

Wolfgang Hans Georg Schlager 1935 – 2019

SBA members will join with the US Northwest Steam Society in paying tribute to Wolfgang Schlager a long-time member and former President of the NWSS but also the SBA's Representative on the West Coast of the USA. Wolfgang died on Wednesday, January 9, 2019 in Bellingham, Washington and a public celebration of his life will be held on Friday, February 15th, 2019 in Bellingham.

Born in Nuremberg he grew up there before joining the German Merchant Marine. In 1969 he married Angelika, who survives him and to whom we send our condolences. A mariner of very broad experience his career was to take him into shipyards and the handling of ship classification certification, but while steam was always a fascination, he was also a member of the Mount Baker Beekeeper Association.

Wolfgang was known personally by a number of UK members despite living a great distance away.

Richard Havard writes:

'We first made contact when I made a Windermere Kettle for Wolfgang some years ago. He pointed out that when he was a ship's captain he often entered Barry Docks, one of the major coal exporting ports of the UK: he would have passed our house on the cliff top as his ship came up the Bristol Channel.

'Wolfgang recruited my help to repatriate a US Navy Compound engine ex S L Alaska from the Thames Area of the UK back to the USA for refitting into the very same steam launch it had been removed from in the very early days of the SBA. The engine had never been used in the UK and the owner was very happy to see it return 'across the pond'. The collection and removal of the engine and many other items from the same steam launch, delivery to Newport docks, professional packing and eventual shipping by container ship to the eastern seaboard of the US and further transportation by road across to Seattle on the Western shore was interesting to say the least. The project represented the co-operation and fellowship of SBA members world-wide at its very best.

'Wolfgang stayed in contact by telephone over the years and it was always a joy to talk to him and hear how American Steamboaters held the SBA and Funnel magazine in such high regard. He will be sorely missed by all those who had the pleasure of knowing him even if it only via the 'electric telephone'!

A message of condolence from the UK membership of the SBA was left on the Funeral Director's obituary website.

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