



John (JK) Kirk Jackson

JUL 11, 1939 - JUN 25, 2023



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John Kirk “J.K.” Jackson, 83, died peacefully at home in Tallahassee on June 25, 2023, after a brief illness. He was born on July 11, 1939, in Kansas City, Missouri, to Kirk V. Jackson and Helen Waller Jackson. He grew up in Camden, Missouri, where he was a 4-H Club member and, as a Boy Scout, earned the rank of Eagle Scout. He was a graduate of William Jewell College and received a Master’s degree in Physics from the University of Missouri.

J.K. worked for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in Alaska, Peru, and at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, during the 1960s. He subsequently came to Tallahassee to study for a doctorate in Physics at Florida State University.

For more than 40 years, J.K. owned and operated English Automotive Specialists in Tallahassee, specializing in Triumphs and Jaguars.

He was widely known in the British Car community and the sports car racing community, especially in the Southeast. It was recently said by a friend, fellow racer, and classic car magazine publisher that J.K. was one of the top Triumph marque experts in the world. Over the years he raced a Jaguar XK120 and an XKE, and since the 1970s a Triumph TR6 in Triumph car club events and Sports Car Club of America hillclimbs, auto crosses and track events, and a TR3 in vintage racing events. He set multiple class records at hillclimbs and tracks in the Southeast and was a charter member of the Solo I Hall of Fame. He was a true friend to many in these communities and was always there to help another racer fix a broken car, or to suggest what would help a car or driver run a bit faster or better.

Aside from cars and racing, J.K. loved reading and travel. He will be remembered for his wit, his mischievous smile, his kindness, his generosity, his modesty about his own accomplishments and his pride in his wife’s.



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He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Christiana Moore of Tallahassee; his son, Kirk Jackson (wife Jenny), and granddaughter Giselle of Pembroke Pines; brothers-in-law Sean Moore of Ft. Lauderdale and Lewis Moore (wife Lina Manning) of Vancouver, Washington; sister-in-law Joy Moore of Tallahassee; niece Jessica Moore Harrison and husband Joey of Boca Raton; and nephews André Moore of Ft. Lauderdale and Trevor Moore of Portland, Oregon.

He was preceded in death by his brother-in-law Brian S. Moore of Tallahassee.

In accordance with his wishes, no services will be held. A gathering for family and friends will be scheduled at a later date.

Memorial donations may be made in his honor to Big Bend Hospice or a charity of your choice.



Tribute Wall

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PT

Paul Taber posted:

Oh lord....John and I became friends in the late seventies....and good friends as time and life grew on. I started my business in Thomasville in 1982, so JK would usually stop by my shop either on the way to Tifton "to buy racing fuel"or on the way back, he knew we we're always good for lunch and catch up. His knowledge of the English vehicles was unsurpassed...and mostly he was my go to guy on where and what might be the problem. I always had a thirst for his wit and wisdom. All the best to his family. He was my good friend.

July 11 at 11:39 AM

JP

Jim Peters posted:

John and I shared an apartment and a house when we were both in FSU grad school . Our kitchen tables and sinks occasionally held auto parts as we repaired our respective cars, his Jag and Triumph and my Corvette. His tool set and his mechanic skills were far better than mine. I recall John applied a tourniquet like clamp to my finger after I cut in on a valve spring and sprayed the kitchen with blood. Be well John, the going up was worth the coming down.

July 2 at 6:17 PM



Harold Mclean posted:

JK was, to be sure, an enigma, maybe because he was so darn smart. But he was always ready, willing and able to help a friend. I liked the dude for all of the 50 years I knew him. Rest in peace my friend as the rest of us mourn the lessening of the capable pool of guys and gals, who can tune and SU carburetor.

July 1 at 11:13 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John (JK) by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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