

President's Pondering—Bryan Meador

Hello fellow Sledders,

Have we had snow in February or what? We have been out every chance we get riding. Good base, powder on top. Makes for some awesome riding. I hope you're out there enjoying the snow as well. For those that don't have sleds to ride, please just enjoy the beautiful white fluff as much as possible. Believe me, it is good riding.

February happenings, Thanks to Travis for all of the grooming he has gotten done, plus put on the February poker run up Middle mountain. Raising \$450. The club matched this and gave the CSA Right To Ride fund \$900. Then we asked Ken, our District 9 rep, to challenge the other clubs in our District to donate the same amount. If that happens, District 9, awesome south west Colorado Clubs will have donated \$2,400. Then I asked Ken to challenge the rest of the CSA Districts to do the same. Let's hope this works out.

With all of the snow we have been getting and more in the forecast, please be aware of where you ride. Know before you go. Have the proper riding gear and equipment on you. Do a beacon check before every ride. Make sure your batteries are good. Make sure your avalanche bag is secured to your body properly. Practice getting your shovel and probe out. It should take less than a minute. But most of all ride safe. Stay out of the chutes. I would like to see you all again. Some of you may be ugly, but I still want to say hi!

See you on the mountain. Bryan Meador, President, San Juan Sledders Snowmobile Club

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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 Tuesday the 14th. Dinner at 6, meeting at 6:30.
- 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)
- Many thanks to our re-elected officers. We appreciate you volunteering to support our club and sport and all the time you put in! Chris Hinds VP, Jennifer Hawn Secretary, and Travis Leonard Grooming Foreman. We can't be a club without all of our volunteers keeping us going!
- There will be a hoody order in the next few weeks. If you want a hoody let me know size and color and I will add it to the order.
- As always, please submit stories and pictures to a.dianne.larsen@gmail.com.

Upcoming Ride

- Mar 11th Beaver Creek

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

Once again, SJS has AWESOME members! In January at the CSA convention, our members came away with two CSA awards. In February our Montana members Rowdy and Kristen Yates won the Montana Snowmobile Family of the Year! Curt and Dianne Larsen attended the Montana Snowmobile Banquet while up there sledding and were able to cheer them on. We're very lucky to have club members and support of folks from many states: Colorado, Illinois, New Mexico, Texas, Montana, Arizona.

Congrats Rowdy and Kristen!



'Rowdy & Kristen Yates, Snowmobile Family of the Year



Cooke City MT sledding, Rowdy & Kristen's stomping grounds!

February Riding—Dianne Larsen, Aarron Spellbring

There's been great riding this past month thanks to Mother Nature dumping snow across the west including southwest Colorado. We've had members traveling and representing our club as far away as Revelstoke Canada, Montana, and Wyoming.

The Larsen's embarked on a 28 day snowmobiling adventure starting January 23rd. They sledded in Togwotee and Pinedale WY, then participated in the Trans-Montana week long charity ride which included dinner with club member Clyde Leonard in West Yellowstone, and ended up in Hotchkiss CO to participate in the S&W week long ride. The snowmobiling highlight was at Blind Bull outside of Pinedale WY. 3' fresh powder. Woo Hoo!

Several SJS club members participated in the S&W ride this year based in Hotchkiss and Black Mesa. We had some outstanding conditions and really an awesome adventure. Our club attendees were: Jack Welch, Stuart Allen, John Wallace, Ken & Patti Hilfiker, Jim Goodwin, and Curt & Dianne Larsen.



Dianne Larsen—Pinedale WY



John Wallace— S&W at Black Mesa



Patti Hilfiker—S&W



Jim Goodwin—S&W



SJS members enjoying S&W in Hotchkiss



February Riding Continued—Dianne Larsen, Aarron Spellbring

Aarron Spellbring and family/friends enjoyed the ultimate snowmobiler bucket list item sledding in Revelstoke:

Hi all, just a little report on our trip and riding in British Columbia, (Revelstoke). We were fortunate enough to be invited to ride up there by Chad Hendrickson who grew up in North Dakota, to meet some friends of his from Canada.

Thanks to my nephew Ethan Spellbring for organizing the trip, and my son Keaton Spellbring for pushing us old guys by calling and telling us we are going. I cant say enough about the advantage we had by being guided by some locals, it made the trip so much more enjoyable, so many thanks to Chad, Riley, Craig, Mike, and Biff for the hospitality. As for old guys I'm talking about Dr. Ron Bliss, Shane Spellbring,(my brother) and myself.

WHAT a killer place to enjoy some powder, we rode three different areas and all had endless terrain with the best powder I have ever experienced. Getting up to the actual riding areas can be tough though due to no grooming, we are spoiled when it comes to that, thank you to all that groom here. This was a bucket list trip for me and I couldn't have enjoyed it more, I would highly recommend getting there at least once. It is about 24 hour drive but not to bad if you break it up. Thanks, Aarron Spellbring

Club Rides -There were two club rides: The Vallecito/Middle Mountain ride was led by Travis Leonard and was well attended. This year it was a memorial ride for long time member Wilbur Brack. In addition to being a great time, the club raised \$450 in Wilbur's name to donate to CSA's right to ride fund! The second ride was at Echo Basin, let by Landon Tate. There were 10 attendees including Winter Park resident Granger Carlson who was visiting our area and looking for ride buddies. We had a great day out. And Granger generously made a club donation which we convinced him to turn into a membership instead. Welcome Granger!



