



Thomas Alan Lomax

June 7, 1959 - April 24, 2026

Tom loved life, his family, and his friends. He lived every day as a new adventure, especially in the outdoors--mountain biking, skiing, windsurfing, or kayaking. Most days launched with his favorite routine of a morning family bike ride with his wife Beth and beloved dog Brady. From there, he looked forward to whatever the day held.

If someone needed help, Tom always jumped in. His friends and relatives talk about how he would fix a cousin's bike, run from the dinner table to help a friend with truck trouble, pick up friends from the airport at midnight, and coach kids on mountain biking when more coaches were needed. Co-workers remember him helping shovel snow to open lifts or staying out all night on search and rescue missions for lost skiers. He always sought to aid people with kindness and skill, just doing what needed to be done.

Whatever Tom did, he did with his whole heart and his trademark big grin. For him, life was an egoless journey to be savored every step of the way and to laugh through as much of it as possible.

Tom was born June 7, 1959 in Seattle to Ted and Gloria Lomax, who taught him how to camp, hike, and ski in his early years. That exposure during family adventures spawned his love for the outdoors. He swam on the neighborhood swim team and by high school dabbled in backpacking and mountain climbing

while skiing became his passion. After high school, he ski-bummed for a winter in Europe.

In 1980, he married his high school sweetheart Beth VanDecar. The pair moved to Wenatchee, WA, so he could attend Wenatchee Valley Community College, where he graduated from the ski area management program. Starting in 1981, he began his ski area career, working for 12 years in mountain operations at Mission Ridge Ski Area in Wenatchee. Known to approach his work at full throttle, he'd say, "I'd rather be nibbled by ducks than have a lift go down." During those years at Mission Ridge, he co-founded the first snowboard competition and lived with his radio on at all times to be able to respond to emergencies at any hour.

In 1993, Tom and Beth moved to Bend where he worked for nearly 30 years in mountain operations at Mt. Bachelor. His tenure included the installation of several new lifts and ski runs, but one of his legacies is the Mt. Bachelor Bike Park. While skiing was the backbone of his professional career, his love for mountain biking propelled him into volunteering in the bike community. When he turned 50, he wanted to ride five 100-mile days in a row, which led him to founding the Central Oregon 500. He also served on the steering committee for the Deschutes Trails Coalition (DTC). But most of the time, you'd find him out building trails for the Central Oregon Trail Alliance (COTA): shoveling dirt, flagging routes and leading work crews. In 2025, he logged 960 hours, the most of any volunteer.

Tom's pursuit of year-round outdoor recreation, both professional and volunteer, has inspired many to do likewise. Following his footsteps, several of his nieces and nephews carved their own similar paths--working at ski resorts, guiding raft trips, and serving on mountain bike trail crews.

After Tom retired from the ski area, he and Beth spent months on the road

each year traveling and camping across the Western U.S., most often to mountain biking trails. When home in between trips, he treated his volunteer work for mountain bike organizations like a full-time job. As one friend put it, "He'd outwork people less than half his age and not even think about it."

On April 24, 2026, after a morning family bike ride on the Oregon Coast with Beth and Brady, Tom continued on as usual for a solo ride. Experiencing a heart-related event, he left his treasured outdoors at 66 years old on a lush green fern-lined mountain bike trail.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years Beth Lomax of Bend. He also left behind four siblings and their partners: Becky Lomax and Michael Makieve of Columbia Falls, MT; Fred Lomax and Linda McCallum of Rainier, WA; Marcy and Ed Yoshida of Normandy Park, WA; and Christine and James Huestis of Federal Way, WA. He is also survived by chosen sister Patricia Steinwand Bischoff of Germany, sister-in-law Nancy Thomas of Stanley, ID, and his nieces KT Duncan, Erin Yoshida, and Sarah Duncan and nephews Aric Duncan, Kevin Duncan, and Davis Yoshida. He was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in memory of Tom to Central Oregon Trail Alliance (COTA, <https://cotamtb.com>) or the Humane Society of Central Oregon (HSCO, <https://www.hsco.org>).

Tribute Wall

DD

“ Found this pic of Becky, Fred and little Tom. Raised on the mountain...he is missed💔💔



Debra J Dalebout - June 08 at 04:15 PM

BL



Beth Lomax - June 08 at 05:43 PM

CH

“ I grew up with Tom, we shared many mountain memories together. When he just couldn't wait for snow, we'd ski the wet leaves behind his house. The bundled up photo is from a climb of Mt. Adams when it was so windy we had to crawl the last 500 feet to the summit. I still tell that story today.



Cliff Hanks - June 07 at 10:37 AM

BL

*Cliff, so nice to see your pictures and read your memories. Thank you.
Beth*

Beth Lomax - June 07 at 11:11 AM

CH

Thank you sharing these pictures and memories! I have often shared the story of you and Tom skiing down the back hill of leaves, I remember watching you!

*Thank you!
Christine*

Christine Huestis - June 07 at 12:35 PM

BL

Thank you, Cliff! I'd been wondering about how to contact you. Thank you for your photos and memories. I forgot about skiing the leaves!

Becky Lomax - June 07 at 01:20 PM

MY

I remember some of those photos! Tom had prints hung in his bedroom. I'd forgotten about the leaf skiing. Thanks for sharing this!!

