



Joel R Bernatz

August 6, 1939 - September 25, 2022

Joel R. Bernatz, 83, of Chelan, Washington, died at his home on September 25, 2022, following a long illness with Prostate Cancer.

Joel was born August 6, 1939, at Decorah, Iowa, to Robert M. Bernatz and Gertrude M. C. Anderson. He attended school in Decorah, graduating from high school in 1957, "The Best of Times!". After high school, Joel attended Luther College and graduated from Iowa State University with a major in botany and a degree in Forest Management in 1962.

During summers, he slogged his way through school, working on fire suppression crews on the Deschutes National Forest in Oregon and with the Forest Service Smokejumpers in Missoula, Montana.

After college graduation, Joel moved to Lake County, Oregon, and lived in the high desert of Paisley, Oregon. Here he worked on the Fremont National Forest, spending five years doing timber sale layout, cruising, timber stand improvement, and landline restoration. (12 months in the woods and on snowshoes all winter).

In 1967, Joel was transferred to the Chelan Ranger District of the Wenatchee National Forest where he served as the Resource Assistant on the District until his retirement. Thru his long career in the Chelan Ranger District, Joel

witnessed the creation of the North Cascade National Park in 1968, the beginning of the environmental movement, the creation of the Glacier Peak Wilderness, and the boom and bust of the timber industry in NC Washington.

Joel served on the City of Chelan Park Board and PUD Citizen Advisory Committee planning for the PUD Riverwalk Park and Loop Trail.

In late 1968, Joel got lucky and met Bernice A. Holmes at Campbells Lodge in Chelan. He married this cute twin in the Lutheran Church on May 23, 1970. Bernice and Joel have one son, John Erik, born in 1972. John now works in Renton and Moses Lake, WA.

Joel had a special interest in Mineralogy and spent much time in Montana digging for gemstones. Wonderful times were had with son John backpacking and camping with friends in the North Cascades and hiking the special sandstone cracks in Utah. When not hiking, John was on his motorcycle, and together Joel and John had some great adventures in the backcountry on old fire roads and single track. Joel always loved his memories of the few trips to Prince of Wales Island in Alaska fishing halibut with great friends.

Joel leaves his wife, Bernice of the home and son John of Moses Lake, nieces Joslyn Boglioli (Marc) of Vermont, Tahnee Hoag of Pennsylvania, and special niece Chy Mettler (Jeff) of Wenatchee.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Susan L. Cassidy and little brother Kevin. Joel will be cremated and scattered on some productive chukar grounds.

At Joel's request, there will be no service. Memorials, in lieu of flowers, may be made to the Wenatchee Valley Humane Society or a memorial of your choice. Please visit Joel's online memorial page at www.heritagememorialcha

pel.com. Arrangements are in the care of Heritage Memorial Chapel East
Wenatchee.

Tribute Wall

KS

“ *Bernice and John,
My heart aches as I loved this man SO much! My thoughts are with
you both and sending you two love!
xoxo
Kelly "Mann"*

Kelly Stanicar - October 09, 2022 at 04:37 PM

JB

“ *So sorry to hear this. I remember when Joel and Bernice and I went
to check out the botany on Badger MT when Mt. Saint Helens blew.
We thought it was a storm brewing at first. He always had a good
thing to say - most of the time with wit. My heartfelt thoughts go to
you - Bernice and John.*

John Barnes - October 03, 2022 at 03:01 PM

GS

“ *Always enjoyed Joel's company. Thought we were sort of kindred,
born in the summer of 39, enjoyed sports, married horsy Chelan
born women and enjoyed the funny side of life. RIP Joel, Gary
Sterner*

Gary Sterner - October 03, 2022 at 01:27 PM

MD

“ *For Bernice and John, my thoughts and prayers are with you both.
Joel was a wonderful human being, a good friend and co-worker.
Know that we all care for you.*

Myrna Duke - October 03, 2022 at 12:27 AM