or push for more flexible design standards for trails.

- Greenway Bill and advocacy
- Trail development progress and permitting

Trail Systems and Future Collaborations:

Donald Hilton, from Oswego County Sheriff's Department, expressed gratitude for insights on trail management and shared plans for the county to oversee the permitting system. He raised concerns about local clubs restricting motorcycle access, potentially conflicting with state law. The restrictions stemmed from prior challenges with certain riders.

- Permitting system updates
- Motorcycle access and local regulations

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 24 at 4:00 PM virtually or at the Outdoor Services Building, 7356 East Road, Lowville, NY 13367



Upcoming Meetings & Events

Tug Hill Wheelers Meeting: March 5th at Snow Pals Groomer Barn at 7:00 PM

Tug Hill Adirondack ATV Association Meeting: March 17th at Towpath Restaurant at 9:00 AM

Black River Valley Riders Meeting: March 27th at Tuggers at 6:00 PM

Black River Valley Four Wheelers Meeting: April 5th, 2025 at the Brantingham Inn at 9:00 AM

Highmarket Wheelers Meeting: April 12th, 2025 at the Tug Hill Hideaway at 11:00 AM



Remembering Clay Culver

We are deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Clay Culver. Clay was a member of the Tug Hill Wheelers Club and an avid trail ambassador. He would continuously send photos of issues that he found along the trails and drop pins to make it easier to find. Our hearts go out to his family and club family, he will be deeply missed by many.

2025 Sponsorship

We would like to thank the following sponsors for their continued support. Your contributions help us continue to grow and improve the trail system.

3 Willows Event Center
Beaver Creek Lodge
Boondocks Restaurant
Brantingham Station
Dolhof Hardware
Flat Rock Inn
Florissante The Mansion
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Kevin's Tug Hill Hideaway
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Terry Groff Auto Repair & Rides 4 Less
The Depot Market (HumbleBee Farms)
The Edge Hotel
The Lodge at Headwaters
Timberview Resort/Adventures
Towpath Restaurant & Lodge
Trailside Ranch
Tug Hill Hook & Ladder
Tuggers Grill Bar & Campground
Worlds Famous Osceola Hotel LLC

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What does Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) include on the County's trail system?

- The trail system access includes dirt bikes, ATV's and side by sides up to 2,000 lbs

Why do I have to purchase a permit to ride my OHV on the trail system?

- The County implemented the permit system as a means of paying for the cost of establishing and maintaining the Trail System, which included County reforestation lands, and private land-owner trails.
- Permit money is also used for expansion of the Trail System. The Lewis County Trail system is the first of its kind in New York State and we believe will provide OHV enthusiasts with a riding experience that is second to none. The development and maintenance of this system, however, is not without cost. A permit system is the most appropriate mechanism to ensure that those who benefit the most from the Trail System pay for the cost to operate it.

When does the trail system open?

- The trail system is scheduled to open April 1st based on conditions (late spring will delay opening) and closes the Tuesday after Columbus Day in October but can change due to weather and trail conditions

How old do you have to be to operate a OHV?

- Children ages 14-15 must be accompanied by an adult 18 or older OR must have successfully completed an ATV safety course and carry the course completion certificate when operating any OHV.

Where can I take a safety course?

- The Tug Hill ATV Association and some area ATV clubs offer safety courses. Call the ATV Clubs for more information


Where are the permit requirements enforced?

- The entire Lewis County Trail System is patrolled by the Lewis County Sheriff's office. Patrols will ride through the entire system to enforce all rules and regulations. Permits are required for all off road trails but a permit is not required for the Town and County roads that are opened for ATV access.

What are the fines for violating rules and regulations for the trail system?

- For riding without a permit, fines are \$250 for the first offense and \$500 and a permanent revocation of access and your OHV can be confiscated. Other fines are for riding on areas outside of the designated trails: \$500 for the first offense, machine compounded thereafter; altering trails to created hazards \$500 first offense, \$1000 thereafter, and violating traffic rules \$250 for first offense, \$500 thereafter.

Thank you for reading!

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