



P.O. Box 3474 Palmer, AK 99645

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

November 2006

- **Welcome** to new members, renewing members, and to those who are in the process of renewing their annual membership. This is our first **NEWSLETTER** of the 2006/2007 riding season. We will periodically send out news, but would sure like 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. Anyone with news or articles of interest to snowmachiners is welcome to submit them for inclusion.

-Some of you may be wondering: **where the heck is Curry Ridge?** Our namesake is a long ridge running N/S parallel to, and East of, the Parks Highway, beginning at about mile 127 of the Highway. Most of it is in the Denali State Park. There is a great lookout point on the top of the South end of the ridge. This is an area rarely used by snowmachiners, and has no marked trails. The club has held events at Blair Lake at the South end of the ridge. We look forward to establishing marked trails in the future.

Decals: We have a new supply of Club decals. These look like the logo/decals above. All members should have received at least one when you first joined the club. (Not renewals). We have them available for sale at \$5 each, very little over cost. Give us a call, or send a check, and we can provide.

- **This Season:** We are looking optimistically forward to a great riding season. All we need is the snow! It is time to get out your gear and make sure it is in good working order, if you can even find it after the hectic Alaska summer. Check over your machine and do the maintenance you said you would do when you put it away for the summer. Make sure all your safety gear is up to par. Refresh your skills on your GPS. They can be lost with all the time that has elapsed since you put it away too.

Work Parties: As soon as the ground freezes our Trail Committee, headed by Joe Gauna and Glenn Swan, will be organizing crews to prepare many of the area trails for riding and grooming. This entails cutting brush, limbs and fallen down trees to make the trails open for a great ride, and for the groomer’s access. The committee will be sending out email requests for volunteers. The work is not too difficult, and can be a great start to the season, renewing old friendships, and even getting to see what your fellow riders look like without a helmet. We walk in, or ride in to the work areas on your own 4-wheelers, and the Club will provide a lot of the clearing equipment (chain saws, pole pruners, brush mowers, etc.) this year - see below. If you don’t have a 4-wheeler we can get you to the work. We do a lot of brushing with hand loppers - it’s not all heavy work. Your help is needed and is appreciated. When snow arrives, we travel in on our snowmachines. After

the initial clearing, and when the snow is deep enough, the trail committee sets the trail markers, and removes them again in the spring. Help is welcome here too.

- **CRR Trail Rides** - The CRR provides leaders familiar with the area for organized trail rides. We will lead a half dozen 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.anchoragesnowmobileclub.com . Right now we have rides scheduled for Superbowl Sunday (for you who prefer the great outdoors), on the Sunday before President's Day (a Monday holiday for many), and on Feb 24th. We know there will be another ride in March, and the Spring Club Picnic/Annual Meeting will be in early April. Watch for more! All these are in the Petersville/ South Denali Area. If you have a favorite riding area and would like to lead a ride, let us know. The ASC generously allows CRR members to tag along on their rides, and we reciprocate. The ASC also kindly allows us to post our news on a link called "Notes from CRR" on their website.

- **Trailheads and parking lots:** As you are familiar, parking can be a pain when you want to ride in our area. Some good news, and some bad. The good news is that the Mat-Su Borough has increased the parking area at the mile 121.5 parking lot on the Parks Highway. There is easy access to the East/West Express and Chulitna Bluff Trails from this lot. The bad news is that the Petersville Road parking areas have not changed, and the Borough plans to begin charging a parking fee at the Kroto Creek Parking lot. The fee will hopefully be used to fund better sanitation and trash pickup. We don't know the details on this yet, but an annual pass will be available from the Borough for \$30.

- **Snowmobile Trail Grant:** the Club was successful in obtaining a grant from SnowTRAC to purchase equipment for the trail crews use (mentioned above). The club has an obligation to provide matching amounts by way of volunteer labor, gas to get to the work area, personal equipment use, 4-wheelers, etc. When you volunteer to help, we need to track your work hours and expenses to get credit. If you happen to do some trail work on your own (removing branches from the trail, or replacing markers, let us know so we can count your hours. You can leave a message on the Hotlines, and we can get back to you.

- **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. We are also responsible for trash pick-up on the trails. Here again, we need to track our activities in meeting our obligations, and report to the MSB.

Grooming: Trail grooming this year will not be funded by Grants from Alaska DNR/Parks, but will be performed by contractors based on competitive bids. The State will manage these contracts. The club as suggested to the State our preference for trails

to be groomed. We won't know which trails will be groomed for a while because the amount of grooming will be based on the funding available, and the bid prices.

Keeping in Touch:

Hotlines: Anchorage 689-7669, Mat-Su 352-3669

email: curryridgeriders@hotmail.com

Our Officers & Board

President: Bruce Brockett

Vice President: Jim Henderson

Treasurer: Shauna Munro

Secretary: Jill Rodamer

Board Members:

Joe Gauna*

Glenn Swan*

Mahlon Greene

Dave Barr

* Trail Committee