

President's Pondering—Bryan Meador

Hello Fellow Sledders,

Another year has come and gone. I believe it was a pretty good year all in all. We have planned for our largest event to date (only 19 days away). We stayed abreast our parking lot goals. Finishing one parking area expansion. Gaining ground with another one. Hopefully gained a few allies among the Forest Service. I don't believe I pissed too many people off, give me time, it could still happen.

Sitting here this morning watching the snow fall. Thinking about being on the mountain riding. Also thinking about all of the snow plow drivers keeping the roads open, dealing with crazy people trying to go places in a hurry. People, slow down, give snow plows a chance to do their jobs. Their job is stressful. Shout out to the snowmobilers of Buffalo rescuing over 30 people ([Buffalo friends take to streets on snowmobiles to rescue locals stranded in deadly storm: 'Needed to help' \(msn.com\)](#)). How would you like to be shoveling out of that? I would actually like it. Yes, I know, I am a little crazy.

The CSA Convention is set for January 20th, 21st and 22nd. We are receiving registrations from across the state. We would really like to see a lot of support from our local club members! We realize you already know the trails, so if you're interested in attending part of the event instead of all of it we've broken down pricing so that you can pay for what you'd like to attend a la carte! Here is a break down for our charity event. \$50 for Saturday night dinner that will be a great BBQ spread catered by the Weminuche Grill, \$10 for the Friday night pizza party, \$10 for Sunday morning breakfast, \$10 for a Saturday breakfast burrito. If you're interested in attending only part of the event, please fill out the registration form and write the parts you would like to attend along with the appropriate amount as described above and send it in or drop it off with myself or at the meeting the 10th. We would like to see a great turnout from our club! THIS offer is good for San Juan Sledders club members only.

The Saturday dinner will be a great evening! Tons of door prizes. Silent auction with some awesome items: Stihl chain saw, Milwaukee tools, electric 12v cooker, plus a ton more. Custom convention glasses. Cash bar to enjoy some beers with your club buddies.

Finally, if we reach 150 club members by the Friday night of the convention, some lucky person will g)\

et to shave my head and face. I have not been without a mustache since 1988. It could get ugly. Just a warning.

Please be safe out there, take care of yourself and the ones around you as you enjoy our fresh snow.

See you on the mountain,

Bryan Meador, President San Juan Sledders Snowmobile Club

Inside this issue:

President's Pondering	1
Editor's Note	2
December Rides and Grooming	3
December Meeting Minutes	4
Meeting Agenda and Pictures	5
Members	6
Business Members	7

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

- Thank you! Thank you! Fun Center was a great host for our December meeting! The spread was awesome: chili, pasta, and all the goodies that go with them!
- Our January meeting will be at the La Plata Fairgrounds in the exhibit hall Tuesday the 10th. Dinner at 6, meeting at 6:30. This will be our last meeting before the convention, so please plan to attend to find out all the details.
- If you haven't renewed your membership and enjoy hearing club news via email or newsletter and also want to support our right to ride, please renew before February! Your options are to renew online at the CSA website, fill out the form at the back of this newsletter and mail it, pay at the meeting, or call Dianne at 970.946.3107 to pay by credit card. This last option worked out easily last season for many members. Remember, if we get to 150 members by the convention, Bryan will shave his head at the Friday night get together!
- You can find the latest and greatest grooming report for our club's trails at: [CSA Trail Grooming - COLORADO SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION \(snowmobilecolo.com\)](http://snowmobilecolo.com)
- Matthew Riggins with Upper Pine Fire is composing a phone list of folks willing to help with snowmobile rescues in their district. If you are willing to be put on that list call Matthew at 925-528-8108.
- As always, please submit stories and pictures to a.dianne.larsen@gmail.com.

Member Appreciation—We have several members that volunteer much of their time to make our club better! This past month 2 of our members have really provided a great service to the San Juan Sledders:

- **Chris Hinds:** At our December meeting we discussed our truck insurance policy and the rate increases. Chris took the action to research this and after getting quotes from multiple agencies he provided the board with several quotes. We changed our company and now are saving better than \$1000 on our truck insurance. Chris has also been working with the cat vendors to help out with our CSA convention expenses.
- **Cory Roman:** Cory took the action this fall to research setting up a PayPal account for our club taking advantage of our club's 501c3 status. He successfully got this accomplished and we will have the option to allow convention attendees make donations and also use PayPal in the future. This is a great option for our club.

