



## Sam Baird

October 7, 1977 - July 16, 2023

Sam passed suddenly the evening of July 15th. Sam was born in Leavenworth, WA on October 7, 1977, to Chip and Bunny Baird. As a young boy, he took a hold of his dad and grandpa's hand and followed their love for fishing and hunting in the Pacific Northwest. Wherever Johnnie and Chip were, Sam was never far behind. Sam grew his love for the outdoors on the banks of the Icicle and Wenatchee Rivers and in the backcountry between Leavenworth and the Entiat valley. His childhood was filled with family camping trips to Lake Wenatchee every year and racing his sisters to see who could get their limit and get back to camp first. Family hunting trips to load up the freezer with venison and elk and some of the best stories you've ever heard. As Sam grew older and was able to venture out on his own, he could be seen on the banks of the river catching his limit before heading to school.

While attending Cascade School District, Sam attained a status many remember to this day and will be for years to come. His football and wrestling accolades are truly something to behold. After high school, Sam became a fiberoptic engineer for a time and told stories of how he walked the entire state of Nebraska as well as stories of working on the LA rings project. When Sam learned he was going to be a father, he dropped it all and returned home to the valley he knew and loved to raise a family. He and his former wife, Alissa Coleman, welcomed two amazing boys together, Tyler and Austin. After their divorce, he met the love of his life, Sarah Nalley, and with a daughter of her

own, they became a family of five and for the next eighteen years, they continued with the traditions he grew up with. Together they made many trips to the lakes and rivers from his childhood for fishing and telling his childhood stories always had the kids hanging onto every word. Many trips to the mountains for scouting and hunting or just as a family outing, all the while hearing the great tales of years past.

The love of the sport of fishing was so powerful, that in 2008 he and his family decided to take a leap of faith and open a fish guiding business. This is where Slammin' Salmon Guide Service was born and boy, did he leave his mark! The boy who grew up around the good ol' boys of Leavenworth, became a legend in his own right. Everyone knew him as the #ANTIPRO who would tell it like it is but would also lend a helping hand or helpful information to anyone and everyone! Sam looked forward to his off season every year to enjoy family time and to see his wife and kids more. Going on hunting trips with Tyler, mushroom picking with the whole family, talking to Austin about life, and recently becoming a grandpa. From the moment his daughter Josie placed his granddaughter, Aleah, in his arms, he was in love. He had big plans for her and him on the boat and teaching and showing her the love of the outdoors.

Sam is survived by his wife, Sarah; and three children, Tyler, Austin, Josie (Anthony); granddaughter Aleah. His mom, Bunny Baird; two sisters, Tawnya and Annie Baird; two nieces, Lou and Kamea, as well as many close friends.

He is preceded in death by his dad, Chip Baird, grandparents Johnnie and Ruth Baird and Chester and Wyota Finch.

Sam's legacy will live on through his family and the fishing and hunting community. He will be missed by many, especially by his family, who were his biggest pride and joy.

Tight lines and straight shooting, we will always see you on the shores of the water and on every mountain top. We will miss you and never forget you. You will always be in our hearts.

A Celebration of Life will be October 7, 11:00am, at Daroga State Park, 1 S Daroga Park Ln, Orondo, WA.

Arrangements by Chapel of the Valley, East Wenatchee.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

OCT 7. 11:00 AM (PT)

Daroga State Park  
1 S Daroga Park Ln  
Orondo, WA 98843

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Chapel of the Valley - September 11, 2023 at 12:35 PM

MS

“ I've known Sam for well over a decade and I could always count on him as a friend. We didn't agree on everything but he accepted my opinions, just as I accepted his. I appreciated his candor and through it all, we remained friends. His passing leaves a hole in my heart. I will miss you my friend until we meet again.

