

Carl Svenson obituary

Carl J. Svenson, 73, of Loudon, NH, passed away on October 8, 2023 from injuries sustained in a helicopter accident. He was a well known and loved figure around the Whites and a friend to many hut crew and OH. A highly-respected pilot and avid outdoorsman, Carl flew for JBI Helicopter Services for 35 years and after Joe Brigham's retirement he became the lead pilot flying for the huts, shelters and trails. The AMC work was special to him and it showed in the great delight and enthusiasm he took in working with AMC staff on airlifts all over the mountains.

Sally Manikian (OH) remembers Carl's gentle way of schooling her on radio etiquette during the Eliza Brook Shelter airlift in 2010, "A newly minted person in charge, I was unsure of my own authority and uncomfortable with criticism, but from Carl it never came that way. There really shouldn't have been any reason why an experienced pilot like him should have listened to the 29 year old woman organizing these airlifts. But he did, with respect and courtesy. 'Sally, you don't have to shout, I can hear you just fine.' Forever after that I calmly muttered into the radio, trees whipping around as loads lowered into the woods on an impossibly long 100' line."

Ash Gill (OH) fondly recalls the thrill of her first flight with him, "I remember Carl giving a few of us a ride up to Mizpah in spring, 2010. We were bubbling with excitement as we loaded up and put on our headgear. He asked, "Is this your first time in a helicopter?" 'Yes!,' we squealed. 'Me too!' he replied with equal enthusiasm. I'm

sure he got a kick out of our nervous laughter. He was such a skilled pilot that later that month he swung loads right through the windows of the hut while hovering in the air.”

Carl’s family asks that donations in his memory be made to the AMC or The Wounded Warrior Project.

