

# APRIL VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

# BARB SMITH



## What I like best about volunteering at Colony Cats:

I do several different activities at Colony Cats. My favorite thing is fostering kittens. It is so much fun. I love all of them so much. I cry when they leave but it's all worth it! I think every home should have a kitten room -there would be a lot more happy unstressed people in the world. A close second is driving the "neuter scooter" (that's what I call it when I take cats/kittens to TAHO). I'm so happy when I get up early, drive thru rush-hour traffic, and listen to up to 12 cats singing in my car! It may not sound fun but it is. I'm doing my small part to help reduce the cat population.

## My pets at home:

We have no resident pets. My husband and I are retired and take extended trips. Fostering and working in the adoption center keeps me from missing having a pet of my own.

## What I'd like you to know about me:

If you know me this may surprise you but I'm a very shy person. I'm retired from a career in Information Technology. I've been married 30 years to my husband Craig and we have 2 boys. As a child I discovered my love of all animals. Living in rural Pennsylvania allowed me to have dogs, cats, a lamb, fish, birds, hamsters, and a pony. In addition to animals and my family, I love travel, being outdoors, trains, reading and cooking.

## Where you can find me when I'm not volunteering for Colony Cats:

I'm home with my family, traveling, or hiking up a mountain.



## Dogs or Cats Rule?:

Both. I haven't had a cat of my own since I was 22. I've had dogs since then and said I was a dog person. After our last dog passed away, my husband and oldest son wanted to get a cat. I suggested we foster. That's when I found Colony Cats. Our first foster was Bombadil. BamBam, as we called him, stole my heart and made me a cat person. He was a 3-legged FeLV+ orange kitten. He was so sweet and he is still the best kitten I've ever known!

## What's your advice to a new Colony Cats volunteer?:

If you are thinking about volunteering, just do it. It is very rewarding and the added benefit is you will have an inside track to finding perfect pets for you and your friends!

## Your unique Q&A, thoughts, or favorite saying:

*Favorite says is...*

Eleanor Roosevelt -"You must do the thing you think you cannot do"

