



# NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN RETIREE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2018

Northern Rocky Mountain Retiree Association Information

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Forest Service Retirees, for some of you who do not live in the Missoula area this newsletter may be the only contact you have with the association so we are going to try to make the newsletter of interest to all retirees. For those in the Missoula area we would encourage you to join us for our monthly meetings currently held the first Tuesday of each month. We now meet at Jaker's restaurant at 11:30 for lunch and a speaker of interest. Everyone is welcome and reservations are not needed. If you are part of Forest Service retirees gatherings elsewhere in the region please let the newsletter editor know and we will include the information in upcoming newsletters.

Since our newsletter seems to be our best form of contact, we want to continue trying to make it the best we can. We have enclosed a form to try to update our mailing list and we would appreciate your help in providing updated information. Mailing costs continue to go up and it would help us to know if you are okay receiving an electronic copy of the newsletter if you have an email address. Personally, I still like to have a hard copy that I can pick up and turn the pages.

If you have ideas for us to improve our association, we would appreciate hearing from you. Again, thanks for the update of your information. It will be a great help to us.

My email address is [hickswil@gmail.com](mailto:hickswil@gmail.com) and my cell phone is 406-531-6912.

Barry Hicks, President

IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2019. A  
MEMBERSHIP FORM IS ENCLOSED AT THE  
END OF THE NEWSLETTER.



## REMINDER

Monthly luncheon meeting is held on the first Tuesday of the month at Jakers Bar and Grill located at 3515 Brooks Street in Missoula at 11:30 AM. The December meeting will not be held as usual instead we will join the RO employees for their Christmas party, December 12<sup>th</sup>. The time is not available as we go to press. Contact Barry Hicks at 406 532-6912 for details. Because the first Tuesday of the new year is New Year's Day, the January meeting will be held on the second Tuesday of the month.

# COMMEMORATION OF THE D-DAY JUMP

Tom Kovalicky

Johnson Flying Service's Mann Gulch DC-3 was rolled out of the Museum of Mountain Flying at the Missoula Montana airport on June 15 to begin the journey to Europe for the 75th Commemoration of the D-Day jump next June, 2019. The DC-3 will take a load of Montana jumpers, and anybody can apply to make the jump, regardless of age! Check out the requirements below. If you make the cut, you'll be decked out in a 1944 Army uniform and jump a round chute. And, you get to fly from England to Normandy; and, there will be NO Germans shooting during the jump! There will be over 20 C-47's in the Normandy jump.

This DC-3 is one of four C-47's that Johnson Flying Service owned, and is the only one still flying. It was rolled out during the regional Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association fly-in, and was named "Miss Montana". The original Miss Montana was a B-25 flown by Montana pilot Capt. Malcolm Enman of Drummond in the Pacific during WW II. The plane will be left as a Johnson Flying Service aircraft to honor the 57,000 Montanans who served and the 1500 who died in WW II, as well as the thousands of Smokejumpers who have served as wild land fire fighters. Hard to see, but Miss Montana is holding a small Smokejumper pin!

Eric Komberec, a former Johnson pilot, and Bryan Douglass, local pilot, hatched the idea and head up the Miss Montana committee. Check the website and Facebook: "Miss Montana to Normandy" and get your jump application in!

## The 4 and 5 June 2019 Jumps

The Daks Over Normandy team upholds the strong belief that we have a moral obligation to commemorate this 75th D-Day together. We feel it will be the very last chance we will be able to join forces. For what these teams have in common with us is the fact that we all feel history should not be forgotten and should be commemorated in a suitable and a respectful way. On 4



Miss Montana

and 5 June 2019 Daks over Normandy will organize two jumps. The 4 June jump will be a mass practice jump in the United Kingdom. The jump on 5 June will be very special. All of the C-47's participating in the event will fly in formation across the English Channel to drop a large group of paratroopers into an original 1944 drop zone in Normandy. If you want to be a part of that historic and unique reconstitution you can visit their website at:

