



Gary Edwin Baker

April 9, 1962 - October 27, 2020

Gary Edwin Baker, 58, of Aumsville, Oregon passed away Tuesday, October 27 due to complications from a brain tumor. He was born in Salem, Oregon to Charles and Marge Baker. Gary graduated from Cascade High School where he was admired by both teachers and classmates. His love of competition drove him to be an All-State running back and leader of his team. His musical talent and love of guitar gave him the opportunity to perform in many musical venues while growing up.

He went directly from high school to earn an associate's degree in electronics from Chemeketa Community College. Shortly after, he moved to San Diego to live with his brother Brian and take a job as a computer technician. It was also here that he came to develop a passion for surfing and an appreciation of the ocean. He took a job fishing in Alaska during several summers which allowed him to continue his education at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where he earned his bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering in 1992. Gary met Rebecca Paxton on campus and worked tirelessly to bring her into his life.

The young couple was married in a simple ceremony in Salem on March 29, 1991, and they would spend the rest of his life together raising their two beautiful children. At the age of five, his parents gifted him a guitar, and throughout his life, he continued to hone his skills. He was a passionate musician and found music to be a source of comfort in both harmony and

dissonance. He was part of numerous bands during his lifetime, beginning with the energy and intensity of rock as a young man and ending with a preference for the complexity and beauty of jazz. He played in the Newport community with the bands Chance Planet and Original Face and wrote ballads for his daughter's modern dance performances. Gary was equally as passionate about his career. His work as a power system control engineer meant that many were dependent upon his knowledge and skill. He worked many years in his industry as a consulting engineer and the last 16 years as a highly respected independent engineering consultant. His common sense and "farm boy" skills combined with his unquenchable thirst for knowledge helped him excel in his field.

Some of Gary's life's joys included learning to fly, trail riding and rebuilding cars for friends and family. Despite his busy schedule, he found the time to coach his son in youth sports and donated his musical talent to enhance his daughter's dance and theater passions. He was always generous with his time and willing to lend a hand to anyone in need.

Gary was preceded in death by his father Charles and his mother Marge. He is survived by his wife Rebecca, his children Madelyn and Maxfield, and his five brothers Chuck (Donna), Devon (Karen), Alan (Maryanne), Brian (Cathi) and Perry (Kim). A celebration of life will be held this summer with live music, festivities and friends... stay tuned...

Tribute Wall



“ 2 files added to the album *Lori Paxton*



Bateman Newport LLC - June 29, 2023 at 12:20 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *John Turman*



Bateman Newport LLC - June 29, 2023 at 12:20 PM



“ 2 files added to the album *Becky*



Bateman Newport LLC - June 29, 2023 at 12:20 PM



“ 59 files added to the album Rebecca Baker



Bateman Newport LLC - June 29, 2023 at 12:19 PM



“ Heidi just sent me this notice a moment ago. We are both in shock, she was in Garys class, Jazz Band, etc, I knew his folks as went to church with them. Alan was in my class at Cascade. We are so sorry for your loss Becky, I wish we had known sooner. God Bless you and your family

Andy Rusten - February 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM



“ Becky..I am sorry to hear about your husband. I have tried for many years to find you. We lived in apartments in Incline Village and went to school together. I spoke with your mom many, many years ago and tried to get ahold of you through her, but failed. Would love to catch up if you have time. Jeni Davis Jenik62@comcast.net

Jeni Davis Kimball - May 24, 2022 at 12:00 AM



“ Thank you Loren for your thoughtfulness

Becky - December 23, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BE

“❤️❤️ Thank you Lisa

Becky - December 23, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ In the early years of 2000 I met Becky when I became a board member of Oceana. The added bonus of meeting Becky was Gary. Gary, a stellar human being, he personified kindness, humbleness, sharing, giving and insight. I have always felt the warmth and depth of being welcome. Some of the times I got to spend with Gary was a time of pondering the possibilities of what may be possible and how those possibilities may be achieved. There seemed to exist many reasonable paths that may help make the world a more efficient place. Sharing great meals, good beer and a occasional taste of smooth whiskey, along with smiles, great company, dogs and Dingos also. I have and always will be impressed with Gary's multiple skills and abilities coupled with such genuine enthusiasm. Life is a journey that eventually ends, but the influence, memories and the effects will always be with me. Thank you for sharing part of your life with me. Loren

Loren Wand - December 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ Gary Edwin Baker

December 10, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ So many great memories. Gary was always calm with a "lets have fun" attitude and warm smile. He and Becky were gracious hosts for the family reunions on their property. Loved the campfire chats and Gary's guitar playing. His love for family and friends will forever be remembered. Miss you Gary!

Lori Paxton - December 09, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ Great pictures Becky!!

Lisa Woosley - December 07, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ What a great story and I can 'see' Gary's enthusiasm as you share this memory!

