

# TTF Newsletter August 2021

**CLUB UPDATE by Brandon Christensen – TTF Past President**

## **Hi Snowmobile Friends,**

Wow, how time flies. Hopefully it has been a great summer for you and your family. This summer has been one of many fires, literally. The Umatilla National Forest has seen much more fire activity than normal. Luckily most of our riding area at Tollgate has been unaffected. Thanks to the firefighters for their hard work getting the fires contained and keeping us safe. The forest closure for a few weeks made some of us change plans for camping and summer riding. We had to cancel our firewood work party for Bone Springs which will be rescheduled later this fall. Keep an eye on our website and social media pages (Facebook, Instagram) for the latest updates.

## **Trailfinders Past VP Loses battle with cancer**

We've lost a TTF Member, former TTF Vice President, TTF Board Member, husband, father, grandfather, friend, neighbor, riding buddy and all-around amazing man. Bob Smith lost his battle with cancer on August 15<sup>th</sup>. A battle that he fought well over 3 years. It's amazing how positive and faithful he was throughout the arduous process of cancer treatments, Dr. appointments and other inconveniences that come with battling cancer.

Bob and wife Connie bought their first cabin at Tollgate in 2009 but had been involved in the club before then. Bob stepped forward in Trailfinders leadership when the club was



Bob Smith taking a break at Winthrop, WA

at a crossroads and really needed some folks to step up and get things done. Bob's leadership was instrumental in transforming the club to adapt to the changing landscape of snowmobiling. This included the inclusion of owners of tracked side by sides, tracked ATVs and snowbikes. In fact, Bob owned a tracked side by side. This allowed him to continue to enjoy Tollgate while battling cancer since he was unable to ride his snowmobile. Bob was the most kind and genuine person you would ever meet. He had a soft way of being direct but in a very effective way. Bob joined many of us on trips to ride amazing places like Halfway, Winthrop, McCall, Island Park and Utah. He was an amazing rider and was always there to help when someone needed a ski pull or a tow back to the snowpark. Bob's leadership, humor, laughs, and friendship will certainly be missed.



Bob Smith enjoying a beautiful day at Tollgate, OR

## Obituary

Robert "Bob" Smith passed away peacefully on August 15th, 2021, at home in Kennewick, Washington, surrounded by his loving family after a valiant three-year battle with cancer.

Bob was born on September 16th, 1958, in Caldwell, Idaho, to Donald and Evelyn Smith. He attended school at Sunny Slope, Huston, Dixie and Vallivue Jr. High. He was a member of the graduating Class of 1976 from Vallivue High School. Go Falcons!

In 1972, he met his forever love, Connie Tucker Smith, on a school bus. They became high school sweethearts and married in 1976. Together they raised three children who were the loves of his life.

Bob was always an ambitious guy. He worked swing shift as a welder with his brother, Jim,

and best friend Kevin James at Ace Supply in Caldwell. Bob later farmed for the Cook Family and as a carpenter for Petzoldt Construction. During this time, he learned lifelong skills that would help build their family's first home in Sunny Slope, another in Burbank, WA, and a home for their son and his wife. He joined his brother Jim in a farming adventure, moving to Burbank, WA, in 1983, later joining forces with his brother Dan forming S & S Farms. Together they developed a 2000-acre farm above the Snake River in Burbank, which was his most significant professional accomplishment. With the help of others, he worked tirelessly to transform sagebrush into pivot irrigated farmland bringing precious water 6 miles from the river to raise row crops, mainly potatoes. Bob and Connie's farming operation would eventually become known as Outback Farms. Retiring in 2008, they sold the equipment and leased the farm to travel and enjoy family. During this time, his passion was traveling with his wife in his "fancy" motorhome across the United States. Enjoying the sites of Panama City Beach, Florida, the changing colors of the mid-west, and visiting friends along the East Coast were highlights of his retirement. He especially loved touring on his motorcycle to areas such as Sturgis, South Dakota, meeting new friends everywhere he went. In 2008, he fell in love with snowmobiling. In 2009, he enjoyed it so much that he purchased a cabin in Tollgate, Oregon. It became a special place to retreat with family and friends. In 2016, Bob and Connie sold their farm and farmhouse, moving to Kennewick to enjoy the "city" life. His retirement was cut short after his diagnosis in 2018.

Bob will be remembered as a generous man, one of fairness and integrity with a great smile, huge heart, and one that never knew a stranger. He will be dearly missed by family and friends. Bob lived his life by John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except thru me."

Bob was preceded in death by his parents Donald and Evelyn Smith, and brother and sister-in-law, Carl and Alyce Fretwell. Bob is survived by his wife Connie, his children Monica and Marc Armstrong, and their children Ashley, Kendall and Brooke, Tonya and Eric Schuld and their children Morgan and Tucker, Cody and Megan Smith and their son Bowden. Also surviving him are siblings Arlene and Chris Yamamoto, Jim and Janie Smith, Dan Smith, Forest and Nancy Fretwell, Don Fretwell, and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, August 28th, at noon, at the potato shed at 1698 Quincy Rd. Burbank, WA.

In lieu of flowers, you may donate to his favorite charities, Orphan Outreach 2001 West Plano Parkway, Suite 3700 Plano, Texas 75075 or Tri-City Union Gospel Mission 221 South 4th Ave, Pasco, WA. 99301.

For online condolences please visit [www.Hillcrestfunerals.com](http://www.Hillcrestfunerals.com)



Bob Smith giving Dewayne Harvill a hand and a laugh at Winthrop, WA

**Thank You!**

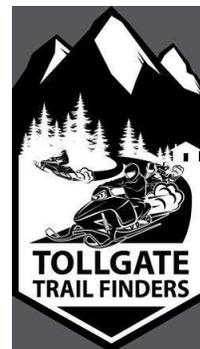
**Your friends from the Tollgate Trail Finders Snowmobile Club  
Brandon Christensen TTF Past President**

## **Tollgate Trailfinders Snowmobile Club**

Yearly dues are effective Sept. 2021 to Aug. 2022

\$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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