<https://www.daksovernormandy.com/airborne-jumps>

These jumps are open to jumpers of all teams and to all (ex)para/airborne personnel. Beware however of the requirements you must meet! Up to 20 of the aircraft are equipped to drop the paratroopers in formation. The project team is aiming to invite all the jump teams to organize and plan mutual jumps on 6, 7, 8 and 9 June. We sincerely hope all jumpers and all jump teams share the idea to cooperate and make the 75th commemoration of D-Day into a once in a lifetime event. More information can be found at:

<https://www.daksovernormandy.com/airborne-jumps>

*Tom started his career as a seasonal at the Powell Ranger Station in 1954. He spent most of his career in region 1, on the Flathead and in the RO. He retired in 1991 as the Forest Supervisor on the Nez Perce. Tom lives in Grangeville Idaho.*

Stories are wanted for upcoming newsletters: please send in your memories of your days with the Forest Service, something of interest in the way of Forest Service history or a remembrance of a FS retiree who has passed away. Electronic format is best because your editor will not have to retype it. Accompanying photos are welcome as well. I am working on an upcoming article about retirees turned artists and looking for one or two more folks to include. So far I have an artist/sculpture and a wood worker. Who else is out there? We are also starting to collect articles for another volume of Early Days in the Forest Service. These articles can be longer and again, photos are welcome. Ideas for articles also welcomed. If you sent in multiple articles and only one of them appears in this issue, your editor is saving them for the spring newsletter.

Please include a short bio with your article about where you worked and what you did for the Forest Service.

Send to Vicky MacLean at [agillabs@mcn.net](mailto:agillabs@mcn.net) or P.O. Box 608, Ronan MT 59864. Spring newsletter deadline is approximately March of 2019

## THE BIG BOOM

Larry Stone FMO Sandpoint Ranger District, retired

It was 1956, I was the Headquarters Guard Smokechaser at the Falls Ranger Station, Kaniksu National Forest, Priest River Idaho. The freight truck from Spokane pulled up one morning, as he did every week, and unloaded the groceries and whatever else that was ordered. This day he unloaded a bunch of groceries and a case of dynamite on the front porch of the office.



Falls Ranger Station

I put the groceries away, and looked at the dynamite that was still sitting on the porch. The Ranger, Assistant Ranger, and Alternate were all out in the field that morning. So being the important guy left at the Ranger Station, I decided to put the dynamite away. For after all I had a “Blasters Card in Training”, and was therefore authorized to handle powder. I got the keys to the powder house, loaded the dynamite, drove across

the highway, and up the powder house draw, the powder house being about a half a mile away. It was a beautiful summer day, I had the window rolled down, the sky was blue, the birds were singing, and I was easing up the powder house draw. SUDDENLY THERE WAS A TERRIBLE EXPLOSION AND THE GROUND SHOOK ----- my heart stopped and I quit breathing. . . and then . . . and then I looked around and discovered I was still in the truck and seemed to be ok.

It was a SONIC BOOM



Falls Ranger Station

# THE HOSTESS GIFT

Ellen Childress



Living on a remote Forest Service Station, far from the amenities of a town, sometimes requires ingenuity and creative thinking to meet the manners and mores of a more sophisticated social setting. My husband was stationed at Spotted Bear Ranger Station, one of the main administrative sites for the Bob Marshall Wilderness on the Flathead National Forest. The station was at the end of 65 miles of gravel road so trips to town were carefully planned. Five families, with children, as well as members of the various crews called the compound home during the summer and we made the most of our time near the Wilderness to have social gatherings. We often had potluck dinners or invited members of the crews over for dinner.

On one particular evening, my husband had asked one of his crew members to join us. This young man was from the East and had obviously been brought up in a rarefied atmosphere and sometimes seemed ill at ease with the casual life style of the back-country station. Dinnertime approached and we could see him, washed and brushed as he made his way through the trees to our house. Strangely enough he was carrying a galvanized two-gallon bucket.

He climbed the steps of the porch, greeted us and said, "I could not get wine or chocolates for a hostess gift, so I thought your daughter might like to have this."

He presented the bucket to me.

"Wow! Jenny! Look at this!" I said as I bent to show her the contents of the bucket, There, nestled on a bed of damp grass was one of the biggest toads we had ever

seen! Jenny's three-year-old face broke into a smile.

