



## Northern Lights 4x4 Trailriders Association

15-1730 McPherson Court, Pickering, Ontario L1W 3E5 • info@nl4x4.ca

related activities, to preserve our right to do it, and to communicate responsibly what we do to others so that they understand and appreciate our particular activities. Tread Lightly, that is our motto!

improve their public relations image, and generally promote the craft of trailriding. More clothing and other promotional items will also be available at a reasonable cost.

The Northern Lights Regional Representatives will attempt to visit each club this year, to get your ideas on all the aforementioned, and then some. Please let us know your meeting date schedule, and if possible, we will be there.

### President's Message

I am very pleased to have been elected to the Board of Directors of Northern Lights Trailriders Association, and subsequently to have been chosen as its President by the Board itself. I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the efforts of the last board, through whose efforts we are now able to enjoy a remarkable and affordable plan of insurance, particularly for event purposes. Rick Duval and his team deserve a great deal of credit for making this kind of coverage to member clubs and individuals possible.

In Ontario and Quebec, there are others competing for the use of the same public trails. We need to make sure that we work collectively with government Ministries and Departments, municipalities, and other jurisdictions, as well as with other trail-user groups, to ensure a continued, reasonable, and unrestricted access to appropriate trail systems. United we stand!

We have all probably experienced trail closures in our own areas for a variety of reasons. In other jurisdictions, particularly in Britain and the United States, trail use has been extensively restricted in a great many places. By working together, and with other trail-user groups, we can foster a more cooperative approach to public trail management.

The Northern Lights organization is made up of Jeep, Land Rover, Toyota, Hummer, and Nissan Xterra clubs, just to name a few. Throw in a few Ladass, and you have a group of clubs that pretty well range the breadth of Southern Ontario and Quebec—trailriders all!

This year will be the year, too, where we promote a better understanding of the importance and benefits of the Northern Lights insurance plan. We will also advance and promote ideas on how clubs can

In fact, that is the express purpose of Northern Lights: to foster trailriding and other

*Ted Matthews  
President, Northern Lights*



### Notice of Annual General Meeting

#### Northern Lights Spring General Meeting

Sunday, March 30, 2003, at 1:00 p.m.

Location: DaimlerChrysler, 6500 Mississauga Road N., Mississauga, Ontario

*South on Mississauga Road from highway 401*



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## Eastern Ontario Trailblazers

2002 has once again proven to be a very successful and busy year for EOTB. During the year, the Club put on over 40 trail runs, and experienced a 30 percent increase in membership over the past year.

In addition to the trail runs, the Club managed to find time to appear on two Ottawa area television shows, with about 45 minutes of air time. Other activities during the summer included the 3rd and 4th seminars for new offroaders, using the facilities at two Club sponsors (Autofab and Metro Chrysler Jeep) for the indoor portion of the seminars. The “practical side” of the seminars took place at the EOTB trail. About ten new offroaders attended each of the two summer sessions with several joining the Club. More seminars are planned for the future.

The Club also had a great turnout for its annual bbq/trail run, and attendance was high at the Brake Seminar, an instructional seminar held at the garage of Autofab that showed members the “how to” of brake maintenance. The Trailblazers also held a day-long seminar on Trail Leadership for those interested in becoming trail leaders,



a program that has also turned out to be successful, as well as setting and documenting standards for quality and service to those attending EOTB trail runs.

With regards to land use, the president of EOTB was invited by the government that operates Larose Forest to sit on a Users Committee that was established by the government. The Committee comprises representatives of many different forest users. Its role is to make suggestions and recommendations to the government concerning the future use of the Larose Forest. EOTB maintains an information page on its web site for anyone interested in following the work of the Committee. [See <http://www.eotb.ca/larosefuture.htm>—ed.]

Our members distinguished themselves at various events during the past year,

including one member who won the ORA RTI competition, and another member who traveled to Mexico to run the BAJA 1000. Many trucks “grew” this year and the Club now has several vehicles with on-board air, one has a power welder (which has been used on the trail), and several acquired winches and other specialized equipment. Although lots of trucks have been modified, the Club continues to focus on meeting the needs of both stock and modified drivers and offering the opportunity for new offroaders to get involved in the sport.

