

President's Pondering—Bryan Meador

Hello fellow Sledders,

What a month February has been. I have several items to cover this month but first, CSA annual winter convention and awards. I want to congratulate the following,

- Jack Welch for Snowmobiler of the year.
- Curt & Dianne Larsen for Snowmobile Family of the year.
- Travis Leonard for Groomer of the year.
- Brady Leonard for Youth Snowmobiler of the year.
- Kevin Walters for Friend of CSA of the year.
- San Juan Sledders for Snowmobile Club of the Year.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication. Award plaques will be handed out in our March 8th meeting. We cleaned house on awards this year! It pays off to nominate someone for a CSA award.

February 9th, we met with the Forest Service objection committee about the Purgatory Ice Creek Project. I think it went very well. There were a lot of comments made about how Purgatory does not follow through with the completion of agenda items once they get what they want. There were comments about the current parking situation. The Forest Service said they would talk to them about making the parking better until the snowmobilers parking area was completed. They will also inform them about the parking attendants being a little politer. There was talk about moving the parking area from its current proposed location. I am not opposed to this but it will take longer once again. The resolution was proposed February 25, I am waiting to hear from the forest service. I should know more by meeting time.

It is official, San Juan Sledders Snowmobile club will be hosting the 2023 winter convention in Durango. We need help with trail maps, sponsorships, door prizes, ride guides and tails. On the ride home from Waldon, I had 8 hours to think, very little radio reception, if you don't like what I am putting out there let me know. But this is just my thoughts. Groups of riders: 1) Trail Riders, 2) Meadow busters, 3) Just wanna Play, 4) Get me stuck

Trails, I did not include missionary due to parking. Beaver Meadows due to logging/parking. Trail riders seems to be the largest group. There was 20 on our Friday ride and over 30 for the Saturday ride. So I made the meadow busters for anyone that wanted a little more than just trails.

- West Mancos – Jay and Chris with group 1 or 2. Can anyone else take a group out here?
- Echo basin – Lance Meador and Richard with group 3
- Hermosa Park (Purg) – Ben and Cory with group 4
- Lemon – Curt and Dianne with group 2 or 3
- Middle Mountain – Travis and Kevin with group 3 or 4 (if Clyde comes home)

Landon to fill in. In case of can't make it guide or tail. Any other volunteers. I tried to make these close to home rides. We can make some Friday only or Saturday only rides.

February 22, 2022 it is finally snowing..... My dad, brother and I went to Chama to ride February 26th. First time I have ever been over there. Over a 100 vehicles scattered up the road. But hardly seen anyone. The powder was great. Lets hope it keeps snowing. Be safe out there, I hope to see you on the mountain. Bryan Meador, Club President

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Club Officers

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



Editor's Note—Dianne Larsen

- Our March meeting will be at the La Plata Fairgrounds on Tuesday the 8th. Dinner at 6, meeting at 6:30. Hope we see you there.
- Our club had great representation at the CSA convention in Walden. Thanks to those of you that attended!
- It's getting to be Snow-Check season! Many of the brands have their new models advertised. Be sure to

check in at the Fun Center to see what is coming next year!

- As always, please submit stories and pictures to a.dianne.larsen@gmail.com.

Vallecito Poker Run—Nadine Barber

The ride started at the Weminuche Grill for sign up and began with 14 and had 4 more meet up later.

Travis led the group up Middle Mountain gathering punches along the way, then to the burn barrel for lunch. It was an amazing bluebird day. After lunch we headed up to Tuckerville and played around up there, where there was some fun powder stashes to play in. Everyone got their 5 punches. The Poker run winners were Stuart for the Gold, Nadine got the Silver and Landon got the Bronze.

After the ride everyone met at the Weminuche Grill to continue the fun with food and drink.

Everyone had a great time! A lot of first timers sledding in Vallecito Including Landon Tate, so that was pretty cool to get them up there.



Prize Winners: Stuart Allen, Nadine Barber, and Landon Tate



Group Lunching at the Barrel



Kevin Walters and Nicole

Leading/Riding Etiquette—Bryan Meador

If you are leading a ride, know your followers. Are they new to the sport of snowmobiling? Have they ever ridden before? Are they experienced, very experienced or elderly experienced? As a guide you should be paying attention while getting ready in the parking lot. Set ground rules, hand signals, radio channels, beacon check and final rally destination point in case radio's fail and the group gets separated. Start your ride off easy and slow, about 10 mph. Watch your followers, is one of them falling behind? If so move the slowest rider behind the guide. That will set your pace. Assure them they are doing good, they probably have never ridden before and need reassurance. Yes, it may be slower, but it will keep the group together. No one gets lost.

Stop often, usually within the first mile to make sure everyone is together & check clothing, close bags, zip up clothing, put ice scratchers down, change goggles Then pick up the pace. Stop at major intersections and road crossings, make sure everyone is together and knows what way you are going.

Highway crossings, let everyone know if there will be a highway crossing. Tell them skis don't turn on the asphalt, aim where you want the sled to go. Wait until the person in front of you has crossed and is out of the way before proceeding. NO STOPPING on the highway. Have at least one crossing guard standing on the highway shoulder watching for vehicles.

Hand signals, I know we are the friendliest bunch of old farts this side of the nut farm, but don't do the traditional wave. Wave like a biker, arm straight towards the ground. The leader will hold up fingers on their left hand as to how many followers they have. The tail will hold up a

fist showing they are the last ones in line. When the leader stops everyone should know the hand signals, Talked about in the parking lot? Pat the top of head/helmet, means all is good. Arms motioning in an outward direction, from the chest straight out, palms outward, means go play. The guide should have stopped at a rally point on the trail. In plain sight of the play area. When the guide returns to the rally point, watch for an arm in the air making a circular motion. This means gather up, we are moving out. So, get in line for a head count, not go bang ditches and get stuck so everyone has to wait on you, again.

