



The North Star

Summer 2003
Volume IV, Issue I

Northern Lights 4x4 Trailriders Association

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

President's Message

In spite of the significant increase to the Northern Lights insurance policy this year, we are still pleased to be able to be covered for event eventualities and to be able to pass this unique protection on to the participating member-clubs. Make sure you e-mail your event date(s) and location(s) with a list of participants (if known) to: insurance@nl4x4.ca., prior to the event date.

I have been appointed to the Ministry of Tourism & Recreation PAC (Policy Advisory Council). This group of stakeholders is set up to recommend certain actions, activities and programs for the Minister's consideration. Although the Minister is not bound by any PAC recommendations, and may or may not act upon any of these, it is an important forum to fully discuss issues of the day, and for stakeholders to provide valuable input on a wide variety of

tourism & recreation -related issues. This Ministry is responsible for the development of a trails management/strategy initiative.

Since then, the Ministry has put a general hold on any development of new public trail management strategies until further notice.

Also serving on this PAC is Tim West, representing the OFSC (Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs).

Separately, your NL Board of Directors met with senior OFSC members, to discuss and consider an OFSC 'Motorized Trails Strategy' concept, with the OFSC promising to get back to us with more information, concept details and other data that will help fill in the picture. It is clear that the OFSC are interested in 'partnering' with other motorized organizations to further develop the trails options in Ontario. In this regard, they

are currently attempting a move towards a direct partnership/management of the ATV sport in order to make the OFSC more of a year-round proposition.

Further, the OFSC has taken a separate initiative and has caused to be established 'ON TRAILS', an organization designed to develop public trail management strategies, and to include as participants all manner of trail users. The OFSC has also provided seed money and an Executive Director to get this group going...

The challenge continues!

Ted Matthews
President, Northern Lights

treadlightly!
LEAVING A GOOD IMPRESSION



Camp NL

Friday, August 15–Sunday,
August 17 2003
Minden, ON, Canada

See pages 6–7 for details!

Contents

Eastern Ontario Trailblazers.....	2
Outaouais-Ottawa Jeep Club	3
Insurance Waiver Information	3
Northern Lights Clothing.....	3
North Hastings 4WD Club	4
Privacy Policy	4
Tread Lightly!	5
Camp NL	6
Camp NL Registration Form	7
Member Clubs Listing	8

Eastern Ontario Trailblazers

With the arrival of 2003, the Eastern Ontario Trailblazers continued to offroad frequently, enjoying both daytime and nighttime winter trail runs. One of the approximately ten trail runs between January and April was the club's annual Moonlight Run at Larose forest, held on a clear night under a full moon. Almost 20 members attended that run, and about the same attended another night run at Larose in February. These trail runs were managed by a team of two trail leaders, allowing split runs to accommodate both stock and modified vehicles.

Winter offroading continued to be popular and the low snowfall (except for March when it really snowed in eastern Ontario) allowed the club to use trails that are normally available only in summer. Care was taken not to use snowmobile or ski trails.

With the arrival of the spring thaw, the club ceased operations for several weeks, allowing mother nature to heal after the winter. The club has started operations once again and is continuing to offer its members frequent trail runs using a variety of trails that can accommodate both stock and modified vehicles. On average, 12 to

15 members are coming out for the almost weekly club runs.

With the fiscal year end on March 31, the club lost a few members because of people moving and the pain being suffered as a result of the high tech demise in eastern Ontario, but the efforts made by the club to attract people to the sport are encouraging. The club began the new fiscal year with over 40 paid members, more than ever before, and the number of members has once again begun to rise.

The Eastern Ontario Trailblazers has also volunteered its services to the Ontario Provincial Police, and the club is now listed as an official civilian group which is available to assist the OPP for search and rescue, primarily in the Larose Forest.

EOTB has renewed its exclusive lease at the EOTB trail, which is used not only for club runs but also for introducing new offroaders to the sport. This trail is particularly good for stock vehicles since it contains many different types of terrain in one trail. The summer of 2003 will see two seminars for new offroaders presented in conjunction with Chrysler dealerships in the Ottawa area. These are the 5th and



6th seminars that the club has done over the past 3 years, attracting over 40 new people to the sport of offroading in the four previous seminars. These seminars consist of classroom, service bay presentations, and trail runs that are carefully designed for new offroaders.

