

# TRAIL TALK

ALBERTA OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ASSOCIATION

## FROM THE PRESIDENTS HANDLEBARS

Firstly, let me introduce myself to all of you. My name is Bob Smith, and your board elected me to the position of President for this year. For the past number of years, I have held the position of Vice-President and have worked very closely with Cal Rakach to make the Alberta Off Highway Vehicle Association reach its goal of providing safe individual and family oriented motorized recreational opportunities in an environmentally responsible manner.



I have had the privilege of being a founding director of the Motorcyclists Confederations of Canada and currently sit on the board of directors for that association. I am also a founding member and director of the recently formed ATV Quad Council of Canada, and also sit on that board of directors. I represent the AOHVA on the Trailnet Advisory Council in Alberta, the NE Mapping pilot project, and a number of other coalitions in the province.

Replacing Cal will be an almost impossible task, but one that we will give as much effort as possible. The association has not lost Cal though. Cal has been spending almost full time working for your rights the past number of years, which is not financially sustainable. Due to his work, and that of a number of other members of the association, we have finally been able to convince the OHV industry – remember these names: Honda, Yamaha, Suzuki, Kawasaki, Polaris, Arctic Cat, KTM, John Deere and Can-Am – to help fund our work. This has allowed us

Continued on page 4

### VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

#### In this issue:

From "The Presidents Handlebars"	1
BHAS Trail Steward Days	1
Suzuki Canada AOHVA Support	2
General Club Liability insurance!	3
Off Road Communities Band together	4

### NOV 2006

#### In this issue:

The GAMP Files	5
Calendar of Events	6

## BHAS TRAIL STEWARD DAYS

This Edition of TrailTalk featured article is about the Big Horn Heritage ATV Society (BHAS). The BHAS are the trail stewards for the Big Horn Damn area and the Hummingbird creek area.

The club has been around for

a few years now so it has some established members not to mention very dedicated members where passion outweighs most everything else.

Thanks' to the BHAS we can

visit the Big Horn Damn or the Hummingbird areas and spend a day of riding a pleasurable ride without the hassle of fighting muskeg or rutted out trails from 4 x 4 truck usage.

Continued on page 2

**LYNX  
MOTORSPORT  
OFFER**

Lynx Motorsports in Edmonton has offered to contribute a donation to the Alberta Off-highway Vehicle Association for every unit they sell to an AOHVA member. If you purchase a unit from these folks, let them know you are a member and remind them.

**ADVERTISE IN  
THE AOHVA  
TRAILTALK**



The AOHVA TrailTalk is read by over 450 readers 4 times a year. And every reader is either a dirt bike rider or an ATV enthusiast. What better way to get your company affordable advertising and have it delivered to the right audience.

**RATES**

Left Banner	\$100.00
Half page	\$300.00
Full page	\$500.00
<b>WEB SITE PER MONTH:</b>	
Banner	\$100.00
Left Banner	\$50.00

**BHAS TRAIL STEWARD DAYS CONTINUED**

This year the Big Horn Heritage ATV Society held a Trail Stewardship days work bee on July 1<sup>st</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup> 2006 at the Hummingbird Creek area. Their goal was to build a few km's of new multi-use trail and repair existing trail using members and volunteers. As well install 2 ATV bridges.

A total of 38 volunteers and members of all ages from 6 to 73 attended the event ready to give a little back to the area that they so much appreciate and enjoy.

The volunteers came from various places such as Edmonton, Delburne, Stettler, Airdrie and areas in between.



**Bridge #1 & #2 built by BHAS members and Volunteers. These bridges are Engineered and stamped to ensure your safety.**

The week before the Trail Stewardship Days took place the Bighorn Heritage ATV Society (BHAS) members and volunteers were out at the (Hummingbird) south end of the Pleasant Valley preparing for the event.

This project like all projects was approved by the Rocky Mountain House Sustainable Resource Development (SRD). Commencing any work to be done an assessment of the work to be done has to be completed a year in advance and sent in to the SRD for approval.



**Volunteers and members attending the group dinner that was cooked by Parkland Sled & ATV .**

There were 2 bridges built and 4 km of trail re-built. The bridges were 25' and 10' in length which lead down to a picnic area at the Ram River. Additionally BHAS members and volunteers put in 2 culverts and hauled gravel and fixed the trails in low lying areas. Near Onion Lake one side hill cut was made on a steep hill to bypass the trail up onto dryer ground.

## BHAS TRAIL STEWARD DAYS CONTINUED

This event was made possible by the generous donations of various business.

