

Thomas Gordon "Tom" Cooper Jr. (1943 - 2015)

Obituary

Thomas "Tom" Gordon Cooper Jr.

February 16, 1943 - October 8, 2015



Tom was born in Indianapolis, Indiana February 16, 1943. He passed away in Barstow, California October 8, 2015, at the age of 72, due to injuries suffered while riding his motorcycle. Tom grew up in Yermo, CA and lived in Barstow and the surrounding High Desert area from the age of 8 years. He graduated from Barstow High Class of 1961. He is survived by his Wife of 24 years Leslie Cooper Barstow, Sister Susie Bastin

Plainfield IN, Brother David Cheney Hinkley CA, Sister

Kathy Goldsmith Avon, IN, Son Tom Cooper Prineville OR, Daughter Tammy Cooper, Stepdaughter Shelly Jackson Barstow, Stepson Matthew Gorski Chesapeake, VA; also Grandchildren, Nieces and Nephews. Retired from MCLB Barstow as a Quality Assurance Specialist. Tom also worked as a tank mechanic on P7's and other military vehicles. He taught Stephen Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. He earned many awards while employed at MCLB. Before working civil service, Tom was a journeyman meat cutter for Upton's Market, Hartwick's Market, Fort Irwin Commissary, and Alpha Beta Markets. Tom was also involved with the off road community in Barstow for many years and helped get some of the early races together as well as riding in them. He participated in many of the Toys for Tots poker runs and other charity events in the area. He restored vintage motorcycles and sold them to very happy customers in Europe. Everything he worked on was beautiful and in working order when it was sold. Tom's other passion was building gas powered and electric RC or remote control airplanes. From the time consuming stick built to the later versions of ARF's (almost ready to fly), he took pride in making them as perfect as possible. Later on he started building quad copters and enjoyed

flying them down at the local soccer field. He belonged to the AMA and flew RC planes for more than 40 years. Tom loved the desert, the Eastern Sierras where he learned to fish, camp, and loved to travel the United States. At Tom's request there was no funeral or religious services. He did not want a big fuss made over him and that was how he lived his life. His family and friends got together in the desert and told stories and remembered the good times they shared with him. He is dearly missed. Please remember his laughter and his smile.

Published in Desert Dispatch on Jan. 23, 2016