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With the recent snowfall and colder temps, quite a few people are wondering what the Curry Ridge Riders have been up to lately? Winter has returned a little earlier than usual, and there are reports of some riding taking place on the Petersville Road and Dutch hills. This may very well be the winter we have all long waited for, with hopes of 10 plus feet on the level!

As you probably already know, the CRRs have been and will continue to be very active in trail development, protecting your right to ride on public lands and club rides. Last year we completed the “North Loop” through Denali State Park, which now connects the Bunco/Tokasitna Trail to the Chulitna Bluff Trail. This took three years of planning, attending meetings and construction. This effort in conjunction with past trail and trailhead construction efforts allows you to enter the trail system from more locations, spreading out the parking, and alleviating some of the problems that have plagued the area for years.

We also throw a heck of a Bar-B-Q at the end of the season with Glenn cooking up a feast of hotdogs. In fact, that is the last time you were updated on club news as we headed into our summer hibernation. Club members at that time elected the following individuals to the Board of Directors:

Randy Crosby - President
Joe Gauna - Vice President
Glenn Swan - Treasurer
Bruce Brockett - Secretary
Mahlon Green – Board Member

You will probably notice these are former Board Members from last year and years gone by. We are planning on continuing to lead the club in a similar fashion as in the past. We all owe a special thanks to Shauna Munro who served as Treasure and also processed the membership applications for the last two years. Marita Crosby is taking over most of those duties this year.

If you are a new member, we welcome you to our snowmobile club and hope you will become involved in some of our rides and trail work parties, as this is when members get a chance to meet face to face. If you are renewing your membership then you already know of the benefits the CRRs have brought to the South Denali Area for snowmobilers as well as all winter trail enthusiasts in the area. If you are reading this newsletter and are not a current member, then please take the time to renew and participate in the club’s functions.

If you don’t already know, we have a great website at:

WWW.CURRYRIDGERIDERS.COM

Go here for the latest news, ride schedule, weather, and some great pictures. If you get a chance, thank John Scudder for designing and maintaining this website.

We also have a “HOTLINE” phone number at: **689-7669 in Anchorage, or 352-3669 in Mat-Su**, which is updated by Joe Gauna. Call this number for the very latest update on rides and work parties. Feel free to leave a message on the Hotline or you can email us at:

CURRYRIDGERS@HOTMAIL.COM.

Joe is also on the SnoTRAC advisory board and represents us on many statewide snowmobile issues.

Ok, now let's get to the stuff we all really want to hear about: **SNOW!!** 12 plus inches have fallen in the Trapper Creek and Petersville areas and up to 2 feet are reported between the Peters and Dutch hills with more in the forecast. Unfortunately the ground is not frozen yet nor are creeks and lakes. A lot of rain also fell with the snow so current conditions are very wet and riding now is not suggested. For those that must go, plan on spending some bucks repairing the damage that will surely visit your sled, as there is NO base. Remember it is only mid October.

Most of the trails, groomed by the CRRs, cross creeks and a few ponds so they will not be ready to ride for sometime yet. Also this years grooming funds are not yet available and usually aren't until mid December. The CCRs Trail Committee members, (Joe, Glenn, Randy), are attending an Alaska State Parks Grooming Summit this Wednesday (10/15/08) and should know more on what we can expect in the way of funding and new signage for this year. No trail work parties have been scheduled yet, but will be as soon as conditions improve.

You may have noticed several new signs/maps on the trail system last winter and there will be several more put up this year. **Shell Ewing of Weld Air Alaska** generously donated funds for 10 more snow depth stakes with the **You Are Here** signs attached. We will be installing those signs at important intersections throughout our trail system this year in cooperation with the Anchorage Snowmobile Club.

There is a ride schedule posted on our website with several rides already planned for, however there is the need for more members to lead club rides. If you enjoy getting together with others, and riding in the South Denali Area then please sign up to lead a ride. This is not as difficult as it may sound and others more experienced in putting one together will be there to assist. Email us or call the Hotline.

The club continues to work on expanding the groomed trails south to “Downtown Trapper Creek” and on to Rabidux Creek, where we will connect to the Midvalley trails. This trail is currently under construction and should be open for travel this winter. You will receive updates on this project as the season gets underway and if you would like to help call the Hotline.

We are also looking for members who will assist the club in managing the groomed trails west of the Reflector Tree, or more specifically, the west half of the E/W Express, Safari Lake Trail, and the unplowed Petersville Road. This would also include exploring the possibilities of connecting the P-ville Rd to the Deep Creek Trail so we get more miles of groomed trail for about the same cost. This idea has been discussed for many years and the Deep Creek Trail has even been surveyed for this purpose but more effort by those who currently ride in that area is needed to make this a reality. Our current trails committee leaders are at times overwhelmed with trails already being built and maintained in the East half of the area and we would greatly appreciate more help in the west. Call or email if you are interested.

Last but not least- Get your snowmobile and riding gear in shape now! Preseason maintenance is a must in order to travel safely and successfully in the Backcountry and even on the trail system. Cell service can be unavailable in many areas so be prepared to take care of yourself if you experience trouble. If you have ever had to spend the night out in the elements unprepared then you know it is something you will never want to repeat. Ride Safe and Ride often.

Randy