



## Ronald Ender

June 19, 1964 - May 8, 2025

Ronald Jon Ender died unexpectedly on Thursday May 8, 2025 in Corvallis, Oregon. He was born on June 19, 1964 to Mahlan and Ardelle Ender of La Crosse, Wisconsin. He was 60 years old.

Ron grew up in La Crosse and spent summers at his family's cabin in rural southeast Minnesota. He graduated from Central High School in 1982. Ron attended college at UW-Madison, graduating with bachelor's and master's degrees in Mechanical Engineering. He made his home in Corvallis, Oregon where he had a 30-year career with Hewlett Packard working on inkjet printers and related technology. He loved collaborating with his colleagues, and was proud to be named alongside them on more than 30 U.S. patents.

Ron was fun-loving and adventurous, kind and warm-hearted, and had a great sense of humor. He loved living in Oregon and had many interests outside of work. He was an enthusiastic motorcycle rider and enjoyed tinkering with his fleet. As a member of the Flat Mountain Riders Association, he helped maintain trails and access in local forests and wild lands. The Alsea hills and Starker Forests were favorite places to hit the trails with friends. Ron always enjoyed water sports, canoeing and camping. He loved to sail his retro Lido sailboat and crew with friends on race nights at Fern Ridge Reservoir. Another favorite activity was camping in the Alvord Desert and racing wind-powered land yachts. He had been a Battlebot competitor, was an expert "garagineer,"

and could fix most anything. He liked to spend time helping his cousin Sarah Edwardsson and her husband Ken work on their farm outside Corvallis. He played bass in the "Red Horse Band," was a great singer and enjoyed having beers with friends.

Ron was an active member of Heart of the Valley Homebrewers Association. He was a valued volunteer at their annual Septemberfest event, a benefit for the Linn-Benton Food Share and other local charities.

Ron was married to Kristina Lange of Corvallis for 20 years. He was preceded in death by his father Mahlan Ender. He is survived by his mother Ardelle Ender, brother David (Tami) Ender of Lake City, Minnesota and sister Mary (Andy) Stutesman of La Crosse. Ron was a beloved uncle to many nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, and grand-nephews. He cherished each day spent working and relaxing at the family cabin, and every evening spent around the campfire with those he loved.

Ron's friends and their families are invited to celebrate his life at a picnic on Thursday, June 19th at Adair Park. We will be gathering at Shelters A and B from 4 to 8 pm, with barbecue served at 6 pm. You are welcome to bring a dish to share and your beverage of choice. Soft drinks will be provided.

Donations in Ron's memory can be sent to Riders for Health, the charity he named in his will. [www.riders.org](http://www.riders.org)

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUN **19**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM.

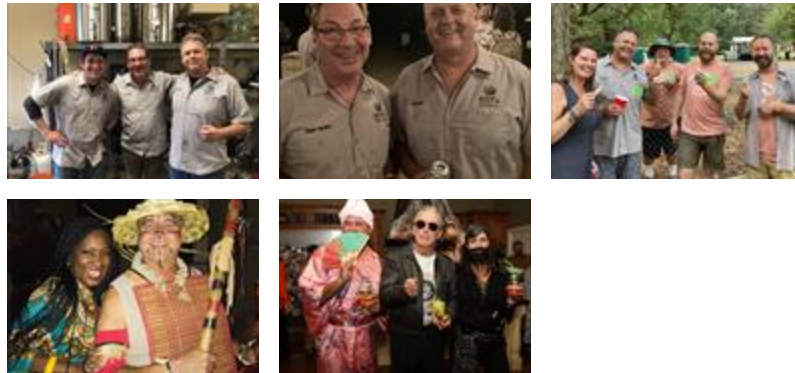
Adair Park Shelters A and B

# Tribute Wall

DB

“ Ron’s face would light up and he’d give me a genuine hug each and every time we met. He was my partner in crime at the HOTV beer meetings since we both enjoyed our big, boozy barrel aged beers. Ron always slid right in and was up for all of the girl talk. While we were at a the KLCC beer fest in Eugene, we got reiki treatments were told we were a lovely couple which made us both grin. I will miss him at the group brews and I’ll remember to drink a toast to him at Septemberfest this summer.

*Ron was always excited to dress up and dance at our annual Halloween and holiday parties. I’ll dry my eyes and attach some pictures to make everyone smile! I do miss Ron terribly.*



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**Dawn Brant** - June 16, 2025 at 07:48 PM



“ Ron and I have been friends for over 20 years. We only saw each other once or maybe twice in a year, always during a 4x4 adventure and later in the day around a campfire. Every time we told stories and talked about all the possible adventures we could do together in the following year. Even though we rarely spoke, he always made me feel like we were the best of friends. He was kind, generous, and had a very real zest for life that was infectious.

Ron was kind and patient with my kids. He would share his snacks with them and let them drive his truck (a highlight of a recent trip for my son). He mentioned more than once to them how lucky they were to be included in our adventures, and he made an effort to make it special for them.

Last year we went on a motorcycle adventure together for the first time. It was something we had talked about for years prior. Ron had me in stitches. We had a long day in the saddle, riding until everyone was spent and well after dark. Ron was tired and wanted to stop but was cracking jokes and had me nearly falling off my bike laughing so hard. We finally made camp on a hilltop with a great view but discovered the ground was littered with old cans from years gone by. Ron's comment? "Interesting riding with you guys. Ride until after dark, camp in a dump!"

