

Leonard Anthony Ball, age 55, flew west on September 2, 2014.

Len was born and raised in the San Jose area where he attended Lynbrook High School and commenced his career in high tech manufacturing. He had extremely high natural mechanical ability, was an accomplished machinist, welder and mechanic, and was proficient in dozens of specialized computer applications.

When San Jose became too congested for him, Len moved to Santa Rosa, where he met and married his wife Nina. When Santa Rosa became too congested for the two of them, they took the three dogs they had adopted and the cat that adopted and clung to Len and moved to beautiful Siskiyou County. There Len took up vegetable gardening and chicken husbandry, becoming somewhat of an expert in both in short order.

Len loved to build, drive, fly and fix things that go, including vintage Porsches, motorcycles and airplanes. He raced motorcycles in his youth and participated in aerobatic competitions and demonstrations with his radio-controlled aircraft. His passion for things RC continued until the end. He obtained his private pilot certificate later in life and may have truly found his ultimate life's passion in that.

Len was an executive board member of the Sonoma County Fourth of July Celebration for seven years, an active member of the NorCal Golden Retriever Rescue Organization (having fostered, he said, hundreds of dogs), a lifetime member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), and a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association.

Len is survived by his wife Nina, his brother David, and nephews Anthony and Parker.