

## Club Garner Service Organization of the Year Award

The Jackson County Trail Riders was chosen by the Black River Area Chamber of Commerce to receive their 2020 Service Organization of Year Award. The presentation was made during the chamber's Virtual Annual Meeting held March 22, 2021.

In lieu of the Chamber's annual awards banquet, the 2020 award winners were filmed receiving their awards along with giving information on each of the honorees.

The club's nomination form stated that the mission of the Jackson County Trail Riders is to support and expand the Jackson County single-track motorcycle trail system for off-road motorcycle riders.

Founded in 1990, the club maintains the 28 miles of trails on property owned by Jackson County in the Crawford Hills ATV & Motorcycle Park east of Black River Falls.

Members of the Jackson County Trail Riders come from all over Wisconsin, as well as Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota. The majority of the club's members are driving one to four hours to volunteer for trail workdays because they enjoy coming to the Black River Falls area.

Membership and participation had been dwindling, but the club launched a Facebook page – along with working with the Jackson County Parks & Forestry Department and the Black River Area Chamber of Commerce – to promote the club and its activities. In 2020 the club grew from 32 to 90 paid members. The club's Facebook page has more than 450 fans (at the time of the award presentation).



*Black River Area Chamber of Commerce Director Amanda Gunn presents the 2020 Service Organization of the Year Award to JCTR Club President Bob Ybema.*

After several years of neglect, the club held nine trail workdays in 2020 with 32 volunteers putting in an incredible 514 hours clearing brush and making other improvements to the three single-track trails. Including drive time to Black River Falls, members donated a whopping 785 hours.

For 2021, the club will be installing emergency location markers at half-mile intervals on each of the three trails, along with laying out a youth loop near the campground at Crawford Hills County Park.

With many people looking for outdoor activities close-to-home due to COVID-19 and the club's work on the single-track trails, usage in 2020 set records. The Jackson County Parks & Forestry Department had one of their best years for motorcycle sticker sales. While the Jackson County Trail Riders have very few members who actually live in Jackson County, the club members provide another recreational experience to bring visitors to the Black River area.

The 2020 Business of the Year Award was presented to the Merrilan Cafe. The 2020 Emerging Business Award went to Serene Clean, a cleaning service in Black River Falls.

### *Inside this Issue*

- Installation of Trail Markers Completed - Page 2
- Youth Loop Added at Crawford Hills - Page 3
- Members Donate 725 Hours in March - Page 3
- Volunteers Move Dirt on North Loop - Page 4
- Trails Committee Chairman's Report - Page 4
- Member Questions Answered - Page 5
- JCTR Officers Seeking Re-election - Page 6

# Installation of Location Markers on Trails Completed



Madison (pictured at left), Ken Schuck, Stoughton, and Rich Brereton, McFarland (who are both pictured below).

Duane Baer and his wife, Beth, Greenville, installed posts on the first half of the South Loop, while Jack Potter, Warrens, worked on the second half of the South Loop.

Jonathan Fortney and Ben Froiseth, Viroqua, had offered to help mark the trails to indicate where the posts should be driven in. But since Brian Mullane came up a day early and was able to get all three trails marked, Jonathan and Ben instead cleared downfalls from the South Loop.

Steve Mitoraj, La Crosse, and Dan Robbins, New London, paired up to install posts on the first half of the McKenna Loop. Working on the second half of the McKenna Loop were Cortney Higgins, Edgar, and Dan Murwin and his son, Adam, both of Janesville.

The location stickers were not ready in time for the May workday, but Brian Mullane came back up at the end of June to work with Jack Potter to add the stickers to the blue sign posts.

The posts have the first letter of the trail name on the top line and mileage on the bottom line. For example, the sign at 10½ miles in on the McKenna Loop is marked ML 10.5 as shown in the photo at left. The trails are marked ML for McKenna Loop, NL for North Loop and SL for South Loop.

Volunteers helping May 1 donated 59 hours of labor plus an additional 48 hours of drive time for a total of 107 hours.

