

Bertil Sollenskog

May 2, 1937 - June 29, 2014

Bertil Sollenskog, 77, passed away unexpectedly at home on Sunday, June 29, 2014.

He was born in Sweden and moved to the United States in 1974 to work in the auto racing industry. He founded Bertil's Racing Engines in Antioch, IL and spent 40 years of his life in racing. He was a self-made man whose amazing patience and tremendous ingenuity brought great success. The engines he built were known throughout the world. In 2011 his engine broke a world speed record in a 1966 Saab Monte Carlo at the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah. He has been married to Patricia Hollenkamp since 1982.

He is survived by his wife Patricia Hollenkamp; children Christina (Michael) McDonald, Annica Sollenskog, and Robert Sollenskog; and grandson Julian Sollenskog.

He was preceded in death by parents Anton and Margit Jonsson.

A visitation will be from 3 – 7 p.m. on Monday, July 7, 2014 at Ringa Funeral Home, 122 S. Milwaukee Ave. (Rte. 83) Lake Villa, IL 60046. Funeral service will begin at 11 a.m. on Tuesday at the funeral home with additional visitation 10 - 11 a.m. Cremation rights and burial of the cremated remains at Ascension Cemetery will take place privately after the service. For more information call

847-356-2146.

Please consider a donation in Bertil's memory to

Swedish American Museum

5211 N. Clark St

Chicago, IL 60640 swedishamericanmuseum.org

Mercy Home for Boys and Girls

1140 W Jackson Blvd

Chicago, IL 60607 mercyhome.org

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 7. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Ringa Funeral Home
122 S. Milwaukee Ave.
Lake Villa, IL 60046
(847) 356-2146
info@ringafuneralhome.com
<https://www.ringafuneralhome.com>

Visitation

JUL 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Ringa Funeral Home
122 S. Milwaukee Ave.
Lake Villa, IL 60046
(847) 356-2146
info@ringafuneralhome.com
<https://www.ringafuneralhome.com>

Service

JUL 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ Bertil Sollenskog

October 04, 2023 at 02:13 PM



“ Bertil Sollenskog

December 31, 2022 at 11:36 AM



“ *In 1978, I decided to run the USAC Super-Vee series. Bertil quickly became a guiding light and provided tremendous support to a young driver who was, at the time, in way over his head. He was always there and a super influence in my racing career. A lot of great people came through his shop as employees, customers and drivers. He was one of the true icons in racing and will be missed. I can't begin to share all the great memories I have of those days with Bertil and Robert being a big part of those memories. He will be missed.*

Mike and Gayle Martz

Mike Martz - August 08, 2014 at 04:14 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Marie-Therese Edebo - July 21, 2014 at 04:59 PM

MA

“ Marie, Fredrik, Gabriella, Alexandra, Veronica, Anders purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Bertil Sollenskog.



Marie, Fredrik, Gabriella, Alexandra, Veronica, Anders - July 21, 2014 at 04:48 PM

IB

“ Wow I am shocked to see the passing of Bertil, I first met him in the early eighties during the Super Vee battles, he was always humorous and understanding even in the most fraught occasions and we would often have a laugh together. I saw less of him after S-Vee went away but occasionally would meet him at different races through the years and we would always have a chat and a laugh together, a great guy and well respected in the racing community. R.I.P. Bertil we will always remember you and gone way to soon but you left your mark on us.
Ian Bisco

Ian Bisco - July 19, 2014 at 03:15 PM

 Arie Luyendyk

“ I was so saddened by Bertil's passing...my condolences to Pat, Robert, Annica and family. Racing is full of characters and Bertil was certainly one of them. I have fond memories of his typical Swedish humor and wit. Gone too soon but forever he will be remembered for the great person he was, a true racer with so much love for racing and for what he was doing.

Arie Luyendyk

Arie Luyendyk - July 18, 2014 at 09:20 PM

JP

“ Pat,

I am greatly saddened to learn of Bertil passing-on. My sympathy and condolences to you and the family. He will be missed by all of us in the racing community.

I will be sending contributions, in Bertil's name, to both the Swedish Museum and the Boy's and Girl's Home.

