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**NEWS FROM THE CURRY RIDGE RIDERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB,
THE CLUB OF SOUTH DENALI/PETERSVILLE.
December, 2007**

WELCOME

This is the first Curry Ridge Riders Newsletter for the 2007-2008 riding season. We are the club of the Petersville/South Denali area. This is the area generally North and West of Trapper Creek, Alaska, off the Parks Highway at mile 115. We are still waiting for significant snow, and low temperatures, to officially “start” the riding season. There appears to be enough snow in most areas, but with all the open water – lakes, swamps, and creeks - riding is unsafe for riders and grooming of trails, and setting of trail markers and signs. Rider safety is of utmost concern! Conditions are dangerous, be careful, ride with others, and leave a travel plan.

Right now, it is not possible to travel from the mile 121.5 parking lot on the Parks Highway, West to the Reflector Tree. There are too many open creeks and swamps. See the December 2, 2007 trail Recon Report on the club’s website

We are in the middle of our Membership Drive. If you are not a current member, renew now, and tell your riding friends the importance of membership, and encourage them to join the Curry Ridge Riders.

Anyone with news or articles of interest to snowmachiners are invited to submit them for inclusion in the next Newsletter.

Your email address: We prefer to communicate with members via email. If you received this Newsletter through the regular mail, or did not receive it at all, we do not have an email address for you. If you have email, please let us know your address.

Decals: We still have a supply of Club decals. These look like the logo/decal above. They are available for sale at \$5 each. Give us a call, or send a check, and we can provide.

New Club Website

The club has a new website, at www.curryridgeriders.com . We will keep current events posted there. Check the latest club news and schedules for work parties and rides. Thanks to John Scudder, who is doing all the work to keep the website current. Membership forms can be found there.

In addition to the website, keep current by checking the club's Hotlines: 352-3669 in the Valley, 689-7669 in Anchorage

Photos

Our website has a place for photos of our riding area. We will post digital photos you send to our email address at curryridgeriders@hotmail.com. We can't post them all, so be selective, original, and innovative.





Want Ads

Our website also has a place to post classified ads – For Sale or Wanted. Your ad, including photos, should also be sent to our email address for posting. Ads should be for snowmobile related items. The “rules” are posted on the Classified page.

Business Members

We encourage business membership. They can advertise their business for free on our site. We just need a business card or similar picture, and can add a link if you desire. Current business members include:

- Trapper Creek Inn.....733-2302
- Ocean Bluff Bed & Breakfast.....262-2643
- Dave Miller Services.....696-2096
- Susitna River Lodging.....733-0505
- Team CC – Wasilla.....357-3200
- Wasilla Arctic Cat.....376-5845

They support us, let’s support them.

CRR Trail Rides

The website identifies dates for group rides lead by our members familiar with our area; or even another area. More rides will be identified as the season gets under way. We are always looking for ride leaders, so if you have a favorite route, and are willing to lead, just let us know and we’ll provide the help.



2007 President's Day President's Ride

Members of the CRR are welcome to tag along on Anchorage Snowmobile Club rides, and we offer them the same. You can check out the ASC rides at www.anchoragesnowmobileclub.com. We recommend that you join both clubs to help support their efforts.

Update On Trail Activities

We are working with Alaska State Parks – Mat-Su to identify a loop we can mark and groom which will start at the North end of the Chulitna Bluff Trail, travel through the southern part of Denali State Park, and connect with the North end of the Tokositna Trail (also known as the Bunco Lake or Safari Lake Trail), near Bunco Lake.

New Chulitna Bluff Trail (CBT) South – we have a Recreational Trail Grant to extend the trail south from the mile 121.5 Parking Lot to Trapper Creek, and continue south to connect with the Rabideux Trail and the mile 105 trailhead just north of the Big Su Bridge. We will be working on this during the season.

Work parties – watch the website (“Trail Notes”) for announcements of upcoming work parties for trails. Our volunteers are the only ones who do this work. It is necessary to keep the trails safe and to make it possible to groom. Some of the work we need to do:

- Find and inspect the current trails. Partially done – see Trail Notes on the CRR Website
- Stake and sign
- Install trail markers
- Blaze and widen the extension of the Tokositna/Safari Lake trail that bypasses Bunco Lake.
- Cut trees on the East/West Express to go around a lake about 2 miles East of the reflector Tree.
- Set new snow depth stakes-this Saturday, Dec 8th, if there is interest-call the hotline or e-mail us.

