

# TTF Newsletter February 2021

## CLUB UPDATE by Brandon Christensen – TTF President

### Hi Snowmobile Friends,

What a difference a few weeks can make. New snow throughout the west has improved riding conditions at most areas including Tollgate. While it has been a bumpy ride (literally) for a couple weeks, the forecast over the next week looks incredible. Time to get out there and enjoy the pow. Unfortunately, with all this new snow comes dangerous avalanche conditions. Please read the Wallowa Avalanche Center Forecast and adjust your riding area a bit so you come home to your loved ones. We usually say “Pray for snow” but this time, Pray for the Families that have lost loved ones!

### Kids Ride Led By Kolby Christensen – by Kolby Christensen

It was fun to host another kids ride. We had 30 riders attend with 15 of them being under the age of 18. We rode together to the Chapman Bone Springs Warming Shelter and held a couple events for the riders. Thanks to the Grooming Crew for making sure the trails were smooth and even made a nice pad for our events at Bone Springs. We all had fun and even had a couple folks get stuck. This year, we were excited to have the event sponsored by JMC Motorsports. The crew at JMC made us some super cool t-shirts which we handed out to the jr riders. 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.



Kolby Christensen with the Safety Share



The crew. 30 riders with 15 of them under 18 years old

### Open House – TTF Clubhouse – Hosts Needed

With the number of new snowmobilers on the mountain, we would like to introduce them to Tollgate Trailfinders. One way to do this is hosting an Open House at the TTF Clubhouse. We are looking for hosts that would like to staff the TTF Clubhouse on an

upcoming Saturday or Sunday for a few hours. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer, email Dewayne Harvill at [averyd@gmail.com](mailto:averyd@gmail.com) or Dottie Carrell at [dcarrell2@aol.com](mailto:dcarrell2@aol.com) so we can get it scheduled.

### Recent Avalanches

The past few days have been the deadliest week of US avalanches on record. So far in February, there have been avalanche related deaths in Alaska, California, Colorado, Utah, Montana, New Hampshire and Washington. One of the avalanches occurred near Cle Elum, WA involving an off duty WSP Trooper. Trooper Steve Houle was a 28 year veteran of the WSP. Houle was riding his snow bike near French Cabin Creek around



11am when the slide happened burying him and his riding partner. Fortunately, his partner was able to dig himself out and notify authorities. Unfortunately, Houle was not found until 7pm which was much too late. This is a stark reminder of why each of us should get avalanche training and avalanche gear. The gear does us no good if we do not know how to use it. All of us are itching to hit the powder. This is especially the case this year due to the erratic snow season we've had. Time to use our avalanche training or get some asap.

### Avalanche Course – Tollgate, Oregon Feb 26, 27.

The Tollgate Trailfinders Snowmobile Club has partnered with the Wallowa Avalanche Center to provide avalanche awareness training for all of us. Friday Feb 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, we will provide a virtual introduction to avalanche awareness. A link will be provided at a future date on the Tollgate Trailfinders Facebook page, [www.tollgatetrailfinders.org](http://www.tollgatetrailfinders.org) and on [www.wallowaavalanchecenter.org](http://www.wallowaavalanchecenter.org). This virtual event will be free to all who want to participate. On Saturday, Feb 27<sup>th</sup> at 9am, we will be having a Level 1 Motorized



Avalanche Training for 12 TTF Members. A minimum \$50 donation to the Wallowa Avalanche Center is required to attend. This will be a full day on the snow reading snow conditions, terrain, weather as well as hands on training of beacon, probe, shovel and airbag use. Let us know if you would like to attend as the class is nearly full as of the writing of this article.

Avalanche on Feb 6, Uintah Mountains, Utah

## **January 2021 Grooming Summary - Jess Thompson - TTF grooming Chairman**

- 551 miles groomed
- 95 hours spent grooming
- 634 gallons of fuel burned
- 10 hours maintenance on snow cats
- 24 trees removed from the trail
- 848 miles driven to/from mountain 19 hours driving time to/from mountain

### **Upcoming Events**

February 26, 7pm – Wallowa Avalanche Center Zoom Mtg. Zoom Link Available Soon.

February 27, 9pm – Wallowa Avalanche Center Training – Tollgate, Oregon. Only 12 spots available. \$50 for TTF Members.

March 6, 5pm – TTF Elections and Membership Mtg at TTF Clubhouse and via Teams Link. Link available soon.

March 13 – AIARE Avalanche Class by Wallowa Avalanche Center – Fee to attend

March 13, 10am – Wallowa County Gambler's Jr. Sledder Day – Salt Creek Summit

### **Club Elections!**

At our February 6<sup>th</sup> membership meeting, we held nominations for our upcoming election on March 6<sup>th</sup>. We have numerous open board member and officer positions.

Below is a current list of nominations:

President – Dewayne Harvill

Vice President – Doug Moenke

Treasurer – Alex Moenke

We will accept nominations until Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. Please nominate members of the TTF that you feel would contribute and help guide the TTF into the future. If you have a nomination, email our Parliamentarian, Bob Carrell at [bcarrell2@aol.com](mailto:bcarrell2@aol.com). Ballots will be available soon. We are working on logistics of how it will work this year since Covid Restrictions currently prohibit us from having more than 20 individuals inside the clubhouse at one time. More to come so watch our Facebook Page, our website [www.tollgatetrailfinders.org](http://www.tollgatetrailfinders.org) and your email inbox for updates on the 2021 election. Your voice is important to us!

**Thank You!**

**Your friends from the Tollgate Trail Finders Snowmobile Club**

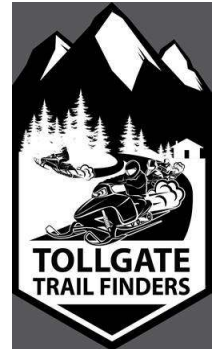
**Brandon Christensen TTF President**

# 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](http://Tollgatetrailfinders.org)

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