EOTB continued its successful trail exploration program utilizing GPS and computer technology, discovering and uncovering a couple of trails that are now used, in addition to trails that were previously located.

For 2003, the Club intends to continue the programs it has begun, expand others and enter into new ventures.

*Harold Kohn  
Eastern Ontario Trailblazers*

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## North Hastings 4-Wheel Drive Club

On November 23, 2002, the North Hastings 4-Wheel Drive Club hosted their annual “Wood Cutting Day” at the event site of the Under The Northern Lights 4x4 Challenge. The day brought members from the Ottawa Valley Off-Roaders, Belleville Mud Boggers, and Central Ontario 4x4 clubs together with the North Hastings gang for a fun day of cutting wood. The wood we cut provides the land owner of the event site with heat for his house and shop. Our agreement helps both parties: in exchange for cutting wood for a day, we are provided the necessary land to hold our event.

This year we held our wood cutting day earlier than last year. This was done to try to avoid the really cold weather but it didn't help. The day started off cold but things heated up quickly. Within the first

hour, we had several chainsaws up and running. As the trees fell, the labourers were quick to pick up the logs and get them into the truck or trailer. Everyone worked hard all morning and was ready for a hot meal when we got back to the heated shop we used as base camp. Everyone was served hot dogs and chili with a choice of a hot or cold drink before heading back out to cut more wood. Our crew cut for about eight hours and departed knowing we'd cut another large pile of wood to help the land owner for another year.

The date for the Under The Northern Lights 4x4 Challenge has been set for May 31–June 1, 2003. Make sure you mark this date on your calendar. This will be our third year for this event and every year it gets better. Plans are not yet finalized on exact changes to the course from last year,



but you can be assured it will be a fulfilled time. Remember—you don't need 44” boggers and a fire-breathing engine to participate! The weekend is meant to get Northern Light's members out to have an enjoyable time, whether it's competing, helping out, or just watching the fun. For more information on last year's event you have three choices: you can visit online at <http://www.luker.on.ca/~titanic> and follow the link; e-mail us at [nhfwdc@hotmail.com](mailto:nhfwdc@hotmail.com); or even read about it in 4WD, Canada's only 4x4 magazine. Hope to see you all there!!!!

*Al Graham  
President, NH4WDC*

# Ontario Hummer Owners Group

The Ontario Hummer Owners Group (OHOG) continues to grow and is expecting an influx of new members in 2003, primarily new H2 Hummer owners.

The July 2002 launch of the new H2 Hummer model has been a very large success for the manufacturers (a joint venture between AM General and General Motors). Demand for the new H2 Hummer has exceeded the highest predictions, and the manufacturing plant in South Bend, Indiana is gearing up to three shifts to meet the demand. The vehicle has proven to be a very highly capable off-road vehicle with excellent approach and departure angles, and very good ground clearance.

The Single Wheel traction control system gives you traction when you need it most. The system detects a slipping wheel and applies brake pressure to slow it down, it then takes the energy that would have otherwise gone to the slipping wheel and



transfers it to a wheel that's not slipping. With this system, you could have as many as three wheels on a slippery surface (virtually no traction) and still get enough torque out of the fourth wheel to move the truck up a 10% grade.

The H2's base TCS mode is great for normal hard surface traction needs, like on-road use, off-road rock crawling, or ice and snow. But once you hit a variable surface like deep mud, sand, or gravel, the TC2 takes over. The TC2 works just like TCS but allows limited wheel spin to help gain even more traction.

With three transfer case selections, two rear axle differential selections, and two modes provided by the TCS mode switch, you actually have a total of seven driving mode selections in the H2, providing you with the ability to match the performance of the H2 with almost any driving condition.

As with most SUV's, the majority of the new H2's will probably never be seriously off-roaded, but those that are will outperform almost any non-modified vehicle. As most current members of the Ontario Hummer Owners Group drive the original Hummer, a true military vehicle with exceptional off road capability, events with both models in 2003 should prove to be a great deal of fun for all drivers.

