

# TRAIL TALK

ALBERTA OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ASSOCIATION

## FROM THE PRESIDENTS HANDLEBARS

Winter has come and gone and for us Albertans it wasn't much of a winter. The opportunity arises for riding like no other time of the year. No bugs, no dust, no mud and everything is frozen. All this, plus the long distance travel across muskegs, beaver ponds and creeks that would otherwise be formidable obstacles.

This is not saying one doesn't have to ride smart. There still those steep down hills that may be iced up . trapping the unwary in a valley with no exit. Or the pesky ice flows that invariably are perpendicular to the trail and if not negotiated just right, will carry one off down hill on an unintended toboggan ride.

From my place here in Sundre, a few short minutes west in the foothills, there are numerous long distance loops that I can take advantage of on a sunny Saturday afternoon. It isn't unusual to cover 70 kms. in a couple hours of leisure riding. But that's all over and we get to look forward to the new summer season...and what is stored for us? The Ghost Access Management Plan ([www.srd.gov.ab.ca/regions/southwest/ghost/](http://www.srd.gov.ab.ca/regions/southwest/ghost/)) will be released this spring. Signs are going up as we speak. My main hope is that the communications plan has been well thought out. It's going to boil down to 'trust'. Unfortunately for all parties involved, trust is based on past performance. Trust is very fragile, although critical.



Cal Rakach doing trail inventory at the Cardinal divide on the Suzuki 400 donated by Suzuki Canada

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## NEW CLUB IN THE ROCKY AREA

The Fall Creek Conservation Society [www.fallcreekconservationsociety.com](http://www.fallcreekconservationsociety.com) is a new OHV club who's focus is balance between multi-use and environment.

The FCCS believes we need to put back a little into the

areas we frequent on our recreational adventures to maintain the much needed balance between user and the environment.

In 2004 the idea of forming the FCCS was brought about because of the threat of closure of the Fall Creek area

south west of Rocky Mountain house.

Since 2004 the FCCS has worked solely on a volunteer basis and funding to begin repair of the trails and staging area located at the

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**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

**SUZUKI CANADA CONTINUES IT'S SUPPORT**

In a move to help the folks that are on the front lines of maintaining riding opportunities in Alberta, Suzuki Canada has provided four ATV's to the AOHVA. In conjunction with Turple Brothers of Red Deer in 2005 a LTZ 400 was provided to Cal Rakach, AOHVA President for his use in trail inventory and development through out the province.

The second quad, a 2005 King Quad 700 EFI, the flag ship of the Suzuki line up, was provided to Glen French, AOHVA Director and Canada Coalition for Access and Stewardship (CCAS) President through Ranchers Supply in Pincher Creek.

Ranchers Supply has a long history of supporting the Crowsnest Pass Quad Squad and stewardship activities in the Pass.

In 2006 Suzuki again stepped up to the plate by donating two more Suzuki products. Cal Rakach received a 2006 LTX 400 supplied from Walt Healy.

Ranchers Supply again supplied Glen French with a 2006 Suzuki King which will be used for ATV training and the sustainable trails initiative.❖



Ranchers supply in Pincher Creek and Suzuki continue to support and promote AOHVA and Sustainable trails initiatives in 2006. Merlin Lewis of Ranchers supply (Team Ranchers) hands keys to 2006 king quad to Glen French.

**CONTINUED FROM NEW CLUB ... PAGE 1**

crossing of Fall Creek and the BP-Amoco access road.

In the summer of 2005 the FCCS installed a boardwalk over the cold water sulfur spring and a pole fence around the fen areas of this ecological sensitive areas.

This year the FCCS is install 15 OHV bridges over selected tributaries and large mud holes. Installing the bridges prevents contact between the OHV and the flowing water. This then prevents the mud and dirt on the OHV from getting washed off into the tributary of the Fall Creek and becoming siltation that covers potential spawning beds.

