

TTF Newsletter November 2020

CLUB UPDATE by Brandon Christensen – TTF President

Hi Snowmobile Friends,

So far, mother nature has blessed the Tollgate area with early season snowfall. Enough in fact that an occasional snowmobile can be heard running up and down the trails and driveways. Of course, the trails do not officially open until December 1st. This snow should make a great base for an incredible season. A La Nina winter season is predicted which means the area should have cooler temperatures and more than average precipitation. As far as we are concerned, the temperatures can stay cold and the snow can keep on coming.

Upcoming Work Parties

On Saturday, November 21st, the lower trails will be setup. Ropes and poles will be setup at Mud Flats. The holes for the poles were marked a couple weeks ago so we can find them in all this snow. We will also have a party fixing fencing, gates and brushing trails. Please plan to join us to help. We will meet at Mud Flats at 9am. Mud Flats is located off Hwy 204 about 2 miles west of the Clubhouse/Alpine Outpost and 1 mile east of Linton Mountain Road. If you would like to help out, watch our Facebook page for updates or you can email us at



brandon@christensenusa.com.

Groomer Report - Jess Thompson TTF Grooming Chairman

We finished up on both snow cats towards the end of September, installed the push frame on the 08 without too much trouble, thanks to Allen and Larry for helping me get that done. We ended up using a couple of snowmobile ski dollies and a floor jack to maneuver the new frame into position. We also replaced a compactor bar spring on the 08. We installed a cell phone antenna on the new CAT as well as an armrest on the passenger seat. The diesel has been delivered this month, so I have requested money from OSSA to pay that bill. Since the rain started, I need to patch a few water leaks over our bench on the south side of the building, hopefully it will warm up enough this week for me to get up on the roof. Buckshot has volunteered to sharpen the chains on our chain saws this week and tune them up. Thanks to him for that. We have spent 40

hours total time working on the CATS this summer, driven 850 miles up and down the mountain to work on them, 20 hours driving time. Thanks to the volunteers for their time to get the CATS in shape for winter. We spent \$6,739 on both CATS. Thanks to OSSA for the funds to do this work. Denny Farwell, our director at large for OSSA, has requested an inventory on the shed, so I have also been working on that this summer. It has been a trip down memory lane for me as I started grooming in the winter of 86-87 during that time we have accumulated the equipment that we have that has been donated or money raised to purchase equipment. TTF club as well as the old Oregon Trail Snowmobile Club and Skyline Club were all involved in providing the equipment and tools we have in that building. There are too many names to list that have provided equipment and money individually, but we send a big THANKS to all those people and clubs.

"Buckshot" Leonard Carter wants to retire as District Director for district 8, OSSA, and has been asking about who might be willing to serve in this position. If you are interested, please contact him. You can also contact me if you have questions as I was the district director and director at large for 11 years.

Chapman Bone Springs Shelter Improvements

In October, a team of TTF Volunteers did some much-needed repairs to the Chapman Bone Springs Shelter. Two sections of metal roofing were replaced, and a new outside wall was installed on the west end of the shelter. Between dry rotted logs and water damage, the roof was beginning to settle. Brent Mehlenbacher milled some beautiful fir that was used for the exterior wall and bracing. In



attendance were Brandon Christensen, President, Kolby Christensen, Board Member, Dewayne Harvill, Vice President, Brent Mehlenbacher, Steve Carter and Frank Fernandez.



OSSA and TTF Membership Renewal

It is that time of year to renew your membership in both the Oregon State Snowmobile Association (OSSA) and the Tollgate Trailfinders Snowmobile Club (TTF). OSSA ensures that we have a voice in the state and federal legislatures. Without OSSA we would not be able to

afford and operate both of our Tucker Sno Cats. Our all-volunteer groomer team is staffed by TTF members that make sure the trails are smooth as possible. They have worked on and off all summer making sure both Tuckers are ready for snow. We have also scheduled to fill the diesel tank to ensure we have enough diesel to operate both Cats all winter long. Filling out membership form on the last page of this newsletter will ensure you are members of both OSSA and the TTF. Please take a moment to fill out the membership form and send it in today

Avalanche Courses this Season

For you powder hounds, avalanche danger is real, getting education and awareness is important and could save your life or the life of someone you know. The Wallowa Avalanche Center has scholarships available for their Level 1 Motorized course.

www.wallowaavalanchecenter.org/courses



Avalanche Education Scholarship

Kip Rand Education Scholarship: Will award 2 participants interested in pursuing a Level 1 or 2 Course taught by the WAC.

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The Motorized Scholarship: Will award 2 participants interested in pursuing our Motorized Level 1 Course taught by the WAC.

Visit our website to apply:
wallowaavalanchecenter.org

The poster features logos for the Wallowa Avalanche Center (WAC), the Kip Rand Education Scholarship, and the Motorized Scholarship. It also includes a small image of a snowmobile and a globe.

Changes to TTF Meetings

By direction of Governor Brown and the area Health District we have modified how our monthly membership/board meetings will work. Since we are limited to the number of people we can have in our clubhouse we will have hybrid meetings for the next few months or until restrictions ease up. The plan is to have our board and executive team attend in person and sit at least 6 feet apart with masks. We will broadcast the meeting live on Zoom or Teams to the membership. A week ahead of the meeting, we will share the link to login to the meeting. Those wanting to attend the meeting can simply login with the link from their PC or mobile device. By now most of us are well versed in logging into remote meetings. If you have not done it yet and need help, let us know or reach out to one of our kids in remote learning for school. They are pros by now.

Upcoming Events

November 21, 9am – Lower Trail Setup at Mud Flats

December 5, 5pm – TTF Membership Mtg, link announced soon

December 12, 8am – Bluewood Ride, experienced riders only, 100 miles round trip, bring gas, lunch and cash for Hamburgers at Godman Springs provided by Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club.

We Want To Hear From You!

In planning for the upcoming season, the TTF Leadership would like to hear from you. We would like to know what you would like to see in events, rides, fundraisers, etc.. Maybe you would like to see more educational opportunities or maybe you would like to see the club organize a ride somewhere other than Tollgate (Halfway, McCall, Priest Lake). Reach out to us on Facebook, reach out directly to a TTF Board Member or

simply show up to a mtg. Our meetings are normally the first Saturday of the month at 5pm (Dec thru March) at the Tollgate Trailfinders Clubhouse.

Thank you

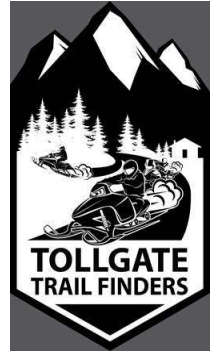
Your friends from the Tollgate Trail Finders Snowmobile Club
Brandon Christensen TTF President

Tollgate Trailfinders Snowmobile Club

Yearly dues are effective Sept. 2020 to Aug. 2021

\$60.00 per household (\$25 TTF + \$35 OSSA)

PAYABLE UPON RECEIPT



Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

in household _____ # of snowmobiles _____ New Member _____ Renewal _____

Please remit to: Tollgate Trailfinders Snowmobile Club

62369 Hwy 204, Weston, OR 97886

Please visit: Tollgatetrailfinders.org

Like our Tollgate Trailfinders Facebook Page