Thoughts on Garrett Drew Smith
by Robert Bagley

Garrett Smith was a friend and falconer from Salt Lake City. He passed away at the wrong age of 26 years old.

As a young boy Garrett would come up to our house, take a few falconry books of the shelf, say thanks and leave. Only to come back again a few weeks later to exchange them with a few more. He worked his way through the five shelves over the course of two years and was probably the most prepared Apprentice to ever take the State exam.

He was one of those unique apprentices who eagerly made all his own gear (hoods, glove, hawking bag) right from the beginning.

Many NAFA members will remember Garrett as “the tall kid at the Field Meets with those cool braided leashes” and the fine attention to detail in the gear he produced. He quickly made many international falconry friends through his dedication, and these friends who also remembered him as well.

His passion and intensity was focused on anything upon which he gave his attention, including his young wife Amalia Jane Barker, whom he persuaded to marry him in the summer of 2010.

In addition to his falconry, Garrett was an avid outdoor sports enthusiast, rock climber, back country skier and photographer of these subjects. He was just becoming well known and respected in the professional world for his incredible photography when he was tragically lost in an avalanche in March, 2011, Horseshoe Mountain, Utah.

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