The Jackson County Trail Riders and the Jackson County Forestry & Parks Department partnered on a project to install emergency location signs on the three single-track motorcycle trails at Crawford Hills County Park in 2021.

The signs are meant to help emergency responders to more quickly locate downed riders on the trail system. The county purchased Carsonite signposts, mileage stickers and other signage for the trails. The club provided the labor to install the posts and signs.

At a May 1 club workday, 13 volunteers split up into five teams to install posts at half-mile intervals on the North Loop, South Loop and McKenna Loop.

Installing posts on the North Loop were Brian Mullane,

## *Use Mileage Markers to Call for Help*

Should you or someone in your group require emergency assistance while riding the single-track trails at Crawford Hills, call 9-1-1 and report the name of the trail you are on along with the nearest mileage marker.

Because “M” and “N” do sound similar, we advise giving the trail name rather than ML and NL, along with your location. Signs were installed every half mile on each trail.

If you notice a sign is broken off or missing, please notify us at [jacksoncountyclubriders@yahoo.com](mailto:jacksoncountyclubriders@yahoo.com).



# Youth Loop Added at Crawford Hills County Park



*Carley Ybema taking the first lap on the new Youth Loop. The loop is south of the Day Parking Area and is roughly one-third mile long. Carley is the youngest member of the Jackson County Trail Riders.*

With more families coming to the Crawford Hills County ATV and Motorcycle Park, the Jackson County Forestry & Parks Department has had requests for a youth loop. The Department asked if the Jackson County Trail Riders would consider adding a dedicated youth trail for beginning riders.

During a March 26-27 work weekend, volunteers created a youth loop south of the Day Parking Area. The entrance to the one-third mile course is to the right of the pit toilets.

The club also has permission to add a second youth loop near the campground, but didn't have enough volunteers at the March work weekend to work on it. It was suggested we make the second youth loop a bit more difficult for the youth who have more experience riding.



*Club members Mike Ward, Jack Potter and Cortney Higgins getting started clearing brush along the new Youth Loop.*

## Members Give 725 Hours in March

The following individuals donated a combined 274.5 hours working at the March trail workdays. Including drive time to and from Crawford Hills County Park, these volunteers gave a total of 726.5 hours of their time.

### March 20 Volunteers

Cortney Higgins, Edgar ◇ Sparky Bejin & Brian Bejin, Chippewa Falls ◇ Mike Thompson, Menomonie ◇ Jack Potter, Warrens ◇ John Edwards, Onalaska ◇ Wayne Danielson, McHenry, Ill. ◇ Duane Baer, Greenville ◇ Ryan Mika, Osceola ◇ Rich Brereton, McFarland ◇ Troy Millman & Tim Johnson, Oshkosh ◇ Andy Kelly, New Glarus ◇ Andy Falk, Eau Claire ◇ Ken Schuck, Stoughton ◇ Bob Ybema, Black River Falls ◇ Jim Mullen, Fall Creek ◇ Luke Jacobson and Luke's son & daughter, Oregon

### March 21 Volunteers

Cortney Higgins ◇ Sparky Bejin & Brian Bejin ◇ Robert Butke, Neenah ◇ Kevin Last, Oregon ◇ Jack Potter ◇ Troy Millman & Tim Johnson ◇ Mike Ward, Eau Claire

### March 26 Volunteers (Unscheduled Workday)

Cortney Higgins ◇ Sparky Bejin ◇ Jack Potter

### March 27 Volunteers

Cortney Higgins ◇ Ryan Mika ◇ John Edwards ◇ Kevin Weivoda, La Crosse ◇ Jack Potter ◇ Kevin Last ◇ Kirk Skogebo, Wesley Romine and Finley Romine, Winona, Minn.

