

New Section of Trail Added to McKenna Loop

A one-mile section of new trail was added to the McKenna Loop this past summer. The new trail passes through an area of the county forest that was logged off in 2023 and also through a stand of young trees that have grown up since a prior logging operation.

In early spring, JCTR Trails Committee Co-Chair Jack Potter met with Jackson County Forest & Parks Administrator Jim Zahasky to discuss the planned trail addition. Receiving an OK to proceed, Jack flagged the new route.

The weekend of July 22-23, Jack worked at clearing the planned trail of tree tops using his mini excavator. That same weekend Trails Committee Co-Chair Cortney Higgins and Robert Butke cleared brush on the North Loop.

Then after the trails closed for the season, a crew of nine volunteers worked on cutting trees in the wooded area to create the new trail. The Oct. 21 volunteers included: Jack Potter; Matt Kuenner, La Crosse; Sparky Bejin, Chippewa Falls; Ryan Mika, Osceola; Paul Wagner, Deerbrook; Don Nickels, Eden Prairie, Minn.; Kevin Last, Oregon; Kevin Weivoda, La Crosse, and Jim Winnemueller, Saukville.

More information about other workdays held in 2023 and 2022 can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Crawford Hills Campground Reminders

The Jackson County ATV Club asked that we share a few reminders regarding use of the Crawford Hills Campground.

If you are riding just for the day, please park in the day-use parking area. If you park in the campground area, you are taking up space that can be rented.

The camping rate is \$20 per night. The camping fees go to the Jackson County ATV Club and are used for maintaining the campground and making improvements.

The ATV Club took over mowing and other upkeep in 2020 after the county announced plans to close the campground due to a lack of manpower and funds.

Over the past few years, the ATV club has been replacing picnic tables, added grills and made other upgrades. JCTR President Bob Ybema also lends the ATV Club a hand with mowing when needed.



Trail Boss Jack Potter clearing tree tops from the area for the new trail on the McKenna Loop. Photo by Cortney Higgins.

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Trails Committee Report

By Trails Committee Co-Chairman Cortney Higgins

Thank you to all the volunteers who gave up time on their bike. Time with their family. Time maintaining their home or themselves. Instead you chose to volunteer your time and often your tools to keep our trails open for all to enjoy.

In March we started trail work for the 2023 riding season. With deep snow cover, fifteen volunteers trekked through carrying chainsaws and handsaws. Two weekends in a row the dedicated group cleared fallen trees and other damage left from a December ice storm.

As soon as the yearly cutting ban was lifted, on July 15, we were back at it brush cutting undergrowth and trimming back the ever growing tree limbs.

Our trail boss, Jack Potter, started a trail reclamation project on the McKenna Loop. With his mini excavator he made trail through a clear-cut area that would lead to a “new growth” section in the woods. Jack would flag that for more new trail that was later cut in by nine volunteers in October.

These two new sections of trail on the McKenna Loop rejoin the existing trail, keeping riders fully on single track again. Lots of volunteer hours went into this project. Be proud of yourself and give yourself a big pat on the back if you helped this season.

If you are not currently a member of the Jackson County Trail Riders, we encourage you to show your support of the club's efforts with a \$10 membership.

Again thank you to all our volunteers and see you on the trail at Crawford Hills in 2024.



John Edwards of La Crosse was among the 15 volunteers who helped at the March 25-26 workdays. All those who helped are listed on Page 4. Photo by Cortney Higgins.

Ron Bohl Steps Down as JCTR Secretary

Ron Bohl is stepping down as Jackson County Trail Riders secretary. We thank Ron for his many years of service to the club. As one of the group's founding members, Ron participated in many trail workdays, picked up trash along the club's two-mile section of Adopt-a-Highway with friend Ray Perry for many years, and has been the club secretary since 2013.

Ron began riding in local enduros in 1972 on a Honda 350 Motosport with his brother Butch and the father-son team of Clinton 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 been really nice to see more volunteers at workdays the past couple of years,” Ron said.

Ron and his wife, Mary, live in Eau Claire. Ron's has been having trouble with his email lately, but you can reach him at S6145 Sun Dance Place, Eau Claire, WI 54701.