John S. Palanchar (former Super Vee Tech Chief)

John S. Palanchar - July 10, 2014 at 09:00 PM

CM

“ Dear Mike and Chris,

Our deepest sympathy to you and your family at this time of sorrow. Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, Love leaves a memory no one can steal.

We are here for you both.

All our Love,

Collette McDonald & Glen McDermit

Collette McDonald - July 08, 2014 at 08:28 PM

JA

“ *Thanks for the memories and for sharing a part of yourself with me. I loved you and am grateful for the "Poppy" you were you to that grandson of yours.*

Jacqui Sollenskog

jacqui - July 08, 2014 at 06:19 PM

LS

“ Pat,

We are so sorry to hear about Bertil's sudden death. It is so shocking when these things happen. Sounds like you are surrounded by family and friends who will support you now and in the future. Unfortunately we won't be able to make it to the wake or funeral. We are going out of town, house sitter is coming tonight at 6 o'clock and to check things out. Be at peace.

*Love,
Laurie & Jerry Stecker*

Laurie & Jerry Stecker - July 07, 2014 at 05:27 PM

JH

“ *John A. and Brenda K. Hatch purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Bertil Sollenskog.*



John A. and Brenda K. Hatch - July 07, 2014 at 01:21 PM

GP

“ Pat

I'm so sorry to hear of Bertils premature passing. We did business together for 30 years but I always considered him a friend. My condolences to you all

Garry Polled

Garry Polled - July 07, 2014 at 11:47 AM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Bertil Sollenskog.*



July 07, 2014 at 09:42 AM



“ *Annica and Robert:*

My prayers and thoughts are with you on the loss of your father.

April Soulak-Andrews

April Soulak-Andrews - July 07, 2014 at 09:10 AM



“ *It's hard to express how sad it is to hear of a friend passing on. Bertil had become a great friend as I visited him daily delivering his parts. His energy and sense of humor made every visit fun and he taught me so much. His patience and wisdom was a sign of what a great man he was. I am honored to have known him and will truly miss him. Pat, I hope the good memories will, in time, bring peace and comfort to you and your family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Jim & Julia Forster*

Jim and Julia Forster - July 06, 2014 at 11:35 PM

DW

“ I will never forget the day my phone rang & a Swedish male voice said is this Dave White. Sure is I said. This is Bertil Sollenskog and I heard you are going to run Davy Jones. That's correct. Why don't you run my engines. Why would I I have never heard of you. Well we did run Bertils engines, with great results from then on. We shared many good times with Him and appreciate the support he gave us

Rest in Peace Bertil

Dave White

Dave White - July 06, 2014 at 09:40 PM

AS

“ Dad, I love you. Thank you for all that you have done for me, our family and all of your friends.

Annica Sollenskog - July 06, 2014 at 07:10 PM

AW

“ Agneta and Magnus Waller purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Bertil Sollenskog.



Agneta and Magnus Waller - July 06, 2014 at 05:14 PM

GR

“ Pat even though I only meet Bertil and you a short nine months ago you guys made me feel as we had been friends forever. I will always keep the photos that he signed for me. He was one cool guy. Gary Hammock Racing and Construction

Gary Hammock Racing - July 06, 2014 at 04:17 PM

TD

“ When he held his 1st world land speed record slip in his hands at Bonneville he told the tech guy to be careful with it "that is worth more than Gold" he told the man. He was so proud. Tom Donney

tom donney - July 06, 2014 at 03:49 PM



“ Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bertil Sollenskog.



July 06, 2014 at 11:20 AM

SB

“ Kicki, vi tänker på dig i din sorg över förlusten av din pappa. Vi minns Bertil som en glad och generös person. Kramar till dig och dina nära. Susanne och Britt-Marie med familjer.