Can I hold him? she asked. I showed her how to lift the toad gently from the bucket and she sat down with the toad in her hands, and announced. "His name is Clarence."

Clarence the Toad lived with us for some time until we decided he would be happier up near the water trough at the horse corrals. We would visit daily and often could find him watching for flies from the safety and shade of the rocks and feed troughs. Clarence was one of the most unusual but longest lasting and most cherished of any hostess gift I ever heard of before or since.



Old Office at the Spotted Bear Ranger Station.

*Ellen was a look out at Patrick's Knob near Plains on the Lolo Forest in 1969 and 1970. Her husband Marc was on another lookout and that's how they met. In 2000 Ellen was a relief lookout on Richard Peak and Cougar Peak also on the Lolo. She also worked on various crews in the 1990s. She is a retired schoolteacher and potter. Husband Marc retired from the Plains District, daughter Jen is an archaeologist on the Helena/Lewis and Clark*



## MORE THAN ONE WAY TO FIND FIRE FIGHTERS

Bernard Lee

The recent fire season reminded me of an event in 1960 on the Custer National Forest.

I was working as an Engineering Technician in the Supervisors Office. As always happened in these years, when the fire season began, there was always an opportunity for some of us to earn extra money by signing on for fire duty. I was assigned a position as a truck driver.

The Custer was the source of hiring organized crews from the Crow and Cheyenne Indian Reservations. Ralph Hodges was the Fire Dispatcher for the Forest. As the calls came in from Missoula for crews, Ralph would contact the Reservations for crews and they would put the crews together and bus them to Billings. Fire Time Slips would be filled out for each crew member and then we would transport the crew to the airport to be shipped off to the fire or Missoula. In those days, prior to seat belts and safer modes of transportation, we would load the crews in 1-ton trucks and haul them to the airport. This was my job as a truck driver.

As the season wore on, crews were harder to come by. Some had already had several assignments and weren't interested in going out again. One particular evening we got a call and the reservation could not put a crew together. They had heard that some crews had stopped in Billings after returning from a fire and were still there. The Reservation Dispatcher suggested we check the local bars first. Ralph said we should go look for them and see if they were interested in another assignment. We stopped at a couple of bars and at the Mont Bar on Montana Avenue, the bartender said there had been a crew in there, but they got into a fight and were arrested by police. Ralph then called the police. It was suggested we show up the next morning at the courtroom as the crew was going to be arraigned. Ralph and I were at the

courtroom the next morning before the activities began. The judge came in and asked if we were the people from the Forest Service. We said yes and he said we should come to the bench. We did, and he told us to come up behind the bench and that we would each sit on one side of him. As the members of the crew came in front of the judge, he would say to them "you are charged with being drunk and disorderly, how do you plead?" They would plead guilty and the judge would say "thirty days in jail or fight fire for the Forest Service." They all chose to fight fire. They gathered their belongings and we loaded them in back of a 1-ton stake truck. A deputy rode with me. We went to the office, made out time slips and sent them on their way. Quite an experience for a new young employee.

### Elk Summit



The Elk Summit Ranger Station, on the Clearwater National Forest buzzed with activity in September, when the Forest Service preservation team and several employees and retirees rebuilt the porch, restored logs, and patched roofs along with other projects.



## THE CALIFORNIA HIPPIE MOVES TO THE POWELL RANGER DISTRICT OR DON'T TRUST A BITTERROOTER

Larry Cron

President Nixon imposed a freeze on moves and new hires in the fall of 1972. I was offered the Ranger job at Powell on the Clearwater but told they would need to get clearance, so I was not given a report date. In Hayfork on the Shasta-Trinity we began packing and changed our plans for Nancy to go with me on a combined vacation and hunting trip to Missoula in late October. Because of the pending transfer, she would stay home to continue packing. I stopped at Powell on the way to Missoula and met Lennie Smith, the district fire control officer and a Bitterrooter with a sense of humor. On my birthday, October 29, while in Missoula at my parents' house, the phone rang with news that the transfer offer had been rescinded indefinitely because the approval process to fill the job was going to be going to the USDA. So, I went back to Hayfork, California, and the packing was put on hold.



