



## Darrell Wagner

February 10, 1942 - January 19, 2021

Darrell Albert Wagner, 78 of Hudson, New Hampshire and Cape Coral, Florida, passed away on January 19, 2021 at the Lahey Clinic in Burlington, MA from a non-COVID related illness. He succumbed to complications from heart surgery, following a long cardiac condition.

Darrell was predeceased by his parents, Ralph and Mae (Brokob) Schaefer and his brother Gene Shaefer. He is survived by Joan (Smith) Wagner, his beloved wife of 60 years, a son, Wade Wagner, daughter and son-in-law, Wende (Wagner) and Chris Anderson, his brother Terry Schaefer of North Carolina, granddaughters, a niece, several nephews, cousins, and his devoted friends.

Darrell was born February 10, 1942 in New Ulm, Minnesota and lived in Hudson, New Hampshire for over 50 years. He was a contractor and home builder for 50 years, a realtor, a long time member and chairman of the Hudson Planning Board, and a former New Hampshire State Legislator.

Darrell was a man of many talents and interests. He was an avid R/C Airplane enthusiast and long time member of the Southern NH Radio Control club, Concord Aeroguidance, the Cape Coral R/Sea Hawks, and a lifetime member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics. He enjoyed a stained glass hobby, restoration of antique vehicles, collecting antique clocks and music boxes, and

belonged to the National Association of Watch and Clock collectors.

Due to current limitations on gatherings, a memorial service will be held at a later date.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Darrell Wagner*

October 06, 2023 at 08:13 AM



“ *Darrell Wagner*

September 27, 2023 at 04:05 AM



“ *The first time I met Darrell and Joan was in the late 1990's. My sister lived in Boston, Scott and I were planning a trip to see her with my parents. Gene told us we needed to visit Darrell and Joan. We spent a day with them, captivated with Darrell's stories, filling the pool in with dirt, building the stone wall around the front of the house, seeing his collections, clocks, metal music boxes, flying airplanes and old cars. Too top it off was a lunch and dinner prepared by Joan. We visited again with the Schaefer clan in 2004. We went to the island for a bar b que. Darrell allowed the kids to help him drive the pantoon boat. Then in May of 2019, Scott and I spent the day with Darrell, Joan, Wende, Chris and Wade, celebrating our 30th anniversary. We had a wonderful time and enjoyed listening to more of Darrell's stories. Darrell and Joan had a special relationship, supporting each other in everything they did. We love and miss you Darrell. Keeping you all in our prayers*

**Laurie Schaefer** - February 09, 2021 at 01:55 PM

PP

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**paul pazolt** - January 28, 2021 at 11:59 PM

PP

*Typical Darrell. During this fun fly it was his turn for the touch n go contest. Around the one minute mark in the video he decided to take off from the taxi area instead of the runway lol. During the balloon contest, Darrell touted how well NE Aerodynamics planes were doing. That was Darrell, always a gift of gab. He did everything with a sense of humor.*

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**paul pazolt** - January 29, 2021 at 12:19 AM

RB

“ My friendship with Darrell began about 40 years ago through a mutual passion of building and flying radio-controlled airplanes. Through the years we’ve have had many trips to different flying events and projects that we’ve shared together. One project that comes to mind, several years ago in early spring Darrell just returned from Florida. He called me one afternoon to run over to his house and help him unload a project car that he purchased in the Carolina's on his way home from Florida. When I got to his house, I saw this old rusty car on the back of the trailer with boxes of parts just thrown inside. I asked Darrell, are you sure you don’t want to back the trailer up to the edge of the pit before we push the car off. I could tell by the look that Darrell gave me, how dare I question his vision. Fast forward about 10 years later on a sunny summer day out in front of my house. With the top down, the sunshine and smiles on both their faces, was Joan and Darrell sitting in their brand new 1963 Cadillac convertible. The project was finally complete, there was just No Quit in Darrell. I will miss sitting in the bump out having coffee with Joan and Darrell just strolling down memory lane. I will miss the long conversations and project planning that we had out in Darrell's work shop. I will miss the Saturday morning drives up to the flying field arguing over who’s going to buy the coffee and donuts, but most of all, I will miss my friend.

