



David Ernest Matteson

March 18, 1943 - February 28, 2018

David E. Dave Matteson, 74, of La Center, Wash., died Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018, at a local hospital after a short illness. David was born March 18, 1943, in McMinnville, Ore., the son of the late Orville and Ruth (Cummings) Matteson. He attended Gaston Elementary and Gaston High School and graduated in 1961. He then enlisted in the Navy, attended various training schools, and served on the ballistic missile submarine USS Lafayette. He was stationed in South Carolina, Virginia, and Florida. David married Jeanne Fenimore in 1965. They had three children, Peter, Joe and Ruth. They later divorced. In 1970 he was discharged and moved back home to Gaston, Ore., with his young family. He attended community college classes at night, worked as an apprentice electrician for Frahler Electric in Tigard, and made journeyman. He later became a skilled leather worker and saddle maker. He married Sondra Seeger in 1990. They lived in La Grande and Westfall, Ore.; in New Mexico; and in La Center. David had many interests and enjoyed reading, carpentry, music, collecting guns, and building black powder rifles, spinning wheels, saddles, and guitars. He made many fine saddles, including one for the 2013 movie *The Lone Ranger*. He was preceded in death by his father, Orville; his mother, Ruth; and his brother, Dick. David is survived by wife, Sondra; sister, Barbara Reynolds; daughter, Ruth; sons, Peter and Joe; stepdaughters, Cathy Pahl, Angela Anderson and Susan Lohse; stepson, Douglas Pahl; aunt, Connie Arkell; and many nieces, nephews, and grandchildren. A Memorial Service for this cowboy is planned at a future date.