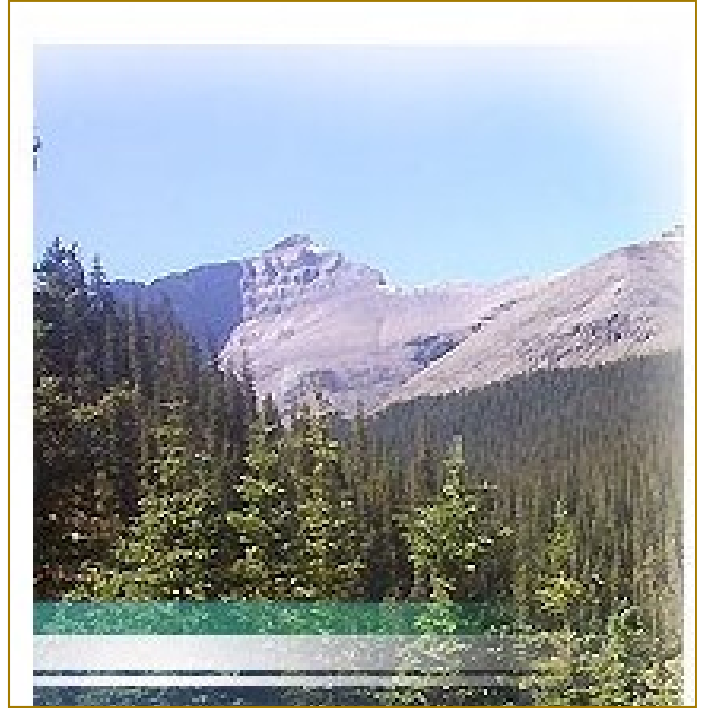


Engineered OHV bridge over crossing #2 on the E7 trail in the Fall Creek area. The bridge was built by Fall Creek Conservation Society Members.

Fortunately there are bright spots I see a desire in all levels of government to change the way we are doing things with our land use planning. The Government of Alberta has included in their long range strategy, the Land Use Framework ([www.finance.gov.ab.ca/publications/budget/budget2006/govbp.html](http://www.finance.gov.ab.ca/publications/budget/budget2006/govbp.html)). The Land Use Framework and sub-strategy, Integrated Land Management (ILM) has implementation teams in place, and folks from industry, ENGO's and recreationalists at the table. The goal is to break down the different 'silos' within government land use planning and everyone working together. This is a huge undertaking in an extremely busy province. I'm proud to say I am involved in this process at all levels, as well as a Second to Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD) to the ILM program. Yes, I'm a part time government guy. I am the point guy for the recreation sector, making sure the right folks are in the discussions.

The Ghost Access Management Plan [www.srd.gov.ab.ca/regions/southwest/ghost.html](http://www.srd.gov.ab.ca/regions/southwest/ghost.html) will be released this spring. Signs are going up as we speak. My main hope is that the communications plan has been well thought out. It's going to boil down to 'trust'. Unfortunately for all parties involved, trust is based on past performance. Trust is very fragile, although critical.

Also good news is the implementation of the Alberta Recreational Corridors Coordinating Committee (ARCCC), of which I also have seat on. This initiative, I am particularly excited about. Minister of the day, Hon. Gary Mar along with MLA and Committee Chair Ray Danyluk, assembled an energetic collection of ranchers, bikers, horsemen, hikers, skiers, OHV'ers, sledders, outdoors folk, environmentally conscious folk, trail builders, trail stewards, law enforcement, land owners, city folk, town folk and country folk. ARCCC goal is to provide implement strategies for the 31 recommendations of the Recreational Corridors Legislative Review. [www.cd.gov.ab.ca/building\\_communities/sport\\_recreation/rec\\_corridor/index.asp](http://www.cd.gov.ab.ca/building_communities/sport_recreation/rec_corridor/index.asp)



The Clubs across the province are starting to think about their summer projects. The Bighorn Heritage ATV Society (BAHS) will be hosting the Hummingbird Clean and Green week up in the Bighorn. Work from last years rains are still progress. This stewardship week will be held during the first week of July at the Hummingbird Forest Recreation Area. So off to another summer. Much will be affecting our sport in the next year, change is coming. Getting involved is the only way to direct the change. Have a great and safe summer. ❖

## 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)

## ROCKY FISH & GAME CROSS THE BATISTE

### ROCKY FISH & GAME BAPTIST RIVER HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

For several years the Rocky Fish & Game Association has completed habitat enhancement projects in the Jackfish Lake and Baptiste River areas, mainly targeting moose habitat improvement. With the ever increasing OHV recreation traffic in this popular riding area the directors & membership decided to switch the focus to stream habitat improvement through the construction of several OHV bridges over some of the small fish bearing streams, including the Baptiste River.

In April 2004 the club constructed the first of three bridges over the river. The chosen locations were at severely damaged crossings on popular OHV trails. In late April Club members worked with the local trappers and with the Bighorn Heritage ATV Society members to construct the first of the three bridges. This truss design bridge was constructed on the north shore of the river then skidded into place using several Quads and a lot of ingenuity. This first bridge took a lot of effort and training as most members had not been exposed to bridge construction techniques. It did not take long for everyone to get organized and find a task to help. While several members forwarded materials the 3 or 4 kilometers from the trucks to the site others helped put the sill logs and ramp logs in place.



Other members used portable generators and bridge bores to drill the holes needed to join the various components of the trusses with steel plates. The placement of the stringers and the first truss took a bit of time but everyone involved watched carefully and the second truss took less than an hour to complete. In total time, this bridge was built in less than a day and a half including tube steak lunches and a few fun breaks. After the bridge was completed most of the people involved posed for the photograph.

