



# Consider Becoming a JCTR Club Member

*By Andy Kelly, JCTR Club Secretary*

I've read and listened to a few conversations regarding the future viability of our off-road dirt biking clubs. Social media platforms like our club's Facebook page have helped to increase communication, bring riders together as friends and allows new riders to become introduced to trail riding.

All of this is great. I too enjoy our Facebook page and refer to it often. We currently have 500-plus Facebook fans. In comparison we have just 85 dues paying members of the Jackson County Trail Riders Club.

If you're not currently a club member, I encourage you to consider joining. It's only \$10 a year and helps us be seen more than you can imagine.

With more club members, we can more actively create club riding days, discuss future opportunities to ride in Jackson County, host a fun banquet at the Crawford Hills campground and have more hands to care for our trail system at Crawford Hills County Park.

**JOIN US AT TRAIL WORKDAYS  
SATURDAY, MARCH 22 & MARCH 29  
DETAILS ON PAGE 2**

Having an active club also makes it easier to have a good partnership with the Jackson County Forestry Department. Without their dedicated support, we wouldn't have a trail system to ride.

While we are a minority group compared to the number of ATV/UTV riders who utilize the county's trail system, the Forestry Department has supported our efforts.

Last year, the county allowed us to add an additional mile of trail on the McKenna Loop through a logged off area.

It was the Forestry Department who proposed the trail mileage markers to aid in locating downed riders. They paid for the Carsonite posts and the mileage signs that club members installed on North, South and McKenna Loops.

I also want to thank our current club members for their continued support. I especially thank those who have been able to help at trail workdays to ensure that our 30 miles of trails are kept in good riding condition.



*Jackson County Trail Riders Club Secretary Andy Kelly of New Glarus riding last season at Crawford Hills County Park. Andy was elected club secretary in 2024.*

*Photo by Cortney Higgins.*

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# Trails Committee Report

By Trails Committee Chairman Jack Potter

*I want to thank all the volunteers who came to our trail workdays in 2024. We had three workdays in March to clear downfalls and cut brush before the oak wilt ban went into effect on April 1.*

*Just before the trails opened on May 15, we had two "Inspection Rides" to make sure there were no trees or branches laying on the trails. Those rides were open to those club members who had helped at earlier workdays.*

*We had a few workdays during the summer with just a handful of members to fill in mud holes and to GPS the trails. The Jackson County Forestry Department then created new maps of the three trails for us.*

*You'll see a list of all the workdays held and who participated elsewhere in this newsletter.*

*We've scheduled two spring workdays - on Saturday, March 22, and Saturday, March 29 - to get the trails in shape for the 2025 season. We'll start at 9 a.m. and work until noon or so.*

*Again thank you to all our volunteers and see you on the trails at Crawford Hills in 2025.*

## ***Where Can I Buy a Motorcycle Sticker?***

Jackson County motorcycle stickers can be purchased online at [www.jacksoncountyparks.us/parks](http://www.jacksoncountyparks.us/parks). Look for the Permits/Products tab. Cost is \$20, plus \$1 for mailing. Or stop at the Jackson County Forestry & Parks office, W9790 Airport Road, Black River Falls, WI 54615.

After April 1, stickers can be purchased at the following area businesses:

- Black River Power Powers, Black River Falls
- SureStay Hotel, Black River Falls
- Millston Kwik Mart, Millston
- Back Roads Saloon, Pray
- Rustic Buck Bar & Grill, Pray

If you have issues ordering online, call the Jackson County Forestry Department office at (715) 284-8475.

## ***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 a camping spot, 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 funds and manpower.

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.

## **Spring Workdays Scheduled at Crawford Hills County Park**

***Saturday, March 22 & Saturday March 29***

***Meet at the Crawford Hills Picnic Shelter at 9 a.m. to break up into teams.***

***Bring a brush saw, chainsaw, loppers, handsaw, etc., if you have them. The club has two brush saws and chainsaws available for use, too. We also need "wood chuckers" who can toss cut branches off the trails.***

***We'll work until noon or so and then go to Pray for lunch.***

***Email [jacksoncountyclubriders@gmail.com](mailto:jacksoncountyclubriders@gmail.com) if you can come!***

***If we need to cancel due to the weather, we'll email members.***



The founding members of the Jackson County Trail Riders are now 65-plus. We're looking for the next generation to carry the torch!