Aarron & Keaton Spellbring—Revelstoke



Ethan Spellbring—Revelstoke



Joe Farmer—Echo Basin



Travis Leonard—Vallecito Ride



Wilbur Brack



Vallecito Ride

January 21st 2022 Meeting Minutes—Jennifer Hawn

Meeting was called to order at 6:31pm by President Bryan Meador

Member & New guest introductions

MOTION: Minutes from January 10, 2023 meeting approved as presented - accepted by Dianne Larsen; 2nd Stuart Allen

Treasurer's Report – Dianne Larsen

- Balance: \$35,182
- Revenue: \$14,034(wow): \$2,362 December Grooming, \$2,343 CSA reimbursement, Memberships, Convention, Silent Auction, \$2,004 Convention, Registration, \$940 cash convention, Bar, \$632 CSA reimbursement Nov & Dec,
- \$3,314 Convention registrations, \$1,241 convention registrations, \$190 transfer from paypal, \$450 CPW, \$558 State Farm
- Expenses: \$5,600: \$3,164 Basin Coop, \$755 Chris Hinds, Truck Insurance, \$200 liquor permit, \$273 convention insurance, \$706 Silver Station (Convention Tshirts), \$277 Brennan Oil, \$225 Steve Ansel (convention refund)
- Loan Balance: \$16,322
- Paypal account: \$219
- Paypal fund: \$371
- **MOTION:** Accept Treasurer's report as presented – accepted by Travis Leonard; 2nd Richard Hott

Committee Reports –

Club Rides – Landon Tate & Travis Leonard

Vallecito Poker Run was held February 11, 2023 with 25 people

- Raised \$500 in honor of Wilbur Brack for the Right to Ride/held out \$50 for 2nd place
- Travis proposed that the SJS match the donation of \$450 for the Right to Ride fund
- **MOTION:** SJS will match the \$450 to go to the Right to Ride fund – accepted Travis Leonard; 2nd Dianne Larsen
- President Bryan would like Ken Hilfiker to approach Pagosa/Silverton clubs to match \$900 for the Right to Ride Fund

Grooming – Travis Leonard -Completed 75% of grooming contract completed

Right to Ride

- Wolf introduction
 - There was an email from CSA asking members to comment on wolf introduction. In order to make your comment count:
 - Send an email to have a registered comment/only way you can participate in discussions
 - If SJS sends comment it only counts as 1 comment even though it is coming from a group
 - We need each individual member to send a comment/email so each is registered as 1 comment per member
 - You should then receive correspondence
 - 51% of CO voted to re-introduce wolves near Aspen & Vail. This is the only place west of the front range.
 - Governor Polis supports the re-intro of wolves
- GMUG (Gunnison, Black Mesa, & Grand Mesa) Blue Ribbon and CSA lawyers fighting for snowmobiles Right to Ride

Membership – Dianne Larsen 113 members

Old/Unfinished Business –

- State Farm Insurance Policy
 - Policy cancelled because of an individuals driving record/person was removed from policy and policy was re-instated
- Montezuma Admin (West Mancos, Echo Basin, & Chicken Creek)
 - These areas possibly will not be plowed in the future
 - It has been brought up during a meeting that it would have huge economic impact if the lots don't continue to be plowed by the county

New Business –

MOTION: Renew Blue Ribbon Coalition \$50 – accepted by Travis Leonard; 2nd Ken Hilfiker

Ken Hilfiker wanted to “Thank” all who had helped with the CSA Convention because it was a huge success

- SJS Officer Votes: Vice President – Chris Hinds, Secretary – Jennifer Hawn, Grooming Foreman – Travis Leonard
- CPW highest amount we have billed out in 5 years. We should meet our contract form grooming.
- Gunnison is applying for a \$280,000 grant next year. Last year they stepped aside for us.
- President Bryan proposed that Ken Hilfiker figure out how we can apply for grant money for truck transport of the snowcat
- Ken Hilfiker is going to put together sample signage to be at trailheads for Forest Service to approve
- Signage would have trail maps and acknowledge that the San Juan Sledders groom the trails

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm – accepted by Richard Hott; 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
- VIII. New Business

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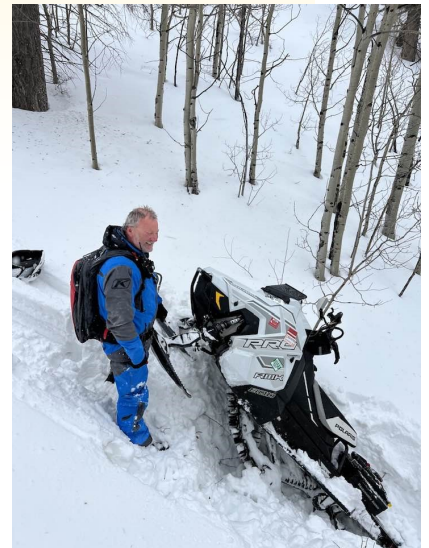
- IX. Motion to Adjourn



Vallecito Ride Group



Richard Hott–Molas



Stuart Allen–Missionary



Future sledder Paige Meador–Molas



Clyde Leonard & Larsen's–West Yellowstone



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



McDonalds
970-247-9391
John Bronson

BOLETUS CREEK APPRAISALS

Boletus Creek Appraisals
Phone: 9709034416—Geoff Bourque



Built to Last Automotive
970-259-8777 Jeff Howard



Durango Adventure Rentals
970-335-9311—Chuck Schultz



Home Roots Hardwood Flooring
970-749-6821
Jesse King



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.