- Parkland Sled & ATV donated & cooked supper as well as donated Ranger for use to work on the trails.
- W. Phidirney Welding donated a large tent.

Door prizes we donated by:

- Turple Brothers
- Bucklake Leisure Products
- Gateway Sales & Service
- Kaltire
- Edwards Garage
- Boundary General Store

Cash donations:

- Frank & Randy Williams Family
- Rocky Mountain House Fish & Game
- ET Transport
- Elk Oilfield
- Merlin Stewart
- K. Yarenchuk
- Lawerance Mazur Belar Enterprises



Hauling gravel to repair soft spots in low lying areas

The Western Star & The Mountaineer advertise our event in their publications free of charge.

Contributions to the project were made by funds of the Eastern Slopes and the SRD.

You can find the Big Horn Heritage Society online at [www3.telus.net/bhas/](http://www3.telus.net/bhas/)



## GENERAL LIABILITY CLUB INSURANCE

Is your club covered for General Liability? General Liability is the coverage your club needs for its day to day activities including club rides, meetings and social events. Without this type of coverage, the members run the risk of becoming held liable for any damages that may occur due to club events.

The Alberta Off Highway Vehicle Association is able to offer you an outstanding policy at a very affordable rate. At only Three dollars per member (minimum \$100) plus three dollars for the club this is very affordable protection.

This may also be a very good reason to have your group or club join AOHVA if it has not yet.

For more details, please contact the Alberta Off-Highway Vehicle Association. email: [aohva@shaw.ca](mailto:aohva@shaw.ca)

# TRAIL TALK

## FROM THE PRESIDENTS HANDLEBARS ... CONTINUED

to hire Cal as a Technical Director for AOHVA. Not sure if Cal has fully realised the workload will increase to an even higher level yet, but at least he might be able to help provide for his family.

The year to date has been full of positive and negatives. The loss of a substantial number of trails in the Ghost/Waiporous has been a huge disappointment. But due to the work of Bob Bolton and Darryl Copithorne as well as the support they have been receiving from our Calgary area clubs, there is a very faint light at the end of this tunnel. One of the repercussions of the new Ghost plan has been the impact upon other areas including McLean Creek and the Crowsnest. AOHVA is working on these problems and we hope to make some progress. An issue that has come upon us quickly is the complete lack of winter riding for our

Some positives include the pilot mapping project being shared by AOHVA with the Alberta Snowmobile Association, Alberta Tourism, Alberta Trailnet, Alberta Community Development, and Alberta Sustainable Resources. Cal has spent an incredible amount of time on the road, on the trail, and on the computer trying to map out all of the approved recreational trails in North East Alberta. The timeline for publishing the map is very short, and with luck you will see the results of these efforts early in 2007. Another positive includes the progress being made by the Recreational Corridors committee towards proper funding and planning for trails in Alberta. We expect a report from this group by the end of the year.

We are also working on improving the benefits of belonging to AOHVA. Currently we are able to offer our member clubs an incredibly good deal on general liability insurance as well as directors and officers insurance. If your club is not taking advantage of these programs, it should be. Through our membership in MCC we are also able to offer a discount program with Budget Rent A Car and West Jet among others. Further details will be available shortly.

Future moves of the association will include opening up a full time office in Edmonton. We expect there will be a number of benefits from doing this. Expect to see better and faster service, better communications, and we hope, more results on the ground.

To all of the members of AOHVA: Thank you very much for all of your support through the years. Without it, we could never have moved as far forward as we have. With your continued support we look forward to significant improvements in the ATV and trail bike experience throughout this wonderful province ❖

## OFF ROAD COMMUNITIES BAND TOGETHER

At a meeting held in Toronto MCC joined Canada's Off-Road Motorcycling and ATV federations and associations to hear an announcement of major funding and staff support for Canada's Off-Road communities. Following from a meeting held in Calgary last September, organized by the Coalition for Access and Stewardship, this action demonstrates a commitment to advocate more effectively for the rights of Canada's off-road communities. MCC, as Canada's national federation of Off-Road motorcycle organizations will coordinate, with provincial federations acting locally. Among those provincial federation are Quebec's FMSQ;

## THE GAMP FILES

My name is Brad Churchill, and I'm an avid recreational off road motorcyclist. Recently I was asked by a number of individuals to assist Siggie Pechout in the representation of the off-road motorcycle community to the SRD (Sustainable Resource Development) through the GAMP Stewardship Committee.