Powell Ranger Station in the 1930s.

Since my wife had missed out on the vacation, we decided to go to Missoula for Christmas. While there another phone call came from R-1 Personnel to let my

Dad know that the move had finally been approved. So, back to California to resume packing. In early January of '72 avalanches closed Hwy 12 for about 2 weeks. Fortunately, the highway opened just a few days before we got to Powell.



The office at Powell in 1954. The new office was not built until 1977.

Monday morning, I went by the office to ask for a Tuesday morning meeting to meet the staff, and off to Missoula we went to shop and take care of other personal business. Tuesday morning, I was in my office when the first of the staff arrived, Jim Wilson, the timber assistant. In the old Powell office, the ranger's office was down a hall from the reception office with the fire control office in between.

Jim came in and we shook hands. The first thing he said was "I see you shaved off the mustache and sideburns." There was a loud guffaw from Lennie Smith's office, and Jim knew he had been victimized by the Bitterroot humor and exclaimed, "Damn you Smith", to which we all had a good laugh. At that time, I had a crew cut since age 13. Lennie had everyone

convinced that I was a real California hippie with a big handlebar mustache and long sideburns.

*Larry is a second-generation Forest Service person. His dad retired from the RO in 1970 and Larry retired in 1998 from the Kootenai where he was staff for planning, recreation, minerals, lands and heritage. Larry grew up at numerous ranger stations in Region 5 where he also started his FS career. In Region 1 Larry was the ranger at Powell and Fernan before going to the Kootenai.*



## THE LINCOLN BACKCOUNTRY CONTROVERSY

Jerry Stern

This paper is a follow-up to “History of the Lincoln Backcountry Controversy” by D. R. Randall.

I was transferred to the Lincoln Ranger District on March 1, 1964. At that time the community was divided over Forest Service plans to road the backcountry, or keep it in a semi-wilderness condition.

A road had been surveyed and a contract for road construction had been temporarily awarded and the dozers were ready to go. A new Forest Service administration team (Regional Forester and District Ranger) were in place. Cecil Garland was head of the Lincoln Backcountry Protection Association.

After about a month on the job, I decided it was about time I met Garland (my supposed opposition), and arranged a meeting at his place of business. His first words to me were “who sent you” and “watch your backside, as I’ll get you” A tough beginning, but I knew where I stood. I also wondered how a working relationship could ever be established with him.

As the snow melted and spring arrived, I devised a plan to get to know Garland better. I told him I was new to the area, and since he was familiar, it would help if he could guide me and help to determine what resources were in the area. He agreed to help. We planned to spend 7 to 10 days in the backcountry together, which we did. I found that Garland hadn’t been to many places he talked about, but had relied on friends to inform him. Our time together was a good time to

know each other, as we worked as a team. I planned and furnished our meals (which I bought with personal dollars) and the Forest Service furnished the mule and my saddle horse. After our trip, we rode into Lincoln on horseback and I remember Garland’s words, “do you want to ride ahead or in back of me” (we were supposed to be enemies). My reply – “if you are ashamed of me, you make the choice”. We rode in together!

Lou Aleksich, congressman Battin’s field representative (who owned land in Lincoln and who was a horse and range man), was instrumental in obtaining a moratorium on road building. This was done to obtain more resource information for the politicians. This delay gave me a chance to spend more time in the backcountry. A 1964 flood destroyed many miles of trails, and we had two spike camps for rebuilding. This also gave me more opportunity to spend more time in there. Before the year was up, I had been on every mountaintop in the backcountry. I took a lot of pictures of the area and showed them along with an oral presentation to Regional Forester Rahm and his staff. At one slide show presentation, Assistant Regional Forester Ed Barry remarked he would like to see a road to Scapegoat Mountain so his invalid wife could see it. My reply to Barry, “is this what you call resource management?” I had just made another Forest Service enemy. I should point out some Forest Service Folks in higher positions didn’t approve of my remarks about the resources. One incident stands out when I invited

Garland along to the Augusta Ranger District to view a new trail building machine in action. The Lewis and Clark Supervisor was so upset with me that I heard he looked into ways to get rid of me. At one time Helena Supervisor Morgan advised me to say nothing until things cooled off. In the summer of (I believe) 1968, Regional Forester Rahm took his entire staff through the backcountry to look at resources and give their recommendations. At the end of the trip, a meeting was held at the Indian Meadows station. Internal disagreement was so intense on management options, that the meeting almost became violent. Another example of how polarized the issue had become.

