

President's Pondering—Bryan Meador



Hello Fellow Sledders,

How was your Christmas? I got everything I wanted except snow. Where is it at? Is someone hiding it? Please share if you have some extra laying around. I have been waiting patiently for some good deep powder. Do the snow dance, in private, I don't need to see how you dance. Let it snow.

Starting off 2024 the right way, safely. I know you have checked all of your gear. Your snowmobile is in top notch shape. Your haul vehicle is ready to roll with them new tires and fresh service. But what about you? What about your riding buddy? Check in on them, not just a how are you, but ask a second time of "no really, how are you?" Make sure your head is in the ride as well as your riding partner. 2023 was a rough year for some, so check in on your buddy and let's have a safe 2024.

I held a class room basic snowmobile safety class December 6th. I had club members, Forest Service personnel, Search and Rescue and the Sheriffs Department all in attendance. We had a good class. I you are interested in attending a class or know of someone who might be needing some basic knowledge. Get in touch with me. Thank you to all who attended.

I want to throw a HUGE shout out to Fun Center for hosting our December club meeting. The food was great! The people were great! We had a good turn out and I got cookies!

Travis has started grooming. So please when you are out on a trail and the trees have fallen across the trail, if you can move them out of the way, please do so. They are hard to see in the middle of the night covered up with the fresh fallen snow, we should be getting. It is easier for you to jump off the sled, than to get out of the groomer. Thank you!

See you on the mountain,

Bryan Meador, San Juan Sledders Snowmobile Club President

LET IT SNOW!!!

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Club Officers

- President—Bryan Meador
- Vice President—Chris Hinds
- Treasurer— Kristina Blumenauer
- Secretary—Jennifer Hawn
- CSA Representative—Curt Larsen
- Grooming Foreman—Travis Leonard
- Club Reporter—Ken Hilfiker



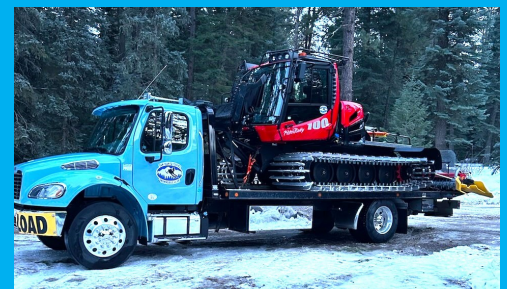
Editor's Note—Dianne Larsen

- A HUGE shout out to The Fun Center for hosting our December meeting! The chili, pasta, and fixin's were absolutely delicious! The specials were much appreciated! And the atmosphere was awesome ... Christmassy and Motorry (new word!!)
 - We are continuing to reprogram our radios so that our channel 3 matches the 3-0-0 to be used by Search & Rescue thruout Colorado on an active search. The rest of the channels on our radios stayed the same, so reprogramming is optional. We will be setup at the January meeting to reprogram as well or you can setup a time with Curt and Dianne if you want.
 - If any members want to renew by credit card, call Dianne at 970.946.3107. As of today those of you that have not renewed are no longer members of CSA or San Juan Sledders.
- Your name will be removed from the newsletter and email contact list if you're not renewed by January 29th. Keep in mind that club membership supports grooming, your right to ride, and our club has improved both the Barlow and Lem-on parking lots in the last few years and continues to work to improve our other parking!
- The meetings thru April will be held the second Tuesday of the month at the Fun Center. Dinner at 6. Meeting at 6:30.
 - As always, please submit stories and pictures to a.dianne.larsen@gmail.com.

December Grooming

Grooming is officially underway for the season!

- Our grooming team encountered a mechanical problem with the cat early in December and after replacing the part we are under way.
- Despite our thin snow, both Middle Mountain Road and West Mancos were groomed between Christmas and New Years.
- The sledders on the club ride Saturday had a smooth and packed ride at West Mancos and offer a big shout out to the groomers!