Ray Breton



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Ray Breton - January 28, 2021 at 01:20 PM

BB

“ *Joan, Wade, Wende and Chris, our heartfelt condolences to all of you. Darrell was such a kind man with a beautiful smile. May he rest peacefully and may all of you find comfort in your precious memories. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.*

*With Love, Tom, Mary, Bruce and Brenda Byrne (Helen's sons, daughter and daughter-in-law) and family.*

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**BRENDA BYRNE** - January 27, 2021 at 11:14 AM

JH

“ *9 files added to the tribute wall*



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**John Hayes** - January 25, 2021 at 01:10 PM

JH

“Darrell was a force to be reckoned with he was always doing something never stopping to let grass grow under his feet. Often when indecision strikes me, I think of his words, “Do something, even if it’s wrong”. I will never forget when he and Maurice came to visit me and asked if I would be interested in building a ¼ scale Grumman Widgeon that he could use to learn to fly before Maurice built the ultimate scale version of the same. This was to be a scratch-built version that put my skills to the test, but Darrell was there every step of the way to offer encouragement and view the progress, it was during this time that we became close friends. As computers became more popular, he and I would pick up a bunch of components and coffee, head to his shop to build his next wiz bang computer and spend time telling each other stories. Good times. We did several projects throughout the years and enjoyed doing them all. I’ll never forget going with him up north to pick up some machine shop equipment, we loaded his trailer till the fenders were about to rub the tires then very gently made our way back home hoping not to get a flat tire, he did like to live on the edge sometimes.

I always looked forward to flying with him, and he could really fly, it was not unusual to hear him say “More Power” and with that in mind I have always had a much larger engine than was recommended. I have built all the Northeast Aerodynamics kits and still fly all of them, including some that were scaled up of course needing more power.

I could go on and on but let me say I will miss him, but for me, he will be, “Forever in Flight”.

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**John Hayes** - January 25, 2021 at 01:04 PM

CW

“ I met Darrell the first time at a small RC flying event in Derry about 9 years ago. He introduced himself, made a joke about me, made fun of his friends, and gave me a miniature windsock - he had one of his own stuck in his hat - and we were immediately friends. This was Darrell in a nutshell...gregarious, genuine, and positive. He liked to heckle, and be heckled, because he had enough respect for his friends to know they could take it, and honestly, it was hard to take offense to anything he said.

*His home was filled with model airplanes, clocks, music boxes, old cars, jars of candy, even a secret room for card games and pool which was accessible with a hidden latch. Everywhere you turned there was something that was there to make things fun.*

*He was tenacious, restless, and fearless. He picked up an old Cadillac convertible a few years ago as a project to restore. "Darrell, you're never going to finish this thing," one of our flying buddies said. But he did. Many RC hobbyists at his age were content to fly the same old stuff that they knew, but not Darrell. He wanted to dive headfirst into whatever new thing there was and have fun with it. And he was welcoming to anybody, no matter what or how they flew.*

*He loved his friends and he loved his family. He made you feel important when he talked to you. He believed in you. And he respected you. There's a hole in all of us with him gone, but we're all better for having known him.*

*I love you and I miss you buddy.*

Cody

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Cody Wojcik - January 24, 2021 at 04:39 PM

BF

“*Joan, Wendy, Wade and the entire Wagner Family,  
Please accept our deepest heartfelt condolences on your recent  
loss of Darrell.  
Although it has been a long time since we've seen any of you we  
will always remember Darrell as a Very Sincere Individual, who was  
always extremely willing to help anyone.  
I will always remember that he built our house at Cheney Drive 43  
years ago on a "Gentleman's Handshake Agreement". That's the  
kind of man Darrell was.  
May He Rest In Peace and may all of you always remember, as we  
do, how Wonderful A Man Darrell was.*

*Sincerely,*

*Bob, Terry and Erin Fournier*

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**Bob Fournier** - January 24, 2021 at 06:22 AM

“Joan, Wade, Wendy and Chris,

*I am so sorry for your loss. Darrell will be missed by so many. He was always a lot of fun to be around. I first met Darrell back in the early 70's. I was on the crew that installed his driveways during his house building years. When he was building Schaeffer Circle, my brother Pete who was also on the driveway crew, ended up buying one of his new homes. So I knew Darrell through the business end of installing driveways and through my brother's purchase of the new home.*