EOTB continues to sit on the Larose Forest Advisory Committee and maintains a number of contacts with other governments in eastern Ontario. The club expects to continue its trail exploration program, which is now in its 3rd year. This program has opened several new trails in the area.

All in all, 2003 is expected to be another great year for EOTB, with the focus once again the quantity and quality of the club's trail runs.

*Roger Kartzmark, a.k.a. Toolman
Acting President, EOTB*

Multi-Club Night Run for Charity

A couple of years ago, almost all EOTB trail runs were open to members of other clubs, but we are a victim of our own success. Our membership has grown so much that for the past couple of years we've had an average of 12-15 trucks out for every trail. It's made it very difficult to offer multi-club runs. However, since we are part of the offroading community, and to add to our contribution to the general community (such as our participation in garbage cleanups as well as being a civilian resource to the OPP for Search and Rescue), we would like to invite the other clubs of Northern Lights to join us in a Charity Run across Ontario and southern Quebec on the weekend of October 18.

We invite members of other Ottawa-area offroading clubs to join EOTB on a night

run to Larose Forest. We are asking for a \$10 contribution from all drivers that will be sent to a local charity (in our case, the Ottawa Humane Society). We invite all Northern Lights member clubs to do something similar in your towns and cities. This is not meant to be competitive; rather, a collective effort by offroaders for the community at large.

If you are planning on attending please send an email to info@eotb.ca expressing your interest. We will add you to a mailing list that will be used to send you additional information as the event date approaches. Your emails will be deleted after the event.

Thank you, and we hope to see you on the trail!

Northern Lights 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

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Outaouais-Ottawa Jeep Club

As I write this update, the Ottawa Jeep Club is very busy with trail clean up and preparation for the June Jeep Jamboree in Lac-Brome Quebec. We have enlisted help from local off-roaders and from Off-Roaders Anonymous (O.R.A—Mtl). Using GPS, topo maps and skilful planning, new trails are being mapped and created. You *will* find new trails at this Jamboree. The O.J.C. Jeep Jamboree committee has forged new relationships with private land owners, which has opened new doors and more challenging trails. As usual, O.J.C. is providing bilingual trail guides and evening festivities for the duration of the Jamboree (June 13–15).



25–27. This rock crawling style event will pair up O.J.C. members of similar caliber in a one-on-one challenge. Similar Jeeps (lift height, tire size, lockers - will challenge each others in fierce competition on different courses adapted to their level and skills. Attached to this week-end event will be our annual B.B.Q. Each year the O.J.C. BBQ as proven to be an enjoyable and successful event that bring the families together. August will be the month of the annual Show & Shine and Twist-Off event. This is a joint event with OVO, which has a high attendance and is always a lot of fun.

Until next time, Happy Trails!

*Christian Fortier
Ottawa Jeep Club*

The rest of the summer will be filled with trail rides and activities. We have planned a Rock-Off Challenge on July

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.

Important Information on Insurance Waivers

There has been some confusion as to the procedure for taking on new members for an Northern Lights event. After some discussion, we realize that it is not always possible to inform Northern Lights (insurance@nl4x4.ca) of the names of new members who will be joining before the event takes place. Participants always show up at the trail where it is near impossible to send email. As a result, the following policy is acceptable for notification of new membership prior to an event. Remember that proof of insurance is required by the MNR for all trails run on public lands. The steps are as follows:

- Use one of the waiver forms (given to each club at one of the AGMs) to record the names, signatures, email, and phone

number of all participants in the event. This includes existing club members and the newly added members.

- Note on the waiver who is an existing club member and who is new.

- Send a copy of the waiver along with a cheque (\$10 for each new member) to Northern Lights. These fees are used to pay for the insurance coverage for the new members. For example, if 20 participants show up for an event and join your club's membership in order to be insured, your club owes \$200 to NL for insurance. *It does not matter if the "new members" are dropped from your membership after the event, they must pay for the insurance coverage they receive.*

The insurance policy now requires that Northern Lights keep copies of the waivers from all events on file, so submission of the waivers is not optional. If the added members names are not on the waiver, they will not be insured. The \$10 fee is the cost for this year's insurance policy renewal. Because the policy cost doubled, so has the per new member insurance fee. There will be an online waiver form available soon for download if you do not have any of the waiver pads left. If you have any questions regarding this revision, please contact me at insurance@nl4x4.ca

*Mike Fedchyshyn
Vice-President/Insurance Coordinator
Northern Lights*



North Hastings 4 Wheel Drive Club

The 3rd Annual Under the Northern Lights 4x4 Challenge has come and gone. This year's event was just as fun as past ones. This year though we had a few new things to deal with—mainly, the weather. Previously, it's been so hot you could fry an egg on the hood of your 4x4. This year though, the days leading up to the event were cool and wet and that didn't change for Saturday. It may have been drizzling for most of the day but it didn't dampen the fun everyone was having. The slightly wet conditions only added to the challenge on some of the courses. The cool weather, rain, and frost warnings hanging around for the weekend had a slight negative effect on the number of competitors. The numbers were slightly down this year but it didn't stop us from having a great time.