When multiple use planning was in its infancy, Regional Forester Rahm appointed Bob Miller as his personal planning representative. Three Rangers, Hank Grietl, (Sun River District, Lewis & Clark NF) Dave Minister (Seeley Lake District, Lolo NF), and myself, put together a multiple use plan for all the un-roaded areas within our ranger districts south of the Bob Marshal. This was done with Miller providing the oversight. The planning was done in response to congressional pressure for more information. It was an interesting assignment with different management views.

The timber resource in the Lincoln-Scapegoat area was very marginal – most of it was small diameter and very short. Most sale area volumes would not support development costs. My view on recreation development was that no development was needed. Capacities would be reached in a few years if nothing was done. A large burn after I left wiped out much of

the timber resource, and improved wildlife forage requirements.

Cecil Garland and I remained friends and in 1968 he gave an address to the Wilderness Society in Spokane, Washington. One of his remarks during the address was that Bob Morgan and I were the only Forest Service folks he trusted. Cecil Garland died in 2014.

Editor's note: The Lincoln Back-country area became the Scapegoat Wilderness in 1972. It was the first citizen designated wilderness in the country. It stretches over about ¼ a million acres of the Helena, Lolo and Lewis and Clark National Forests. A large part of this area burned during the 1988 fire season in the Canyon Creek fire which burned 240,000 acres of the back country and front range area. More information on the Scapegoat controversy can be found in the U of M Mansfield Library archives and on line by googling the archives of the Missoulian

*Jerry grew up in Wisconsin, spent some time in the service and attended the University of Montana, graduating in 1953. His career took him to Kettle Falls WA, Lincoln MT, Coeur d'Alene and Bonners Ferry ID. He retired from Bonners Ferry in 1986 and lives in Sagle, Idaho.*



## NOTE FROM THE MUSEUM OF FOREST SERVICE HISTORY

Dear Region 1 Forest Service Retirees,

The National Museum of Forest service History is making great strides! Many new developments continue at our Missoula campus including construction of the James B. Yule Pavilion, which we plan to open next Spring. We are a fully functioning

Museum in many respects, including our amazing collection of artifacts, photographs, and documents-many of which are now available online. We continue to develop virtual and traveling exhibits, including our recent Case No. 1 exhibit which launched earlier this



year. The Museum campus in Missoula is now open with exhibits and events; and we have exceptional programs such as National Teachers workshops in 2017 and 2018, made possible with grants from the Library of Congress that have evolved into a very strong partnership.

When we approach potential donors and grant sources to help us build the Conservation Legacy and Education Center, a recurring question is: "How many members does the Museum presently have?" We currently have about 750 members. We know that our Museum would be in a much stronger position with donors if we could say, "We have 1000+ members!" Obviously, your annual membership dues are very important to us, but just as important is having you on the roles to bolster the impact that a larger membership has with donors and grantors. Your support to the Museum means everything! Forest Service Retirees are

the very backbone of everything we do to fulfill our mission *"To share the rich history and story of America's Conservation Legacy"*.

If you are already a Museum member, THANKS AGAIN! If not, would you please consider joining? Would you also help us recruit additional members? For example, would you consider buying a membership for a daughter or son or other relative that works for the Forest Service? For an aspiring student who plans to work in natural resource management? Or would you pay for a gift membership that the Museum could give to a deserving retiree or their spouse?

Becoming a Museum member is easy. You can join online at <https://forestservicemuseum.org/become-a-member/> (scroll down to select the membership level. If you have any questions please call our Museum office (ph. 406-541-6374). Lisa Tate, Executive Director.