As many of you already know, earlier this year, a large area of the Ghost Recreational area was closed to ALL recreational and commercial interest. From the information that was presented to me, it was a forest land use plan prematurely implemented due to downward pressure on SRD by higher levels of the Alberta Government. My understanding is that the formal land use plan was not originally scheduled to be in place until sometime in 2008.

This incomplete implementation caused both the recreational and commercial community significant concern. As a result, most groups have been very vocal about the ramifications of losing access to such a popular area. The motorcycle community was hit particularly hard. The forestry area behind the Bar C ranch has been a very popular single track riding area for many years. It is now 100% closed to motorcycles. Also, ALL of the single track motorcycle trails in the Waiparous area are now closed. Anyone caught off a marked trail is subject to a \$300 fine.

It's important to note that not only motorcyclists were hit hard by this. Many other groups were too. Mountain climbing groups can't get back to climb. Outfitters can't get back to hunt. Not even the farmers are allowed to use their quads to herd cattle out of their leases (which is what they have been doing for a number of years now). EVERYBODY IS AFFECTED.

In attempt to address the concerns of the various stake holders (such as ranchers, outfitters, loggers, recreational campers, motorcyclists, quadders, 4X4 groups, and so forth), in July the SRD established what is called the GAMP Stewardship Committee (GSC), to which they invited representatives of each of the stakeholders to attend. In all there are 52 different groups, represented by 26 people. The committee is professionally facilitated, and from what I understand the facilitator is very well known and very good at keeping things on track.

The last meeting, held September 23, was to cover the following action items:

1. Review the purpose of the Stewardship Committee
2. Develop Committee Operating Principles and Charter
3. Develop a Working Vision

Define a Team Charter

As you can see, the committee is still in the formative stages. Mr. Pechout believes that while things are moving forward nicely, the real meat and potatoes of the issues aren't going to be addressed until sometime starting in May.

What he has seen however, is that while everyone is still getting to know each other, the common thread everybody has is related to ACCESS to the area.

So... Why should you care?

The reason is simple: As the smallest stakeholder of the group, we MUST work together as a community to ensure the riding area remains open. THIS IS NOT A TIME FOR CLUB VENDETTAS, EMPIRE BUILDING, OR PERSONAL DIFFERENCES.

What's already been done?

A number of individuals from various clubs have already mapped out extensive amounts of trails in the Ghost area, and compiled information in various formats with regard to those trails.

The key members of the larger recreational clubs, including the AOHVA, RMDRA, and Second Gear Club have made their voices very clear with SRD that the motorcycle and off road community has a clear voice and will use it.

Mr. Pechout (who already has a long standing, solid working relationship with SRD), has identified and spoken with the person hired by SRD to evaluate the trail system and make recommendations regarding opening and closing trails in the Ghost area.

**ALBERTA OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ASSOCIATION**

Alberta Off Highway Vehicle Assc  
9556 82 Ave NW  
Edmonton, AB  
T6C 0Z8  
Tel: 780-432-0858  
E-mail: aohva@eshaw.ca



*WORKING TO KEEP  
YOU RIDING*

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We're on the Web!  
[WWW.AOHVA.com](http://WWW.AOHVA.com)

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Boardwalk over cold water Sulfur spring at Fall Creek. The boardwalk was built and paid for by volunteers like you!

What's the next step?

In the next week or so, Mr. Pechout will arrange for he and I to meet this individual and compile a list of concerns and "show stoppers" with regard to requests to open trails. When we understand where he is coming from, then and only then can we come up with a game plan for addressing the interests of the motorcycle community. The other half of this obviously is to ensure that we have a full understanding of the interests and concerns of the motorcycle community. To do this I will be compiling an Internet based survey, which I'm hoping you can encourage your members to fill out.

Subsequent to that, we'll post our findings, along with his recommendations and concerns, then formalize a recommendation to the committee, in the best interest of the motorcycle community. It is important to note that our recommendations will address the desires/needs of the ENTIRE off road motorcycle community, and not just the small percentage of advanced riders who focus only on single track trails. Remember ladies and gentlemen, it's not about one or two trails. It's about ACCESS.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me or Siggie. While I've been listening over the last several months, I'm still learning about what's been done and what needs to be done. My primary mandate here is to ensure the communication from the committee to Siggie is passed on to the motorcycle community as a whole, and to offer research and professional assistance in whatever capacity I can.

I hope this has enlightened you as to what's going on with GAMP. I will keep you posted as I learn more.

Respectfully,

Brad Churchill

Email: [BradC@NoMatterWhere.com](mailto:BradC@NoMatterWhere.com)

Phone: 1-888-886-0298 (toll free)

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

