

TTF Newsletter December 2020

CLUB UPDATE by Brandon Christensen – TTF President

Hi Snowmobile Friends,

With Christmas and the New Year quickly approaching it is appropriate to reflect on how blessed we really are. We are blessed to live in a free county, blessed to live in a beautiful area where we can enjoy the mountains and nature's bounty. We are also blessed to have the support of OSSA and our many volunteers that help with such things as work parties, setting up signage, splitting firewood, brushing, and of course grooming our trails. We have an amazing all volunteer team operating both Tucker Sno Cats to ensure our trails are groomed and smooth as possible. With the season at Tollgate fully in winter mode we have recently been blessed with fresh SNOW!! At the time of writing this, it continues to come down with much more predicted in the forecast. How beautiful and calming it is to sit and watch the snow fall. So peaceful and refreshing watching the

flakes make their way down. May each of you be blessed this Christmas Season with health, safety and quality family time. I hope each of you can reflect on the true meaning of Christmas this year and be able to share it with your families. May you experience true joy and light.



Amazing Sunset on 12-12-20 – Photo Credit Brandon Christensen

Bluewood Ride

Our annual ride to Bluewood is in the books. Club President, Brandon Christensen, Vice President, Dewayne Harvill, Board Member Glenn Warren and longtime Club Member Brent Mehlenbacher (aka Rabbit) led the group of 17 sleds and a snowbike. A couple inches of new snow and the fact that our Groomer Chairman Jess Thompson groomed to the Tiger Canyon turnoff made the trip much more enjoyable. The early season ruts from 4x4s are the norm once you get past Bone Springs. Fighting those ruts can be a workout. A quick stop at Chapman Bone Springs Warming Shelter was made to allow everyone to thaw out their goggles. Even those with heated goggles couldn't keep the freezing fog from developing ice on them. Sidehilling around the Milkshakes wasn't as bad as we anticipated. A few inches of soft snow was welcomed by all as it makes sidehilling a bit easier. The Milkshakes is a steep area that drops into the Mill Creek Watershed. The terrain is steep enough that snow constantly sluffs and avalanches eventually shut off the trail completely. Once we got to the Griffin Peak turnoff we noticed that the Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club had groomed all the way to the Godman Warming Shelter. Due to the grooming on both ends we made great time and even beat Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club Vice President, Jeremy Nichols to Godman. Glenn Warren grabbed



the BBQ and got it warmed up so it was ready for Jeremy once he arrived with supplies. Jeremy threw the patties on the grill and made sure everyone was fed. The burgers were amazing. A warm meal after 48 miles of riding really hit the spot. Every year there seems to be at least one mechanical

issue that rears its head. This year was no different. About 3 miles from Godman, Cody Smith's track on his Polaris Axys decided to come off the bogey wheels. Luckily we were able to get it back together pretty quickly. One the way back to Tollgate, the fog lifted and the sun even came out. We arrived back at Chapman Bone Springs Warming Shelter and got a head count to make sure everyone made it back. A few of us decided to take the scenic route back since the sun was starting to break through the clouds. We were amazed to see how smooth the Skyline Trail was. Even more amazing were the incredible views of the South Fork of the Walla Walla River. The sun hitting the other side of the canyon meant breathtaking views on the way back. Thanks to the grooming teams from both TTF and Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club and Jeremy Nichols for cooking the burgers. Everyone had a blast!

Grooming Report - Jess Thompson TTF Grooming Chairman

We have not done much grooming this week due to the inversion as the temperatures down here were in the 20's but in the mid-upper 30's at night and 40-'s in the day on the mountain. We have lost another 2-3 inches of snow at the groomer shed, it is now about 10 inches deep. In the shade on the trails, it is deeper than that, but we are still short on snow to do much. I did make it to the store and to Morning Creek Snopark today but was in the dirt a few times. I groomed Jubilee 64 road today out to Bone Springs double wide, as the snow in the higher elevations is so much deeper once you get past Baldy. I did make it to Tiger Junction and back from Bone Springs for the Bluewood ride tomorrow. Even with 2 feet of snow out in that country, I still caught a stump on the edge of the road with the blade of the snowcat, caught a few rocks in the bank before I got to Tiger Junction. We still need a lot more snow, especially around Tollgate where we are really short. I did activate the snow line today at the groomer shed and left a message. It snowed about an inch today at the groomer shed, and about 3 inches in the high country where I was grooming. Weather forecast says there is more snow on the way, but not a lot. Hopefully we will get more than they say. THINK SNOW!!!

District 8 Director - OSSA

"Buckshot" Leonard Carter wants to run again for District Director for District 8 with OSSA, he has asked for our support. Thanks Buckshot!!



Buckshot Carter operating the 2020 Tucker Sno Cat

Western Chapter snowmobile Associations Scholarship– Lisa Mahoney – Executive Director, OSSA

As long as funds are available, annually, The Western Chapter of Snowmobile Associations Inc. will be offering a scholarship to either a graduating high school senior or a person currently enrolled in college. The funding for this scholarship comes from the financial support of the Member Associations and donations received throughout the year. This scholarship is available to both the United States and the Canadian snowmobilers involved in Associations/Federation who are members in good standing with the Western Chapter of Snowmobile Associations Inc.

The previous winners of this scholarship have been from Wyoming, Idaho, Washington, and Saskatchewan, CA.. For a copy of the application please email brandon@christensenusa.com.

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 Microsoft 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

January 2 – TTF Membership Mtg, Microsoft Teams link available soon.

January 19-23 – OSSA Convention, Klamath Falls, OR

February 6 - TTF Membership Mtg, Microsoft Teams link available soon.

February 26-27 – Wallowa Avalanche Center Training – Tollgate, Oregon

TBD – Kids Ride led by Kolby Christensen

TBD – Skills Day

Spread The Joy!

Our world is facing an unprecedented amount of craziness. Now more than ever we need to spread the Joy and Light of the Christmas Season. Time to reconnect with family, friends and loved ones. Time to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Fill our homes and hearts with love and service. For many of us, getting to the mountains is a way to clear our minds and recenter ourselves. Make time to introduce someone to snowmobiling. It could make a difference in their life.

Thank you

Your friends from the Tollgate Trail Finders Snowmobile Club

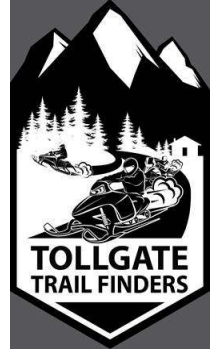
Brandon Christensen TTF President

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

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