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Smokejumper Obituary: Corbet, Mark R. (La Grande 1974)

National Smokejumper Association

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Smokejumper Obituary

Corbet, Mark R. (La Grande 1974)

Mark died November 6, 2021. He was born on April 18, 1951. Growing up on farms and ranches near Burns, Oregon, he graduated from Burns Union High School in 1969. To help pay for his education, he worked on farms and at a sawmill from 1969 through 1972. He attended the University of Oregon and graduated with a bachelor's in Environmental Studies in 1973.

Mark began his remarkable career in fire, as a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) fire engine crew member. In 1973, he was a Forest Service Helitack crewmember. He rookied as a smokejumper in 1974 and jumped through 2004, out of La Grande and Redmond, Oregon. He trained hundreds of rookie SJs and retired in 2007, having 697 total jumps of which 305 were fire jumps. He is very proud to have jumped in 16 states and 80 two-person fire jumps.

Mark is the author of the book entitled "Between the Dragon and His Wrath" published in 2017, a recollection of a career smokejumper. A good read, this novel provides a glimpse into the world of smoke jumping.

(end of excerpt)