



Gene H. "Gibber" Beckeman, Jr.

APR 10, 2024



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Gene H. "Gibber" Beckeman, Jr.

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Gene H. Beckeman, Jr., known to most as “Gibber or Gib”, of Marcellus, NY and a life-long Syracuse area resident, passed away from cancer on April 10, 2024 surrounded by family. Gibber was 70 years old.

He is survived by the love of his life and wife of 43 years, Bonnie Ayer Beckeman; his son, Kristopher (Sarah) Beckeman and grandchildren, Calvin and Clara of Worcester, MA; his daughter, Kimberly (Derek) Beckeman and grandchildren, Hattie and Olive of Skaneateles, NY; his mother, Shirley Beckeman of Jamesville, NY; his brother, Bill (Sheila) Beckeman of Boston, MA; two sisters-in-law, Nancy Ayer of Skaneateles, NY, and Betsy (Robert) Eibert of Skaneateles, NY; his brother-in-law, Dan (Kate) Ayer of Rochester, NY; and his nieces, nephews, cousins, and countless close friends.

He is predeceased by his father, Gene H. Beckeman, Sr.

Gib was a master carpenter and builder known for the quality of his workmanship. He loved his profession almost as much as he loved those he worked with and the clients he served. When his van arrived on a construction site with the ever present “Gibber” license plates, it was a sign that the work being performed there was top rate by builders who truly cared. In addition to his building prowess, he was a teacher at heart. He took great pride in sharing his skills with others and could often be found mentoring novice craftsmen.

He excelled at many things in his life beyond his profession, almost all involved the outdoors. Gibber learned to ski shortly after learning to walk. He went on to become an accomplished ski racer at Toggenburg and Cazenovia Ski Club and, later in life, coached the ski team for Colgate University. However, his greatest enjoyment came from non-competitive outdoor activities with his family including skiing, diving, hiking, swimming, and camping. He enjoyed swimming in Skaneateles Lake with his family. He loved to meticulously stack wood in preparation for winter evenings spent in front of the woodstove. Most of all, he loved kayaking with Bonnie throughout



Obituary

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the Adirondacks, especially Brown Tract Pond. Gib was an avid camper and the family camping trips to Brown's Tract Pond were an annual highlight. His chief skills excelled in the wild and campsite 88 would be treated to daily gourmet breakfast sandwiches.

Gib was a huge soccer fan and wouldn't miss a chance to cheer for Liverpool FC, or play a game with his grandkids in the yard. Much to his ears' dismay, Gib loved live music. He ensured his children would too, by having their first all-nighter include camping out for Rolling Stone tickets at a young age. Gib was a storyteller and would often share a story to get a laugh out of us, or to show off an interesting artifact from his life. Whether it was the first or hundredth time a story was told, it would undoubtedly include a profanity or eye roll for punctuation. We will miss his charm, compassion, and guidance. He was a 1972 graduate of Jamesville DeWitt High School and a 1976 graduate of New England College where he received the President's Award for Highest Academic Achievement in the Natural Sciences.

A celebration of life for Gibber will be held on Saturday May 11, 2024, from 10 AM to 12 PM at Navarino Orchard, 3655 Cherry Valley Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13215.


In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations may be made to: The Navarino Fire Department; 3276 Amber Road, Syracuse, NY, 13215.



Events

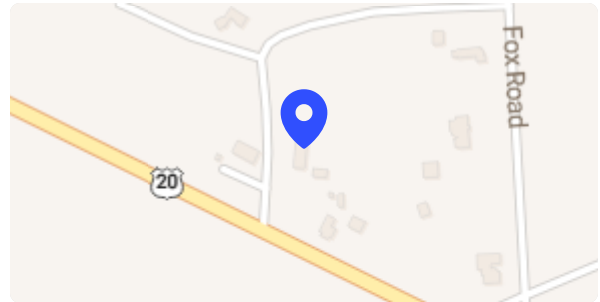
Gene H. "Gibber" Beckeman, Jr.

Celebration of Life

 **Saturday**, May 11, 2024

 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET

 **Navarino Orchard**
3655 Cherry Valley Turnpike, Syracuse NY 13215





Tribute Wall

Gene H. "Gibber" Beckeman, Jr.

SM

Sherry Meltzer posted:

Heartfelt condolences to the family. Sherry Meltzer, JD class '72

May 21 at 9:23 AM

TS

Tom Schneider posted:

You are one of a kind Gibber. Rest in peace, my friend.

April 21 at 3:12 AM

LS

Leo Sheedy posted:

I am so sad to read that Gib passed away. The Beckeman family were a huge part of my life. They were my next door neighbors on Goodrich Avenue. Gib's father Beck taught me how to ski and introduced me to Toggenburg and DeWitt Sports. I always felt that in some way I was part of their family. To Bonnie, Billy and especially to Gib's Mom Shirley, as well as all the Beckeman family, please accept my sincere condolences. With love, Leo Sheedy

April 20 at 11:40 AM

SM

Sheilah Byrne Mcmanus April 28 at 1:35 PM

I grew up skiing with Gibber at Toggenberg skiing. We would hit those slopes so hard all day long and it left us wanting for more!! I loved the Beckmans. I did ski patrol with Gene and they didn't move fast enough so I became an instructor. Bonnie I'm so sorry for your loss, it seems we are losing more and more of fellow class mates. Sending prayers. 🍀

DA

Dave April 26 at 1:43 PM

Very sad to hear about Gibber passing. He was a great guy always came up with a solution to problems. Condolences to his family and friends. We have lost a good man in my profession
Dave Hiltbrand (Stairmaster)



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Gene by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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