

Ron Beidler



Ron Beidler, (class of '62), was born in Lansdale, PA. Ron's family moved to Sarasota, when he was 12. He loved his SHS years maintaining amazing energy. He had a paper route of 240 houses, so he delivered newspapers, from 4-5:30 am, and then went fishing, all before going to school, at 7:30 am. Often, he went fishing, again, after school. Later, in the '70's, Ron owned a boat in Deale, MD and for about 10 years he enjoyed taking friends out on the Chesapeake Bay, to fish.

Ron's favorite teacher at SHS was Capt. McLain, who taught algebra, calculus, plane and solid geometry, as well as drafting. These classes would provide a great foundation for Ron's future graphic arts career, and his love of building houses. After graduation, Ron took drafting courses at St. Petersburg Jr. College. He worked at EMR and ARD in Orlando, then RCA, in West Palm Beach. He worked at Northup Carolina, in Asheville, NC, then Honeywell Corp., in Minneapolis, MN, 'in '68.

Ron was then drafted, into the Army. After completing boot camp in GA, Ron had orders to be a machine gunner on choppers in Vietnam,. (The sad thing is that he had no training, beyond boot camp, for this role). A civilian contractor thought that Ron's graphics/drafting skills would be better utilized, at the Pentagon, for his drawings of weapon systems, so Ron's orders were changed to Ft. Belvoir, and the Pentagon. Ron still views this as "divine intervention," that probably saved his life. Ron eventually, went on, to own, and manage, his own graphics company. He hired/maintained 26 full time graphics' employees, for about 35 years. They did graphics work for most every federal agency in Washington, D.C. The expansion of computer technology, necessitated a smaller staff, and it was hard to keep up with the costs of ever-changing, new computer systems. Ron is thankful that he continues to enjoy the friendships of many of these employees, as they were like family to him, then, and now. Since his retirement, in '02, Ron also helped to build houses, with friends, in Lusby, MD., & in Madison, VA.

Forty years ago, Ron built 2 homes in the Shenandoah Valley on the edge of the Massanutten Mtn. He continues to love to go there, for its peace, beauty, and tranquility. He has many friends in the country, and in the city, and loves "the mix" of the "2 different worlds." Ron loves to garden, build rock walls, rock fireplaces and chimneys, using rocks from the mountain. He is the main driver for our church's local food bank, with weekly trips to, and from, the Capital Area Food Bank, in Lorton, VA. He enjoys raising pet rabbits with his friend, Louise. They have a German Shepherd, named "Bear." Bear is a mountain dog, who loves trips to the mountain, and his walks in Falls Church, VA. Ron is a great care-giver to animals, and people, alike. Louise is a nurse and an animal lover as well. No one is a stranger to Ron; "they are just friends, waiting to happen."