



## Robert John Sonn

June 5, 1949 - September 9, 2020

Robert “Bob” Sonn was happily motorcycling his way through retirement when he was blindsided by a devastating condition called ALS. It progressed quickly and robbed him of his voice, ability to eat, and his mobility. He was lovingly cared for by his wife, Anita, Lumina Hospice, and the Visiting Angels of Willamette Valley. Bob passed away on September 9, 2020 at his home outside of Philomath. Bob and Anita were married for thirty five years. He is also survived by his daughter, Rachel Sonn (LA) and his stepson, Bob Cook (CA).

Bob retired as a microbiologist from the OSU Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Laboratory in 2004. He lovingly tolerated his wife’s love of the color purple. He loved his sweet, adorable pit-bull, Danny. In addition to motorcycle touring of our beautiful scenic highways, he loved spending time with friends and watching the wildlife attracted to his pond. He enjoyed drinking beer, anything having to do with trains, and watching hummingbirds.

So friends, drink a beer to good times, good memories, and “miles of smiles” to all motorcycle riders. A memorial will be planned at a later time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please share your thoughts, memories, and photos at [www.mchenryfuneralhome.com](http://www.mchenryfuneralhome.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ Anita,

*I was so sorry to hear of Bob's passing.  
I will always remember Bob and smile.  
Glad you had so many good years together.*

*Lorie Kennerly*

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**Lorie Kennerly** - September 21, 2020 at 04:39 PM

KB

“ Bob got us started with the No Whiners group and going to Ralleys we could never agree on the best way to go so we just agree to be there on a certain day. Great times. I attached a photo from the 49 r rally and a Oregon 500. No tickets No wrecks Bob...



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**Kevin Bartholomew** - September 21, 2020 at 03:57 PM

JW

*Wonderful memories of Bob, thanks for the photos, Kevin.  
Jan Wells  
Formerly from OSU-VDL in Corvallis*

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**Jan Wells** - July 07, 2023 at 11:50 AM

BQ

“ I met Bob in 1978 while working together at the OSU Veterinary Diagnostic Lab. He was a great mentor to me, and we became good friends. With his encouragement, I bought a motorcycle, and we had many great adventures cruising around the Corvallis area. Rides up to Mary's Peak and Alsea Falls are especially memorable. We ended up renting a house together for several months, until a new owner of the property wanted to occupy the house, and booted us out. When I got married, Bob was one of my groomsmen. I don't think he liked wearing the tuxedo very much, but check out the photo....he cleaned up real nice! Cruise on, Bob.



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**Bob Quintt** - September 19, 2020 at 01:05 PM

RI

“ Anita, I'm so sorry for your loss. Bob was one of the nicest guys I've ever met. I looked forward to his stories and politics every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at Block 15. Nobody gave better directions than Bob, (even if you really didn't use them). He never knew a stranger.

*I'm very grateful for his friendship.*

*I'm also thankful for meeting you and Danny.*

*I will really miss him.*

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**Rich** - September 18, 2020 at 08:59 PM

DC

“ Great party 1969



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**Dona Cruse** - September 17, 2020 at 11:13 PM

HH

“ Anita,

*So sorry to read of Bob's passing.*

*He was a dear friend and I enjoyed his friendship immensely during our years we worked together at School of Vet-Med (1974 - 1988). It was his encouragement that helped me decide to interview for a post-doc position at CDC back when I was in grad-school at OSU.*

*We had great times together, we once torched a room full of maggots (~2" deep) we found in the old incinerator room from a cow left over the weekend in the middle of summer; when he rebuilt his '52 Chevy pickup.....I remember pulling it around an empty parking lot in Corvallis to turn the engine over....but it wouldn't start because the distributor was 180 degrees out; we also buried a buffalo head out on my property in King's Valley....we were going to make 'big-bucks' selling it to a country/western bar.....it ended up being mounted on the hood of an ole TE-20 Fordson tractor, I had rebuilt.*

*My deepest condolences for your loss,*

*Harvey*

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**Harvey T Holmes** - September 17, 2020 at 07:25 PM

WH

“ 1 file added to the album Photos



Wayne Horner - September 17, 2020 at 01:58 PM

DC

“ Picture of Dona Lela Bobby and Rodney on Bobby and Anita wedding and a cute thank you note. So many great memories have been coming to mine love you



Dona Cruse - September 17, 2020 at 03:20 AM

DC

“ Bobby and Dona Lela seating behind me 1969. At my parents back yard.