**Please Help the Museum Reach 1000+ Members by December 31, 2018!**



## WE REMEMBER



**EDWARD GEORGE HEILMAN** (Ed) passed away July 29, 2018. He was born in Butte March 25, 1929 and moved around the west as his father's job with the United Press took him to various locations. At age 16, during the Second World War he got a job on the Big Bend Ranger District of the Tahoe National Forest. He eventually graduated from U of M with a degree in forestry in 1950. Back to the Tahoe forest in 1951, he met and married Donna Dever, a young schoolteacher. He spent the Korean War years stationed in Texas and Korea as the Base Director of Communications. After the war Ed spent time in various California locations as an Assistant Ranger and District Ranger and eventually became Director of Fire Management on the Shasta Trinity National Forest. He later became the first director of the National Fire Training School in Arizona and Director of Aviation and Fire Management in Region 9. In 1974 Ed came to Missoula as the Regional Director of Aviation and Fore Management where he served until his retirement in 1984.

Ed was involved in many volunteer activities in the area, including the Missoula Kiwanis, St Francis Xavier Church, Friends of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, the Missoula County Park Board, Society of American Foresters, Meals on Wheels, the National Museum of Forest Service History and the veterans Cemetery on Missoula

Ed leaves his wife, Donna, a son and a daughter. Donations in his name can be made to the National Museum of Forest Service History.



**ROBERT LOUIS NEAVES** (Robert) passed away June 3, 2018 in Corvallis Oregon. Born in Hamilton Montana December 15, 1935 he grew up in the Bitterroot Valley. He had a talent for drawing and loved art, classical music, opera and the theatre. After graduating from Hamilton High School in 1953 he went on to study at the Art Institute of Chicago and later at the University of Montana. His career took him to New Jersey where he was a technical illustrator, then back to Montana where he started a sign business that led him to a 12-year career with the Regional Office in Missoula where he was a technical illustrator. Later he became an independent artist eventually opening an art gallery and frame shop, Robert Neaves Studio in Missoula.

Robert was also a patron of many local and regional organizations such as Trout Unlimited, Bitterroot Awareness Resources and the Teller Wildlife Refuge, participating in quick draw auctions, donating art and framing.

Robert leaves a sister, a sister in law, and his five children.



**WILFRED LAVERNE OLSON** (Ole) passed away on January 21 2018 in Spokane at the age of 88. He was born September 29, 1929 in Jamestown New York. Ole graduated from Michigan State University in 1950 with a degree in Forestry. He was a smoke jumper at Cave Junction Oregon, a Marine Corps veteran serving in Korea. After the war he worked in the private timber industry for 9 years then went to work for the Forest Service in Washington and Montana for the next 24 years. He was a logging engineer on the Kootenai, Deerlodge and Helena National Forests. He was a longtime resident of Townsend MT before moving to Spokane to be near family

Ole was an avid hunter and fisherman, past president of the Broadwater County rod and Gun Club. He was a longtime supporter of Ducks Unlimited and carved many decoys that were contributed to DU events and given to family and friends.

Ole leaves his wife Mary and three children.

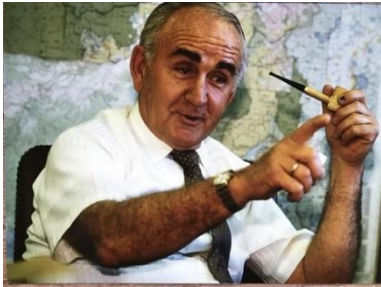


**STEWART BRANDBORG** “Brandy” was not a career Forest Service employee but his life was intimately tied to the Forest Service. He passed away on April 14, 2018 in Hamilton MT. Brandy was born in 1925 in Grangeville Idaho where his father Guy Brandborg was Forest Supervisor on the Nez Perce National Forest. His childhood was packed with adventure including pack trips in the Salmon and Clearwater country. When Brandy was 10 his father moved to Hamilton as Forest Supervisor on the Bitterroot. There he explored, fished and hunted every creek and slough, hiked and rode every canyon and ridge. At age 16 his father sent him to man the Ward Mountain Lookout which he manned for two summers. Brandy attended the University of Montana then the University of Idaho as a graduate student. In the 1950s he was a wildlife biologist with Idaho Fish

and Game where he studied mountain goats in the Salmon River Country. In 1954 he moved his family to Washington D.C. to work for the National Wildlife Federation and later for the Wilderness Society as special assistant to the executive director. Brandy headed the Wilderness Society from 1964 to 1976. He was one of the driving forces behind the Wilderness Act. During his tenure more than 70 wilderness areas in 31 states were protected by Congress.