Susanne Björklund - July 06, 2014 at 04:52 AM

CM

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



chris mcdonald - July 05, 2014 at 09:29 PM

CM

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



chris mcdonald - July 05, 2014 at 09:27 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Bertil Sollenskog.*



July 05, 2014 at 03:33 PM

LH

“ *Many memories... Thinking of you Chris & Mike. Love, Lena, Anders & Emma*

Lena Hillring - July 05, 2014 at 03:05 PM

DH

“ *Dean and Linda Hersch purchased the Beautiful i n Blue for the family of Bertil Sollenskog.*



Dean and Linda Hersch - July 05, 2014 at 10:21 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Bertil Sollenskog.*



July 05, 2014 at 08:45 AM



“ *He always made me laugh and you both shared so many laughs together, for a long time! Pat, I remember when you met him; you fell hard and fast! Many blessings as you transition though this. Love, Susan and Charlie Davis*

Susan Davis - July 04, 2014 at 03:28 PM



“ *Bertil,
I was so fortunate to have you as my father in-law and to have worked with your for several years.
I learned so much from you about machining and engines. Your patience and perseverance was amazing!
I will miss you so much, Michael*

chris mcdonald - July 04, 2014 at 01:06 PM



“ *Pappa,
I love you and I will miss you so much.
I'm so thankful for the trip that we took to Sweden in 2006.
We had such a great time together and you shared many of your childhood memories with me, I learned so many new things about you.
You will be forever in my heart, Christina*

chris mcdonald - July 04, 2014 at 01:01 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bertil Sollenskog.*



July 03, 2014 at 12:42 PM



“ *Bertil and his engines put us “on the map” that ultimately led to an Indy 500 victory.*

We will always remember his fierce determination, his wonderful sense of humor, his loyalty, his love of America, and the “clomp” of those wooden Swedish clogs echoing through his shop. We will miss him terribly.

Our thoughts are with Pat and his family.

*Bob, Buddy and Jacques Lazier
Pete Feistmann*

Pete Feistmann - July 03, 2014 at 12:22 PM



“ *Pete Feistmann and the Laziers purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of Bertil Sollenskog.*



Pete Feistmann and the Laziers - July 03, 2014 at 12:20 PM

PL

“ *Pete Feistmann and the Laziers purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of Bertil Sollenskog.*



Pete Feistmann and the Laziers - July 03, 2014 at 12:20 PM

PG

“ *The sport of Motor racing is global in nature but the family of people who participate is very close. Bertil's name was known in our sport for his knowledge and character. Our thoughts go out to the entire Sollenskog family at the time of their unexpected loss.*

As we look back at his career and style we can only admire his strength. In a year of losing icons like John Bishop, Charlie Earwood and Bertil we need to reflect on the road they pioneered for all of us.

Paul Gentilozzi

paul gentilozzi - July 03, 2014 at 11:12 AM



“ *Bountiful Rose Basket was purchased for the family of Bertil Sollenskog.*



July 03, 2014 at 10:34 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Bertil Sollenskog.*



July 03, 2014 at 10:28 AM



“ *My Car Buddy and Great Friend, never before have i ever met anyone with patience and the love of life (and Car's and Engines!!!!) Brilliant engineer! Just meeting up with Bertil on any given day, he always had a smile and look of contentment, that if you were having a bad day,it would change to a great day! Pat my condolences to you and family*



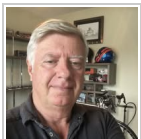
Tom Kurowski

Tom Kurowski - July 03, 2014 at 09:39 AM



“ *A wonderful man and engine "craftsman". Steve Horne*

Steve Horne - July 02, 2014 at 08:03 PM



“ *Bertil was larger than life. Intelligent, funny, and always willing to help another racer. He helped so many of us as we started out in the sport, and it is a debt that will never be forgotten. He will be missed, but always remembered with kindness and affection. Our thoughts are with you and your family.*

Dan Layton - July 02, 2014 at 07:20 PM

PJ

“ As we travel through life, we meet many. It's the ones like Bertil, that stay in our heart and soul, that remind us of good, patient people, a man that goes beyond all expectations, honest, and always fair. It was a true honor, as well a blessing, for me to now and work with such a great man.

My heat goes out to Pat, Annica, Robert, Christina and Julian

Pete Jacobs - July 02, 2014 at 06:10 PM

MS

“ What sad day to hear this news...A great person who helped the little guy out every time..We are truly sorry for your loss..

Mike Shank

Mike Shank - July 02, 2014 at 01:03 PM

RV

“ I just lost more than a friend, I've lost a brother.

