



PO Box 13218
Trapper Creek, Alaska 99683
907-689-7669
www.curryridgeriders.com
akcurryridgeriders@gmail.com

NEWS FROM SOUTH DENALI
Fall 2017

Greetings from the Board of Directors at Curry Ridge Riders:

Club President Glenn Swan
John Scudder
Jack Grieco
Jerry Siok
Michelle LaRose

We hope this finds all of you and your families in good spirits and health as we look forward to another great riding season with a most overdue abundance of the white stuff!

First and foremost: **its time to renew your membership !**

August 31st is the end of our Fiscal Year and September 1st is our annual membership drive. Please consider that every penny in membership support and trail grooming donations enables us to maintain and groom the winter-use trails all the way from Milepost 105 to Milepost 133 at Nice View and west to the mountain foothills and east to the Susitna River. That's *115 square miles* of trail grooming and trail maintenance anywhere else in the South Denali amphitheater ! You bet it's alot of hard work and we do it generously, donating all our own time. But you have to enable us with the tools. Snowtrac Grooming subsidies are falling farther and farther short every year now representing about half the seasonal need if we have a normal winter riding season. Please think about what it means to you to enjoy snowmachining in your favorite place in southcentral Alaska and keep it safe and enjoyable for you, your family and the future for all by joining us in this gargantuan effort. We sure could use some help, both financially and with your volunteerism too. Single memberships are STILL ONLY \$20, Family memberships are STILL ONLY \$30 and Business Memberships are STILL ONLY \$50. You can find our membership application at curryridgeriders.com. For more membership information, check our website www.curryridgeriders.com where you can also print a membership application to mail in or drop us an email at akcurryridgeriders@gmail.com or leave a message on the CRR Hotline 689-7669. You can postal-mail your membership and donation checks to the address above and below this newsletter.

and now for some news from your club

We're fighting for your rights to access our scenic namesake: "Curry Ridge" by snowmachine. Yes, recent trail development by State Parks gives *exclusive skier access* to Curry Ridge from K'esgui Ken Campground at Milepost 135.4. In fact, the very trail that Curry Ridge Riders blazed up from this area to our namesake is now for skiers only, and we are now being told to "cut our own trail" somewhere else with impossibly overgrown stretches of alder and bramble brush that would require heavy power equipment. "Access for All" is the motto for the Division of Parks and Natural Resources and what we were promised when the campground was being developed, but now we find that have been lied to. Curry Ridge Riders Board of Directors are meeting with Park Rangers and officials to try to reestablish what is fair and rightful access for all. As always, we're here for YOU and your access to state lands we all pay to maintain.

And Curry Ridge Riders will be at the *only winter recreation trade show* in Alaska at the Sullivan Arena in Anchorage for the "Alaska Outdoor Recreation Show" from September 29th to October 1st. We're renting a booth at the show on the main floor right in the middle of the action so be sure to stop by and say hi. We sure could use some volunteer help representing the club so if you or anyone you know would like to have some fun with us anytime at the show, please contact us by email or leave a message on the CRR Hotline.

We have some disappointing news to share. As you know, the soggy winters we've experienced in southcentral Alaska the last several riding seasons are beginning to take their toll on South Denali and Petersville businesses. Trapper Creek Inn at Milepost 114.5 at the 4-way intersection of Parks Highway and Petersville Road has been an oasis of services including branded fuel, a warm meal, lodging and even directions for the lost has announced they will not be open from October 1st to March 8th, citing lack of winter business as of late. And Kenny Creek Lodge at Milepost 14 in Petersville just announced that they will be *closed* permanently for business as they can no longer make a go of it lacking sufficient income from these anemic riding seasons recently. We all regret these losses significantly as we've come to expect them to be there for us when we need them. That leaves the remaining precious few businesses and services that have survived hard times that really need to financially support more than ever. Be sure to give preference to spending your hard-earned dollars in Trapper Creek and Petersville this winter so we can keep what we have left around for a long time to come.

On a brighter note, the new owners of the rebuilt Forks Roadhouse have completed all new construction to breathe new life into a landmark that once made history during mining claims and went on to become the busiest respite for a weary snowmachine rider at the end of a long powder-bustin' day. They have announced a grand opening around October 1st with snowmachiner services expected this winter. Stay tuned for more developments as the season approaches. And Trapper Creek Trading Post food and fuel, just 1/2 mile north of the Petersville Road turnoff is offering free day parking for snowmachiners (yes, trailers too) and they'll be open from 8am to 9pm minimum everyday except holidays, with some busier days 7am to 10pm. Curry Ridge Riders is working on easements for snowmachine trail access from the Trapper Creek Trading Post, but it's surrounded by private lands so it's quite the negotiations right now to say the least. More updates on this matter soon.

Curry Ridge Riders has been busy for you planning the season ahead including strategies for the Ortab Recreational Trails Federal Grant we were awarded this year. The grant will aid in the reestablishment, restoration and replacement of faded and damaged safety signs, trail markers, metal-maps and the poles that hold them from the anchoring system in the ground up to the mount that you utilize in the South Denali winter-use trail system. We've already begun transporting all the materials and tools north and expect to commence work with the start of the freeze-up this fall to gain swamp-trail access and complete the project sometime in 2018. *There's much to do and we certainly could use some muscle and a willingness with some riding fun thrown in.* For more information on how to join us in this effort, please contact any CRR Board Member, write an email or leave a message on the CRR Hotline.

Be sure to check out our Facebook page and the hotline for upcoming issues, events and trail conditions and our quarterly email newsletter here.

Here's to a *epic* riding season that we'll all be talking about for years to come !

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We're on Facebook! *Curry Ridge Riders* and be sure to check out *Alaska SnowCat* for current trail conditions in South Denali and Petersville

CRR hotline: 907-689-7669 or 352-7669