

## In Memoriam



David R. Klein (1927-2020)

Dave was born in Massachusetts USA in May 1927. He finished high school in 1945 and as the war in the Pacific ended that year, he terminated his Navy pilot program. Alaska was opening up with the construction of the Alcan highway built through Canada. Dave and a friend drove to Fairbanks to explore this ultimate North American wilderness, a trip that set the stage for his future life and scientific career. Dave completed his master's degree in 1953 and was drafted into the US Army in Alaska during the Korean war.

He was discharged from the army in 1954 and joined the US Fish and Wildlife Service working with caribou. In 1961 he completed his PhD at the University of British Columbia with a doctoral dissertation comparing growth, body size and population response of Sitka black-tailed deer on two islands in southeast Alaska. In 1961 he was offered the position Unit Leader of the Alaska Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit (ACWRU) at the University of Alaska (UA) which later became administered within the Institute of Arctic Biology (IAB). Dave held the unit leader position until retirement in 1997 after 35 years of service.

Dave's first major research project after his PhD was on caribou on St. Matthew Island resulting in a paper in 1968 in the *Journal of Wildlife Management* that became a reference paper in wildlife research and management for many years.

During the 1970s Dave was a trusted advisor to numerous authorities associated with the implementation and successful construction of the Trans-Alaska Oil pipeline. Within the wildlife unit and the UA system Dave was extremely active in fostering and mentoring almost 100 graduate students and their field research. He served as a mentor for newly appointed biology faculty and was influential in the management of the IAB through his membership of the IAB Research Advisory Committee and the board of the Institute's Large Animal Research Station. Dave authored or co-authored over 130 papers, and as professor emeritus he continued to publish research and promote interdisciplinary projects through his friendships and mentorships for the next 23 years.

Dave was active internationally as an advisor on the Presidential commitment to the Protection of Northern Ecosystems leading teams with visits to the USSR and later Russian Far East. With several faculty of the UA and Norway Dave proposed and helped organize the First International Reindeer/Caribou Symposium held in Fairbanks in 1972. He then co-sponsored the First International Muskox Symposium in 1974. These symposia were extremely well attended and continue today as the International Arctic Ungulate Conference.

Dave in particular was dedicated to Arctic ecological issues and was convinced that comparative studies across the Circumarctic where ecosystems are similar in many ways would convey basic science to be applied as important management tools. Canada became his first international scientific exposure followed by collaborative work with Fennoscandian scientists in Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, and Greenland. He participated in the review of academic science programs at the University of Joensuu and Kuopio in Finland (1993) and the Mountain Mistra program in Sweden (1998-2000), and he taught a field course in Finland for the Circumpolar PhD Network in Arctic Environmental Studies (CAES) (2000). Being a knowledgeable and open-minded scientist, he made close and lasting friendships with many of his colleagues. Into mature age Dave liked to travel, and his visits to foreign colleagues and institutions were much appreciated. With his open-minded personality, he made many warm and lasting friendships. Dave enjoyed both work and social gatherings with students. Many have fond memories of the “philosophy” meetings at his home. Dave was an excellent outdoors man and did field work well into his 80s. Inspired by Norwegian friends he even picked up skiing and was an often-seen man at the university ski trails. On his frequent stays in Norway, he brought his skis, mastering rough mountain skiing as well as challenging lowland ski trails.

After retiring, Dave with co-author Karen Brewster wrote his biography and detailed his trials, tribulations, battles with authorities and his never-ending efforts in conservation biology, published by the University of Alaska Press “The Making of an Ecologist; My career in Alaska Wildlife Management and Conservation”. Dave is survived by his first wife Arlayne and their three children Martin, PeggyEllen and Laura and his second wife Lou Anne Maxwell. Dave had 6 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Dave was honoured by the U.S. Department of the Interior with their highest award, Senior Scientist.

Eigil Reimers<sup>1</sup>  
Olav Hjeljord  
Bob White  
Rolf Langvatn

<sup>1</sup>The authors are Professor Emeriti and have been close friends of Dave for more than 50 years.