# 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's sticker program actually predates the state program.

The 2025 Jackson County motorcycle stickers (which are bright red 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) or purchased at the locations listed on Page 2.

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, 2025, [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.

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



*Cortney Higgins is the holder of 2024 Jackson County Motorcycle sticker No. 0001. Stickers can be ordered online or purchased at local businesses after April 1. We have a list of outlets on Page 2 of the newsletter.*

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, signage 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 directly receive revenue from the county's motorcycle sticker sales. We need to generate enough income to pay for the club's liability insurance, meals for workday volunteers 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 2025?

Depending on the weather, we'll try to have workdays on Saturday, March 22, and Saturday, March 29. We'll post updates the workdays on the club's Facebook page and send email alerts closer to those dates.

If you can help either day, plan to meet at the Crawford Hills County Park picnic shelter at 9 a.m. to break up into teams. Lunch will be provided.

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 to turn into the county. In past years, the county has secured some grant funds for us.

# Recap of 2024 Workdays at Crawford Hills



*Cousins Wyatt Tennant (left) and Dakota Tennant were among the volunteers at the March 2, 2024, workday. A lack of snow allowed us to get in a few workdays much earlier than usual. Photo by Robert Butke.*

## March 2, 2024 Workday Volunteers

Cortney Higgins - Edgar | John Edwards - Onalaska | Jack Potter - Warrens | Wes Romine - Winona, Minn. | Sparky Bejin - Chippewa Falls | Robert Butke - Neenah | Dakota Tennant - Black River Falls | Wyatt Tennant - Black River Falls | Earl Hammond - Holmen | Bob Ybema - Black River Falls | Steve Mitoraj - La Crosse | Paul Wagner - Deerbrook | Corey Schroeder - Marshfield

Volunteer Hours - 71 | Including drive time - 126 Hours

## March 3, 2024 Workday Volunteers

Jack Potter - Warrens | Sparky Bejin - Chippewa Falls | Corey Schroeder - Marshfield (GPSed new trail)

Volunteer Hours - 4 | Including drive time - 6 Hours

## March 16, 2024 Workday Volunteers

Hunter Bahl - Madison | Sparky Bejin - Chippewa Falls | Earl Hammond - Holmen | Cortney Higgins - Edgar | Andy Kelly - New Glarus | Kevin Last - Oregon | Ryan Mika - Osceola | Jack Potter - Warrens | Wes Romine - Winona, Minn. | Corey Schroeder - Marshfield | Dakota Tennant - Black River Falls | Stephan Terry - Montello | Mike Ward - Eau Claire

Volunteer Hours - 38.5 hours | Including drive time - 64 hours

## March 23, 2024 Workday Volunteers

Jack Potter - Warrens | Corey Schroeder - Marshfield | Jack's employee Judd Riggs - Warrens

Volunteer Hours - 10.5 hours | Including drive time - 14.5 hours

## Sept. 14, 2024 Workday Volunteers

Jack Potter - Warrens | Cortney Higgins - Edgar | Kevin Ferstenou - Thorp | Joe Hunter - La Crosse | Ryan Mika - Osceola

Volunteer hours - 15 hours | Including drive time - 29 hours  
This was a Work & Play Day, so the volunteers road the trails after spending the morning clearing deadfalls.

## Unofficial Workdays

Several club members worked on the trails on their own or with a few others. These are the instances we heard about:

- May 23 - Duane Baer cleared a few downed limbs off of the McKenna and North Loops.
- June 16 - Cortney Higgins pushed tree limbs off the trails and alerted us to larger ones that needed to be cut. Corey Schroeder was able to make it down to Crawford Hills with a chainsaw to take care of the larger downfalls.
- June 26 - Corey Schroeder and Jack Potter added mileage markers to the new section of trail on the McKenna Loop and repositioned other markers.
- July 24 - Jack Potter and his employee Judd Riggs used a mini excavator and pug to fill in a rut/water hole on the South Loop.

