

Rustic Ridge Riders Inc.

November Newsletter 2016

Dedicated to Trail

P.O. Box 381, Adams, WI. 53910

Email: rusticriders@aol.com

Website: rusticridgeriders.org

Special Interest

Trails open Monday
Dec. 12, 2016
Snow permitting

Castle Rock Pink Ribbon
Ride
January 14, 2017

Fire & Ice Club Raffle
tickets! Make sure you get
& sell your share. Available
at the December meeting

Next Meeting:

December 11, 2016
11:00 a.m.
at Michael's Landing

Board of Directors

Jeff Rhinehart

Cora Dellinger

Sharon Trzesniak

Officers

Dennis Kulwicki
(President)

Rick Carlson
(Vice-President)

Kevin Roon
(Secretary)

Diane Henkel
(Treasurer)

Jim Schnolis
(Trail Master)



!!! Send in your proxies !!!

President's Message

In the November newsletter, we always thank our club sponsors, so a special thanks to them for all their support. Please make sure that you stop in, say hi, and support them as well.

I attended the AWSC Workshop at Chula Vista in the Dells to represent our club and I sat in on a seminar on what's going on in other clubs and shared information on what's happening in our club. The one that everyone was interested in and attended was the presentation on SNARS (Snowmobile Automated Reporting System), which is an online

reporting system that all groomers will be required to log into and enter their trail grooming accounting, time and information.

TECHDAY was an awesome club event. Planning is already under way for next year! I plan on coming up with something again that's a little different than 'TECHNITE' and 'TECHDAY'. I can tell you that our excellent Technical Panel will be again called upon for you to questions and pick their brains for any problems, know-hows, changes or fixes for your sleds. Thanks to all of those who attended.

Meeting Notes & News

No Quorum. No meeting. As Den Den said. So we took the opportunity to unofficially discuss our role in the community. First, I must say that our active members have huge hearts full of passion. The Rustic Ridge Riders first and foremost function is to encourage and support snowmobiling, particularly the few miles between the Adams Co. Park and somewhere short of White Creek.

A secondary but very important function is to be involved in community. This

is why governments allow us our "Not For Profit" status.

Many of us joined for the joy of belonging to a club, club activities, and club events... others joined for access to an information outlet. Some may have simply joined for a cheaper trail pass. Anyone who has been to a meeting knows that supporting charities through snowmobiling events is big in the Rustic Ridge Riders community.



Our November club meeting was a flop. Can you believe that we didn't even have enough attending to have a quorum to hold an official meeting? Since I have been President this has never happened before. Since I'm running out of room in this newsletter, I will say no more on this subject for now.

The raffle tickets are all set to go. When you see them you will instantly know who got to pick out the color!

-Dennis Kulwicki

Think Snow! Let's Ride!

The November 13, 2016 "gathering" was spirited and entertaining as those who showed up brainstormed and spit balled ways that the charity minded factions could legally, fiscally and cooperatively work with or within the club and stay compliant.

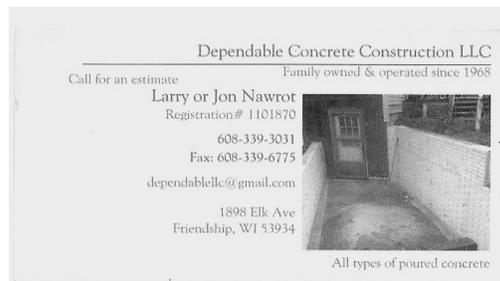
The transcript following is entertaining but lightly edited to protect both the innocent and guilty. (Joke)

!!! Send in your proxies !!!

-Kevin Roon

Rustic Ridge Riders, Inc. 2016-2017 Sponsors

When you stop in, say Hi! And thank them!





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Thanks to those who have sent in their proxies. If you haven't done it yet, please do so as we want everyone's vote (and have to have at least 28 more members to send theirs in to reach the 2/3 required to change the bylaws). Let me know if you didn't receive yours in October.

Come support our club by coming to the meetings, which run about an hour or less. They are a great way to catch up with friends, meet new people, have a cocktail and get club info first-hand.

At the November meeting, we weren't able to conduct any official business, due to not reaching quorum. The good news is our club is growing. The bad news is that it takes more club memberships to attend meetings to reach quorum (currently we need 2 officers plus 10% of our membership, which comes out to 8 memberships plus the officers). Those in attendance could provide reports and updates, but nothing could be voted on or any actions taken. The bulk of the discussion involved the proxy to update the bylaws, the Pink Ribbon Ride (PRR) (aka Castle Rock Pink Ribbon Ride, CRPRR) as a charity event, and why there's been a push for the Rustic Ridge Riders, Inc. (RRR) - a not-for-profit organization - to open a second checking account titled Rustic Ridge Riders, Inc. Charities account for depositing and disbursing funds relating to events that raise charitable donations for the Friends & Family Cancer Foundation (F&FCF). The questions revolved around the funds collected in the past but not picked up by someone with the F&FCF charitable organization. Some of these are payable to CRPRR, others to PRR, and even some to RRR, plus cash.

Den Den said there is a lot of money we could make. Jenelle G. (listed as Charity Chairman on the Nov. agenda and described as spear-heading the CRPRR at the Sept. meeting) has started up a GoFundMe account for the CRPRR. When he was asked how other clubs take in charitable funds and donations, he said clubs take them in all the time and just classify them on their books as advertising. Jeff R. asked if it's illegal to take in these funds. A former Treasurer Linda R. said it depends on what they are from. It's not illegal to accept fundraising donations, if they are in our name, but we shouldn't accept charitable donations intended for another organization, and then misclassify the income or expenses as advertising. We have a fiduciary responsibility to our membership for accurate reporting. Also, we are not a charitable organization; we are a not-for-profit with state of WI. We shouldn't be accepting charitable donations, only fundraising donations that are specifically for our club to use. Kevin R. said we are first and foremost a snowmobile club, and should be focusing on sledding, not being a charity. Rick C. said it's a feather in each snowmobile club's cap to support a charity.

