



Joel B Starr

October 3, 1946 - August 14, 2015

Joel B. Starr, of Albany, age 68, died Friday, August 14, 2015.

Joel wore many hats: Husband, father, Christian, grandfather of 4, brother, friend, neighbor, log truck driver, graduate for, OSU 1969 BS, Freightliner production engineer, mechanic, millwright, foreman, welder, machinist, partner of Mechanical Design, Inc., volunteer, survivor, hunter, mentor, and trail boss. He was awarded USFS Volunteer of the year 2011 at Mt. St. Helens. He worked for Quantum Engineering Design on concept designs for the US military. Joel is survived by those who loved him. Service will be held at noon on Sept., 29th at Philomath Community Church, 145 N. 14th Street, Philomath, followed by a potluck luncheon. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to Philomath Community Church, Oregon Equestrian Trails or Safe Haven Animal Rescue.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

AUG **29**. 12:00 PM (PT)

Philomath Community Church
145 North 14th Street
Philomath, OR 97370

Potluck to follow service

AUG **29** (PT)

Philomath Community Church
145 North 14th Street
Philomath, OR 97370

Tribute Wall

SL

“ I think I had heard Joel Starr's name a lot, as soon as I joined OET about 12 years ago. Finally, at a state round up I met Joel happily tending his elaborate display of cross-cut saws, pack saddles, and other information. Later, when our North Valley chapter of OET wished we could have at least ONE cross-cut saw in our trail-clearing arsenal, Joel and David Roe came through. We took a group picture at one meeting of many of us holding one of those lovely saws, and sent it to Joel and his family, just after he had suffered his stroke. It was bittersweet to me to see his handiwork in that amazingly sharp saw that was ready to go to work, but to also know that at the time we couldn't tap into Joel's data bank of knowledge about the saw and how to operate it. I was happy to hear later that Joel had rallied and was gaining strength every month. OET has lost an icon of back country knowledge and we will always be in his debt for the service and commitment he had to trails in the Pacific Northwest. Rest in Peace, Joel... and when you're rested up, get out there and gallop through the trails of heaven!

Stacy Livermore - August 29, 2015 at 01:34 AM

AN

“ Back in 1998, when I first moved to Oregon, Joel and the Starrs became my second family. I think I knew I was accepted when I gave him a 2 liter of Dr. Pepper and a family sized bag of peanut M&Ms.

One of my favorite memories was getting to take a picture in front of his truck with his 50-calibur gun. I still look at that picture and giggle over my silly self holding that big beast and being vaguely terrified of it, but not wanting to look like it.



aj nordall - August 28, 2015 at 06:51 PM

JK

“ Joel was a great mentor and friend. He looked for the good in everything. He loved to work hard and figure out problems. I remember the trail clearing Brian is talking about below at Seven Mile; I was a part of that clearing group. We arrived at the tangle of trees down on the trail and root wads hanging on the hill side above it. I was worried; I looked at Joel he was smiling ear to ear. He so loved a challenge. He asked us to tell him how we thought we should tackle it. Then gave us advice if we had unsafe ideas. Safety and getting the job done right were top priorities with Joel. What I had originally thought would be impossible especially in a day, we accomplished that day with everything going just as Joel expected.

The next spring I went to the Allingham trail clearing skills college, as Joel requested and he certified me to use the crosscut saw. During the certification class he brought us to a log full of bind and tension, in a terrible snarl. He asked us "Is this safe enough for you to clear if you came across it on the trail?" I looked and saw that same smile on his face, I said yes if we have Joel Starr with us on that volunteer work party!

I always knew Joel to love to work hard; if he wasn't sweating or bleeding he wasn't happy.