*Norm London*  
Ontario Hummer Owners Group



## Northern Lights Clothing

Show your support for Northern Lights and the sport of off-roading by wearing one of these great items featuring the distinctive Northern Lights logo:

### Hats



\$20.00 Cdn

- Black
- Grey with black

### Spring/Summer/Fall Jacket



\$150.00 Cdn

Black with arms and pocket trim in:

- Red
- Green
- Blue
- Grey

Please order clothing through your club NL4x4 representative or executive.

## The Editor's Corner

Welcome to the latest edition of *The North Star*.

As I write this, clouds of blowing snow create white-out conditions just outside my window. The snow and ice aren't just something to be endured, but enjoyed. Several Northern Lights member clubs enjoy winter trail runs, not to mention the Annual Winter Skills Invitational for Northern Lights members held on Sparrow Lake.

The days are getting longer, and even though there are weeks of winter fun left to enjoy, the hours of light are the promise of the coming spring. And spring always means the Northern Lights Spring AGM, so mark your calendars for March 30.

It's a new year, with a new president, a new board of directors, and a renewed vision for Northern Lights. I hope you'll join us for some, if not all, of the upcoming events. I look forward to seeing you on the trail!

*Elizabeth Allen*  
Northern Lights Newsletter Editor



# Outaouais-Ottawa Jeep Club

The OJC held their election last December. Robert Giroux was re-elected as president, Sean Richardson will assume the vice-presidency (replacing me, Christian Fortier), Phil Jensen was re-elected as Sponsor Coordinator and Shawn Fraser (new to the Board of Directors) will assume the role of Secretary. They are already very busy in organizing the OJC Christmas Party (Yes, I know it's January).

Over the past few months, OJC was busy developing new trails in the Calabogie area. We have negotiated with a private landowner for the use of an abandoned ski hill. Two new trails were developed; first the Bugs Bunny Trail for easy off-roading and a scenic view from the top of the hill and then the Taz Trail for much harder rock climbing in a creek bed going up the hill!



For this winter, OJC will host a few snow and ice runs. Some will be Jeep only (as we are a Jeep club) and other will include local clubs (such as OVO). The ski hill has been really challenging during the last few weeks. On our last runs, some members brought GT Racers to spice up the entertainment!

The spring season will be filled with preparation and planning for the 2003 Jeep Jamboree. OJC will host the Jeep Jamboree at Lac-Brome in the Eastern Townships (south of Montreal on highway 10) on June 12-14 for the second consecutive

year. OJC will be providing bilingual trail guides and we have organized activities for the evening that will entertain everyone. Those activities include a blind fold course, an RTI Ramp, The 4" Blocks, Closest-to-the-Pin and a balance beam. If you have a Jeep you don't want to miss that. Registration information and more details can be found at <http://www.jeep-club.org>.

With a few pre-runs to put in before mid-June, the spring will be very busy for OJC members.

Happy Trails!

*Christian Fortier*  
Outaouais-Ottawa Jeep Club

## Northern Lights 4x4 Trailriders Association

Membership Dues:

- Individual Membership \$20/year
- Club Membership \$100/year
- International Membership \$25/year

*Individual and International Memberships include NL4x4 decal.*

For more information,

- Visit us on the Web at: [www.nl4x4.ca](http://www.nl4x4.ca)
- E-mail us at: [info@nl4x4.ca](mailto:info@nl4x4.ca)
- Mail us at:

**15-1730 McPherson Court  
Pickering, ON L1W 3E5**

Corporate assistance and support is critical to the ongoing mission of Northern Lights, and is always appreciated. For more information, please contact our Corporate Liaison, Len Bink, at [l.bink@nl4x4.ca](mailto:l.bink@nl4x4.ca).

Letters to the editor and submissions to this newsletter are always welcome. Submissions may be edited for style and length. Contact the Newsletter Editor, Elizabeth Allen, at [editor@nl4x4.ca](mailto:editor@nl4x4.ca) for more information.