This year "word-of-mouth" advertising to the local people increased the number of spectators who came out to watch. A quick count of the waiver form at the gate Saturday showed that 170 people (including competitors and spectators) had passed by the main gate throughout the day. So although the weather had an effect on the competitors, it sure didn't bother the spectators.

Privacy Policy

Northern Lights would like to assure all members that any member information submitted to Northern Lights for insurance purposes is kept in strict confidence and is for use by Northern Lights *only*. Our insurer requires figures based on our membership information (i.e. number of members, number of member clubs). In the event of a claim, it is crucial for your own protection that Northern Lights be able to prove your membership. This is the reason for the submission of waivers. Be assured that Northern Lights respects the privacy of its members and consciously strives to protect it. However, it is critical that clubs abide by the guidelines regarding insurance. If you have any questions about the recent insurance memos, please don't hesitate to contact me, Mike Fedchyshyn, at insurance@n14x4.ca.

2003 was also our first attempt on holding a barbeque to feed the masses. In the past, a chip truck was present but he always slipped out the back door after lunch, leaving hungry folks wondering what to do. Because of this, we chose to look after it ourselves this year. I can tell you it was a big success! By Sunday afternoon, we were completely sold out on everything, and that includes the extra food that was brought in. Between the excellent cooking by the staff and the \$1.50 burgers or \$1.00 hotdogs, who would want to fire up the barbeque? Next year, we plan on holding another barbeque.

How did the event go? Like I mentioned earlier, everyone had a great time. This year's competitors were a bit different. Last year, most people went at the course slowly, trying to be technical about everything. I'd say a complete experienced group. But this year was "skinny pedal on the right to the floor" kind of a theme. More people who had never competed in an event came than in past years. Many competitors were seen trying to fly over the tire pit or jump a log or two while in the log pits. This year was also the first time that we had a full-size truck complete the very tight Switchback hill climb. We also had the local press come out to take photos, hoping that we'd make the papers. Not only did we make the paper but we grabbed the front page!

Events are never a success without volunteers. Because of this I have to give a BIG thank you to Daryl and Becky Delyea, Doug Ball, and Monique Bozzer for their never ending hard work to get the course ready. Without them, it may not have gotten off the ground this year. Not only did Doug and Daryl prepare the course, but they helped marshal the event, while Becky and Monique spent a lot of time cooking up burgers in the "kitchen". Also a thank you goes out to our other event marshalls Cory Morgan, Jon Wilson, Damien Graham and Jordan Smith. Becky and Monique weren't alone in the "kitchen" as Daryl's parents, Elaine and Woody Delyea, helped



keep the burgers and dogs moving. Also a thank you goes out to the land owners, Roger and Leah Wells, for allowing us to hold our annual event on their property. Last, but not least, to the businesses that donated prizes to help raise money for the event.

Winners

Modified

- 1st Dave DeVuono, Unimog, CO4x4
- 2nd Rod Stocker, Dodge p/u, NH4WDC
- 3rd Chris Ewens, Jeep, BMB

Super Modified

- 1st Terry Wagg, Jeep, CO4x4
- 2nd Richard Delorme, Jeep, OVO
- 3rd Andy Vatcher, Suzuki, OVO

N/L Trophy Dave DeVuono

Ugly Truck Paul Smart

Most Surprising Dave DeVuono

Best Looking Daryl Hann

Hard Luck Dave Meredith

See you all next year!

Al Graham

President, NH4WDC

Tread Lightly

As an organization that promotes responsible outdoor recreation, I get to hear a lot of horror stories about “irresponsible acts”. You know how it gets started—sitting around the campfire someone utters those famous words: “Remember the time you and me and Billy-Bob loaded up the trucks and went...” That story not to be outdone by when “So-and-so and his brother Newt and I were lost on the far side of Lake Such-n-such and we blasted...

