

President's Pondering—Bryan Meador

Hello fellow sledders,

How has your March riding been? I call it hero snow, it makes bad riders like myself, look like a hero, go about anywhere you want without getting stuck. We got a couple of good rides in. Took some rookies out, got them stuck, it was fun. My grandson's last ride before going home he was getting some good air on his jumps, this was only his fourth time riding a snowmobile. Proud grandpa moment. I hope he is hooked enough to come back and spend more time with us.

Have you been paying attention to the Purgatory Ice Creek project. We have been working with Scott Jones from CSA on this expansion that Purgatory Resort wants. All of the club officers plus a few people have been emailing back and forth and have came up with a comment that we as a club will post to the comment page of the Purgatory ice Creek Expansion Project. I would encourage everyone of you to add a personal comment to this site [Forest Service \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/forestservice). The expansion plans are to reroute an already Troublesome snowmobile route to an even more Troublesome route. There is no mention of the parking lot for snowmobiles in the new plan. We want them to build our parking area before they get approved for another expansion, or it may never happen. Comments are due April 12th.



Probe Pole Practice—basic avalanche & safety class

I want to thank Curt Larsen and Josh Stoudt for putting together the basic Avalanche training class. We had 10 in attendance. A very good class on what you need to carry on your backpack and on your machine. Got some basic Beacon and probe use. We had fun and learned a lot too. We need to do this on the snow with these gentlemen.

Go enjoy the fresh white powder while it lasts.
See you on the mountain. Bryan Meador, 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 April meeting will be at the La Plata Fairgrounds April 13th. Dinner at 6, meeting at 6:30.
- We have 5 of the new \$18 radios left. For you new members, our club has its own radio frequency license and these radios have better coverage than the typical radios you buy from other vendors. If you're interested in one of the club radios, you can purchase them at the April meeting.
- We still have a few beanies left. And we have a new selection of short and long sleeve t-shirts. If you're interested let me know and I can get them to you or you can pick them up at the April meeting.
- Elections at the April meeting for Vice President, Secretary, CSA Representative, and Club Reporter!
- As always, please submit stories and pictures to a.dianne.larsen@gmail.com.



Dianne Larsen—Barlow

Purgatory Ice Creek Expansion—SJS comment

The San Juan Sledders Snowmobile Club has several concerns over the current Ice Creek Expansion Plan that must be addressed.

Primarily is our parking concern. Parking for snowmobilers is extremely cumbersome. The way the parking is now, snowmobilers must drive to the top of Purgatory parking lot, negotiate turning around in a tight area, unload their snowmobiles, drive down to an access road to park, and then take a long walk back up the hill to their snowmobiles. Often-times this creates a bottleneck of vehicles waiting for their opportunity to unload. It is the top priority for snowmobilers in the southwest to have Purgatory follow through with its commitment to the Forest Service and the snowmobile community in its 2005 agreement to build and maintain a convenient snowmobile parking area.

An additional concern is a safe reroute for all backcountry users including snowmobilers to access public lands. The current snowmobile by-pass excludes snowmobilers off of Forest Service owned road 578 so it could be used exclusively by beginner downhill skiers for Purgatory customers. This by-pass is an unsafe snowmobile trail. The by-pass is too steep and difficult to navigate for beginner snowmobile users to safely access public lands. The by-pass also faces south creating unsafe snow or lack of snow conditions due to melting. Solutions could be the by-pass needs to be completely rerouted to a safe gradient or Forest Service 578 should go back to being the main year-round access point for all backcountry users and reroute Purgatory's exclusive downhill-only skiers to a route that safely separates them from other National Forest users.

The problem of safe and convenient winter access to the National Forest for all users has been a long-standing issue. Back in 2005 there was a project to reroute snowmobiling and add a snowmobiling parking lot. The reroute happened (not to a standard safe for all ability levels), and the parking lot did not. Here is the reference in the original document regarding snowmobiling and also a link to that document:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2005/10/20/05-20964/durango-mountain-resort-2004-master-development-plan-san-juan-national-forest-la-plata-county-co>

"Re-route the existing snowmobile access route.

Install snowmaking infrastructure, make snow on the first 400 feet of the proposed re-route, and groom the re-route periodically to create a smooth rideable surface for snowmobile riders of all ability levels.

Develop a snowmobile parking/staging area along Hermosa Park Road, north of Purgatory Village on the west side of Highway 550, which would accommodate cars, trucks, and trailers."

The San Juan Sledders Snowmobile Club is committed to working with the National Forest and Purgatory Ski area to resolve these long-standing issues and to implement the 2005 commitment made by Purgatory Ski area for convenient parking and unrestrained access to the National Forest via Forest Service road 578.

Rides Report—Dianne Larsen



We only had one club mid-week ride this month. Sadly the snow conditions has made it difficult to plan rides in advance as the trail heads have been melting out. We enjoyed a great ride with some great conditions on March 17th at West Mancos. Attendees included Bob Fillman, Gene Patton, Lance Blair, Stuart Allen, John Wallace, Curt and Dianne Larsen. That's the first we've seen of Gene all season and as usual it was really fun to catch up with him! We met at the trailhead ready to ride at 9am. We decided on an earlier time in the hopes that we'd have better road conditions on our ride out.