I can tell from the comments of his other friends that I missed an opportunity not spending more time with Ron.

He was very special.

Happy trails, Ron.



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David Capell - May 30, 2025 at 01:51 PM

K(

“ Ron was the best adopted uncle! He and my dad have been best friends as long as I've been alive. I'm beyond blessed to have had him as a bonus influence in my life who grew into an amazing friend as I became older.

*He will be greatly missed.*



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**Kara Wentland (Vaillancourt)** - May 22, 2025 at 11:18 PM

MH

“ 3 files added to the album Photo Album



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**Mark Haines** - May 19, 2025 at 05:24 PM

CP

“ I met Ron in Madison in the late 1980s, and I feel fortunate to have stayed in touch with him over the decades. Ron made friends wherever he went. A few years ago, while we were canoeing, a sudden wind kicked up. I thought we were fine, but Ron, sensing more danger than I had, flagged down a passing boat that got us safely back to shore. By the time we got there, he had turned those strangers into friends—classic Ron.

Ron was a silver lining of the pandemic for me. He reached out in later 2020 when he was feeling a bit isolated (weren't we all), and our video calls became something I looked forward to regularly—reminiscing about Madison when we were all young and dumb (Essen Haus & slam polka dancing, Free Hot Lunch at Club de Wash, The Terrace). We swapped music, made dinner, had a few cocktails, watched his motorcycle movies, and had lots of laughs. All the simple things that made us feel connected and less isolated during Covid.

As the world reopened, I saw him during work trips to Oregon, including a final, unexpected visit in July 2024 when I was "stranded" in Oregon for 24 hours after the airline systems shut down. I'm so grateful I made that call for one last in person conversation and one of his big bear hugs.

*Till we meet again, my friend.*



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Carol Pfeiffer - May 17, 2025 at 01:11 PM

AN

“ Ron's memorial service in La Crosse on Saturday, May 17 11am Central will be live streamed and should be available here: <https://www.oursaviorslutheranchurch.net/live-stream/>

Andrew - May 16, 2025 at 11:12 PM



“ This poem sums up what my brother Ron is and was to me:

*“When it was dark, you always carried the sun in your hand for me”*

Mary Ender - May 16, 2025 at 09:44 PM

CF

“ How do I even begin. I have known Ron since we were young troublemakers back in LaCrosse. Early on and all thru High School we could be seen hanging out often. Our time with the many choirs we sang together in are precious memories I still hold near and dear to my Heart. Ron stood up as the best man at our wedding some 32 years ago as well, best man indeed. Every time Ron dropped into our lives over the years it was like we had just seen each other. Ron will be missed!

*To the family I got to know so many years ago. My sincere condolences to you all. Know that Ron made a difference wherever he was. His energy and fun loving spirit was infectious!*

*See you on the other side Budd. Save a 6 pack of Special Export Lite and bag of Dorito's for me!*

*Chris Forer*

Christopher Forer - May 16, 2025 at 06:33 PM

ME

“ I was the lucky woman who got to know and love Ron in the past few years. He was such a gentle, warm and caring man with more than a touch of the wild side in him — a side I never really saw, but loved hearing tales about. Ron brought me back to life after too many of my own losses and showed me how love again. I'll be forever grateful for his friendship, his hugs, and all the simple little things we did together. Love you so much, Ron. Thanks for a wonderful ride.



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**Mary Beth Earley** - May 14, 2025 at 03:35 PM

KE

“ We knew Ron through a variety of connections. It does seem that Wisconsin folk seem to find each other somehow! We would have crossed over with him in LaCrosse and UW Madison, as well as HP; and then it took various mutual friends to bring us together here in Oregon.

He was a fantastic guy. He gave great hugs, and was always a fun and entertaining party addition. His costumes were hilarious! We will miss his big, lovable presence. And we extend our condolences to his other friends, and especially his family, who will miss him so much.

*Cheers to Ron!*

*Kristin and Jim Ellenson*

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**KRISTIN LB ELLENSON** - May 13, 2025 at 10:39 PM



“ 23 files added to the album Photo Album



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**Norman Pawlowski** - May 13, 2025 at 08:25 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Photo Album



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**Tod Woodford** - May 13, 2025 at 11:26 AM

BU

“ *Ron was a Great Friend! 1st ever BWCA trip was with Ron. We thought getting close to a Cow moose would be Cool. Then the calf showed up...Paddle faster brother, She's (Cow) not Happy with Stupid Humans!*

*Canoed the Wisconsin River from last dam at Sauk Prairie to the confluence of Wisconsin and Mississippi... 105 river miles.*

*Rock Climbed the bluffs at Devils Lake State Park; Ron cleaned my lead after his short time climbing.*

*More stories in my memory than I could share here and some left unsaid. ;)*

*Grateful to have had (past tense, So Hard to Say) Ron as a part of my Family!!*

*Looking forward to meeting you again Ron on the other side!*

*Till then my Friend.*

*Barry R. Unke*

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**Barry R. Unke** - May 10, 2025 at 08:17 PM