

Gordon Arwine will always be remembered as a kind gentle soul who was loved by all who knew him...



Gordy Arwine passed away on August 5, 2025, after spending his last years cared for at his home by his daughter Laurel Arwine. His family cherished him as their guiding light, and he loved all the years he had with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Gordy was born in Seattle on July 26, 1934, to Jack and Marion Arwine and grew up with his older brother Roy in the Pacific Northwest. As a family, they enjoyed the waters, the beaches, and the mountains as their playground, which led Gordy to a lifelong pursuit of the beautiful outdoors of Washington State.

Loyalty, honor, and service ... He became an Eagle Scout in 1953; he was a longtime member of the Mountaineers; and he served on several boards related to skiing and mountaineering to help develop the sports he loved. He served our country in the Navy and Naval Air Reserves for 8 years, part of the time as a radar technician on the USS Midway.

Professionally, Gordy worked for Pacific NW Bell/Century Link for over 35 years. Gordy and Sharon were married on June 1, 1960, and raised their 3 daughters Dana, Laurel, and Noel to love the world of the mountains and Puget Sound. In his later years, he helped build their dream house on Harstine Island in South Puget Sound. He lived there until his passing.

Gordy became interested in skiing while attending Lincoln High School in Seattle. He became a PSIA Certified Level 2 ski instructor in 1955 and a Level 3 shortly thereafter. He

taught skiing for 42 years. Gordy would teach skiing one day and patrol the next, also serving as Ski Patrol Examiner. He met his future wife, Sharon, at Stevens Pass in 1955. She was a first aid advisor and secretary of the NW Regional Ski Patrol. He was a ski school Supervisor for Jack Nagel. When Crystal Mountain opened in 1962, Jack Nagel moved his ski school to Crystal and the Arwines followed. They put 25,000 miles on their VW Bug, driving each weekend to Crystal from November to May. As their attachment to Crystal Mountain grew, they eventually purchased shares of Crystal Mountain Founders Club Stock to help support the developing ski area.

Gordy was truly an inspirational skier. Everybody wanted to ski like Gordy! He was a clinician, a Crystal Demo-Team Member, a Technical Director and a Level 1 Examiner. Eventually, Gordy and Sharon purchased the Ski School from Jack Nagel in 1978, renaming it Star Skiers. It ran as one of the best ski schools in the Northwest for over 25 years teaching more than 30,000 kids the fundamentals of the sport. Their 3 daughters, Dana, Laurel, and Noel all competed in ski races and taught skiing, benefiting from the mountain lifestyle and lifelong friends. Gordy was elected to two terms on the Board of Professional Ski Instructors of America and was a certified member of PSIA for 60 years, achieving alumni status. Both Gordy and Sharon were inducted into the Crystal Mountain Founders Club Hall of Fame in June 2005. They also each served as Presidents of the Capital Ski Club. To honor the Arwines' contributions to the Crystal Mountain Ski area, in 2013, Crystal Mountain named a ski run after Gordy and Sharon. Arwine's Run pays tribute to one of the areas that Star Skiers taught so many young skiers to love skiing. When Gordy wasn't skiing at Crystal, he and Sharon enjoyed Bachelor in Oregon and Sun Valley in Idaho. For many seasons, Gordy went to The Ancient Skiers annual reunion week in Sun Valley to ski with so many old friends.

Gordy, Sharon, and their family attended their first Seabeck Family Camp in 1978. They continued to spend the week on Hood Canal at the Seabeck Conference Center each July with their extended family and developed incredible lifelong friends. The Arwine's were major supporters and donors to the entire Conference Center. Gordy will always be in the hearts of each Family Camper as they reflect on the wonderful summers gone by.

*Please reflect on the many memories of Gordy Arwine created in this video: [Gordon Arwine Memorial Slide Show](#). He will always be missed by those who knew him throughout his 91 years.

*If you wish to honor Gordy, the family requests a donation to Seabeck Conference Center and Family Camp, please click this link: [Memorial Donation in honor of Gordy Arwine](#)

*Messages to the Arwine family can be sent to: laurelarwine@gmail.com



This tribute was created with love by Laurel Arwine, Dana Brienza, and Michelle Burkheime

