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Greetings from your Board of Directors at CURRY RIDGE RIDERS:

President Glenn Swan

Treasurer John Scudder

Michelle LaRose

Jack Grieco

Jerry Siok

And Associate Directors: Randy & Marita Crosby

We've been working REAL HARD behind the scenes as usualand it's high time to share some **big** news too!

ANNUAL CRR MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND BBQ will be **SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017**

Glenn and Randy will be scouting out an ideal location soon and another email will be sent with this update. (If you have any suggestions for a spot you like in the greater South Denali area that is reasonable access for dragging the BBQ-setup equipment to--drop us a line!)

WE ARE LOOKING FOR 4 NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS to serve the concerns of Curry Ridge Riders and our big job maintaining the trail system in Petersville and South Denali. Elections for these club officers will be also conducted at the annual meeting and BBQ. Now is your chance to give back and help all that is this our most valuable resource and provide the future for it. All we ask is that you care and contribute to Board matters at meetings held quarterly during the year with convenient times and location.

[YOU CAN NOMINATE YOURSELF OR SOMEBODY YOU KNOW---drop us a reply email *now* to get on the ballot for April 1st !](#)

April 1st will also be our **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**. Annual membership terms are from September 1st to August 31st each year, but those who join or renew at the BBQ April 1st (as late in the season) will be good until August 31st, **2018**. We really don't have a "set" membership fee; really its' about what you want to donate to help us out. But know that everything we do in South Denali depends on YOU---with your membership and donations. There's no free lunch out there....the only thing that's free is the hard working volunteers that contribute their time and dedicated services to maintain and preserve the safety and security of the trail and safe-passage signage systems throughout the South Denali ecosystem. But we can't do that without the *tools* to do so...which cost hard money. That's where you and everybody you know come in....won't you join us in keeping what we've worked so hard to build alive and well for now and the future? Without Curry Ridge Riders, we would have lost most of the privileges to access this beautiful and vast part of Alaska by now to be sure. We've defended your right to participate in these trail systems over and over and over and over again and we continue to be upfront for you all the way no matter what it takes or how hard it gets.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST.....TO TODAY

26 years have pass since Randy Crosby founded Curry Ridge Riders and Governor Tony Knowles signed a House bill proposing a "well-maintained and signed" winter-use trail system that linked the coast of Anchorage north to Fairbanks. And with the same stroke of his pen, Governor Knowles set forth the snowmobile registration program to benefit trail maintenance for same. Rising to the occasion, Glenn Swan, Joe Gauna and Randy Crosby started bushwhacking their way through South Denali to begin the exploration of a Susitna Valley passage for Governor Knowles dream, sacrificing their own personal equipmentincluding which Glenn says he still has the Bearcat snowmachine he used back then "*....sitting in his back yard with a chassis broken in half..*" from forging through the endless stumps and Alders to bust through. Trails such as East-West, Tokositna and Susitna Valley Trails and their markers and arrows that guided the user to safe passage were established for the South Denali portion of Governor Knowles dream. The Mat-Su Borough came along about 2003 and surveyed the entire trail system the three men had created using an early "bread-crumbs" type GPS to transfer coordinates to the Borough survey maps. And along about 2003, John Scudder pitched in and developed aluminized 2.5 X 2.5 foot trail maps with "you are here" arrows that saved many trail users a night out in a frigid elements. He has also been instrumental in the upkeep of the trail system over the years since.

Today, what these club veterans worked so hard to establish and provide is now showing the wear and tear of the elements and the ever-moving turf which is mostly swamplands. Sign posts have leaned and fallen over, markers have blown off, colors have faded and misguided individuals have taken sport discharging firearms puncturing and deforming map panels beyond reliable legibility. But private donations could never replace the cost of what it would take to repair and restore these now faded and damaged indicators that are now our lighthouse guiding the way through this huge amphitheater that includes the worst of weather and darkness. So last year, Curry Ridge Riders got busy with the gargantuan task of applying for a Federal ORTAB Grant (Outdoor Recreational Trails Advisory Board) to breathe life back into a failing signage system within what is today a 1500 square mile area.. It took countless hours and every association we had available to us to make such a federal application plausible to officials ...**BUT IT WORKED!** We have been now approved to proceed with restoration and reconstruction of the guidance-marker system in South Denali and Petersville beginning this summer starting with repairing trail wand markers and more volunteer work to continue through this summer and into the winter of 2017-18 including removing original signs and markers nailed to trees with a more eco-friendly and removable holder and posts that are less environmentally-intrusive to the substrate or vegetation. Needless to say, five Curry Ridge Riders Board members won't be able to conduct all this volunteer work on their own, so we will be soliciting help from club and the community-at-large to assist in such a huge endeavor. Recruiting announcements, updates and BBQ location will be forthcoming so stay tuned to our website www.curryridgeriders.com and our Facebook page "Curry Ridge Riders"

Meanwhile, we're selling our new LAMINATED trail maps @ \$10 each available directly or area merchants and we're also currently working with governmental officials on a permanent solution for Sawmill and Rabideaux Creek Bridges. Randy is hard at it keeping the trails safe and enjoyable. There's more snow in a more arctic South Denali than we've seen in over five winters so it's going to be a longer spring breakup with extended opportunity for use of our winter trail system that was once Governor Tony Knowles' dream-come-true.

We'll be out there so come on out and join us making the most of our valuable resource we're working so hard for.

See ya at the "Q"!

Curry Ridge Riders