Dona Cruse - September 17, 2020 at 02:11 AM

DC

“ We moved to Grayslake Illinois i was working at JCPenney's when I met Bobby's dad's family it was so cool to connect . I saw their last name Sonn asked her if they had family in Fair Oaks California. It was them.

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**Dona Cruse** - September 15, 2020 at 11:31 PM

DC

“ Sorry to hear Anita, sending our love to you. I remember when Bobby got his first car he was so proud of that car his dad and him worked on it a lot. In the evening we all would seat on the split rail fencing between our houses talk and listen to music. When he painted his car baby blue. When he got his first motor cycle. The day that Bobby left for Army his mom Mary was so proud him. We had so much fun growing up next door. Bobby help me learn how to drive my car. Yell at me that the light was green and I would stop. My sisters and I were the are the only ones that was allowed to call him Bobby. I remember the day that Bobby became a dad he was so proud of his baby girl. Remember going up to Oregon for Bobby and Anita's wedding it was a beautiful day I was able to get a picture of them sneaking out on the motorcycle. Anita I will be here for you. Rachel and Jacob I'll be here for you to also love you all

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**Dona Cruse** - September 15, 2020 at 11:24 PM

PE

“ Anita -  
So sorry to hear of Bob's death. My memories of him are as a microbiology mentor - he knew so much! And his love of motorcycles and a good joke or prank. I remember when he came back from a road trip, sporting a pierced earring! He finally admitted it was magnetic - he wanted to get peoples reactions.

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**Peggy** - September 15, 2020 at 06:40 PM

JW

😊. Great memories of Bob. He really did love a good joke!

Jan Wells - July 07, 2023 at 12:03 PM

AN

“ 4 files added to the album Photos



Anita - September 14, 2020 at 02:09 PM

DC

Great photos of Bobby

Dona Cruse - September 15, 2020 at 11:26 PM

JW

Dear Anita and family,  
I am so sorry about Bob's passing. I know that you worked hard to set up the best possible situation in your home for Bob. Bob had been so willing to share his time, his truck, and his muscles to assist the Benton County Democrats over the years. He was always willing to share his thoughts on people, places, and things. He will be greatly missed by many. Our thoughts are with you.  
Janet Wolf-Eshe

Janet Wolf-Eshe - September 16, 2020 at 01:34 PM

MK

“ Dear Anita and family,

*So shocked to read of Bob's death. So, so many fun memories of Bob, motorcycle days and parties at your house. Best memory of Bob (and Jon) was my 50th birthday party when Bob came in "costume," dressed as a Spaghetti Western character; serape, spurs, black hat, cigarillo, etc. We heard the spurs jingling long before we saw him. It was so funny. He was a great story teller and entertainer, with his side-kick Jon, they could entertain me for forever!*

*My thoughts are with you and hope that your memories will sustain you through your grief.*

*Margaret "Maggie" Kotyo*

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**Margaret Kotyo** - September 12, 2020 at 01:28 PM

SF

“ So sad to hear of Bob's death, when we worked together at veterinary medicine many years ago, I thoroughly enjoyed his humor as well as professionalism. He will be greatly missed.

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**Sue Fisher** - September 11, 2020 at 06:06 PM

DG

“ Anita and family,

*I was so sorry to hear about Bob's death, but I am glad that he is no longer suffering.*

*David Grube*

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**David Grube** - September 11, 2020 at 01:48 PM