Andy Kelly of New Glarus is willing to fill the secretary's position. We have Andy's bio – along with those of the other club officers – on Page 6 of this newsletter.

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.

We don't make the rules, folks!

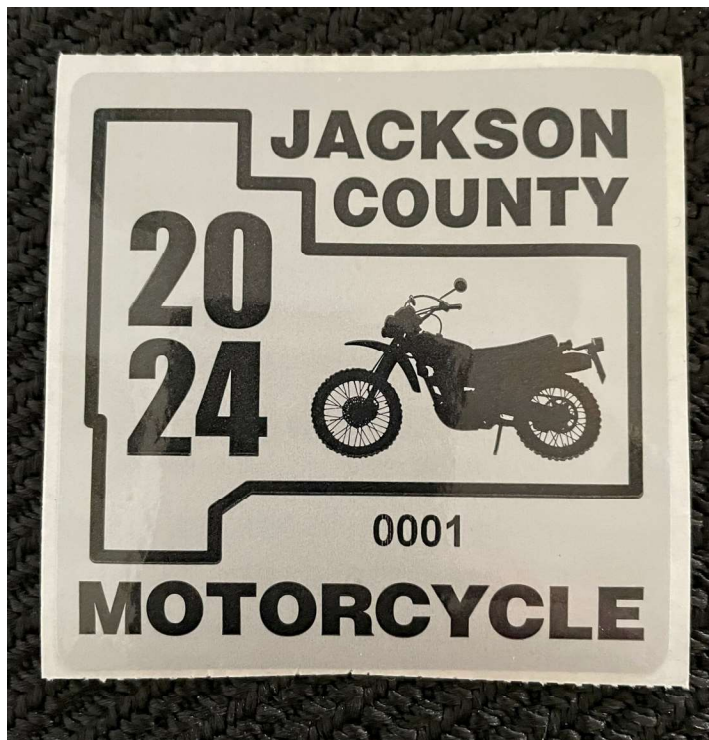
Jackson County is allowed to have its own motorcycle sticker program as it does not accept funds from the state OHM program for trail maintenance. The county program actually predates the state OHM program.

The 2024 Jackson County motorcycle stickers (which are white this year) are \$20 and can be ordered online at www.jacksoncountyparks.us/parks/permits_and_products or purchased at the locations listed on Page 4.

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, 2024, 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.

For more on Wisconsin DNR OHM passes and regulations, go to: dnr.wisconsin.gov/permits/registrations and look for the Off-Highway Recreational Vehicles section.



JCTR Vice President Cortney Higgins is the holder of 2024 Jackson County Motorcycle sticker No. 0001. Cortney also serves as co-chairman of the JCTR Trails Committee with Jack Potter.

While the Jackson County Trail Riders Club does 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.

For those of you who are new to the Jackson County Trail Riders, the club petitioned the county to allow installation of single-track trails in Crawford Hills County Park.

As stated earlier, maintenance of the 30 miles of trails is done by members 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.

Live too far away to help at trail workdays? Then consider paying the club's \$10 dues so we can keep providing a free lunch to those who do come to workdays.

Can I pay dues electronically via Venmo or Paypal?

Club Treasurer Steve Roof is looking into Paypal 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 on 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.

When are you planning to have trail workdays in 2024?

Depending on when the snow melts, we'll try to have workdays in late March. With Easter falling on March 31, we're tentatively planning to hold trail workdays on March 16-17 and March 24-25. Watch the club's Facebook page and your email for updates closer to those dates.

We are prohibited from cutting brush from April 1 to July 15 in an effort to reduce the spread of oak wilt. So we try to get out on the trails in March to have them in shape prior to the trails opening on May 15. Additional workdays will be planned as needed for after July 15.

We track the hours club members spend clearing brush and doing other maintenance on the trails, along with the use of equipment they bring (chainsaws, brush cutters, etc.) to turn into the county.

The county secured a \$7,000 grant that we will receive once we're turned in sufficient hours. With this grant we have to max it out before we receive reimbursement.

Recap of 2023 Workdays at Crawford Hills



Wesley Romine (above) and his father-in-law Kirk Skobogo of Winona, Minn., helped at our March 25 workday. We are planning workdays for this March, too. Photo by Cortney Higgins.