Mark Schwery - August 04, 2023 at 10:51 PM

H(

“ Even after 31 years, I can still say, without any doubt, Sam is my best friend. I first met Sam when I was 12 years old, he 14, at my Grandma Parton's house in Leavenworth, WA. While we were only together for a week, I remember we were inseparable....fishing the river everyday in the rain. We both grew up, (or maybe just aged, cause we were both kids at heart forever) but we always seemed to find time to catch up with each other over the years. Just last month I sent him a happy 4th of July text: his reply "Happy 4th to you too, Darlin" I love ya, Sam and I will miss you always. Love, Heather



Heather Kroupa (Smith) - August 04, 2023 at 08:26 PM

JC

“ From this kids first limit with you to the last limit days prior. And to the things I've learned from ya to be a bit more successful. To you aiding my moms crap talking when she'd out fish me on occasion. I only got to know you for 6 seasons, ill appreciate your kindness and antipro attitude for life, thanks for making this kiddos first 4 seasons of fishing memorable for rest of my life bud. You left the standard pretty high for guides, gonna be hard to replace that. Rest In Peace sam and may your family be surrounded by love and support during this time and be uplifted by prayers.



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**jim correia** - August 02, 2023 at 12:45 AM

VS

“ Met sam 3 years ago on a couple of guided trips. I learned alot from him became great friends traded stories had plans for halibut in may. Respected sam alot. I missed how he made fun of me through poats then he would call me later to rub it in even more. Sure gonna miss you buddy. Ill save some Creamsicle for when im over there.



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**Victor Storms** - August 01, 2023 at 09:18 PM

BB

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Bunny Baird - August 01, 2023 at 09:18 PM

CN

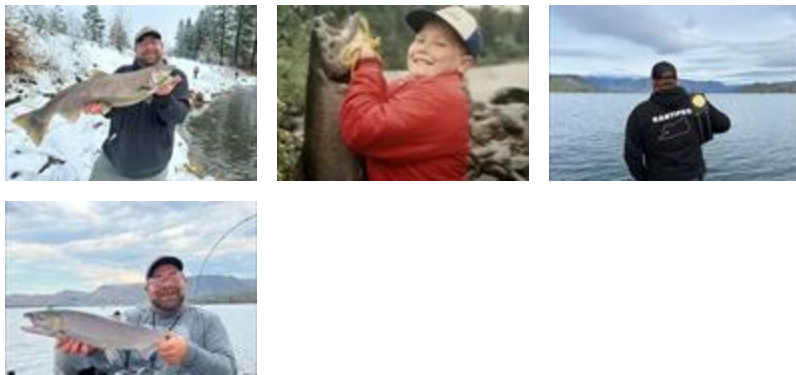
“ Sam you are my most favorite. You are one of the kindest ones I've met. I'll catch some boots for you this year.



Courtney Norman - August 01, 2023 at 08:52 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Chapel of the Valley - August 01, 2023 at 07:20 PM

SN

“ You’ve had my heart for the 18 years and I will carry you with me until I see you again. Thank you for the memories we made and the family we grew together. I will love you fiercely until I see you again, just like we told each other before you left our home the last time I saw you. Always and forever babe!!!

Sarah Nalley - August 01, 2023 at 05:12 PM

DO

“ I only met Sam about 3yrs ago and only had a chance to fish with four times twice on Chelan, once on the Hanford Reach, and once in Brewster. In the short time that I have known Sam I consider him as a friend and will miss him very much. He was always fun and very professional to fish with we always had a very good time fishing with him.

Former client Don Olin

Donald Olin - July 31, 2023 at 06:14 PM

AB

“ You will never be forgotten! You are with Dad and Grandpa now and with that I find comfort! Although you left us far too soon, it was doing what you absolutely loved and I can’t be mad at that. I’ll always take care of our Momma, Sarah, Tyler, Austin, Josie, and Aleah! You have left quite the impression and I am truly proud to be your sister. Love you Sam!



Anna R Baird - July 20, 2023 at 07:36 PM

BR

*Sam was also the guy in our corner. And there in second to look out for us.. Heavy Heart, Bethany Rinke (Sam's class 1997). Love you Sis. ❤️*



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**Bethany Rinke** - October 04, 2023 at 12:42 AM