

TTF Newsletter January 2021

CLUB UPDATE by Brandon Christensen – TTF President

Hi Snowmobile Friends,

Happy New Year! The past few weeks mother nature has certainly blessed Tollgate with significant snowfall. Enough snow to cover most of the hidden hazards that can wreak havoc to A-arms and skis. Our friends in other parts of the country have not been so fortunate. We are not totally out of the woods yet as recent rain has put a damper on our spirits and excitement for the coming weekend. Pray for snow!!

Cross Country Skiers

There are more folks enjoying Tollgate than ever. Recently, on a group ride to Ruckel Warming Shelter we noticed more cross-country skiers than we have ever seen. Be aware that some of the trails between Andies Prairie and High Ridge Lookout are popular for Cross Country Skiers. Horseshoe Prairie is nearby and is a designated area for skiers. When approaching skiers, slow down and wave or stop and say hello. There is plenty of great snow for all of us to enjoy.

Bernie “Chappy” Chapman (Dec. 23, 1924 – Dec 17, 2020)



The Tollgate Trailfinders has lost one of its longtime members and volunteers. Bernie "Chappy" Chapman went to his heavenly home on Dec 17th. He was instrumental in the construction of the Chapman Bone Springs Warming Shelter which was named after him. His work also helped build the Ruckel Warming Shelter, the groomer shed and the TTF Clubhouse. He and his wife Mary Louise enjoyed the last 34 years living at their cabin at Tollgate. They celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary in August. Chappy served in the Navy during WWII on the USS Hornet CV-12 Aircraft Carrier. Duane Miles from Halfway, Oregon recalls, “Back in the 80’s, the Tollgate

Trailfinders Club was coming to Halfway. We had a big dump of snow that day. Our local club went to meet them, me included. We could not make it to the top of the hill. We went back to the local watering hole to lick our wounds. A little after dark, I headed home and looked up on the hill to see a line of snowmobile lights coming toward Halfway. I turned around and went back and told our club members, they’re coming off the hill. They had to go outside to prove me wrong. Lo and behold, they came riding into town. Who was leading the group? Yep, it was Bernie! He had broke trail from Catherine



Chappy at Bone Springs Stocking Firewood 2019

Creek on his sled. It had been Bernie modified. He had that big old grin on his face. I'll never forget that day." Bernie attended our work party at Bone Springs in 2019 to fill the shelter with firewood. When he was asked if he would like to sit down, he said "no, I'm here to work." His eagerness to lead and help should be an example for all of us. Bernie will truly be missed.

Search and Rescue – by Dottie and Bob Carrell

From time-to-time Search and Rescue will call on the snowmobile clubs to assist in a rescue. The first time that happened to us was when Bob was President of the Tollgate Trailfinders. Umatilla County Sheriff's Search and Rescue had done a presentation at a snowmobile club meeting, so Sergeant Johnson had our number. One frightfully cold evening we got the call to find and rescue a couple who had gotten stuck in very deep snow. Bob made phone calls after he was contacted by Sergeant Johnson and within 15 minutes, he had 6 club riders willing to meet up on Baldy. The team then had to use radio and texting communications to get the stuck couple's location. With the slimmest of clues, such as; maybe Mottet Creek, and there is an outhouse were they are, the



Carrell Polaris Ranger UTV and Life Flight Helicopter on Jan 10, 2021

Trailfinders proceeded in freezing fog. The outhouse was the clue that worked for our club and they were off to Mottet Campground northwest of Jubilee Lake. When they found them one of our expert riders was able to get the sleds unstuck and back to the trail. Then the rescued people were able to ride with our club's group down to Morning Creek Sno Park. Since the first rescue my husband and I were hooked. Shortly after that we bought our Polaris Ranger Side by Side and joined Umatilla County Sheriff's Search and Rescue and began training. Side by Sides have really come in handy lately because of the ability to carry a person on a stretcher across the bed, or an injured victim in the warm cab. Snowmobilers who ride in a group have the opportunity of being rescued by their fellow riders. We have been on rescues that were made easier and quicker by the injured person's family and fellow riders.

Balloon Tree Club Ride

On January 9th 14 riders joined our club ride. The ride was guided by TTF President, Brandon Christensen, Vice President, Dewayne Harvill, Board Member Kolby Christensen and longtime TTF Member Jay Petty. Thanks to the hard work from the TTF Grooming Team, the ride to Balloon Tree Road was remarkably smooth. The group took a scenic route through the trees and fresh deep snow out to BFH. Infamously named due to its steepness but now is inundated by large trees. Many recall the good old days when this hill was nearly bare when covered with snow. One could try to shoot up to the top with many options and lines. Not the case nowadays. The ride went down the ridge toward Elgin into the trees for a lunch break. Then down the ridge even further to a road nobody in the group knew existed. This road meandered along the ridgeline with amazing views of Elgin, the Grande Ronde and the Wallowas. There was great snow, time to play, areas that pushed the limits for some of the less experienced mountain riders in the group. Overall, it was a fun day.



Top: Grande Ronde and Wallowa Mountains Bottom: Enjoying bluebird skies

Kids Ride – Feb 6th, 9am led by Kolby Christensen, Sponsored by JMC Motorsports

Make plans to join us for our annual Kids Ride led by Kolby Christensen. This event is promising to be fun for all ages. Be aware that all riders must have a valid license to operate a snowmobile. This could be a driver's license, OSSA/DMV issued operators permit or equivalent from another state (Utah and Idaho are options). All kids under 16 must be accompanied by an

adult. This year, we are excited to have the event sponsored by JMC Motorsports. JMC has locations in Pasco and at Tollgate to serve you. JMC



markets Arctic Cat, Honda, Husqvarna, Gas Gas as well as Yeti Snowbike kits. Look for the event link on Facebook to RSVP, space and prizes will be limited.

Upcoming Events

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

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

January 23 – Club Ride 9am

February 6 – Kids Ride led by Kolby Christensen, Sponsorships Available

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

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

March 6 – TTF Elections and Membership Mtg

TBD – Skills Day

Get Involved!

We've recently heard from folks that love how the TTF is doing with meetings, events, grooming, etc. We have also heard from a few folks that they see opportunities for improvement. We love this feedback since it helps guide how we make decisions and strategize for the future. We would like to encourage you to get involved so you have a direct voice in how things go in the future. We have several club leadership positions opening up at the end of this season. Our President, Brandon Christensen is at the end of his 2nd term and our treasurer, Tammy Christensen's term ends this season after many years of service. We also have Board Member positions opening. Getting involved means that you will get the chance to work with some amazing people and be able to make a difference. On March 6th we will hold elections for the 2021-2022 season. Contact a member of the TTF Leadership to submit your name or the name of someone you would like to serve. You can also attend the membership meeting on February 6th at 5pm to nominate someone for the upcoming election. Hope to see you at a future meeting!

Thank You!

Your friends from the Tollgate Trail Finders Snowmobile Club

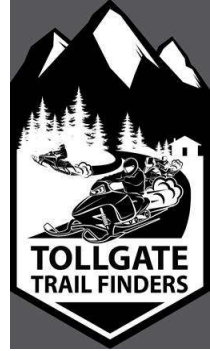
Brandon Christensen TTF President

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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