March 25, 2023 Workday Volunteers

Cortney Higgins - Edgar | John Edwards - Onalaska | Jack Potter - Warrens | Mike Ward - Eau Claire | Wes Romine - Winona, MN | Kirk Skobogo - Winona, MN | Sparky Bejin - Chippewa Falls | Troy Millman - Oshkosh | Ethan Reynolds - Dodgeville | Jacob Reynolds - Dodgeville

Volunteer Hours - 60 | Including drive time - 91.5 Hours

March 26, 2023 Workday Volunteers

Cortney Higgins | Jack Potter | Sparky Bejin | Andy Kelly - New Glarus | Robert Butke - Neenah | Kevin Last - Oregon | Paul Wagner - Deerbrook | Kevin Weivoda - La Crosse

Volunteer Hours - 32 | Including drive time - 57 Hours

April 2, 2023 Workday Volunteers

Mike Ward | Paul Wagner | Sparky Bejin | John Edwards | Cortney Higgins | Jack Potter | Brian Bejin - Altoona | Jim Winnemuller - Saukville

Volunteer Hours - 52 | Including drive time - 75.5 Hours

May 6 Workday & Inspection Ride

Jack Potter | Cortney Higgins | Sparky Bejin | John Edwards | Paul Wagner | Wesley Romine | Bob Ybema - Black River Falls

Volunteer Hours - 56 | Including drive time - 72.5 Hours

May 21 GPS Mapping of Trails

Jack Potter | Corey Schroeder - Marshfield

Volunteer Hours - 16 | Including drive time - 19 Hours

July 21-23, 2023 Workday Volunteers

Jack Potter | Cortney Higgins | Robert Butke

Volunteer Hours - 22.5 | Including drive time - 31.5 Hours

July 29, 2023 - Cleared Windstorm Damage

Cortney Higgins | Andy Kelly | AMA District 16 Members who were at Crawford Hills for a recreation ride.

Aug. 5, 2023 Workday Volunteers

Cortney Higgins | Andy Kelly | Jack Potter | Kevin Weivoda | Mike Ward & Grandson Isaac | Jim Winnemueller | Steve Mitoraj - La Crosse | Brian Hennessy - Wisconsin Rapids

Volunteer Hours - 31 | Including drive time - 58 Hours

Oct. 21, 2023 Workday Volunteers

Jack Potter | Kevin Weivoda | Jim Winnemueller | Kevin Last | Paul Wagner | Sparky Bejin | Matt Kuenner - La Crosse | Ryan Mika - Osceola | Don Nickels - Eden Prairie, MN

Volunteer Hours - 72 | Including drive time - 106.5 Hours

2023 Volunteer Hours - 341.5 | Including drive time - 511.5

Retailers Selling Trail Stickers

Jackson County Motorcycle Trail Stickers can be purchased at the following locations after April 1:

- County Forestry & Parks Office, Black River Falls
- Black River Power Sports, Black River Falls
- SureStay Hotel, Black River Falls
- Millston Kwik Mart, Millston
- Back Roads Saloon, Pray
- Rustic Buck Bar & Grill, Pray

Stickers can also be purchased online now at www.jacksoncountyparks.us/parks. Look for the Permits/Products tab. Cost is \$20, plus \$1 for mailing.

Recap of 2022 JCTR Activities at Crawford Hills

NOTE FROM LORRY: Due to my cancer diagnosis and the resulting surgery and radiation treatments, I did not write a 2023 JCTR Newsletter. But below is a recap of the workdays held in during 2022 and the wonderful volunteers who helped.

March 19 Workday Volunteers

Jack Potter - Warrens | Cortney Higgins - Edgar | Hunter Bahl - Madison | John Edwards - La Crosse | Brian Bejin - Augusta | Sparky Bejin - Chippewa Falls | Andy Kelly - New Glarus | Wyatt Luther - Augusta | Beth & Paul Wagner - Deerbrook | Jim Winnemuller - Saukville | Adam Kent - Burlington.