December Club Ride—Dianne Larsen

- We had our first club ride of the season Saturday December 29th. We changed from Echo Basin to West Mancos at the last minute after we heard that West Mancos was being groomed.
- We met at the normal lower parking at 9am and then caravanned up the road to the Chicken Creek parking, about 5 miles. Parking and unloading went smoothly.
- We checked our beacons and discussed our route and off we went! Dianne was leading and stopped at the first branch in the road. We waited. Waited. Radioed. Hmmn. We lost three in the first couple of miles! Turns out there was a sled start issue. And Bob, Chris, and Curt soon caught the rest of us that'd gone on to Jersey Jim. We headed around the main loop stopping at some of the safer (more grass, less rocks/stumps) meadows. We crossed over turkey creek and then took the turkey creek jeep road back down to Jersey Jim. We wrapped up our ride with grilled dogs at the parking lot.

- There were a couple of stucks. One minor tree harvest. And many many comments about the grooming! Wow!
- It was a beautifully sunny and warm day. Our attendees: Chris Hinds, Bob Fillman, Lance Blair, Dave Sanders, Stuart Allen, Ken Hilfiker, and Curt & Dianne Larsen enjoyed a great day out!



Parking Lot Bar-b-que



Group Pic at Windy Gap



Lance Blair, Dave Sanders



Ken Hilfiker, Stuart Allen



Unsticking!



Bob Fillman



Chris Hinds

December 12th 2023 Meeting Minutes—Morgan Hott

Meeting was called to order at 6:34pm by President Byran Meador at Fun Center - Durango
Member & new guest introductions

Motion: Minutes from November 14th, 2023 meeting approved as presented - accepted by Dianne Larsen;
2nd Landon Tate

Treasurer's Report - Kristina Blumenauer

- Balance: \$33,345.04
- Revenue: \$650 memberships
- Expenses: \$1,042 CSA, \$410 CAT parts for maintenance, \$698 liability insurance
- Paypal Balance: \$690
- **Motion:** Accepted Treasurer's Report as presented - Dianne Larsen; 2nd Glenn Pauls
- Membership Number: 130

Committee Reports

Club Rides - Landon Tate

- Poker Ride at Vallecito - February 17th - Travis Leonard
- Echo Basin - December 30th - Curt & Dianne

Grooming - Travis Leonard

- The groomer was serviced and ready, then it went into limp mode. Issue with the DEF System sensor. A new sensor has been ordered, cost roughly \$2,000.

Unfinished Business

- San Juan National Forest trail signs are complete. Bases will need to be made and we will need padlocks to secure the signs. Bryan can help with building bases if needed. Ken said Pagosa and Silverton may be interested in signs next year.
- CSA is in need of a treasurer! If you know of anyone, please reach out to the club and they can get you in contact with CSA.
- Remember to take photos of the groomer and action shots. We need photos for CSA and our newsletters.
- Adopt a Road - Forest Service will talk with us more next year. They need to confirm availability.
- Rio Grande Meeting - You must comment in order to be heard and have the ability to object later. Forest service plans to re-evaluation next year. The Pagosa Nortic Club posted signs for no riding on their trails.
- Ken pulled statistics of visitors on the club Facebook page
- BLM Meeting - Curt, Dianne, and Richard attended the local meeting. BLM is trying to limit land usage due to concerns of oil and gas and wildlife. You must comment on this as well to be heard and have the opportunity to object. BLM said they would add a section about recreational changes as well.

New Business

- Dianne Larsen -
 - Filed federal 990-n tax form
 - Completed the Colorado State Periodic Report
 - Sent Charity Report to CSA
 - Renewed SPOT subscription
 - Roger Pennington is listed as the current safety officer, should we change this? - Bryan will take it; Dianne will email Roger to make sure he is okay with the change.
 - All swag is 25% off tonight. Will order new swag soon.
 - Curt Larsen - Moto Mountain School - Having an avalanche survival contest on December 16th in Breckenridge.
 - Avalanche training - CAIC Basic Class - If anyone is interested in training, please let Bryan know.
 - Parker - mentioned a local group called Friends of the San Juans. They offer free safety training for our area. The goal is to share knowledge between the skiers and snowmobilers.
 - Ken Hilfiker - Donated stickers for the Search and Rescue channel 3
 - Remember: this channel is only used by Search and Rescue when they are on a mission
 - Bryan - Elections are held during the February meeting.
 - CSA Convention is February 23rd-25th in Buena Vista, CO.
 - Montezuma County Plowing - County will no longer be plowing Chicken Creek, Echo Basin, West Mancos, or Boggy Draw. We will continue to groom these areas and not mess with the plowing.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm - accepted by Travis Leonard; 2nd Richard Hott
Respectfully submitted by Morgan Hott for Jennifer Hawn, Club Secretary