If the guide is going to jump trail for any reason, they should motion the second person to stay on the trail by a straight arm down moving forward and back. The guide should not be more than several feet from the trail and still maintains the lead.

You are responsible for the person behind you while on the trail. If you can't see them stop, this will follow up the line, eventually the guide will notice and stop to check on everyone or until everyone catches up.

If you change leader/guides, let everyone know who the new guide and tail are. They are following a color of jacket, helmet or sled.



February 8th 2022 Meeting Minutes—Jennifer Hawn

Meeting was held at the La Plata Fairgrounds and Meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by President Bryan Meador

Member & New guest introductions

MOTION: Minutes from January 11, 2022 amended to reflect 204.2 grooming hours remaining and motion to approve as amended - accepted by Chris; 2nd Kevin

Treasurer's Report – Dianne Larsen(President Bryan reported for Dianne)

- Balance: \$16,324
- Revenue: \$1,165 Swag, Radios, and Memberships
- Expenses: \$1,693 SAMS Renewal, Fuel, Miscellaneous CAT parts and expenses for 100hr service, Radios, SPOT renewal, Membership dues to CSA
- **MOTION:** Accept Treasurer's report as presented – accepted by Ken; 2nd Travis

Committee Reports –

Club Rides – Landon Tate

- Barlow Creek ride was held January 26 with Jay Stroud leading with 10 riders participating
- Vallecito ride was held February 5 with Travis Leonard leading ride
- No rides scheduled until further snow fall

Grooming – Travis Leonard

- Grooming hours for January 115hrs groomed
- 100hr service performed on the CAT/Thank You to Travis, Kevin, and Bryan
- Thank You to Ron Corkish for the new radio for the groomer so they can communicate with Search & Rescue

Membership – Dianne Larsen (President Bryan reported for Dianne) 109 Members

Old/Unfinished Business –

Purgatory Parking Area

- Teams Conference Call -Wednesday, February 9, 2022 @ 11:30am
- Objection Mtg/Call to discuss further action to be taken regarding to the completion of the Purgatory Snowmobile Parking lot
- Purgatory acknowledges that they need to build the parking lot but there is not set completion date
- Bryan is going to request that the parking lot be completed by January 1, 2023

SAMS Renewal

- We were paying \$499 for a third party to do paperwork for renewal
- Bryan researched completed renewal paperwork and submitted it
- Bryan is now the current administrator of the SAMS account

New Business –

Email from Club Member

- Someone was trying to drive 4 wheel vehicle over snow berm at Lemon
- Jed at the Forest Service sent Bryan verbiage to put on a sign to have posted
- Sign will read “No wheeled vehicles from January 1 – April 30”

San Juan Mountain Association

- Ken Hilfiker contacting San Juan Mountain Association to ask them to acknowledge the San Juan Sledders for all of the work that the club does in the San Juan Forest (clearing & grooming trails)
- They acknowledge the Creeper Jeepers and with all the work our club does for the San Juan Forest we should also be acknowledged by them

SJS Officer Elections—Elections were held and this is the slate of officers

- President Nomination **MOTION:** President Bryan was re-elected for an additional 2yr term – accepted Travis; 2nd Dorwin
- Grooming Foreman **MOTION:** Travis Leonard was re-elected for an additional 2yr term – accepted Rich; 2nd Dave
- Treasurer Position **MOTION:** Dianne Larsen was re-elected for an additional 2yr term – accepted Brady; 2nd Landon

March 8, 2022 Meeting Will be held at the La Plata County Fairgrounds



The meeting was adjourned at 7:24pm – accepted by Chris; 2nd Rich

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Hawn, Club Secretary

Committee Chairs & Volunteers

- Roger Pennington, 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 – Dianne Larsen
- V. Committee Reports
 - Club Rides
 - Equipment/Grooming/Truck To Do List– Travis Leonard & Kevin Walters
 - Membership – Dianne Larsen
- VII. Unfinished Business
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Motion to Adjourn

The March meeting will be at the La Plata Fairgrounds March 8th. Dinner at 6pm, meeting at 6:30pm.



Bryan Meador collecting awards at the convention



Curt Larsen, Cooke City MT



Melanie Meador stuck at convention



Stuart Allen, Alpine WY



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



Leonard & Sons Excavation
970-884-2239
Travis & Linda Leonard



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



Phantastic Screens
970-247-7907
Marty & Ann Gunn



Blouin Brothers Construction
970-759-2179—Lyndsey Blouin



McCormick Construction
970-946-6857—Doug McCormick



Boletus Creek Appraisals
Phone: 9709034416—Geoff Bourque



McDonalds
970-247-9391
John Bronson



Built to Last Automotive
970-259-8777 Jeff Howard



Nic McDonald
970-565-7893



Durango Adventure Rentals
970-335-9311—Chuck Schultz



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



Silverline Construction
970-759-2327
Wes Harriman



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



Spellbrng Construction
505-325-5600
Aaron & Tami Spellbrng



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



Twin Buttes
970-259-3883
Glen & Dianne Pauls



Welch Automotive
303-324-7185
Jack Welch



** Handlebar Motorsports
970-247-0845—Tom Grover



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 \$35/Year _____

Family Membership \$40/Year _____

Business Membership \$60/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.