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

### **March, 2007**

**Welcome** to our members. This is our second **NEWSLETTER** of the 2006/2007 riding season. We will periodically send out news, but are still looking for a volunteer who would take on the task of organizing, editing and distributing a “real” newsletter on a regular schedule. Anyone interested, please contact the President, Bruce Brockett, at 495-3404, or at email: [curryridgeriders@hotmail.com](mailto:curryridgeriders@hotmail.com). Anyone with news or articles of interest to snowmachiners are invited to submit them for inclusion.

**Picnic/Annual Meeting:** **Mark this on your calendar!** We will be hosting our free annual Club Picnic on March 31, 2007, from noon to 3pm. The location will be in the South Denali riding area. We will announce the exact location soon. The trail will be marked to the picnic site. It will be an easy snowmachine ride and we will give directions with the announcement. We will conduct the Annual meeting at the picnic. The primary business will be the election of a Board of Directors. See the next item. Watch for further announcements.

**Election of Directors:** In accordance with the Club’s By-Laws, the election of Board members will take place at the annual meeting, which coincides with the picnic. Any member who wishes to serve on the Board, or nominate another member, may submit his/her name to the Nominating Committee at [mhgreene@pobox.mtaonline.net](mailto:mhgreene@pobox.mtaonline.net) . As soon as the Board is elected, at the meeting, the Board will convene to elect officers. If anyone would be interested in serving as the Club Secretary, be advised you need to submit your name for election to the Board. All officers are elected by the Board, from the Board.

**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, very little over cost. Give us a call, or send a check, and we can provide.

**The Season:** We finally got enough snow and are into a great riding season. Come along on a club ride and see some new country. The snow is not as deep as we would like, but there is plenty. Many alders are showing so you cannot get to some of the places you could last year. However, conversely, with the light snow and early very cold weather, the creeks are well frozen and all the “holes” are filled with snow. You can go almost anywhere.

**CRR Trail Rides** - The CRR provides leaders familiar with the area for organized trail rides. We will lead a few rides to familiarize you with the area, and to show you some country may not see otherwise. Our ride schedule is posted on the Anchorage Snowmobile Club's (ASC) Ride Schedule which can be found at [www.anchorage snowmobileclub.com](http://www.anchorage snowmobileclub.com) . We have already led rides in January and on Superbowl Sunday, the Sunday before President's Day (a Monday holiday for many), and on March 3rd. We plan another ride on March 24th. Watch for more! Most of these are in the Petersville/ South Denali Area. Most are 50-60 miles and take about 6-7 hours. Most are Family/Intermediate rides. We definitely don't just stay on the trails. If you have a favorite riding area and would like to lead a ride, let us know. It does not necessarily need to be in the South Denali Area. The ASC generously allows CRR members to tag along on their rides, and we reciprocate.

**Work Parties:** Our Trail Committee, headed by Joe Gauna and Glenn Swan, organized volunteer crews to prepare many of the area trails for riding and grooming. This entailed cutting brush, limbs and fallen down trees to make the trails open for a great ride, and for the groomer's access. After the initial clearing, and when the snow was deep enough, the trail committee set the trail markers. This work is ongoing, and includes removing the markers in the spring. Help is welcome here. At a recent board meeting, members spent a while adding reflector tape to the ends of about two hundred trail markers (8' fiberglass poles). This help was appreciated, but we have another 200-300 yet to do! Help! Good news for those who helped on the trail work parties this winter: the Club is putting your names in a pool, once for each day worked, and we will draw 25 tickets, each for a \$20 fuel card. This is to thank you for your help, and cover some of the cost of your personal fuel used to get to the work areas.

**Notes from CRR:** The ASC allows us to post our news on a link called “Notes from CRR” on their website. You can find this and our previous Newsletter there, along with other Club news and events. We plan to have our own website before next riding season.

**New Trail to Talkeetna:** Our industrious Trail Committee has broken-in and marked a trail from the North end of the mile 121.5 parking lot(on the Parks Hwy) to Talkeetna, following the Chulitna Bluff and River, and across the Susitna River.

**Snowmobile Trail Grant:** Recently the Club was successful in obtaining two Recreation Trail Grants. One is to augment the insufficient grooming money provided through SnowTRAC; the other is to fund the construction of the southern extension of the Chulitna Bluff Trail, from the 121.5 parking lot to the Rabideaux Trail at about mile 105.

For any that do not know what SnowTRAC is all about, this is the program funded by your snowmobile registration fees. The original intent of the registration was that all of the fees collected by the state would be returned to the snowmobile community. SnowTRAC is the name of the organization within Alaska State Parks that disseminates the funds. The process is to award grants to organizations, like the CRR, for projects that support snowmachining. Any money not awarded in grants is put into the grooming pool for snowmobile trails.

**MSB Trail Care Agreement:** The Club has signed a Trail Care Agreement with the Mat-Su Borough for many of the trails in our riding area. This agreement is similar to the “Adopt a Highway” program. The Club will be recognized for its agreement and care, and the Borough will provide signs and markers for us to use. We are also responsible to maintain trails so riding will be safe, and the trails will be accessible for the groomer, and for trash pick-up on the trails. We need to track our activities in meeting our obligations, and report to the MSB.

**Grooming:** The Club is now grooming: the Chulitna Bluff Trail going North from the 121.5 parking lot, the East/West Express, the Safari Lake Trail from Mile 11 on the Petersville Road to the Tokasitna River near Bunco Lake, and the Petersville Rd from the Kroto Creek parking lot to the West end of the E/W Express.

**Keeping in Touch:** Hotlines: 352-3669 in the Valley, 689-7669 in Anchorage  
email: [curryridgeriders@hotmail.com](mailto:curryridgeriders@hotmail.com)

Our Officers & Board:

President: Bruce Brockett

Vice President: Jim Henderson

Treasurer: Shauna Munro

Secretary: Open (anyone interested?)

Board Members:

Joe Gauna\*

Glenn Swan\*

Mahlon Greene

Dave Barr

\* Trail Committee (along with Randy Crosby)