## Board of Directors

Ted Matthews	President
Mike Fedchyshyn	Vice President
Phyllis Barnard	Director
Jodi Dorman	Director
Robert Maddocks	Director
Dennis Missios	Director
Kevin Willey	Director

## Volunteers

Central Regional Rep	Robert Maddocks
Eastern Regional Rep	Kevin Willey
Southern Regional Rep	Jodi Dorman
Board Secretary	Phyllis Barnard
Corporate Liaison	Len Bink
Newsletter Editor	Elizabeth J. Allen
Past President and Director of External Affairs	Rick Duval
Secretary	Jodi Dorman
Treasurer	Janice Maddocks

**HOL'S**  
OFFROAD  
4 Wheel Drive Specialist

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## Ottawa Valley Off-Roaders

The Ottawa Valley Off-Roaders would like to take this opportunity to announce this year's Calabogie Highlands Off-road PJ Party set for May 16–19. The PJ Party is now a Northern Lights Invitational event, open to all Northern Lights members. The Club has hosted this event for over a decade, and this year's 2003 run should be the most fun-filled run to-date. We'll be camping at the dam this year, so make sure you get the directions.

This year's event will consist of two official runs, a run on the Quinn Lake Trail (back to front door) and a capture the flag event on the Venacher Power line. There will also be an introductory level run to the Gorge. For the capture the flag event, trucks will be assigned a letter at the beginning of the run, and given a map of where all the flags are located. The object of the game is to drive your truck up to the flag and leave your mark.

Of course, every event needs a little social intercourse! This will be a camping weekend with a Saturday night BBQ with a PJ theme (please remember that if you

intend to participate in an unofficial night run Friday or Saturday night: DRINKING AND DRIVING DON'T MIX! Also on the Saturday night we will be having a Flex-Off. The ramp will be available for those who want to take a crack at the Coveted Trophy (Well, it's a new one). We will have awards for the most flags captured in three levels of truck classes, which will be assigned on a pointage system. Details can also be found on the RULES page.

For those a little less adventurous; hotel/motel accommodation is available within 1/2–1 hour drive of the trails in the town of Calabogie or at the Barryvale Lodge. The event will cost \$25 per truck. This money will be used to pay for dash plaques, instruction sheets, trophies, insurance, and miscellaneous goods.

Both trails are tight and moderate to difficult in nature. As a result the event will be limited to a total of 50 trucks! All trucks must be in safe working condition, have a pull point both front and rear, have liability insurance, and be operated by a licensed driver.



Additional information can be obtained from the web site <http://ovo.ca>; the event coordinator John Farley at [ovo\\_4x4@hotmail.com](mailto:ovo_4x4@hotmail.com); or by phone at 613-271-0361 or 613-739-0544.

Reserve your spot early by purchasing your ticket in advance. Complete the registration form on-line or download it from the club Web page. Payment must be received by the OVO before your spot will be reserved. You will receive confirmation when your cheque arrives.

We have put our order in for good weather. Bring enough gear to keep you warm, as it has dipped below zero in past years. The "Shaggon Waggon" will be on hand for any "Emergencies". Look forward to seeing you on the trail.

*John Farley  
President, OVO*

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## Off Roaders Anonymous/Anonymes

We have had a busy end of the year. We finished off the summer with our annual Trailfest, which had visitors from OVO, OJC, and EOTB. Over all, we had just over 60 vehicles participate for the three days of trails. Some of our members, who were scheduled to head to the Trailfest early, were delayed a couple of days to assist in a Search and Rescue operation in the Laurentians.

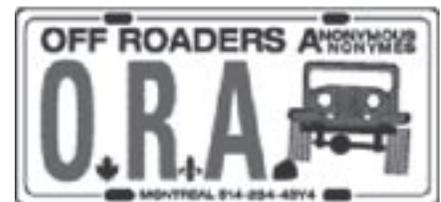
In October, we had our Annual Rocktoberfest, a sort of a off-road scavenger hunt (which we refer to as a wild goose chase) and skills competition. A twisted version of capture the flag, and also a fox hunt, were introduced this year. Keeping to the German theme, the day wrapped up with a BBQ of German sausages and sauerkraut. Some of the competition was pretty fierce this year, especially between the Ontario teams! I'm pleased to say that

Bobby's team from OJC took the trophy this year after just missing it last year.