Ricardo Velez - July 02, 2014 at 12:07 PM

RR

“ We all lost much more than just a friend. What will I miss the most? That smile and that ENERGY.
Ron Riesbeck

Ronald Riesbeck - July 02, 2014 at 09:14 AM

RR

“ We all lost so much more than just a friend. What I'll miss the most, that smile and that
ENERGY
Ron Riesbeck

Ronald Riesbeck - July 02, 2014 at 09:02 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Bertil Sollenskog.



July 02, 2014 at 08:04 AM

RS

“ I love you Dad

robert sollenskog - July 02, 2014 at 07:19 AM

VG

“ I went 2 years to bonneville what tom donney I learned a lot from Bertil learn how to be a good sport when things went bad and help a friend out when they were in need Bertil always had a smile on his face the two years where there even if it didn't go good he always had a smile I love listening to his stories from the old days I never had a grandfather and I looked up to him like he was one thank you Bertil for all your memories he was such a joker he would tell me that I could not tell tom his secrets cuz he had the fastest Saab Verlyn gregerson from fort dodge transmission

Verlyn gregerson - July 01, 2014 at 09:11 PM

SP

“ Pat,
Was very sorry to hear of Bertil's untimely passing. My condolences to you and your family. I would have loved for my son to have met him. He has his Associates in Automotive Technology and will be continuing on for a Bachelor's in Auto Engineering. His goal is to design high performance engines. I'm sure he would have been captivated listening to Bertil's engineering accomplishments and track stories. I hope you find some comfort at this difficult time in many happy memories you have of Bertil and your time together.
Sincerely,
Steve Purdy

Steve Purdy - July 01, 2014 at 09:07 PM

RD

“ Pat, my thoughts are with you during this very difficult time. You always talked so proudly of Bertil and now this total shock. Wishing you much strength.

Rudy Dieperink

Rudy Dieperink - July 01, 2014 at 08:12 PM

JS

“ Dear Pat,
Bob and I were saddened to learn of Bertil's sudden passing. We send our deepest sympathy and thoughtful prayers. Judy and Bob Stahl (friends of Taylor's and Obenauf's)

Judy Stahl - July 01, 2014 at 08:05 PM

MA

“ So incredibly sorry that the world, and we, have lost Bertil. Who is going to keep me informed on what the right wing is thinking now? I know you are surrounded with support, and will see you soon to add my own. Love, Mary

Mary - July 01, 2014 at 07:16 PM

JL

“ I met Bertil a few years after he came to the United States. Throughout the years we shared many interests and I remember the lessons he taught me about racing engines and life. The most important, "never give up"! We had great times over the years. One of the most memorable was going to the Bonneville Salt Flats with the Saab project. What a great time we had bringing home the record.
Pat, his true partner in life, gave her total support and they enjoyed their time together to the fullest.

Jim LaFortune

Jim LaFortune - July 01, 2014 at 05:53 PM

AM

“ He is a legend in motorsports, and a great mentor to me. During my years as Vice Chairman of SCCA, he helped me keep my Bertil's VW engine in top shape when I was so busy with my SCCA business. We shared some very creative engine combinations to maximize the rules and best horsepower, which enabled me to win many races. After he closed the business, we became even better friends, and develop more engines from his home. He visited me last year, to pick-up the SAAB Quantum racecar I found for him. I do hope someone finishes the car and runs it in some Vintage races somewhere, in his honor. I still have many Bertil's "piston" stickers that will proudly be displayed on my racecar forever!
I will think of him whenever I start my Bertil's engine!
Alex Miller

Alex Miller - July 01, 2014 at 03:59 PM

JK

“ Pat, I am so sorry. My condolences to you and both your families.
Joanne Kennedy

Joanne Kennedy - July 01, 2014 at 03:27 PM

CA

“ Bertil was a larger than life character who will be sorely missed. Know that we are thinking about and praying for you and your family. Craig and Jenny Anderson

Craig Anderson - July 01, 2014 at 01:01 PM

TF

“ On behalf of the staff at Ringa Funeral Home, we would like to extend our sympathies to Bertil's family. It is our privilege to serve your family during this time.



The Ringa Family - July 01, 2014 at 11:38 AM

SM

“ Pat, please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Susie Miller and family

Susie Miller - July 01, 2014 at 11:35 AM