*Darrell was a member of SNHRCC, maybe even a founding member, I really am not sure but a member for a long long time. It is when I joined SNHRCC that Darrell & I were put in the same "Sandbox". Now it wasn't just business. It was pleasure also. We became good friends over the years, with lots of flying and lots of fun. There were a lot of cookouts and we shared a lot of laughs. When the town closed and capped their dump site, we went to take a look for a future flying site. It didn't look like much, because it had 4 ft tall weeds everywhere. Darrell, myself and a few other members decided that we could make it work. So Darrell, being the politician that he was, with the gift of public speaking, set out to get permission from the town, for the use of this site for our club's new flying field. Darrell spent so much of his personal time, pursuing the go ahead for this field, that the members unanimously voted to call the new site "WAGNER FIELD".*

*During the construction of the field, we would stop for lunch, and I was always jealous of the great snacks that Joan would pack for him. He always had extra and would share. YUM! Joan took really good care of him. When Darrell was in a rush, one day, and forgot his snacks, Wendy showed up with the goodie bag AND water. Daddy's little girl, for sure. I had a lot of fun with this man for almost 50 years. He touched a lot of people's lives between here and Florida.*

*Rest in peace, my friend. You will be missed forever.*

*Harry Peters*

**Harry Peters** - January 23, 2021 at 08:02 PM

PP

“ I'll never forget this man. Back in the late 1990's my son Mike, 10yrs old at the time entered the NHFT flight training program. It was Darrell who worked with another instructor with a decision to award Mike solo status in the club. Darrell was so funny, he pulled the buddy box cord from Mike and said " You don't need that anymore kid". His humor, dedication to the hobby, and a clear voice heard was amazing. I am hoping to gather past photos and videos with a resulting slide show dedication for his family and friends. My sincere thoughts at this time. Darrell was special and will be remembered. Sincerely, Paul.

**paul pazolt** - January 23, 2021 at 05:00 PM

SR

“ I have met Darrell several times in the recent years at the Flying Tigers field. I would be pleasantly surprised to see him walking down towards the stands and greet everyone even if that person was a complete stranger. I am saddened that I will no longer see him at the field, yet I feel very lucky to have met this kind and gentle man.

**Steven Reynolds** - January 23, 2021 at 03:24 PM

JL

“ Darrell was a prince among men, always willing to help, always a kind word and a great sense of humor. He will always have a special place in my heart. He will be sorely missed.



**John Lavery** - January 23, 2021 at 02:04 PM

TW

“ It is tough to bring myself to write this because it will make me face the reality that Darrell won't be calling me anymore. My phone would buzz and caller I.D. would say Darrell and I knew we were going to share a few laughs. We met at a Fly-in at the Tiger's field in Derry. He invited Cody and I to fly at his club in Derry and the warmth and respect he showed us was infectious. And as I learned, it was without a doubt his club. I became an officer and I committed myself to do things the way that pleased Darrell. Not only because of the deep respect we shared for each other, but because at the end of the day, it was the right way. His love for model airplanes and those who shared that love made flying with him special. As I pull up memories, one of the most vivid was the man's handshake. It was something to be experienced. Time to say goodbye my friend, I love and miss you.

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**Ted Wojcik** - January 23, 2021 at 11:30 AM

DO

“ I met Darrell shortly after I joined the Seahawks and he instantly became a person I wanted to be friends with. Coming from Vermont myself we called each other neighbors, even though he always reminded me that I was upside down and 'he' owned all of the CT River. I was always jealous of the pilots he put in his scale planes and I am currently looking at a miniature wind sock he made for some of us that I treasure. I know he was loved by his family because my wife would never put up with antics like Darrell's and if I filled in my swimming pool my kids would never speak to me again. Yes we all heard his stories including the exploding rocks. Although I am sure he is deeply missed by his wife and kids, they surely were lucky to have such a great person in their lives.

*David Oliver*

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**David G Oliver** - January 23, 2021 at 09:01 AM

KU

“ my sincere condolences to darrells wife,daughter,son and son in law.i have known him for over 30 years.he has been a great friend..i enjoyed so much being around him ..his humor was only surpassed by the love for his family and friends.the time i spent with him flying and working on his cadillac will be remembered for the rest of my life.we will all miss him dearly.. Ken, Pauline,Bill and Jason Ux

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**Ken Ux** - January 22, 2021 at 10:38 PM

PB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Peter Blitzer** - January 22, 2021 at 07:50 PM

JD

“ I have known Darrell for almost forever -- both in NH and in Florida. I am so lucky to have been held by him as "family". I consider myself one of the luckiest people to have had him in my life.

