

September 2004

## Smokejumper Obituary: McDonald, Steve (Associate 0000)

National Smokejumper Association

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## Smokejumper Obituary

### McDonald, Steve (Associate 0000)

Steve died September 12, 2004, at the Glen Rose Medical Center Nursing Home, in Glen Rose, TX. Steve was the author of Bitterroot and Baker 30 both of which we carry in the NSA store.

Steve left the Forest Service in 1996, where he had been Line Officer in all Forest Service Divisions and had Senior Executive Service rank. He had a Master's Degree in Forestry from the University of Idaho and a Ph.D. from Colorado State University. "I did many things. The most interesting ones had to do with fire. Fire people are special, and the elite among them are smokejumpers. I'm proud to be as Associate Member of the NSA."

Asked about his books in a prior interview, he said, "It's virtually impossible for a new writer to break through with the major publishing houses. So, I self-published. I always wanted to write, but earning a regular paycheck came first, until now. My books are about the west, natural resources, forestry, aviation and things like that. They are fiction, so I can put a "human face" on the characters and have them say all the things that we said in private, but not officially. The two books I have out now - "Bittroot" and "Baker 30" - draw on my own experiences. I try to make the stories entertaining."

*(end of excerpt)*