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October Newsletter

As the snow creeps down the Chugach Mountains the start of the 2010/2011 snowmobile season is close to starting. I'm sure you all have those summer chores done. Motor home winterized, firewood stacked and ready, lawn mower put away, snow blower all serviced or the snow plow ready to go, studded tires dug out, and maybe a few even have your sled all ready. Me...well lets just say "nothing like waiting till the last minute". I never did get around to putting my sled away at the end of last season. I pulled it into the shop to repair some minor damage from the last ride and here it is, summer's over and my sled is still in pieces.

I know that every year around the last week of October we get that snowfall that will be with us til April, but for some reason I just never seem to be ready. I'm still waiting for summer to start. This will have to go down as the summer that never was. It started out nice, got our hopes up and then just...never happened. Record rains, low temps and lately, high winds. Let's hope this weather pattern keeps up as it cools off and we'll get some snow out of it.

Due to the aforementioned winds, we have reports of trees down across the trails. We'll be getting out soon, to remove those trees and will also need to prepare a couple of creek crossings, but we'll wait till the ground freezes, making travel a bit easier. It shouldn't be long, though, until we can go out to prepare the trails for the first grooming. Keep checking the hot line and the website for postings of trail parties.

This winter, our recently-approved Snow TRAC grant will leave us about \$10000 short of what we need for a full season of grooming. That means a couple of things: We'll have to scramble to make up the shortfall via donations and other fund raising efforts. We'll also have to defer adding more trails unless we can get help from members and other volunteers-and, of course, more funding. Saying that reminds me: unless you re-upped at the spring BBQ at Lunchbox Hill, it's time to send in your membership renewal. Forms are available on line so download one, write that check and send it in. Every bit helps and we're very anxious to develop the additional trails everyone wants. Encourage your business contacts to join the club, too.

Bruce Brockett, a former president and very active member of our club, has decided to move south. He and Dona will be missed-they were good riding partners and Bruce was always good for leading a couple of rides. With the small cadre of ride leaders we have, someone needs to step up and fill the gap. It's not hard to lead a ride, there will always be someone there that has experience and we wouldn't let you go it alone until you're ready.

So give it a try-pick a date, email or call the hot line and we'll get you going. FYI, Bruce also has his machine for sale-it's a nice Ski-Doo REV. Details are on the web site. The reason I mentioned it is to let you know that as a club member you can post items for sale or trade on our web site. Give it a try-it's easy

As I write this article, the Oxygen and Octane show has just finished its third successful weekend run. More vendors, more sleds, more people and more fun, as usual, with many familiar faces stopping by the booth, to relive past events on the trail and to anticipate lots of snow and lots of riding this season. We had a good number of membership renewals over the weekend but we still have many names on our membership roster marked "expired-renewal due".

The CRR board will be meeting soon, to plan events and the future path of the club, so email us or call the hotline and give us your thoughts and opinions about the direction we should take.

One more reminder: The ASSA swap meet will be open for business on Saturday, October 16th, at the Enstar Gas Company parking lot on International Airport Road, between C Street and Old Seward Highway. This is always a great event, with plenty of snowmobiles, trailers, parts, clothes and other winter gear at very attractive prices. We'll have burgers, hotdogs, coffee and soft drinks available, too. You can get details at our website, www.curryridgeriders.com.

See you on the trail.

Glenn Swan
President