



Edward H. Seely

April 25, 2025

Edward Humber Seely, 82, died Friday, April 25 in Fort Collins, CO.

He was born in Madill, OK, son of the late Oral Edward and Pearl Humber Seely. He attended public schools in Madill and Chickasha, OK. Following graduation from Chickasha High School, he attended the University of Chicago for two years on a National Merit Scholarship.

Following 2 years' service in the Army, including 1 year in Vietnam, he continued his education at the University of Oklahoma, where he received B. S. and M. S. degrees in Civil Engineering. He joined the USDA's Soil Conservation Service during his student days and continued his career in areas of research such as watershed protection and flood prevention. He worked in SCS laboratories in Chickasha, OK, Oxford, MS and Fort Collins, CO before retiring from the USDA in 2008.

Ed was active throughout his life in volunteer leadership roles, including serving as Toastmasters District Governor for Colorado & Wyoming in 1991-92. He discovered hiking Colorado's mountain trails and climbing 14ers in 1985 when he joined the Fort Collins chapter of the Colorado Mountain Club and served on the CMC's state board of directors for seven years. He also enjoyed leading cross-country ski trips for the CMC. In 2004, he was recognized by the American Hiking Society as a "Volunteer of the Year" for his

work helping to establish the popular Greyrock trail in Poudre Canyon. He organized and oversaw its annual maintenance for many years.

Following his retirement, geology became a much-loved hobby. On vacations from Patagonia to Alaska, he was always ready to stop and look at rocks. Ed enjoyed leading geology hikes for the Larimer County Natural Resources department until ill health forced his retirement in 2022.

Survivors include his sisters Jane Seely Thomson and Helen Seely Slaughter, nieces Barbara and Hilary Thomson, nephew Matthew Slaughter (wife Isabel Rovira-Gibert, son Alex and daughter Virginia Slaughter-Rovira) and cousin Elaine Seely McClung.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation to the Colorado Mountain Club's mission of outdoor education and recreation at <https://www.cmc.org/donate>.

Tribute Wall

AH

“ I too knew Ed through activities with the Colorado Mountain Club. Ed did so much for the Fort Collin’s CMC and was a great source of information about trails to hike. He also participated in cross country skiing trips with the club. I learned a lot about places to hike from Ed and always enjoyed all the hiking info that he shared. He was a great volunteer for the local CMC group and a wonderful source of information about the club and its activities! Happy Trails to you Ed!

Ann Hunt - May 11, 2025 at 05:26 AM

DA

“ Like many others here, I knew Ed through the CMC. He was such an asset to the club. While I didn't get to hike with him much, I helped with the trail days maintaining the Greyrock trail. His leadership in that endeavor was just one of many ways that Ed impacted our community positively. So sorry to hear of his passing.
Dean Allison

Dean Allison - May 09, 2025 at 11:42 AM

DD

“ Ed, this is the 5th time I have written this tribute to you. I was rereading what I had written and touched something, then bingo all was gone. I guess the fact that I rewrote this that many times illustrates how strong my affection for you was.

Ed and I worked together for many years before he joined the SCS. Our association goes back to his days as a Student at OU. We started working together in Chickasha, OK, then in Oxford, MS, and then Fort Collins, CO.

Ed was a brilliant individual and read material on many different subjects. An example is his interest in geology. He became so knowledgeable that he led hikes on the subject for the Larimer County Nature association.

In our last few years we met about once a month for lunch and just to share what we had been reading or just talk about current affairs. Ed was always ready to help any one in need. His sisters will testify to that, as will my daughter who considers Ed to be her uncle.

He developed an interest in both hiking and cross country skiing to the point that he was an officer in the Colorado Mountain Club and led many trips in both hiking and cross country skiing.

Well Ed it is time to say good by, but I know we will meet again on a trail in heaven. Your friend Donn.

Donn DeCoursey - May 07, 2025 at 10:09 PM

FE

“ I was saddened to learn of Ed's passing. I knew Ed through geology classes in the Osher Lifelong Institute at Colorado State University and the Northern Colorado Geologists meetings and field trips. It was always a great pleasure to share our common interest in geology and travels. Ed, you are missed. My condolences to his family.

Frank Ethridge - May 07, 2025 at 03:37 PM

DE

“ I knew Ed when the two of us were members of the Colorado Mountain Club in the 1980s and 1990s. I was always happy to see Ed on CMC hikes. He was cheerful, good-natured and wonderfully positive and practically-minded. I also remember his enthusiasm for Toastmasters. Sadly, it has been years since Ed and I crossed paths and I was sorry to see his obituary. The world has lost a great person in Ed Seely. Doug Ernest

Doug Ernest - May 05, 2025 at 12:20 PM

PW

“ Ed was the most dedicated member of the CMC that I ever met. He was what I would call a super volunteer, often volunteering to help in almost any effort the Club undertook. I've spent many hours on the trail with Ed and have fond memories of working with him on Club governance and activities. Happy trails, Ed.

Paul Weber - May 05, 2025 at 11:22 AM

EE

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Ed's passing. I have so many happy memories of sharing a hiking or ski trail with Ed. On the day Ed, Janet and I climbed Pike's Peak, we stopped at the first restaurant we saw after getting back to the car. We devoured the entire bowl of taco chips before our server even got back to the kitchen. Even at the time, we thought this was a bit excessive. But seriously fun. Ed, you will be missed!

Eileen Edelman - May 04, 2025 at 08:49 PM

JC

“ I met Ed in the Colorado Mountain club and went on many hikes and cross-country ski trips with him. I enjoyed the overnight trips in the winter to the cabins at Snow Mountain ranch near Granby. We had lots of laughs, good food and great fellowship on those trips. I had lost contact with him in the last several years, so was saddened to hear he had passed away.

Janet Marti Cook - May 04, 2025 at 07:47 PM

KS

“ I saw the tribute on line and Ed's name was so familiar but I was not able to put the pieces together until I read about his contact with CMC, I am a bit older than Ed but I also was involved with CMC about the same time and I also led a number of hikes! Those were all such wonderful times and I definitely enjoyed any activity where Ed was involved. He will be greatly missed by all. Sincerely: Kathryn (Kathy) Schultz

Kathryn A Schultz - May 04, 2025 at 07:43 PM

RY

“ Darn - sorry to read this. Ed was one of the first CMC Leaders I met when I joined back in the mid-90s. He always worked to make things better.

RedLion York - May 04, 2025 at 12:45 PM

RS

“ I was saddened to learn that Ed had passed. I had the pleasure of joining Ed on many geology field trips over the years as a Larimer County volunteer and member of Northern Colo Geologist Club. As a geologist I was always impressed with the depth of self taught geologic knowledge Ed possessed. Enjoyed knowing Ed and appreciate the joyful sharing of “geologic magic” we shared over the years. My condolences. Rod Strand

rod A strand - May 04, 2025 at 12:14 PM