### March 28 Volunteers

Jack Potter ◇ Cortney Higgins ◇ Ryan Mika ◇ Steve Mitoraj, La Crosse ◇ Mike Ward ◇ Doug Lange, Cottage Grove ◇ Bob Ybema ◇ Duane Baer ◇ Katrina Baer ◇ Kevin Last

## Where Can You Buy Trail Stickers?

The 2022 Jackson County Motorcycle stickers are now available for purchase online from the Jackson County Forestry & Parks Office.

Visit their website at [www.jacksoncountyparks.us/parks](http://www.jacksoncountyparks.us/parks) and look for the Permits/Products tab. The cost is \$20 for the annual sticker, plus \$1 for mailing.

From April 1 through Oct. 15, county stickers are also available at:

- County Forestry & Parks Office - Black River Falls
- Black River Motor Sports - Black River Falls
- SureStay Plus Hotel - Black River Falls
- Millston Kwik Mart - Millston
- Rustic Buck Bar & Grill - Pray

Riders of off-highway motorcycles must also have a state OHM sticker when riding at Crawford Hills County Park. The fee is \$30 for a first-time registration and \$30 for a two-year renewal. Visit the [GoWild.WI.gov](http://GoWild.WI.gov) website to complete an application.

# Volunteers Move Dirt on North Loop at Fall Workday

An eight-person crew worked at moving dirt on the North Loop at an Oct. 23 workday. A couple of low spots on the first mile of the trail were filled in as well as an uphill cut near the end of the trail.

Volunteers helping included Dan and Adam Murwin, Janesville; Josh Check, Waupaca; John Edwards, Onalaska; Duane Baer, Greenville; Cortney Higgins, Edgar; and Judd Riggs and Jack Potter, Warrens.

A total of 36.5 work hours were turned in to the county. Adding in drive time, the volunteers donated a total of 61.5 hours.

Pictured at right is Adam Murwin driving the pug, Judd Riggs using the front-end loader, and Dan Murwin and Jack Potter standing in the background. Thank you to John Edwards for the photo.



## JCTR Trails Committee Report

*Thank you to everyone who helped at one or more of our trail workdays in 2020 or 2021. As stated elsewhere, volunteers put in 515 hours of work on the three trails at Crawford Hills County Park in 2020 and 364 hours in 2021.*

*And that only includes the organized trail days. Several members also worked on the trails at other times, clearing dead falls, installing signage, mowing the campground and other projects.*

*I would also like to thank my wife Lorry Erickson for her help in organizing workdays and filling out the nomination papers that led to us receiving the Service Organization of the Year Award.*

*Some of the projects we hope to undertake in 2022 include doing more dirt work on*

*the trails to fill in the ruts and low spots.*

*We had a severe windstorm in December that knocked 100 trees down on the county ATV trails, so we're expecting to find trees down on the motorcycle trails, too.*

*We also have permission to add another youth loop near the campground. And, of course, the trails will require some brushing.*

*The county forester prohibits cutting and brushing operations from April 1 to July 15 to avoid spreading oak wilt. We hope to have a few workdays in March ~assuming the snow has melted by then ~ and then later in the season. Watch the club's Facebook page and e-mails for announcements.*

*Hope to see you on the trails in 2022!*

*Jack Potter,  
Trails Committee Co-Chair*

# Questions on Trail Stickers, Club Dues and More

By Lorry Erickson, JCTR Communications Coordinator

## What permits are needed for riding the single-track motorcycle trails at Crawford Hills County Park?

If you are riding an off-highway motorcycle, you will need both a Jackson County motorcycle sticker and a Wisconsin DNR Off-Highway Motorcycle sticker.