Jodi Knutson - August 28, 2015 at 09:49 AM

LG

“ Lisa Gomez lit a candle in memory of Joel B Starr



lisa gomez - August 26, 2015 at 08:29 PM

LG

“ i have worked with joel clearing trails with OET for several years before he became ill. we rode, cleared trail, camped and had a great time with the whole group. what a hard worker he was! my fondest memory of him was in reference to a gelding i had aquired and was riding on one of our outings in the three pyramids. those of you who knew joel understood his love for the longeared kind. me being not so sure i liked this gelding of mine I often refered to him as my short eared mule. on this paticular trail clearing Joel had turned to me and said " now you got you a good horse!" he was so impressed with the surefootedness of my horse. this compliment ment so very much to me that i continue to keep and ride my short eared gelding. when joel gave you a complement you knew you earned. he once told me " you take the horses out and bring them back broke or dead!" refering to me often taking our green rookie horses out on such trips. i will surley miss him.

lisa gomez - August 26, 2015 at 08:26 PM

BM

“ Lots of good memories working with Joel and OET on the Santiam Wagon Road and the Old Cascades Crest Trails on the Sweet Home Ranger District. Joel was, no surprise to you all, a remarkable man and a great team player. the South Pyramid Ck horse camp exists through Joel's persistent guidance. And Sevenmile Horse camp was kept in top shape throughout his tenure. I particularly remember an ugly snarl of blowdown on the Sevenmile hill section of the Santiam Wagon Road. I was convinced we would need contract cutters to untangle a mess of root wads and bound up stems looming over the trail. Joel assured me he would look it over and consider taking it on if it seemed safe. That was the trip where an OET member had his cynch come loose and he rotated sideways to be pinched between his horse and a tree. The end report from Joel was.....it was a mess but we got her done. Joel you were an wonderful partner for the forest service and I miss you light spirit a lot. Bless you my friend. Brian.

Brian McGinley - August 26, 2015 at 03:08 PM

AH

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Amy Huskey - August 24, 2015 at 11:52 PM

JL

“ I can't think of just one memory but, I will share this. Joel took Trail Boss to another level. If there was a challenge out there he would find a way to get it done.

He will be greatly missed and Ben and I owe him and Marcel a lot. They helped us through difficult time and showed us how important Faith was along with hard work and commitment to one another. We love you Starr.

Jacque Lusk - August 24, 2015 at 02:02 PM

AH

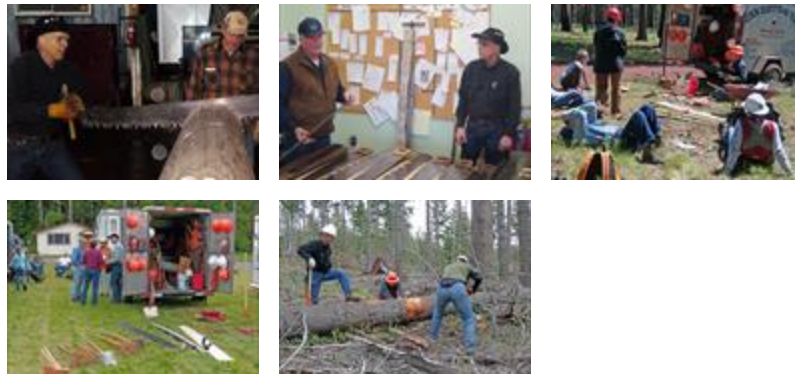
“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album




Amy Huskey - August 20, 2015 at 12:26 AM

David
Roe

“ 6 files added to the album New Album Name



David Roe - August 19, 2015 at 09:52 PM



David
Roe

“ Joel Starr ignited my passion for crosscut saws.

Before I met Joel, my trail logout experience was limited almost exclusively to chainsaws. I had participated in a number of wilderness logouts but was left unsatisfied by these projects. I did not have the necessary skills or the appropriate, well-maintained tools. After attending one of Joel's workshops, I quickly discovered that when these saws are properly sharpened and used correctly, they can cut through old-growth logs with minimum effort and are a true joy to use. Over the years, I have subsequently worked with other crosscut experts across the west coast, but to this day, my own technique still primarily reflects Joel's methods.

Joel used his amazing engineering skills to redesign vintage equipment. The lightweight underbucker design currently used by the USFS, NPS and volunteer organizations resulted from Joel's desire to equip today's crews with key equipment no longer readily available on the market.

Joel was one of the original Volunteer Saw Instructors in the very first saw certification program approved by the US Forest Service. He taught an entire generation of trail volunteers how to safely and effectively remove blowdowns from trails using only traditional hand tools.