As mentioned, this was the first of three bridges. The second bridge located about 5 kilometers upstream was built by 6 members during a very wet, snowy and cold May long weekend. The third bridge was completed later in June with the help of the Bighorn Heritage AVT Society. While all three bridges can help prevent stream and bank erosion and lessen the impact on water quality and fish habitat it takes everyone to use these bridges to be successful. Quadding all day and then going back to camp only to wash your quad off in the nearest stream pretty much defeats the purposes of the bridges. All of us need to be more responsible and diligent in how we treat the environment w like to play in.

Author's Note: the floods of June 2005 took their toll on much of the stream and river system along the Batiste River. Two of the bridges survived the flood. The third was moved downstream about 100 meters but was left intact. Members hope to be able to re-install this during the summer of 2006.

## AOHVA 2006 AGM

Thirty members and directors assembled to conduct the business of running the AOHVA. After welcomes from President Cal Rakach, recognition was given to the AGM Sponsors that provided the facilities and door prizes.

Special thanks as given to AGM donors:

- Honda Canada for Museum admission, room, coffee and snacks
- BRP for door prize – Helmet – won by Doug Dinius
- Wetaskiwin Motorsports for Door Prize – Open Cockpit plane ride – won by Ruth Paradis
- Maverick Distributing – helmet – won by Trudie Michaelchuk
- Maverick Distributing - goggles – won by Jim Fell
- Maverick Distributing – DVD – won by Dave Wall

Ben Wall provided us with his last presentation on the financial statements. After too many years of service as AOHVA Treasurer, Ben has decided to retire and enjoy the fruits of his labor...go riding. A special thanks was extended to Ben for those years of service, his passion and perseverance.

Bob Smith presented the VP's report, Bob's Corner as we called it. Bob has been very busy working memberships and the administration aspects of the Association. He gave us the nuts and bolts of the new club insurance program that has been established to help the clubs cover some of the liability issues. Also Bob has been busy keeping AOHVA involved in the newly formed ATV/Quad Council of Canada (AOCC) and the Motorcycle Confederation of Canada (MCC). These two organizations are our voice at the national level. We had also sent Bob down to Alabama for the North America OHV Conservation Council (NOHVCC) conference. Here Bob was able to connect us to our US counterparts and shore up relationships already established.

Membership rates are always a topic of discussion and this year was no different. After about ten years of no rate increase, it was moved and passed to adjust the membership rates for the 2007 membership year. They are as follows;

- Single membership rates be increased to \$30
- Family raised to \$50
- Club membership remain at \$100/club with \$10/member to AOHVA
- Corporate remain at \$200
- Manufacturer raised to \$500.

Darryl Copithorne presided over the election of our new board of Directors for 2006. The following have been elected on to the Board of Directors:

### AOHVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2006

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| • Cal Rakach         | • Dennis Glover     |
| • Bob Smith          | • Bruce Dewar       |
| • Gord Canfield      | • Darrel Nieberding |
| • Trudie Michaelchuk | • Ross Legge        |
| • Peter Schmiemann   | • Wes Hansen        |
| • Rudi Zasko         | • Scott Stirling    |
| • Jerry Bidulock     |                     |

## ALBERTA OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ASSOCIATION

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Edmonton, AB  
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Tel: 780-432-0858  
E-mail: aohva@eshaw.ca



WORKING TO KEEP  
YOU RIDING

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We're on the Web!

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

Jerry Bidulock conveyed words of encouragement from MLA Ray Danyluk, Recreation Corridors Coordinating Committee;

New Minister Community Development – Hon. Denis Ducharme is committed to the ARCCC process. Working toward recognition and funding for the AOHVA and is pleased with the leadership AOHVA has been demonstrating

Rudi Zasko provide a quick up date on the Redwater Natural Area situation. The new fence to keep the equine and motorized riders separate has been erected and Rudi in continuing has effort to steward the area. Cal gave special thanks to Rudi and all his years of dedication to the Redwater Natural Area.

In final note Cal, reviewed some of the Coalitions formed to address land access in particular the AOHVA, Alberta Snowmobile Association, Alberta Professional Outfitters Society, Alberta Trappers Association, Alberta Bow-hunters Association, Alberta Fish and Game Association to address the Wildland Parks and proposed Andy Russell Park. Once the meeting was over and bellies filled with lunch, we were treated to a tour of the Warehouse. In the Warehouse are stored many of the relics that have yet to be restored or just in storage. Many of the items are one of a kind and many have interesting histories. All agreed, the Reynolds Museum is the place for future AGMs.

It is with such support that we acknowledge all participating manufacturers, dealers, clubs and members for helping the AOHVA to carry on with it's most important work.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### AOHVA SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

**PLACE:** RED DEER, LOCATION TBA ON WEB SITE

**DATE:** JULY 31<sup>ST</sup>

**Information:**

Meeting is being called to change board directors. For more information, contact the AOHVA at [aohva@shaw.ca](mailto:aohva@shaw.ca)