It was agreed by all that supporting charities is a good thing, but Linda stressed that no new account would be needed to have our club vote to support a charity by writing a check out of our existing operating account as an expense. If it's above the existing budgeted amount, it only needs to come up for a vote at a meeting. We currently do that. Rick said the idea was to use this new checking account as a pass-through to deposit and then write out checks to F&FCF. Linda said another problem with that is when the check the club wrote to F&FCF in 2015, it was never forwarded to them by the CRPRR, and it had to be voided in August 2016. How could we guarantee that wouldn't continue to happen?

Dennis said there was a poker run in August at Michael's Landing where Jenelle raised money for F&FCF and he's been holding onto it since then. (and looking for a proper vehicle to pass it on to its destination) Linda asked why Jenelle doesn't just deposit it in her account or the account of F&FCF? Rick said she's not on that account. Dennis is saying we have to find a way to allow Jenelle to deposit funds and write out checks for her expenses, that's why this new account is being considered. It's not been made clear during discussions at the club's last 2 meetings how Jenelle is related to our club, and why we would be giving her full signing authority over a new account in our club's legal name. Based on how it's listed on the Nov. agenda, it would require both Jenelle's and our treasurer's signatures only if over \$5,000, but for anything less, then Jenelle could write checks herself. Our current bylaws require only one signature from the treasurer or the president, and if over \$750 and not in the approved budget, then a board of director (must be a club member) must approve. Our signature card at the bank also allows Sharon T, a board of director, to sign checks for that purpose. Currently, the RRR treasurer in detail, reports all income and expenses, with an audit done by a CPA. Nothing was mentioned either about whether the RRR treasurer or Jenelle would be responsible for a second treasurer's report, etc. and there's nothing in our bylaws governing a separate charity account like this.

This issue really has 2 parts: One, is to fix the problem with the checks collected by the CRPRR committee from both the 2015 and 2016 events, and Two, is to deal with future CRPRR events. One suggestion was made for the old checks payable to RRR - simply endorse and mail those checks to F&FCF, as long as F&FCF's bank would accept a 3rd party endorsement. A call could be made to F&FCF to have them check it with their bank. For checks payable to PRR or CRPRR, the RRR treasurer doesn't have the legal authority to endorse them, since they're not payable to our club. Rick said there is no official organization called the CRPRR or PRR. Linda asked, if there is no real organization, who's supposed to be able to endorse or deposit those checks anyway? Not anyone from the RRR club. A new account wouldn't solve that problem. (Just a thought...**What about the funds in the GoFundMe account? Who has legal authority over them?**) Several members asked why our club was even getting involved with another organization's problems. Those members, plus Linda again, suggested that we ask our accountant and/or attorney how to handle the funds that have been collected both in 2015 and 2016 for the PRR/F&FCF events that have not been picked up by someone with the F&FCF charitable organization. Our member Bill Hicks who also is greatly involved at the county level, stated that as a snowmobile club, we should have only one operating account for the funds received belonging to our club and our expenses, and that all deposits and expenses should only go through treasurer.

Another suggestion was made by two members to have a slush fund for all events, both social and charitable, where the person in charge of the event could use funds collected to pay for expenses, and then make a 'net' deposit, instead of giving the funds to the treasurer to make a deposit and then that person submitting a bill for reimbursement. This way, no one would be out money for expenses they advanced. Linda said this would be against what our accountant recommended in our recent audit. The CPA said that even though the treasurer currently makes most of the deposits, our club should have all deposits (i.e. grass drags, brat fry, trail work payments from the county and state) made by one person. This recommendation had been made before by Linda, and is supported by our current treasurer Diane Henkel. Currently, no one has to be 'out money', as long as they just submit a bill or a request with the details, and they would be reimbursed timely. Den Den agreed- Just turn in a bill.

Rick said that currently the CRPRR committee holds back funds from one year's event to pay for expenses for the next year's event. It's just easier that way.

Dennis wasn't comfortable still holding onto what he has from the August CRPRR poker run, so he'll deposit it into the RRR existing checking account until the next meeting, where the members should make suggestions on what to do about all this.

Now on to more fun news. Bill Hicks reported the new bridge behind Michael's is now in, after 5 yrs. of him trying to get it done. Thanks Bill!

The Fire and Ice poker run is being handled again by Cora Dellinger on Feb. 11th and this year, it is going to be a fundraiser for the RRR club. In the past years, it's been a fundraiser for Laura, a friend of Cora's who has been ill.

The new Fire & Ice raffle tickets are printed and are ready for sale. There are 200 tickets at \$10/ea. The payout totals \$1,000 so the club can make \$1,000. Dennis has spearheaded this instead of waiting to have a committee come together. Thanks Denden!

Curtis Mathe said that maybe we can get local businesses to sponsor our club by having their name on the groomer's drag sled, and he'd look into it and report back at the next meeting. Discussion followed, and this was clarified it would be on top of any corporate sponsorship, or maybe be an upgraded corporate sponsorship.

In closing, then Dennis talked about the frustration in not obtaining quorum, so we really need your attendance at our club meetings! The officers put in numerous hours all yearlong on behalf of all the membership, and we need to be able to conduct club business at each meeting. Because of the trail pass system, we've grown and now need more participation – hope to see you in December!