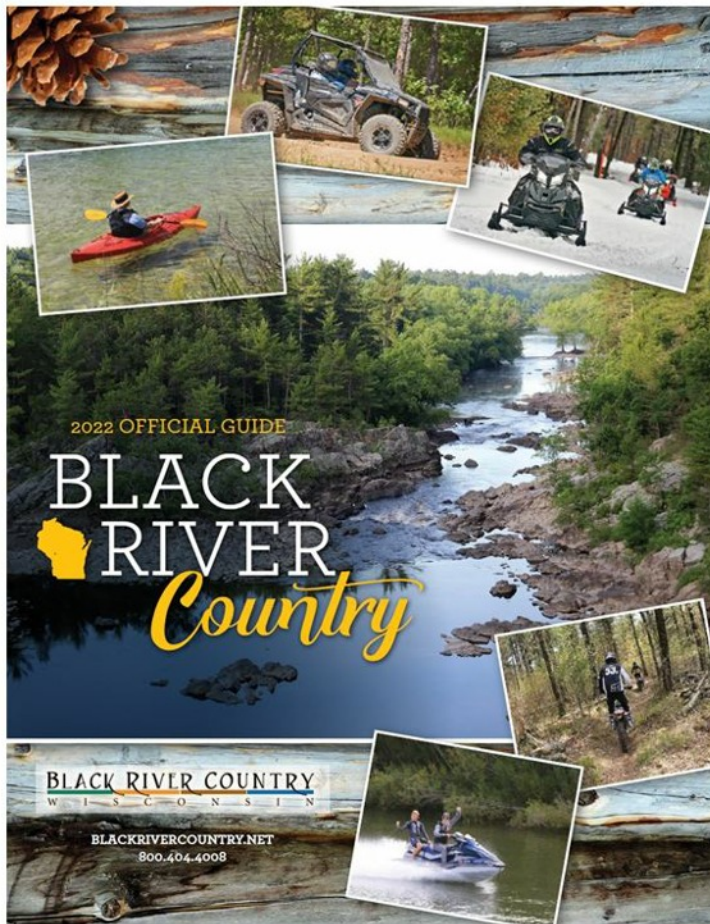
The 2022 Jackson County motorcycle stickers (which are orange this year) are \$20 and can be ordered online at [www.jacksoncountyparks.us/parks/permits\\_and\\_products](http://www.jacksoncountyparks.us/parks/permits_and_products).

The state OHM sticker is \$30 for a first-time registration and \$30 for a two-year renewal. For those with state OHM registrations that expire March 31, 2022, [gowild.wi.gov](http://gowild.wi.gov) is ready to take renewals.

Non-residents wanting to ride in the Badger State can also purchase OHM stickers through the Go Wild web site. A non-resident trail pass to operate on OHM trails is \$35 per year. A five-day pass is also available for \$20.

Prior to April 2021, non-residents needed to register their off-highway motorcycle in Wisconsin to operate on OHM trails or other publicly established corridors.

For more on non-resident OHM passes, see the press release at [dnr.wisconsin.gov/newsroom/release/43526](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/newsroom/release/43526).



The cover of the 2022 Black River Country Visitor's Guide features a photo taken by JCTR member Brian Mullane at Crawford Hills County Park.

Jackson County is allowed to have its own motorcycle sticker program as it does not accept funds from the state OHM program for trail maintenance. The county program predates the state OHM program.

While the Jackson County Trail Riders do not receive direct funding from the county's motorcycle sticker sales, the county Forestry & Parks Department does supply the club with gravel and other materials. The club is solely responsible for the labor involved in maintaining the trails.

## Why does the Jackson County Trail Riders collect dues?

As stated above the club does not receive revenue from the county's motorcycle sticker sales. We need to generate enough income to pay for liability insurance, printing trail maps, food for workday lunches and other expenses. The membership fee has remained at just \$10 per year since the club was founded in 1990.

## Can I pay dues electronically via Venmo or Paypal?

Club Treasurer Steve Roof is looking into Venmo but we don't have an account established yet. At such time as Steve has that set up, we will notify members via e-mail and the club's Facebook page.

Until then you can renew your dues the old-fashioned way and pay either by check or cash. A membership form is on Page 6 of this newsletter. You can also bring your dues to our March workdays. Memberships are due April 1.