See more Trail Workdays Continued on Page 5.

# Club to Launch Web Site

*By Lorry Erickson, Communications Coordinator*

The Jackson County Trail Riders Officer Team approved spending some of our grant funds to launch a web site. A web site address has been secured, but due to my cancer diagnosis, work on that project has been put temporarily on hold.

While we have a Facebook page, Facebook is becoming a less and less effective method of communication. A web site will give us another avenue to get the word out about the single-track trails at Crawford Hills County Park.

The web site will feature trail maps, dates of upcoming events, a list of where county motorcycle stickers can be purchased, etc.

Once I'm able to work with the web site designer, we'll invite club members to take a peek to provide feedback before the web site goes live.

Last fall Black River Area Chamber of Commerce Director Amanda Gunn secured \$2,000 for us from the Jackson County Room Commission to design and print an updated brochure. The brochure will direct people to the web site for the most current information.

The brochure is 90 percent done, but I'm waiting for the web site project to be completed before we go ahead with the actual printing. I also delayed printing while we waited for the county to decide on the dates for the riding season.

As mentioned elsewhere, the trails will open on May 15 as in the past. But the new trail closing date will be the last Sunday of October.

Amanda also invited the club to participate in filming for a new Discover Wisconsin program highlighting the ATV/UTV and motorcycle trail systems in Jackson County.

JCTR Club President Bob Ybema, his daughter Carley, Jack Potter and Dakota Tennant rode on the Youth Loop for the camera crew to film. The program is expected to air in May. We'll let you know when we find out the broadcast date.



*Riders taking a break during the Trail Inspection Ride on May 11. Club members who helped at a club workday were invited to ride the trails before they opened to the general public.*



*Corey Schroeder used a DR Brush Mower on loan from Power Pac Equipment and Motorsports of Marshfield to mow the new section of trail on the McKenna Loop. Photo submitted by Corey Schroeder.*

## Trail Workdays Continued...

- Aug. 11 - Corey Schroeder used a DR Brush Mower on loan from Power Pac Equipment and Motorsports in Marshfield to mow the new section of trail on the McKenna Loop. Mowing both directions took 3 hours.
- Aug. 20 - Ryan Mika spent 3½ hours tackling brush on the McKenna Loop.
- Oct. 26 - Corey Schroeder and Jack Potter rode all three trails to generate new GPS readings for updated trail maps.

We apologize if we missed the names of anyone else who worked on the trails in 2024.

## *Riding Season Extended*

The trails at Crawford Hills will open May 15 and close Oct. 26.

*Starting in 2025, the the new trail closure date is the last Sunday of October.*

# Dakota Tennant Seeks First Term as Vice President

We have tapped Dakota Tennant of Black River Falls to fill the club's vacant vice president's position. The other three club 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, and their daughter, Carley, 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 CANDIDATE DAKOTA TENNANT

Dakota Tennant lives outside of Black River Falls with his wife, Logan, and their two children. He owns DMT Tree Service and Last Frontier Seafood Company, both based in Black River Falls. Along with running his businesses, Dakota is a member of the Black River Falls Fire Department and a volunteer with various community organizations.

"My passion for riding dirt bikes started in 2019 when I took to the trails at Crawford Hills on a 2002 CR125, which I still enjoy riding today. I was heavily involved in BMX and mountain biking at Levis Mound. When I discovered the

incredible trail system right in my backyard, I quickly recognized the need for volunteer work to maintain and improve the trails. That's when I jumped at the chance to help keep those trails open, safe and enjoyable for everyone," Dakota said.

## SECRETARY ANDY KELLY

Andy lives in New Glarus with his wife, Misha, and their child, Remi. He was elected secretary in 2024.

"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 and we want places to ride. I look forward to serving as 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.

## 2025 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, 2025.**

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

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

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

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

Yes, I vote for the slate of officers listed in the 2025 JCTR Newsletter.