Brandy always maintained his ties to the Bitterroot Valley which he returned to in 1986. There he continued his life of environmental activism through the Friends of the Bitterroot and the Bitterrooters for Planning.

He is survived by his 5 children all of Montana who ask that tributes to Brandy be made by participating in the public process, and fighting to protect Wilderness Study Areas and going into the wild.



**ROBERT STEPHENS GIBSON** (Bob) passed away at home on September 25, 2018, surrounded by his loving family. He gave it a great Butte fight, but finally succumbed to heart failure.

Bob was born to Martha and Bob Gibson, Sr., on July 3, 1933, in Everett, Washington. They settled in Butte, Montana, when Bob was two years old. Bob enrolled in Forestry and Land Management at his beloved University of Montana where he graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Forest Management. While at the

U of M he met his wife Carol Kronmiller. He began working for the Forest Service during his summer school breaks. He continued with the USFS until he retired in 1990.

After first assignments in Dillon and Lima, Bob was promoted to Bozeman District Forest Ranger in June 1963. Later Bob was Forest Supervisor on the Helena and the Gallatin National. The Montana Society of Forests elected him "Forester of the Year" and the National Society of Foresters elected him "Fellow". After retirement Bob served two terms on the RMEF board of directors and was an avid volunteer for that group. University of Montana Forestry School awarded him Distinguished Alum status in 2003. Throughout his life, Bob maintained a commitment to his family, his passions of gardening, hunting, fishing, and land and wildlife management issues. Gardening in Bozeman presents many challenges, but Bob never gave up on maintaining his yard, growing delicious vegetables, and caring for his apple trees. He happily shared his bountiful harvest with his neighbors. Bob is survived by his loving wife, Carol, who has cared for and loved him for 65 years, three children; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

In lieu of gifts and flowers, please donate to one of the following organizations that Bob whole heartedly believed in: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation - [RMEF.org](http://RMEF.org), Gallatin Valley Land Trust - [gvl.org](http://gvl.org), University of Montana Alumni Association - [connect.grizalum.com](http://connect.grizalum.com), Montana State University Alumni Association - [msuaf.org](http://msuaf.org), Bozeman Deaconess Hospice - [hospicebozeman.com](http://hospicebozeman.com).



**RON DESJARDINS** (Des) passed away this September in Bozeman. He was the Lincoln District Ranger (Helena National Forest) from 1985 to 1988. After that he was the Gallatin National Forest Planning staff officer. If anyone has any more information please send it to the newsletter editor for the spring newsletter.



## Northern Rocky Mountain Retiree Association

We are still in the process of trying to clean up our various mailing lists. Please fill out the form below so we can update and make corrections as needed. If you are a life member or spouse of a life member and wish to continue receiving the newsletter, please check that box. Future mailings will depend on the completeness of our mailing lists. Because we mail out the newsletter in a bulk mailing, we have no idea if some of them are undeliverable as they do not return to our post office box. If you have friends who have moved please pass on a copy of the newsletter to them so that they can update their mailing information. If you have newly retired friends please encourage them to them join up. If we do not hear back from you, this will be your last newsletter.

### 2019 Membership Dues

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$15 per calendar year. I am including my check for dues \_\_\_\_

Donations are always welcome. I am including a \$\_\_\_\_\_ donation.

I am a life member or spouse of a life member and wish to continue receiving the newsletter, no fee.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed

Make checks payable to:

Northern Rocky Mountain Retiree Association

P.O. Box 3215, Missoula, MT 59806

If you have an email address but would prefer a hard copy mailed to you please indicate below:

I prefer to receive a hardcopy of the newsletter. Yes \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletters will be sent by email unless you indicate above or do not have email. It saves our organization money in printing and mailing cost.



**Northern Rocky Mountain Retiree Association**

P.O. Box 3215  
Missoula, Montana 59806

[Type the recipient name]

[Type the recipient address]