In addition to his skills as a sawyer, Joel was also an expert rigger. He worked tirelessly to ensure that we all had the necessary skills to do this hazardous job safely. Even after suffering a stroke at Trail Skills College, Joel was back the following year to ensure that the class was continued.

When Joel arrived at the trailhead pulling the OET trailer, the crews always knew that the crosscuts to be packed in would be razor-sharp and that no matter how complex the cutting scenario, Joel would have a workable solution. And Joel always showed up: he was there in blowing snow, heavy rain and summer heat.

Joel's boots will be very hard to fill. May he wander the great forest in peace.

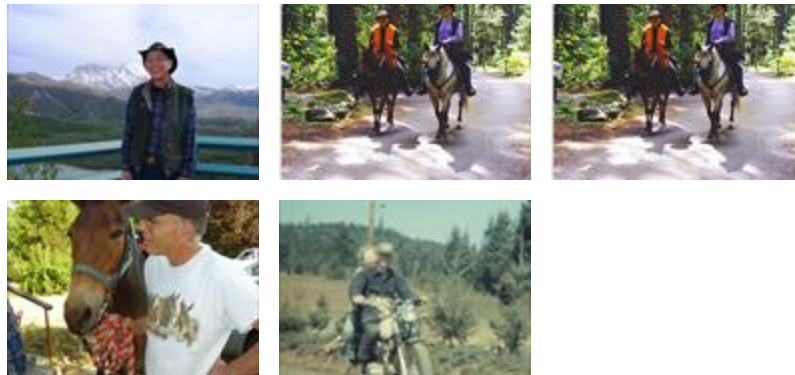
David Roe (Underbucker)



David Roe - August 19, 2015 at 01:54 PM

AH

“ 8 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Amy Huskey - August 19, 2015 at 01:43 PM

AH

“ 1 file added to the *tribute wall*



Amy Huskey - August 19, 2015 at 11:17 AM

JM

“ Dear Marcie and family,
I was saddened to learn of Joel's passing and wish to extend my condolences to you and your family. Myself and the rest of of your Student Health Service family will keep you in our prayers.

Sincerely,
Judy McCann

Judy McCann - August 19, 2015 at 10:35 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory - August 18, 2015 at 04:42 PM

TC

“ All of us at Timber Supply are sad to hear that Joel passed away. He will always be remembered by each and every one of us here. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Sincerely,
Timber Supply Staff

Timber Supply Co. - August 18, 2015 at 09:14 AM

AH

Thank you Timber Supply Staff for your support. Dad always loved stopping by your shop to chat. We will all miss him dearly.
-Amy and the Starr Family

Amy Huskey - August 19, 2015 at 01:09 AM

DA

How do I pick one memory of you Uncle J. you were and always will be very special to me. You always told me I need to leave my county, I know it was to come see you. The Christmas's we had together, dinners, riding the mules, the things you would share with me. Life will not be the same without you. Say hi to Roy and Dale for me and be waiting for me at the gate to welcome me home. forever in my heart

debbie anderson - August 19, 2015 at 11:02 PM

BP

*To the Starr family,
It was a pleasure to have known Joel and I always enjoyed working with him. Thoughts of deepest Sympathy are with you and yours at this time. Although no words of sympathy can ease the loss you bear, still may you find some comfort in the thought that others care. Bradford and Pat Schroyer*

Brad and Pat - August 24, 2015 at 05:23 PM

BD

Oregon Equestrian Trails has some big boots to fill with Joel's passing. Silver Falls chapter saw the tool trailer that he had for using at work parties and knew we had to have one. I only did one work party with him, but I was very impressed. He helped us to safely take down a BIG bridge. With out his help, it would have been very dangerous, if not impossible. He will be missed, for sure!

bonnie depriest - August 25, 2015 at 10:34 AM

HA

Thanks to all for the support and love showed to my family and myself. We miss his enthusiasm and fortitude and adventuresome spirit along with many other characteristics. Bless you for sharing his life with us. Marcele Starr and Family

HarrietteStarr - September 08, 2015 at 01:01 PM