During the months of November and December, we were pretty busy preparing an off-road course at the Bromont Ski hill. This was for the Toyota Trucks Media Preview and the introduction of the 2003 4Runner. Club members who worked at the event got the opportunity to off-road all of Toyota's 2003 4x4s.

December also brought our Christmas Party. We were fortunate to have some very nice door prizes donated by Jean-Talon Chrysler Jeep's 4x4 Depot and National 4x4.

ORA's Board of Directors has changed as well. Rob Mills, who had been President since the founding of the club, has stepped down due to the time constraints of a new



job. I was elected to move up from V.P. to President and Ben Caron was elected as our new Vice President. As Sylvia DeBonis has also received a promotion at her job, she also stepped down from her position as Treasurer, which she had held since the founding of ORA. Christiane Dandois (AKA On\*) was elected to the position of Treasurer.

2003 looks to be a promising year and we hope to meet some of our fellow Northern Lights members at some of the upcoming events.

*Al Dornan  
President, OffRoaders Anonymous/Anonymes*

# Member Clubs



**Central Ontario 4x4 Club**  
(416) 410-4108  
<http://www.co4x4.com/>



**New Frontier  
Four Wheel Drive Club**  
(905) 465-3999  
<http://newfrontier4wd.canoffroad.net/>  
[newfrontier4wd@hotmail.com](mailto:newfrontier4wd@hotmail.com)



**True North  
Toyota Land Cruisers**  
<http://home.offroad.com/~tntlc/>  
[mrtaylor@magma.ca](mailto:mrtaylor@magma.ca)



**Ontario Hummer  
Owners Group**  
[ontariohummerownersgroup@sympatico.ca](mailto:ontariohummerownersgroup@sympatico.ca)



**North Hastings  
4 Wheel Drive Club**  
<http://nhfwd.canoffroad.net/>  
[agraham@ptbo.igs.net](mailto:agraham@ptbo.igs.net)



**Chatham United Jeep Owners**  
<http://cujo.canoffroad.net/>  
[callagha@ciaccess.com](mailto:callagha@ciaccess.com)



**Southern Ontario Xterra Club**  
<http://www.soxxc.org/>  
[soxxc@hotmail.com](mailto:soxxc@hotmail.com)



**Hamilton Off Road Club**  
(905) 383-7451  
[www.hamiltonoffroadclub.4wdriver.com](http://www.hamiltonoffroadclub.4wdriver.com)  
[hamiltonoffroad@hotmail.com](mailto:hamiltonoffroad@hotmail.com)



**Eastern Ontario Trail Blazers**  
<http://www.eotb.ca>  
[info@eotb.ca](mailto:info@eotb.ca)



**Land Rover Adventure  
Association of Ontario**  
<http://www.landroveradventure.com/>  
[mscraba@genicom.ca](mailto:mscraba@genicom.ca)



**Off Roaders  
Anonymous/Anonymes**  
<http://www.ora4x4.org/>  
[info@ora4x4.org](mailto:info@ora4x4.org)



**Ottawa Valley Land Rovers**  
<http://www.ovlr.org/>  
[willeys@cyberus.ca](mailto:willeys@cyberus.ca)



**Ottawa Valley Offroaders**  
(613) 739-0544  
<http://ovo.ca/>  
[ovo\\_4x4@hotmail.com](mailto:ovo_4x4@hotmail.com)



**Upper Canada Cruisers**  
<http://www.uppercanadacruisers.ca/>  
[uccweb@uppercanadacruisers.ca](mailto:uccweb@uppercanadacruisers.ca)



**Outaouais - Ottawa Jeep Club**  
<http://www.jeep-club.org>  
[info@jeep-club.org](mailto:info@jeep-club.org)



**National 4WD Club**  
<http://national4wd.com/club>  
[info@national4wd.com](mailto:info@national4wd.com)



**South Western Ontario  
4x4 Club**  
<http://swo4x4.canoffroad.net/>  
[swo4x4@canoffroad.net](mailto:swo4x4@canoffroad.net)