*Darrell was a master and a very determined individual in whatever he pursued -- and one hell of a lot of fun no matter how the wind blew. I will always remember the phrase "you can't fix stupid" (and wonder if he may have coined it). Usually he was referring to himself and a hearty laugh followed. I have visited and enjoyed many hours at his shop when he owned Northeast Aerodynamics. In fact I have built and flown almost all of his old kits – the Train Air (both the models 20 and 40) plus the Sea Air 40 and Sport Air 40. A big thrill was even flying and owning the original prototype of the Twin Air 20. Yes, I have enjoyed hundreds and hundreds of hours spent with this special man -- who I already miss ever so deeply.*  
Joe Dolliver

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**Joe Dolliver** - January 22, 2021 at 06:00 PM

TS

“ Whether he called me or vice versa we knew we were in for jocular banter and bullshit. I will truly miss you my bro. Love, hugs and condolences to my Wagner family.

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**Terry Schaefer** - January 22, 2021 at 05:29 PM

DC

“ Darrell was the "forever friend". He never forgot his friends and certainly inspired me to be a better R/C pilot and builder. He produced quality kits that were easy to assemble and fun to fly. I will miss him greatly.

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**Don Cox** - January 22, 2021 at 04:52 PM

HA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Harry** - January 22, 2021 at 03:54 PM

HA

*We always flew our green Velocity together. He was the betta pilot and cherished reminding me of that.  
He is soaring with the Eagles now !  
God Bless. Harry*

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**Harry** - January 22, 2021 at 04:03 PM

RL

*Joan, Wade, Wende and family, our deepest sympathies to you upon your loss. You have been in our prayers for many years. We continue to pray that God will comfort you and that perpetual light will shine upon Darrell. Love, Deedee & Roger*

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**Roger & Deedee LaTulippe** - January 23, 2021 at 01:30 PM

MH

“ *I met Darrel when I came to Cape Coral in 2008 and he made me feel welcome at the Rseahawk flying field right away. Every year I flew at the field we would laugh and have a great time.*

*I am going to miss you my friend*

*Mark Hsmlyn*

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**Mark Hamly** - January 22, 2021 at 02:15 PM

JK

“ *It is with great sorrow that we endure the passing of this great person who I have been able to call "Friend" for the last 10 years here in Cape Coral Florida. He always kept us in stitches with his great gift of humor and his many talents.*

*John W. Klingele*

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**John Klingele** - January 22, 2021 at 12:18 PM

LO

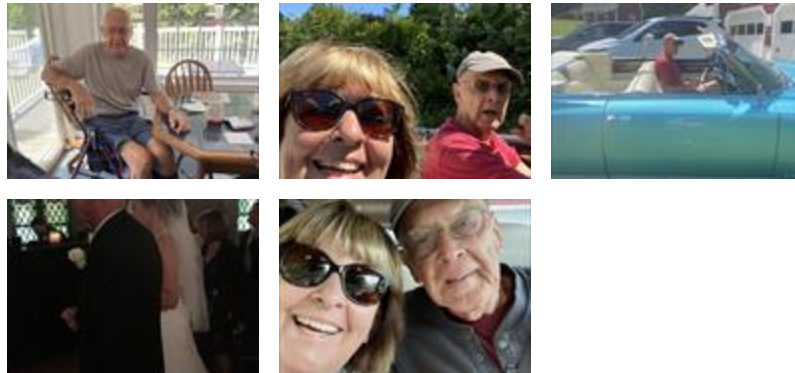
“ *What a wonderful, loving, funny man. He lived his life with passion and shared with so many of us. We will miss him terribly. It was an honor to have known him and spent time with him. I will treasure those moments always. Joan, Wade, Wende and Chris my sincere condolences. Thank you for sharing him with us.*

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**Lynn O'Neill** - January 21, 2021 at 09:06 PM

LO

“ *7 files added to the album Memories Album*



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**Lynn O'Neill** - January 21, 2021 at 09:03 PM