Marcy Yoshida - June 07 at 06:46 PM

WP

“ *We have some great memories camping and sailing the gorge w Tom and Beth. He will be missed.* ”



Wendy Pleeter - May 06 at 07:48 PM

DV

“ Dear Beth. We are so very sorry for your loss. We only recently got to know Tom through our shared spinning classes and the delightful day of snow shoeing with you both and the rest of the spinning gang. And while we didn't know Tom well, we can certainly see his adventurous spirit and wealth of good friendships as displayed in the great photos shared on this page. We can only guess how much you will miss your partner and friend and send you love and peace as you navigate this difficult time. All our best, Desi & Charlie Vial

Desi Vial - May 05 at 03:24 PM

BL

Desi and Charlie, thank you. Love Beth

Beth Lomax - May 06 at 10:25 AM

TD

“ Tom designed the first bike racks that ran for years on the front of public transit buses in Wenatchee, WA. He helped people connect to the sport of mountain biking! A dedicated and talented guy. Thoughts to his family.

Todd Daniel - May 04 at 07:00 PM

BL

Oh, thank you for this tidbit and your thoughts.

becky lomax - May 04 at 10:17 PM

JO

“ 20 files added to the album COTA



Josh Owen - May 04 at 12:50 PM

DP

“ Tom and Olga the sky crane. Lift construction 1998. Sail on Tom. We will miss you. Sending love to Beth.



david prather - May 04 at 10:08 AM

BL

Dave, such memories, so sweet. Thank you. Beth

Beth Lomax - May 04 at 06:43 PM

TA

“ Tom and Beth have been part of a core group of people who spin at Juniper Fitness. Tom will be missed and our deepest condolences to Beth and the family. Life is fragile. We are glad to have known him . Torree and Scott

Torree Abrams - May 03 at 10:57 PM

BL

Torree, so sweet. Thank you. Beth

Beth Lomax - May 04 at 10:07 AM

BB

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Buck and Dolly Buckingham - May 03 at 08:51 PM

BL

Buck and Dolly, fond memories of the old days of our river trips. so sweet. Thank you. Beth

Beth Lomax - May 04 at 10:07 AM

JS

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



John Scherry - May 03 at 04:41 PM

JS

RIP Tom

John Scherry - May 03 at 04:42 PM

MM

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Mark & Judy Milliette - May 03 at 02:00 PM

AW

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Abbie & Seph Wilkiemeyer - May 02 at 11:02 PM

BL

“ 1 file added to the album Tom Mountain Biking



Becky Lomax - May 02 at 10:52 PM

BL

Tom riding in the Central Oregon 500 in 2017. Photo by Ron Welton @WeltonPhotography.com

Becky Lomax - May 02 at 10:53 PM

KK

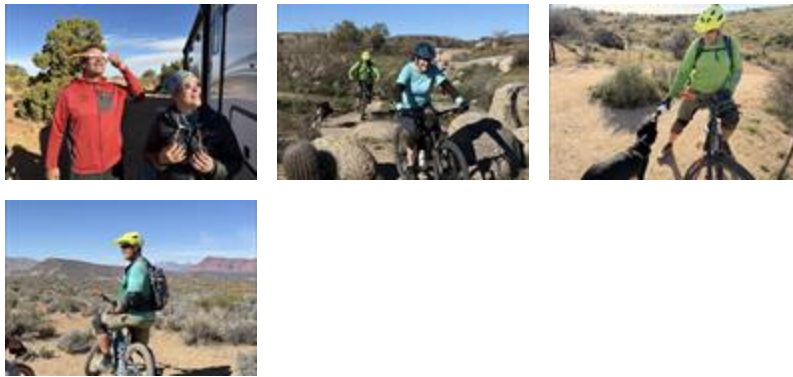
“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Karen Kenlan - May 02 at 09:50 PM

MB

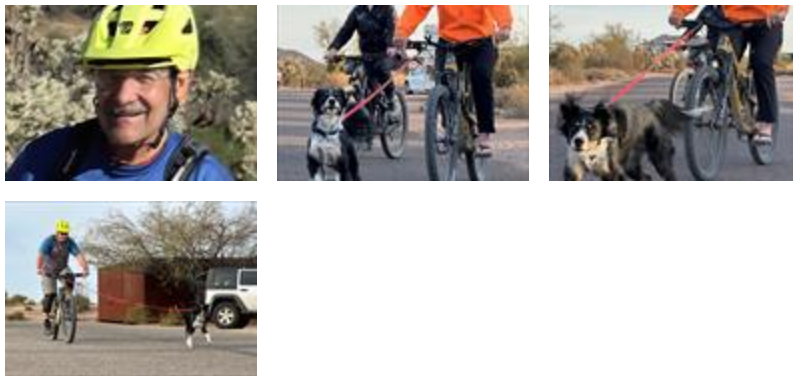
“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Michelle & Steve Brown - May 02 at 09:36 PM

BL

“ 4 files added to the album Tom Mountain Biking



Becky Lomax - May 02 at 12:32 PM

LM

These photos are wonderful. This is how I remember Tom, full of joy and his beloved Beth and their Dogs in nature. He will be deeply missed. But I know his adventure goes on....

linda McCallum - May 02 at 05:49 PM

BL

“ 3 files added to the album Tom at Mt. Bachelor



Becky Lomax - May 02 at 12:29 PM

BL

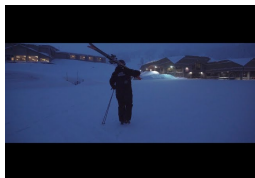
“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Becky Lomax - May 01 at 09:17 PM

BL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Becky Lomax - May 01 at 09:08 PM