Don't get me wrong, campfire story telling is as much a part of four-wheeling as fish stories are to anglers. The problem arises when told by third parties, twice removed. Eventually the tales, all stretched to Haliburton and back, get brought up at a meeting: as to reasons why we shouldn't allow that kind of person (anyone owning a 4x4 with more than Xcm of lift) on our lands. Even if I had Billy-Bob and Newt and the rest of the Hole-in-the-Mud gang sitting under the lights in the interrogation

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
- E-mail us at: 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.

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 for more information.

room, we probably couldn't get to the truth, or quell the ugly rumours of poor Newt losing his first three fingers when he reached under the hood to get the twigs out. See—Newt still has all his fingers, and toes for that matter, he just looks goofy in his mud-splatter bush jacket and camouflage pants. But he ain't no terrorist, nor would he ever purposefully hurt small animals or children.

Public perception is what I'm talking about. And as a sport that slings a little mud, you have to expect that some of it is going to splatter back in your eye. So, when all the finger pointing and story telling is done the lasting impression was (is) that those guys—the Newts, Billy-Bobs, and their brothers, plus Sally who cooks for them over the open campfire—need to be banned for life from ever coming back into the forest.

That kind of talk normally starts bells ringing in my head. I can try to unravel the situation. I can argue it: “Go ahead—show me those severed fingers, or even a hospital report where they treated Newt?” The arguments never cease here but usually change direction. “Well, uh, ... well we don't have those, but did see the huge fire pit and six empty beer cans and the tire tracks they left right through the mud hole, so it must have been the Hole-in-the-Mud gang or club or whatever they call themselves.”

Frankly Scarlet, to me it looks like amateurs, kids gone wild, letting off a little steam, and it may have gotten a little out of hand. Yes there is a mess to clean up, and possibly there was an infraction. They *might* have been drinking under age, or driving after they polished off the brown pops. But reacting after the fact is not good enough. As the OPP and MNR Conservation officers point out, for the most part, the organized club activities and events usually toe the line. In fact, in many cases they clean up messes left by others. So if you are one of those club or event organizers—keep up the good work. I can honestly say at the meeting I attended, the OPP and MNR officers support you and realize the function and code



of ethics you go by. I'd like to say it is all because of programs like *Tread Lightly!* or *Leave No Trace*, but frankly it is because of grassroots and ethics, and the organized groups and clubs in the sport. Having said that, it is important that the sport does some public relations—particularly in terms of interfacing with other trail organizations: the hikers and naturalists, and the politicians and bureaucrats who formulate the by-laws, etc.

Case-in-point is that the Huronia District MNR is currently reviewing problem areas in the Burrows Lake and Matchedash regions. At the first round table discussion were the MNR, the OPP SAVE Team, OFTR, OFSC, several naturalist groups and trail hiking clubs and the OFATV, and Tread Lightly! Canada.

There are by-laws already in place that govern most forms of the irresponsible behaviour that was brought to light in these discussions. However, the question being asked was “Can the sport police itself? Can neighbourhood watch or friends of the forest organizations play a role?” This is a recurring theme for land management agencies, even the Ganaraska Forrest with its policy of mixed-use and specific trails, needs help from club partners and interested individuals. So if you want to play a positive role, consider this your invitation. Contact Bert Coates at *Tread Lightly!* (519) 575-0661 or e-mail pbcoates@sympatico.ca to lend a hand.

Happy trails!

*Bert Coates
Executive Director, Tread Lightly! Canada*



Camp NL

Get ready for some of Ontario's best four-wheeling! Be a part of Northern Lights Annual Charity Trailfest! Ontario has vast areas of beautiful wooded wilderness dotted with thousands of clean, clear freshwater lakes. 1.5 hours Northeast of Toronto, and about 3.5 hours from the Rainbow Bridge, the town of Minden in the Haliburton Highlands is central to many spectacular trails ranging from Mild to Wild!

Whether you're an experienced "wheeler" or looking for your first off-road adventure, you don't want to miss this event. Rocks, mud, water crossings, hillclimbs, breathtaking scenery, and twisty wooded trails—it's all here to enjoy. This is a family event, so kids and pets (on a leash of course) are welcome.

Various magazines and newspapers will be covering the event so shine up your chrome and pound out your dents, you might just get your rig on the cover of a magazine or two!