Annual Picnic

Our picnic was on March 31, 2007, in some beautiful snow on the East side of the Chulitna River. Check out pictures on the CRR website. The Picnic is also the time of our Annual Meeting and election of the Board, from which the Officers are chosen. See the list of Officers and Board at the end of the Newsletter.



Chef Glenn, cooking at the 2007 picnic (Randy supervising)

Next year's club picnic will be around the first of April, mark your calendar. It's always free, and organized by the same dedicated members. We could always use more help with it. If you can help, send us an email as the time gets closer.

CRR Member Survey

At the Picnic we solicited input on the club on a questionnaire to see what members wanted from the club. Here are the results in order of preference:

1. A CRR website
2. More social events – family, BBQ/picnic, get-togethers
3. More club news
4. More club rides in South Denali
5. More club rides in other areas
6. More general communication

Hopefully, this newsletter will cover some of this. We need more ride leaders!

Issues That Affect Our Riding Area

There is a public notice that could use written comments to support the easement application for the CBT and Rabideux Trails. Club members were sent an email recently requesting letters of support. Please follow-up before December 12th.

South Denali Visitors Center: The visitor's center is planned for the East side of the Parks Highway near, or on, Curry Ridge. Information on the plan can be found at the links on our "Issues" page on our website. Meetings are being held to explain the plan and solicit input. Here is a report from a member who attended the meeting in Trapper Creek.

The Schmeckle Reserve Interpreters of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point have been contracted to provide a South Denali Complex: Master Interpretive Plan. Meetings in Trapper Creek, Wasilla and Anchorage are being held in late November to get Public input in identifying resources and stories in the South Denali region, suggest facility and site developments that will benefit Alaska residents, and incorporate ideas and concerns into the final planning document.

A brief power point presentation was followed by discussion between the planning team and the public that focused on the following questions:

1. What stories would you share with an out-of-town visitor? (About your community? About Curry Ridge and this region?)
2. What effects do you foresee the South Denali facility having on the region, your community, or Curry Ridge? (Potential benefits? Concerns?)
3. How can the South Denali facility be developed to benefit Alaska Residents? (Specific features of the Visitor Center? Specific features of the site?)

4. What/who are some resources that we can investigate or interview to learn more about this area?

One interesting event that came out in the meetings was the change of location of the Visitor Center itself. The planning team is now looking to build above tree line in the scrub/brush area about 1/4 mile north of lake 1787. This would give easier access to alpine terrain and the lake as well as better views of the Alaska Range. The building would be located so as to blend in with the surroundings and not be seen as much as is possible. All other out buildings would be built at a lower elevation near the bottom of the ridge.

At the Trapper Creek meeting a comment was given to restrict or ban snowmobiles from the area and additional comments were given to allow and provide for snowmobile access. This will be an ongoing debate for many years and should be of great concern to those who wish to continue accessing this wonderful area of Alaska on snowmobiles.

Any information you may want to share, or if you have questions about this project, contact:

Schmeeckle Reserve Interpreters
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Ron Zimmerman, Jim Buchholz, and Michael Gross

Phone: (715) 346-4992 FAX: (715) 295-8918
E-mails: rzimmerm@uwsp.edu, jbuchhol@uwsp.edu, mgross@uwsp.edu
Website: www.uwsp.edu
Address: 2419 North Point Drive / Stevens Point, WI 54481

General

The club is always looking for members who want to initiate and manage a Search and Rescue program to assist public safety. Let us know if you are interested.

Club Officers:

Bruce Brockett, President
Mahlon Greene, Vice President
Randy Crosby, Secretary
Shauna Munro, Treasurer

Board of Directors:

The above Officers, plus
Glenn Swan
Joe Gauna
Robert Connor

Contact any of us through the club's email at curryridgeridrs@hotmail.com to give us your ideas and comments to make the club better serve you.