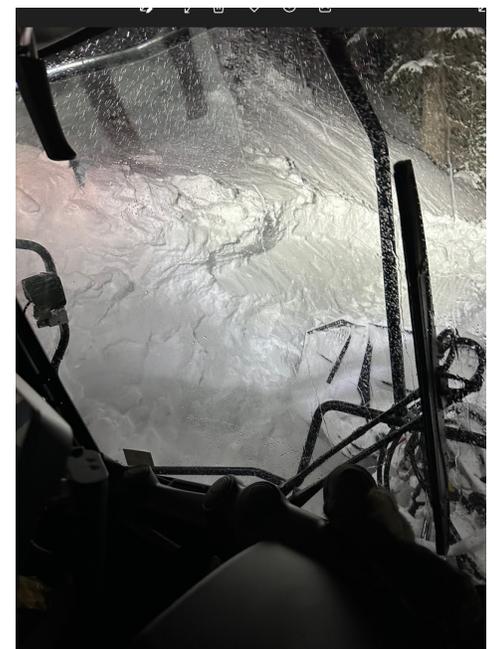
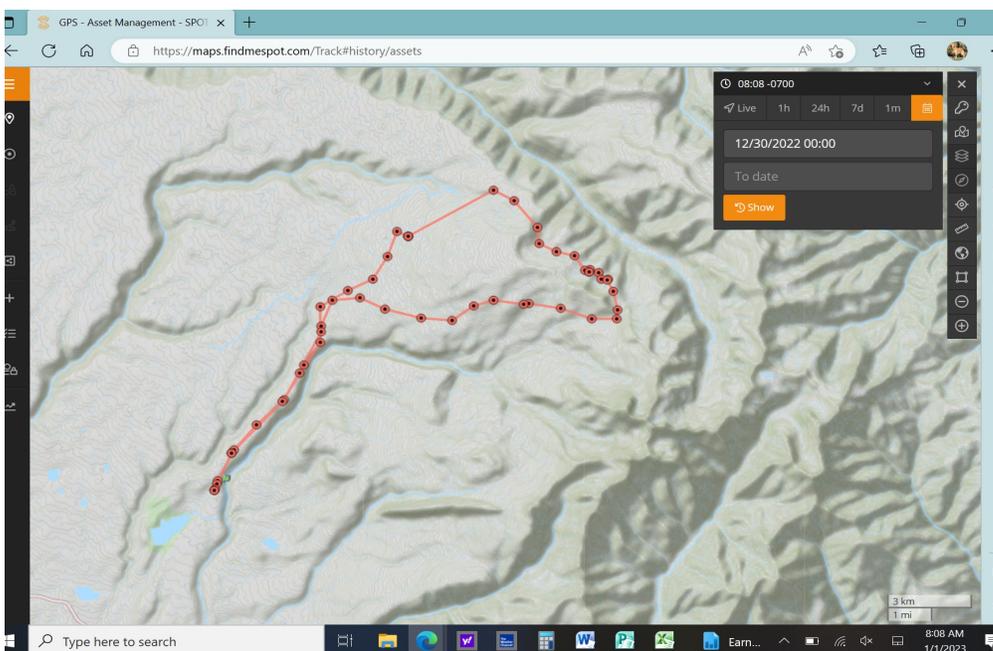
Upcoming Rides

- Jan 7th Molas Pass
- Feb 4th Wolf Creek Pass
- Feb 11th Vallecito/Middle Mountain
- Feb 25th Echo Basin
- Mar 11th Beaver Creek
- Mid-week rides as soon as the snow comes!