Committee Chairs & Volunteers

- **Bryan Meador**, Safety Instructor
- **Landon Tate**, Rides Chairperson
- **Ron Corkish**, Search & Rescue Liaison
- **Dianne Larsen**, Newsletter Editor
- **Chris Hinds & Ken Hilfiker**, Website Administrator & Facebook Administrator

Meeting Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call / Introduction of Guests
- III. Reading of Minutes
- IV. Treasurers Report – Kristina Blumenauer
- V. Committee Reports
 - Club Rides - Landon Tate
 - Equipment/Grooming/Truck To Do List– Travis Leonard & Kevin Walters
 - Membership – Kristina Blumenauer
- VII. Unfinished Business
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Motion to Adjourn

The January meeting will be at the Fun Center Tuesday the 9th. Dinner at 6pm, meeting at 6:30pm

Club Rides

- 1/13/2024 - Beaver Meadows, led by David Sanders. RSVP 970-759- 9784
- 2/10/2024 - Barlow, led by Glenn and Trevor Pauls. RSVP 970-318- 0113
- 2/17/2024 - Vallecito Poker Run—Travis Leonard. RSVP 970-759-1995
- Call Landon Tate at 505.327.0320 if you want to lead a ride



December Meeting Pic



Dianne Larsen, Chris Hinds—Club Ride



Curt Larsen—West Mancos Club Ride



Christmas Eve at the Barrel—Middle Mtn



425 Degrees Take & Bake Pizza
970-799-0425—Michael Gunn



Advantage Repair Service
970-903-7340—Lynn & Lee Parks



970-946-9008
BAYFIELD BUILDERS LLC
Concrete to Cabinets
Bayfield Builders
970-946-9008 Jordan Frane



Blouin Brothers Construction
970-759-2179—Lyndsey Blouin

BOLETUS CREEK APPRAISALS

Boletus Creek Appraisals
Phone: 9709034416—Geoff Bourque



Built to Last Automotive
970-259-8777 Jeff Howard



Home Roots Hardwood Flooring
970-749-6821
Jesse King



Nic McDonald
970-565-7893



Dale R. Willbanks Agency
970-247-5828—Dale Willbanks



DPF Alternatives
505-330-0904—Jason Groen



Durango Dog Ranch
970-259-0694—Greg & Gretchen Dubit



La Plata County Search & Rescue
970-946-4437—Ron Corkish



**** Handlebar Motorsports**
970-247-0845—Jim Updike



Leonard & Sons Excavation
970-759-1995
Travis Leonard



Lucchesi Property Group
Residential · Commercial · Investment
"Total Realty Advisors"
Dan Lucchesi 970-799-5354



Phantastic Screens
970-247-7907
Marty & Ann Gunn



McCormick Construction
970-946-6857—Doug McCormick



McDonalds
970-247-9391
John Bronson



Durango Adventure Rentals
970-335-9311—Chuck Schultz



Silverline Construction
970-759-2327
Wes Harriman



Spellbring Construction
505-325-5600
Aaron & Tami Spellbring



The Bug Masters
505-325-7477
Delbert Raney



Twin Buttes
970-259-3883
Glen & Dianne Pauls



Welch Automotive
303-324-7185
Jack Welch



Weminuche Grill
970-884-7153—Joe Zebas

FUN CENTER

Fun Center, Inc
970-259-1070—Joe Washburn & Pete Tabor

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mailing Address:

San Juan Sledders Snowmobile Club

PO Box 591

Durango, CO 81302

New Member _____ Renew Member _____ Business Member _____

Single Membership \$43/Year _____

Family Membership \$48/Year _____

Business Membership \$68/Year _____

CSA Right to Ride Donation _____ (Optional)

CSA SEEDS Donation _____ (Optional, SEEDS—Support, Education, Events, Development, and Safety)

Total: _____

Please make check payable to the San Juan Sledders Snowmobile Club & mail to the address above.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Children: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

of Snowmobiles: _____ Sponsors' Name: _____

Dues to San Juan Sledders Snowmobile Club includes membership dues to the Colorado Snowmobile Association.

To join or renew online, go to www.snowmobilecolo.com.