

Tom Kopriva

Tom Kopriva, who died the last week of December 2022, was a longtime member of the Eugene Prop Spinners and the Willamette Valley Modelers. He was an active Free-Flight modeler and a master craftsman, having worked as a dentist before retirement.

Tom was a lifelong control-line flier, who was active in Combat and flew Stunt and sport planes later in life. He also was a member of the Eugene RC Aeronauts and flew radio control, both indoor and outdoor. He is survived by his wife, Earline.

Tom flew with us indoor flyers on December 14th at the Willamalane Parks - Bob Keefer Center for Sports and Recreation.

Tom was involved with the following AMA chartered clubs:

Willamette Modelers Club (WMC) Last flew in 2021

Eugene Prop Spinners (EPS) Last flew in 2015

Eugene RC Aeronauts (ERCA) member from 2008 to 2020



Obit – from 1-15-2023 Register-Guard

Thomas “Tom” Michael Kopriva

Thomas (“Tom”) Michael Kopriva passed away on Dec. 28th of a heart attack at the age of 79. He was born on January 19th, 1943 in Cleveland, Ohio to Ida and Nickolas Kopriva; he was the eldest of three children.

In 1968, Tom graduated from Case Western Dental School; that’s where he fell in love with Earline Cole when she sat in his dental chair. Tom served in the United States Air Force and worked as a dentist at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas. In 1970, Tom and Earline married in Del Rio, Texas. After being honorably discharged as a captain from the Air Force, in 1972 Dr. Kopriva began his professional career in Houston.



Their son, Michael Thomas, was born in 1974. The family moved to Eugene in 1980 where Tom joined the dental practice of Dr. Clark. Tom later bought the practice and insisted that Earline be his office manager.

Tom and Earline lived life to the fullest and traveled extensively. Tom was a man of many talents. He was a collector, golfer, fisherman, cook, gardener, bird watcher and photographer. He was musical and had a large collection of guitars which he enjoyed

playing. One of his many hobbies was the design and fabrication of Earline's jewelry. His 2022 Christmas gift was a necklace and earring set that featured beads with maps of places they visited. He also was an enthusiastic patron of the Eugene Library.

As a child Tom developed a life- long passion for model airplanes and was a member of a number of clubs affiliated with the Academy of Model Aeronautics. He made and flew model airplanes and won many contests with his creations.

He had firm opinions which he was more than willing to share, often sitting back and enjoying the reactions of others. Not wishy washy, our Tom.

Tom was predeceased by his parents, his sisters, and sadly his son, Michael. He is survived by his devoted wife, Earline. A celebration of life will be held on what would have been Tom's 80th birthday, January 19th at 2pm at Along Came Trudy, 1488 18th St., Springfield.

Contributions in his memory can be made to the Eugene Library Foundation or Wounded Warrior Project.