



Philip Brush Bowditch

June 28, 1944 - January 1, 2021

Phil Bowditch, born Philip Brush Bowditch, died January 1, 2021 at Mission Hospital in Asheville, North Carolina, of natural causes. He is survived by his siblings (Kate Bowditch, Elise Bowditch, and Sabra Bodratti,), his wife of many years, Janice Burns of New York City, and his nieces and nephews (Kati Bowditch, Lance Hoffman, Jessica Garcia, and Adam Bodratti) and their families. Memorial information is at the end of this obituary.

Phil was born on the east coast on June 28, 1944, but grew up in Boise, Idaho. While others might be driving hot rods and motorcycles, Phil successfully restored a Model-T Ford over his teen-age years and was a young member of the Horseless Carriage Club of Idaho. He joined the Navy at 18, became a codebreaker there, and attended Shimer College when his stint was over.

A skilled artist and woodworker, Phil's real passion was music. He taught himself banjo and guitar early, and joined the Old Tyme Fiddler's Club, their youngest member. He was part of the 60's art and music scene in New York City, painting alone and playing in a variety of bands. He loved teaching. He taught music throughout his adult life. He taught guitar for many years through the Lighthouse for the Blind, and the Turtle Bay School of Music, both in New York City. As a former student said – "Everyone, and I mean EVERYONE, took guitar lessons from him. He was not just a guitar teacher, he was a legend."

After 2001, Phil and his partner, Marjo Nordhorn, left New York and moved to Asheville, NC, where he continued to teach guitar and play. He worked as a census taker in 2010, which took him all over Buncombe County, meeting people and gathering stories. His passion for politics led him to election work, where he became a local precinct captain. One of his great joys was the political talk show he started on community radio, Asheville 103FM ("The Horse's Mouth with Bowditch"). Phil was later joined by two friends, and the show became a long-running radio staple in the area.

In Asheville, Phil enjoyed his quieter, more peaceful life with nature on his property. Phil

always bonded with animals. He was especially fond of his dogs, cats, and possums. Phil took great care of feral cats, whether in New York or in Asheville, and rescued many pets over the years.

Phil also had great interest in, and in-depth knowledge of, antiques, the Civil War, World War II, and early aviation. He could entertain anyone with detailed stories and anecdotes about history, and with his political rants, which he shared on his radio show. Making friends wherever he went, he was a renaissance/broke the mold kind of man.

Phil will be sorely missed by his family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations to:

Asheville 103.3 (<https://www.ashevillefm.org/donate/>),

Brother Wolf Animal Rescue (<https://www.bwar.org>),

or the Appalachian Wildlife Refuge (<https://www.appalachianwild.org>)

would be in keeping with Phil's spirit and passions.

A Memorial/Remembrance gathering will be held February 21, 2021 in Zoom.

Remembering Phil Bowditch

Time: Feb 21, 2021, 3:30 PM Eastern Time; 12:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88125224145?pwd=cDRpa0hhQlpjSWZydIFNTUs0T0JMZz09>

Meeting ID: 881 2522 4145

Passcode: 918020

One tap mobile

12532158782,,88125224145#,,,,*918020# US (Tacoma)

16699006833,,88125224145#,,,,*918020# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 881 2522 4145

Passcode: 918020

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kc3p5cMPaR>

Tribute Wall

CS

“ I’ve been teaching at the Lighthouse music school for 30 years and shared a studio next door with Phil.
I’m going down to visit a friend in Asheville and thought I would say hello to Phil, and had no idea that he passed until I looked him up online. I’m really saddened He was a wonderful guitar teacher and I remember his Civil War stories. He was also really kind and generous and when I told him that my heavy music books kept on breaking my bookshelves he told me, about an advertisement he saw in the local newspaper of judges bookshelves, which were really sturdy.
I was able to contact this person and purchase it.
I will really miss him and I’m saddened that the administration didn’t tell the faculty or the students of his passing. He will be missed.

Charlotte Surkin - March 05, 2024 at 03:46 PM



“ Philip Brush Bowditch

October 09, 2023 at 01:52 AM



“ Philip Brush Bowditch

October 08, 2023 at 10:49 PM



“ Philip Brush Bowditch

October 24, 2022 at 11:11 PM

BV

“ Rest In Peace. A wonderful raconteur and friend. Excellent music teacher he once researched and found the Maine regiment my great grandfather fought in during the Civil
Thanks
BC Vermeersch

BC Vermeersch - October 11, 2022 at 11:32 PM

AM

“ I've known Philip for over 50 years I met Philip when I was around 12 years old and he was teaching at Turtlebay school of music I was a student for piano we landed up becoming friends because another member of our band the second leopard had also going to Turtlebay that was my dad he went to learn base and the lead singer Eddie was going to learn Qatar Philip boys that teacher we became friends and Philip join our band which was a show band back in the 70s and 80s and early 90s but Philip always love country music and had his own bands a few times Philip would call on me as a young kid to play drums for him and could also do sell it is sad to find out that my friend is passed away I'm going to miss him very deeply I had spoken to Philip recently I would say within the last year or so and was hoping to reach out and connect again and become closer once again however I'll pass just sit and end up that way but Philip I know you're now rocking on heavens door taken country to new levels that was your style Philip you truly were a very prolific man and I enjoyed every moment I got the chance to spend with you until we meet again Philip Reston peace

anthony mcnally - January 30, 2021 at 10:00 PM

AM

“ Anthony McNally lit a candle in memory of Philip Brush Bowditch



anthony mcnally - January 30, 2021 at 09:55 PM

CD

“ I cannot imagine Asheville, our second home, without Philip, not only on The Horse's Mouth, but also in our frequent visits back and forth. He would amuse us for hours with all his tidbits from family history. How I wish now that I had recorded his stories.

Claire A. Drehmel - January 29, 2021 at 04:23 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



David Dunham - January 28, 2021 at 08:46 PM

TE

*Philip picks the berries he
Loved. ..
Probably in his backyard on
Deaverview.*

Terry - November 03, 2025 at 07:57 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



David Dunham - January 28, 2021 at 08:42 PM

CD

Thank you for the photos, David.

Claire A. Drehmel - January 29, 2021 at 04:27 PM