Lisa Woosley - December 07, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ Many years ago this sweet couple, (one with a long ponytail and it was not Becky ;) and two darling children, stepped into the salon I worked at in Waldport Oregon. At the time, unable to take new clients, I was drawn to Gary and Becky and there began a 20 year friendship. Maybe not the same as some friendships, but with our every 5 to 7 week visits/appointments we watched each others children grow up, jobs alter, marriages mature. We talked of family, friends, music, health, pasts and future hopes. We had many a deep conversation on varied subjects and I loved that we did not just talk simple, surface talk. I knew when Gary came in there would be banter with both talking and genuine listening on both sides. I came to know him as a man who took pride in his career and abilities, (for good reason) joy in his music and various hobbies, but his genuine love and greatest pride as long as I knew him was for his family. I am honored to have had Gary as a part of my life and to have been a small part of his. Gary and I talked about my desire to learn to play guitar. At one of his last appointments he gifted me with a sweet guitar he and Becky had found at a 2nd hand store while on a trip. Such a kind and thoughtful gesture and every time I see it I am reminded of, and grateful for, his presense in my life. Much love Becky to you Madelyn and Max

Lisa Woosley - December 07, 2020 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ i have had the wonderful pleasure of meeting and spending time with Gary the last few years. Through family and friends and found him to be an easy going and a thoughtful father and friend. He and Becky visited Alice and I at Seaside where at the time I had a home at the cove. He was jazzed by the surf and beach. Tried to buy my Sunset Long Board! At the time I was just beginning to discover his many talents, interests, and devotion to family. I had underestimated him in many ways in that he presented himself as a very "laid back dude"! Guitar, surfing, cars, BBQ, and family were some of the common interest. I discovered later how mindful and bright he was. Sadly missed and a trusted and respected friend .
Patrick

Patrick - December 06, 2020 at 12:00 AM

RE

“ Great photo and story. Thank you!

Rebecca - November 30, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ I knew Gary because of motorcycle riding. Mostly trail riding on dirt bikes. That's how we met in fact. He and his son Max attended a dirt bike skills school, and I and my son Max attended the same event. We naturally grouped up there because we were two dads with similar age kids and it was just a naturally occurring thing. We exchanged info and starting riding together: John & Gary & Max & Max. The specific memory that is a lifelong one for me was a time we rented a 28 ft motorhome and went to a place called East Fort Rock. Big riding area. It was late October, and this place is east of Bend, OR, and 4,550' elevation. It was a big gathering of riding friends from all over, probably 30-40 people. The four of us were having a grand time, riding with friends during the day, huge bonfire campfire at night. Wonderful. Then it becomes clear that some weather is rolling in. No internet/cell coverage out there, especially 8 years ago, but some late arrivals tell us that snow is coming. Maybe a lot. Temperature dropped dramatically as we got ready for bed. Side note - The motorhome was nice but the batteries were very weak so the furnace heat would die out and stop at about 3:00 am. So Gary and I took turns, without ever saying a word, just an unspoken "ya, you did it last time", getting out of bed and starting the motorhome engine to get some heat and recharge the batteries. So morning comes and there is snow. A lot. And it's cold, in the upper teens. But the sun is coming up in a clear blue sky. A fantastic pellucid day. Not a soul is moving anywhere. The drone of generators tells us people are running the heat hard. Gary gets up, looks out, and says "This is going to be GREAT"! He's stoked. Max and Max are in the cocoons/sleeping bags offering no signs of life. They are less stoked. I'm also initially less stoked, but become infected with Gary's enthusiasm. You see, this was one of the wonderful things about Gary. He was stoked about life in general, and it was infectious. Between Gary's genuine "let's get up and get the hell going" enthusiasm, and my genuine appearing but somewhat muted internal enthusiasm, the kids have no choice. We get up and get moving. The rest of the camp, meanwhile, remains in total hibernation. Without making the story unduly long, suffice it say nobody else got going early, and we went out and rode dirt bikes in

4-6" of fluffy cold snow, with not a single track from another soul ever on any trail we rode, for miles & miles & hours and hours. Under a refulgent sun on a sensationally beautiful day. It was one of the most singular, best, unusual, days of riding in my life. My son and I still talk about it. And without Gary Baker I doubt it would have happened. Thank you, Gary.

John Turman - November 30, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *Gary Edwin Baker*

November 30, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *Gary was always welcoming and enjoyed hanging out sharing a beer, hanging at the fire and family. Loved to hear his music, stories of motorcycle riding and challenging work assignments. He is missed by us and our whole family.*

Steve and Tina Paxton - November 30, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *I miss Gary, I always felt comfortable around him, it was not about him, you always knew he had your back. I wish I had spent more time with him, life can be short don't wait for tommrow. I believe he was a good man and he is in heaven watching over us. I hope to see him in heaven some day.*

Kenneth Paxton - November 26, 2020 at 12:00 AM