



James "Jim" Mearl Winkel

May 27, 1955 - August 05, 2023

James Mearl Winkel was born in Boise, Idaho to Mearl and Mary Winkel on May 27, 1955.

Jim was described by his mom as a 'busy' boy, which was probably a nice way of saying he was always up to something. From family stories his antics included flooding the basement to have a pool, hitting a hole in the drywall of a house that Mearl was building, because he couldn't remember what was in there, packing a pipe with gunpowder, capping it off and lighting it. Thankfully, the pipe was lit on the porch, but they did need a new door afterward. That was probably the first 'explosion' he created, but not the last! He did become much safer however!

He was also very inquisitive. Taking things apart to see how they worked, trying to put them back together (a much harder task than taking them apart!). His father Mearl encouraged and nurtured that interest and soon he was very skilled and confident with nearly anything mechanical, cars, motorcycles, constructing buildings. He became very skilled working with refrigeration and installing potato storage humidity and cooling systems which became a career for roughly 30 years. He even once fixed a printing press for a friend. Even though he'd never seen one, by looking at it and applying all the principles he'd learned over the years, he got it done.

He liked the outdoors and enjoyed hunting, fishing, skiing, snowmobiling and trapshooting. He went on many bird hunting trips with his dad and friends in Eastern Washington with black labs he'd trained, as well as years of annual fishing excursions in Neah Bay. He loved catching the 'big fish'. Once on a bass fishing trip in Kennewick, he caught a fish and said, "This is the bait, let's go to the ocean and catch something big!" In his younger years, he enjoyed riding dirt bikes, and he was on the ski patrol. His family had a cabin on Snoqualmie Pass at Lake Kachess and they spent a great deal of time there when they could, summer for fishing, and hiking. Winter for snowmobiling and spending time with family.

While living and working in Tri-Cities, he met his love, Laura Wynecoop through trapshooting. They both worked during the week and enjoyed being together and going to shoots on the weekends. They were married on November 11, 1989 in Kennewick. They were married just shy of 34 years and half of Jim's life at the time of his passing at age 68.

Jim had an amazing knowledge of guns, not just shotguns. He could identify firearms at a glance and then tell you a variety of ammo loads for it. He enjoyed loading shotgun shells for Laura as well as a variety of rifle and pistol loads. His wish lists for Christmas often included something for reloading or books to learn about something new.

Jim was an accomplished sportsman with many trophies to his name. Whether hunting, fishing, or trapshooting, or just at a family gathering, friends were regaled with his wit and humor. He was always smiling, making people wonder, and sometimes worry, about what he was up to.

September 27, 1997, he became the proud father of Bradley James. As Bradley got older, they

would often rough house, and play games but they had to quit when the son was stronger than the father! They still spent a great deal of time together though, and Jim worked with Bradley, like Mearl had taught Jim, on all things mechanical. Perhaps a key reason Bradley grew up to become a mechanical engineer. The two of them built a 1981 Camaro together. Bradley says that Jim did not touch a thing on the car. He just guided Bradley to do the work. They also had some good times going on trips to hunt and shoot prairie dogs and other varmints, and fishing trips.

Jim is predeceased by his parents, Mearl and Mary, and by his half-brother, Robert Crowe.

He leaves behind his wife Laura, son Bradley, sister Cathy Jeffris, his 'brother by another mother' Jim Gagnon, and numerous nieces, nephews, as well as great nieces and nephews.

Jim passed away quietly at home, which was a blessing considering his many ailments and hospitalizations over the last several years. May he rest in peace.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday October 7, 2023 @12:00 at the Hermiston Gun Club. In Lieu of flowers, a Memorial gift to the American Diabetes Association is appreciated.

Events



CELEBRATION OF LIFE

12:00 PM

Hermiston Gun Club
77034 Gun Club Road,
Hermiston, OR 97838

Tribute Wall

S Stacy Wolfinbarger

You and I met a few weeks before your wedding. We hit it off right away. I remember Jim grilling pork chops that had been marinated in diet coke and ketchup. They were good. I was amazed. He took us to your reloading room. I was so overwhelmed. You had an El Camino that had the funniest bumper sticker I had ever seen. It said, " I have PMS and a hand gun. Don't push it." It still makes me laugh. Once Cass and I had moved to Clarkston, you two would come to Lewiston for the Camas Shoot. We visited with you in between you turns to shoot. yes, I still don't know what that is called. Lol. Cass was 3. She had the roughest time convincing Jim that your dog's color was black. His name was Blue. Those two had so much fun. Much love to you, Stacy Wolfinbarger 🤔🤔

H Hillcrest Funerals and Cremation



B Bernie Oneill

Jim was quite the character! Was hard worker and dedicated to his job and family. When I needed help on storage down you call him he would show up didn't matter if it was day or night. Always showed up with a big cup of soda to wet his whistle while he got the job done. I will miss him!

L Laura Winkel

We appreciate you posting your memory of Jim. He always aimed to please! Yes, he often had a pop for the road. ;)

L Laura Winkel

We appreciate you posting your memory of Jim. He did aim to please! Yes, he always had a pop for the road. ;)

A A Memorial Tree was planted for James "Jim" Mearl Winkel

We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Hillcrest Funerals & Cremation - Kennewick