## Didn't the Jackson County Trail Riders get a big grant?

The Jackson County Forestry & Parks Department secured an \$8,000 grant in 2020 from the federal Recreational Trails Program. We were told we could turn in our work hours for reimbursement for up to \$4,000 that year and the rest would be available in 2021. But because of the number of volunteers hours members worked, the county gave us the entire \$8,000 in 2020.

Since that was the first time we received funds from the county, the officer team decided to spend no more than one third of the money over the next three years. In 2021, grant funds were used to purchase two brush saws and two chainsaws, along with a box of white Carsonite posts to install additional signs.

## When are you planning to have trail workdays in 2022?

Depending on when the snow melts, we'll try to have workdays in late March. The Black River Falls area was hit by a windstorm in early December, so there could be a lot of windfalls to clear before the trails open May 13. Watch your e-mail and the club's Facebook page for dates.

For those of you who are new JCTR, the club petitioned the county to allow installation of single-track trails in Crawford Hills County Park. Maintenance of the nearly 30 miles of trails is the responsibility of this club. And with the original club members now all 65 or older, we very much appreciate the younger riders who are getting involved.

# JCTR Officers Seek Re-election for Another Term

The current officers of the Jackson County Trail Riders are willing to continue to serve for another term. The officer team is made up of: President Bob Ybema, Vice President Cortney Higgins, Secretary Ron Bohl and Treasurer Steve Roof. The ballot and 2022 membership form are below.

## BOB YBEMA

Bob has served as president of the Jackson County Trail Riders since 2016. Bob and his wife, Heather, live in Black River Falls where Bob owns BRB Motors and several other businesses.

A former flat-track racer, Bob competed around the Midwest and won eight Wisconsin amateur and five professional titles.

Bob first visited the Black River Falls area to ride the ATV trails and said he fell in love with the area. He bought a house in Black River Falls in 2001 and moved to Jackson County full time in 2015.

"I joined the Jackson County Trail Riders to help keep the trails open and running and to show that people still care about having the trails," he said.

## CORTNEY HIGGINS

Cortney agreed to fill the newly created position as the club's vice president in 2021. Cortney and his wife, Connie, live in Edgar. An Iowa native, Cortney moved to Wisconsin 25 years ago. Cortney says he likes quiet places and loud guitars.

"I purchased my first motorbike in March of 2000, a used Harley-Davidson that I kept for 20 years. In 2009 I bought a mountain bike and discovered I like riding in the woods

way more than on blacktop. I've helped build and maintain mountain bike single-track trails for 12 years," Cortney said.

More recently, Cortney has been riding dirt bikes, too. "This coming season will be my fifth year on a dirt bike and I hope for many more," he said.

## RON BOHL

Ron has served as JCTR secretary since 2013. He and his wife Mary live in Eau Claire. Ron is retired from working 20 years as a custodian and 20 years as a construction inspector. Ron began riding enduros in 1972 on a Honda 350 Motosport.

Ron rode at local events with his brother Butch and the father-son team of Clint and Jack Potter. In 1976 Ron rode in the Six-Day Qualifier, winning a Bronze Medal. He also competed in a few national enduros.

"When I saw the decline in trail riding opportunities, I wanted to help so I joined the JCTR Club. I've been a member ever since, helping where I can. It's nice to see more volunteers at the workdays," he said.

Ron has served as JCTR secretary since 2013.

## STEVE ROOF

Steve Roof is the owner of Keytime Motorsports outside Warrens, Wis., and has served as JCTR treasurer since 2005. Steve began off-road motorcycle riding and racing in the early 2000s.

Steve also allows us to use the Keytime address as the club's mailing address and answers calls from riders with questions about the single-track trails at Crawford Hills.

## 2022 JCTR Membership Renewal & Officer Election Ballot

Dues are still just \$10 per year. Please make checks payable to Jackson County Trail Riders and send to JCTR c/o Keytime Motorsports, 28702 County Hwy EW, Warrens, WI 54666. **Please return membership form and ballot by April 1.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I vote for the current JCTR officers to serve another 1-year term.