Call Landon Tate at 505-327-0320 for more info

December Ride and Grooming Report—Dianne Larsen

- The first club ride of the Season was December 31st! Ringing out the old year! Seven fearless (or dumb? Or enthusiastic?) club members met at the West Mancos Trailhead and started up the trail near 10am. Landon Tate, Lance Blair, Dan Lucchesi, Dave Sanders, Stuart Allen, and Curt and Dianne Larsen. The day was filled with fog and water/ice covered goggles. The trail was freshly groomed by Travis and Curt the previous night and had 6 to 8" of fresh snow on top of that. We'd decided to head to the Aspen Loop Trail but after a failed start onto that we decided the conditions warranted staying on the road. We made the right turn off the main road to head to Windy Gap. Turned back from there after getting to the normally big fun meadow and not being able to see a thing. Seriously, not 20' in front of the sleds! We then headed to Jersey Jim. We did stop and play there a bit. Several of us removed our goggles and could see better then. At this point we had a pow wow and decided it would be best to head back to the parking lot. While certainly not a stellar outing, several folks got to knock the dust off of their sleds.
- The groomer made it out twice in December. Travis Leonard and Kevin Walters groomed Middle Mountain Rd at Vallecito December 15th after our first big snow. Then Travis and Curt groomed West Mancos December 30th. Our club has a SPOT satellite device that we have active during snowmobiling season. Every time the groomer goes out they turn it on so that their progress can be tracked by another club member at home and they can have emergency communication if needed. The figure below shows the progress and route from the West Mancos grooming on the 30th. An update is sent every 20 minutes via satellite and the person watching at home can see where the groomer is at that moment. Note how close the dots are together between Windy Gap and Gold Run. This is the bendy and avalanche prone part of the trail and was slow to groom. In fact they did encounter multiple avalanches that night. The grooming started at 5:28pm and they arrived back at the parking at 1:18am. The actual round trip from cat pickup to fueling to transporting to parking/unloading to grooming and then re-loading and transporting and refueling, and to cat dropoff was really about 3pm to 4am, so we need to really appreciate those grooming volunteers!



West Mancos SPOT display and grooming thru avalanche between Windy Gap and Gold Run

December 13th 2022 Meeting Minutes—Jennifer Hawn

The December meeting was held at Fun Center Cycles.

Meeting was called to order at 6:41pm by President Bryan Meador

Member & New guest introductions

MOTION: Minutes from November 9, 2022 meeting approved as presented - accepted by Travis Leonard; 2nd Stuart Allen

Treasurer's Report – Dianne Larsen

- Balance: \$26,863
- Revenue: \$462 memberships/swag
- Expenses: \$202 truck plate
- Loan Balance: \$16,188
- Paypal transactions: +6 cents, +19 cents, -25 cent
- **MOTION:** Accept Treasurer's report as presented – accepted by Landon Tate; 2nd Chris Hines

Committee Reports –

- **Club Rides** – Landon Tate
- **Grooming** – Travis Leonard - Travis is getting groomer ready for the season
- **Membership** – Dianne Larsen - 120 members

Old/Unfinished Business –

- Curt and Dianne dropped off raffle tickets on Saturday
- CSA Convention
 - Voted on shirt color for volunteer shirts at convention (aquatic blue won)
 - Several members that will be in town have volunteered to help with convention (Tom Hansen & Steve Dol-lens)
 - Brian asked Travis to provide a menu from Weminuche Grill for the Saturday night dinner
 - Brian suggested that for Friday/Saturday night liquor 5 cases Bud light, 5 cases Coors Light, 5 bottles of wine

New Business –

- Truck Insurance premium was \$2,870 last year and this year it went up to \$3,539
- Discussion was held and there is interest to have a basic avalanche class after the convention
- Dianne has left over swag
- Bryan, Curt, and Dianne were invited by Search & Rescue to a class on frost bite and hypothermia
- The club got a membership from the class and he isn't even a snowmobiler
- **January 10, 2023** meeting will be held at La Plata County Fair Grounds

Thank you to Fun Center for hosting us tonight and providing dinner.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm – accepted by Chris Hines; 2nd Dorwin Hawn

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
 - Convention
- VIII. New Business
 - CSA Officer vote
- IX. Motion to Adjourn

The January meeting will be at the La Plata Fairgrounds Tuesday the 10th. Dinner at 6pm, meeting at 6:30pm.



Jay Stroud, Justin Jeter, Curt Larsen—West Mancos



Drew Barber—Vallecito



Brady Leonard and his new "wrap" after wreck on Middle Mountain, Nadine Barber and Ava Raney doing the doctoring



December 31th Club ride at West Mancos



Clyde Leonard—Island Park ID



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



Bayfield Builders
970-946-9008 Jordan Frane



McCormick Construction
970-946-6857—Doug McCormick



Blouin Brothers Construction
970-759-2179—Lyndsey Blouin



Boletus Creek Appraisals
Phone: 9709034416—Geoff Bourque



McDonalds
970-247-9391
John Bronson



Built to Last Automotive
970-259-8777 Jeff Howard



Durango Adventure Rentals
970-335-9311—Chuck Schultz



Nic McDonald
970-565-7893



Silverline Construction
970-759-2327
Wes Harriman



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



Spellbring Construction
505-325-5600
Aaron & Tami Spellbring



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



The Bug Masters
505-325-7477
Delbert Raney



Twin Buttes
970-259-3883
Glen & Dianne Pauls



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



Welch Automotive
303-324-7185
Jack Welch



Weminuche Grill
970-884-7153—Joe Zebas



** 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 \$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.