



# Bluff Country ATV Newsletter December 2007

## December's Meeting

The Chatfield Trail was re-opened after the meeting in December by members that braved to venture out in the weather. Actually, from what I heard, it was a beautiful day.



In advance I would like to apologize for the length of this newsletter, but since it was the end of 2007, a few things need to be said. I promise next month will be short and sweet.

## Chatfield Trail

The Chatfield Trail is currently open but will close again in the spring due to the thaw. Once again members will venture out and close the gates and put up signs stating the trail is closed. More work is still needed on the trail in 2008. In 2007, the DNR was having trouble finding all the signs required due to the late start, so with the coming of spring, once the trail is re-opened so ruts will not be created, members will return to finish the job that was not completed last year. It is not hard work but the more that show up on work days the more fun and easier it actually is. It is a great time to meet fellow members because we all have one main thing in common, the enjoyment of riding ATVs.

The Chatfield trail has added 16 miles of available ATV riding in southeast MN. That is a huge amount when you look at the few miles that existed in southeast MN for the ATV family to enjoy. To our knowledge we are the only trail in southeast MN that has both class 1 and class 2 trail rating.

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## Club Christmas Party

The club Christmas party was held January 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at Rosie's Restaurant in Houston. We had a great turn out at the dinner and it was wonderful to see everyone again after the Holiday season. The food was delicious, as usual thanks to Rosie's touch. If you have not been there yet, you may want to stop by and enjoy the charming atmosphere and try the excellent food and of course, say Hi to Rosie!



Rosie



After dinner at Rosie's, we all went to Mitch and Jan's house for the awards and party.

The Golden Carb award is an award that was originally given to the person who was a little too heavy on the gas, but this year we decided to switch it to a person that is always safety oriented. This year's award went to Andy Heuer for his safe driving and always being prepared for whatever we get into.

The Traction Award is an award presented to someone that has been stuck the worst on a club ride or maybe had a little mishap along the way, which this year went to Brian Kroning for his little endeavor with the mud in Hurley, WI. See photos from club trip and August newsletter on the website in the archives, or e-mail me I would love to share the photos and story again.

The Member of the Year Award is given to a club member that truly stands out for his/her efforts over the past year. This award was for the first time given to two people, Mitch Bublitz and Brian Kroning for all the hard work the two of them put into getting the Chatfield Trail open. Of course it could not have happened without all of our help, but it is truly amazing how much work

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is put into the trail that takes place behind the scenes. 100s of hours were put in attending government meetings throughout southeast MN not only in Chatfield but in surrounding communities along with paperwork upon paperwork that has to be filled out (and re-filled out on occasion) and supplied to various organizations. It is truly deserved, thank you both!



Golden Carb Award presented to Andy (right) by Mitch (left)



Members of the Year Award presented to Mitch (left) and Brian (right) by Andy (center)



Traction Award presented to Brian

Appreciation awards were given to the Vice President, Andy Heuer; Treasurer, Mitch Bublitz; Secretary, Jean Kroning; Membership Director, Heidi Halvorson; and Director, Jan Bublitz for all of their efforts throughout the last year.

### **Annual Pizza Party**

Just a reminder that the Annual Pizza Party is scheduled for February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 following the monthly meeting in Chatfield. As of right now, we are planning on having this at Blue's Café in Chatfield but this will be confirmed at the meeting this week and come out in the next newsletter. Please come for the meeting and stay for the food and fun!

### **Club Trip**

We still have not pinpointed the exact location and time for the trip this summer. It would be great if the club could nail down the time and location soon, so we can start to book the hotel(s). Please bring your ideas and suggestions to this coming meeting. So far, the main suggestion has been the Dead Horse Trail in WI. This would be a three day ride and you would not be covering the same trail twice. Someone did mention that there is not an abundance of food along the trail, so we would probably want to take lunches along. See November's newsletter in the archives on the website for additional information on the trail.

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## Dues

Once again with the new year, memberships are up for renewal. Family membership is \$20, a single membership is \$15, and business memberships \$50. Dues can be mailed to PO Box 191, Rushford, MN 55971, brought along to the upcoming meeting, or submitted through the website (and paid). When you re-new your membership, this is a good time to update your membership information such as home phone numbers, cell phone numbers, addresses, e-mails and family members to be listed. Family memberships include spouses and kids under 18 unless they are college age and actively in college.

## Recap of 2007

### February 2007

- Club ride included 16 machines and for the first time 2 side-by-sides (ATV class 2)



### March 2007

- The Meet Us page was transformed to include photos of all members (we continue to update this, so let us know if your picture is missing and e-mail us a favorite ATVing photo to proudly display).

### April 2007

- DNR approved the trail, so the paperwork began.....

### May 2007

- 17 students certified on ATV safety in Rushford.
- City of Chatfield signed agreement between the Club and the City.
- Memorial weekend members participated in the Longest ATV parade in Hurley, WI. It fell short by about 286 machines.

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*June 2007*

19 students certified on ATV safety in Dover

*July 2007*

- DNR signatures complete for the trial but waiting for MNDOT to sign for ditch riding
- Trail work begins but trail does not officially open yet.....
- Annual drag race was another success



*August 2007*

- First annual club trip August 1-5
- Flood in Rushford and last meeting at Stumpy's.



Traction award winner



Downtown Rushford August 2007

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*September 2007*

- Club relocated to Blue's Café in Chatfield

*October 2007*

- Trail officially opened
- Trail closed October 30-December 15 for hunting season

*December 2007*

- Trail Re-opens



**Up Coming Events**

January 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	Club Meeting	10:00am Blue's Café in Chatfield
February 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	Club Meeting Annual Pizza Party	10:00am Blue's Café in Chatfield
March 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	Club Meeting	10:00am Blue's Café in Chatfield
June 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	Worlds Longest ATV Parade	Silver Bay, MN

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