March 20 Workday Volunteers

Jack Potter | Cortney Higgins | Sparky Bejin | Andy Kelly | Chris Zagozen - Eau Claire | Joshua Check - Waupaca | Corey Schroeder - Marshfield | Dan Murwin - Janesville | Adam Murwin - Janesville | Shawn Teska - Lone Rock | Jack Teska - Lone Rock

Volunteer Hours - 107.5 | Including drive time - 190 Hours

Help Wanted

Is there anyone who could help JCTR Treasurer Steve Roof get a Paypal account set up for the Club for paying dues?
Contact Steve at staff@keytimemotorsports.com

April 10 Workday Volunteer

Jack Potter | Jack hauled his Kubota tractor and mower up to Crawford Hills to mow the blackberry vines and ferns along the new section of trail added to South Loop.

Volunteer Hours - 4.5 | Including drive time - 5.5 Hours



*At the end of a productive workday, the guys enjoy some time relaxing together. From left to right are: Dan Murwin, Adam Murwin, Chris Zagozen, Corey Schroeder and Sparky Bejin.
Photo by Cortney Higgins.*

May 7 Trail Inspection Ride Volunteers

The group cleared the three trails of downfalls and put up arrows on the new Youth Loop prior to the trails opening on May 15.

Jack Potter | John Edwards | Corey Schroeder | Joshua Check | Andy Falk - Eau Claire | Wesley Romine - Winona, Minn.

Volunteer Hours - 18 | Including drive time - 31 Hours

**Ballots & 2024 Membership Dues are due April 1.
Membership form and ballot can be found on Page 6.**

May 18 Vandalized Signs Replaced

Brian Mullane reported two signs – a trail stop sign and a No ATV sign – had been vandalized, but he had no tools along to fix them. So Jack and I drove up and had dinner at the Rustic Buck afterward;)

Jack Potter | Lorry Erickson - Warrens

Volunteer Hours - 1 | Including drive time - 3 Hours

June 18 Activities

Cortney and Andy were riding at Crawford Hills and cleared the trails of some downfalls.

Cortney Higgins | Andy Kelly

Volunteer Hours - 1 | Including drive time - 9 Hours

July 3 Activities

Cortney was riding at Crawford Hills and cleared the trails of a few more downfalls.

Cortney Higgins |

Volunteer Hours - 1 | Including drive time - 4 Hours

July 22, 24-25 Workday Volunteers

We've had to cancel workdays because of too much snow, but this was the first that was cancelled due to the heat and severe weather. Cortney came down on Friday, but worked so hard he suffered from heat exhaustion and drove back home.

We cancelled the Saturday workday, but a crew of four worked Sunday morning. Cortney finished up Monday.

Jack Potter | Cortney Higgins | Sparky Bejin | Andy Kelly

Volunteer Hours - 17.5 | Including drive time - 31 Hours

Andy Kelly Seeks First Term as Club Secretary

With Ron Bohl stepping down as club secretary, we have tapped Andy Kelly to fill that role. The other three officers are willing to serve another year. Their bios are below.

PRESIDENT 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.

VICE PRESIDENT 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 sixth year on a dirt bike and I hope for many more," he said.

SECRETARY ANDY KELLY

Andy lives in New Glarus with his wife, Misha, and their child, Remi, and has agreed to serve as the new JCTR club secretary.

"I began riding a '94 Suzuki DR 250SE in 2002 and was instantly hooked. When the pandemic shutdown occurred, I found myself with a WR 250F in my garage. Throughout that down time I imagined trail riding and – once I got back to a trail – it felt so natural. I've met so many great people since coming back and I so enjoy this great community," Andy said.

"I believe in a 'Many Hands Make Light Work' mentality and I think this shows with our Crawford Hills trail system. Together we can maintain and show that we are present, we want to ride, we want places to ride. I look forward to serving as the club secretary and wish to make an impact as a rider here in Wisconsin," Andy said.

TREASURER STEVE ROOF

Steve is the owner of Keytime Motorsports in 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 at his bike shop from riders with questions about the single-track trails at Crawford Hills. County Park.

2024 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, PO Box 21, Warrens, WI 54666. **Please return membership form and ballot by April 1, 2024.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Yes, I vote for the slate of officers listed in the 2024 JCTR Newsletter.