Event Costs

Early Registration (before August 5):
Adults: \$68US/\$100Cdn
Children ages 6–12: \$35US/\$55Cdn
Children 5 & under are free.

The fee includes an event vehicle decal, four all-you-can-eat meals, one raffle ticket, and all event activities.

Late Registration (after August 5, space permitting):
Adults: \$68US/\$100Cdn
Children ages 6–12: \$35US/\$55Cdn

Trail Rides

Eight or nine different trails ranging from level 1 to level 4+ will be offered each of the three days. All guided rides will be led by experienced trail leaders from various member clubs of the Northern Lights 4x4 Trailriders Association. You'll select your skill level and sign-up for your trail rides when checking-in for the event and on each subsequent day.

Motels and Camping

South Lake Trailer Park (Event Headquarters)

Lots of camping, some sites with hydro and water are available. Plenty of washrooms, hot showers, a beautiful clear lake with sandy beach, store, rec hall and more. Call to make your reservations now!

South Lake Trailer Park
Box 39
Minden, ON K0M 2K0
Tel: (705) 286-2555

EJ Motel and Campground

Lots of camping, limited motel rooms
Hwy 121 South of Minden

EJ Motel & Campground
Box 464
Minden, Ontario. K0M 2K0
(705) 286-2152



Event Schedule

Thursday Aug 15
Noon–8 pm: Check-in at South Lake

Friday Aug 16,
7 am–8 pm: Check-in at South Lake
8:30–10 am: Trail rides start
5–7pm: All-you-can-eat supper

Saturday Aug 17
7–11am: Check-in at South Lake
7–9 am: All-you-can-eat breakfast
8:30–10 am: Trail rides start
5–7 pm: All-you-can-eat BBQ
6 pm: Trophies, raffle, and prize draws

Sunday Aug 19
7–9 am: All-you-can-eat breakfast
8:30–9 am: Trail rides start

Primary Sponsor



Contributing Sponsors

George McCleary



Annual Northern Lights Charity Trailfest 2003—Minden

Event Application

Minden, Ontario
August 15 - 17 2002

Trail Ride Participant

(Print Clearly)

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State/Prov _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ # of people in my party _____

Vehicle Make _____ Model _____ Yr _____

Trail Difficulty Levels Desired (Circle): 1-2 2-3 3-4 4+.

Number of Participants

_____ Adults @ \$68us/\$100cdn ea = _____

_____ Kids (6-12) @ \$35us/\$55cdn ea = _____

Late entry (after Aug 5th) @ \$20us/\$30cdn per person = _____

Event T-shirts

_____ S, _____ M, _____ L, _____ XL @ \$6US/\$10Cdn ea = _____

_____ XXL, _____ XXXL @ \$7US/\$12Cdn ea = _____

Total = _____

Mail this application and check or money order to:

Northern Lights 4x4 Trailriders Association
1730 McPherson Court, Unit 15
Pickering, ON. L1W 3E5

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



Southern Ontario Xterra Club
<http://www.soxc.org/>
soxc@hotmail.com



Hamilton Off Road Club
(905) 383-7451
www.hamiltonoffroadclub.4wdriver.com
hamiltonoffroad@hotmail.com



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



Chatham United Jeep Owners
<http://cujo.canoffroad.net/>
callagha@ciaccess.com



**Off Roaders
Anonymous/Anonymes**
<http://www.ora4x4.org/>
info@ora4x4.org



Ottawa Valley Land Rovers
<http://www.ovlr.org/>
willeys@cyberus.ca



Eastern Ontario Trail Blazers
<http://www.eotb.ca>
info@eotb.ca



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



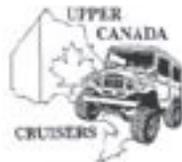
Outaouais - Ottawa Jeep Club
<http://www.jeep-club.org>
info@jeep-club.org



National 4WD Club
<http://national4wd.com/club>
info@national4wd.com



Ottawa Valley Offroaders
(613) 739-0544
<http://ovo.ca/>
ovo_4x4@hotmail.com



Upper Canada Cruisers
<http://www.uppercanadacruisers.ca/>
uccweb@uppercanadacruisers.ca



**Ontario Hummer
Owners Group**
ontariohummerownersgroup@sympatico.ca



Belleville Mudd Boggers
<http://www.angelfire.com/ego/bmb>
bmuddboggers@cogeco.ca