We started the ride with John as our leader. We hit much of our usual route and play areas and enjoyed some really good snow. After lunch at Gold Run Dianne led for awhile. Hmmn. Not sure about those leadership skills as the stuck started happening and we all got our workouts helping each other out in the afternoon. It was a great day!

Even though we didn't have much in the way of organized club rides, I know from talking to others and riding with others that some great riding occurred at Barlow, Wolf Creek, Silverton, Lemon, Vallecito, and Chama. Let's hope for one more good storm and one more great ride!



Dylan Howard at Wolf Creek



Doug McCormick, Curt Larsen, Nadine Barber at Lemon



Mid-week ride March 17 at Mancos



SJS members at Lemon



Jay Stroud & Justin Jeter, Barlow



Clyde Leonard, Montana



Bob Fillman & Gene Patton at Mancos

March 9th 2021 Meeting Minutes—Brady Leonard

La Plata County Fairground Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by President Bryan Meador

Member & New guest introductions

MOTION: Minutes from February 9th 2021 meeting approved as presented - accepted by Dianne; 2nd Travis

Treasurer's Report – Dianne Larsen

- Balance: \$46,462
- Revenue: \$814, memberships & swag
- Expenses: \$3989, \$1000 - last of Lemon Rd expense, \$1159 - Century Equipment Cat troubleshooting, \$399 - Shining Knight Machine Cat repair, \$352 - Brennan Oil, \$705 - Basin Coop, \$375 - Half Price Tees

MOTION: Accept Treasurer's report as presented – accepted by Roger; 2nd Travis

Club rides –

- We need to fill the position for Club Ride coordinator
- Since the last meeting there was a member ride at Lemon and a midweek ride at Mancos led by Skyler and Rick Schmidt.

Grooming –

- Our cat is broken down again.
- We had a demo Prinoth that we groomed: Barlow, West Mancos, and Middle Mountain..
- There was a lot of discussion about purchasing a new groomer including brands and what sort of grant we should apply for.
- **MOTION:** Ken made a motion to ask for \$200k for a new Piston Bully groomer. We would cover the rest of the cost with a trade in and new loan. 2nd by Curt.

Membership – Dianne Larsen—96 members

Old/Unfinished Business –

- Groomer—see Grooming section
- Radios—Curt has newer radios for sale for \$18. The old style got to have poor quality.

New Business –

- **Training**—Josh Stoudt from CPW volunteered to have an Intro to Avalanche class in conjunction with a safety class with Curt Larsen.
- **Elections**—We neglected to have elections in February. We will have elections at the April meeting for the following positions: Vice President, Secretary, CSA Rep, and Club Reporter
- **Vandalism**—Bryan Meador reported on the vandalism at Molas of the Silverton Club's cat and Jim Lok-ey's tractor. If you have any information on this please report it to Bryan and he will help you get it to the right group.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm. Submitted by Brady Leonard for Jennifer Hawn, Club Secretary





Committee Chairs & Volunteers

- **Roger Pennington**, Safety Instructor
- **Unfilled**, 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
 - Elections
 - Ride Chairperson
- VIII. New Business
 - Bar D
- IX. Motion to Adjourn

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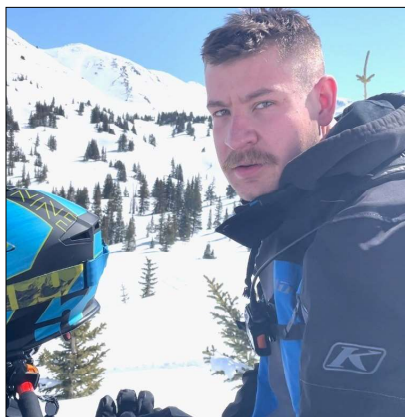
Ethan Spellbring @ Silverton



Kevin Walters @ Lemon



Travis Leonard @ Lemon



Brenden Spellbring @ Silverton



Drew Barber @ Lemon



March SJS Club meeting @ La Plata Fairgrounds



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



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



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



Nic McDonald
970-565-7893



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



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



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



Fur Trappers Steakhouse
970-884-0596—Dwayne Marable



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



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



Phantastic Screens
970-247-7907
Marty & Ann Gunn



Justin McCarty Excavation & Construction
970-884-7103—Justin Mccarty



McCormick Construction
970-946-6857—Doug McCormick



McDonalds
970-247-9391
John Bronson

i'm lovin' it®



Durango Adventure Rentals
970-335-9311—Chuck Schultz



Snowmobile Adventures
888-250-9864
Ben Cross



Spellbring Construction
505-325-5600
Aaron & Tami Spellbring



Twin Buttes
970-259-3883
Glen & Dianne Pauls



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 \$32/Year _____

Family Membership \$37/Year _____

Business Membership \$57/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.