



Charles Hoch

January 20, 1959 - September 29, 2022

Charles “Charlie” Joseph Hoch passed away Thursday, September 29, 2022, in Topeka, Kansas, at the age of 63. He was born January 20, 1959, in Wilson, Kansas, to Rudy and Violette (Lank) Hoch. Charlie married Melanie Ann McComb on August 1, 1981, in Stockton, Kansas. They enjoyed 41 years of fun and adventure together.

Charlie grew up in Wilson and graduated from Wilson High School in 1977. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Education from Fort Hays State University in 1981. He taught Industrial Arts, Technology Education, and Drivers Education at Royal Valley High School in Hoyt, Kansas, from 1982-2013, retiring after 31 years of service. He was also a high school track coach many of those years. After retiring from teaching, Charlie started a handyman service putting to use his woodworking and general “fix-it” skills. It was said by many that Charlie could fix anything, and he took pride in the quality of his work and being able to help others. He was always willing to lend a helping hand when needed.

Charlie had a passion for British sports cars. He was a founding member of the Topeka British Car Club and served as the club’s president for many years. He and Melanie enjoyed several adventurous trips across the U.S. in their Triumph Spitfire and MGA. He was also a member of the Lake Sherwood Sailing Club where he enjoyed competing in the sailing races. He also

enjoyed boating, fishing, and entertaining friends and family on the lake. Charlie had quite an interest in black powder shooting and target shooting. He participated in competition shooting and was skilled in hitting the bullseye. Some of Charlie's best memories were made during the many vacations he and Melanie took together. Some of their favorite places to travel were Colorado, the gulf coast of Florida, the Caribbean, and Mexico.

Charlie is survived by his wife, Melanie, of Topeka; sisters, Toni (Mike) Pflughoeft of Ellsworth, and Sydney (Bill) Connelly of Kingman, Arizona; brothers, Joe (Linda) Hoch of Des Moines, Iowa, and John (DeAnne) Hoch of Wilson; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Rudy and Violette Hoch.

Family will greet friends at 2 p.m. on Thursday, October 6th, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka, KS 66614, where Celebration of Life will be at 3 p.m. Friends are invited to gather following the celebration at the Lake Sherwood Clubhouse, 6910 SW Fountaindale Road, Topeka KS 66614. An interment of ashes service for family and friends will be held Saturday, November 26, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. at the Wilson Cemetery, Wilson, Kansas.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Midland Care Hospice, 200 SW Frazier Circle, Topeka, KS 66606. Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 6. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Celebration of Life

OCT 6. 3:00 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Charles Hoch



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - October 05, 2022 at 11:13 AM

SK

“ I'm sorry to hear of MR. Hoch's passing. I graduated from Royal Valley in 1992. Mr. Hoch was my drivers ed and shop teacher. I really enjoyed his classes. Looking back he was always so patient with us and our mistakes and foolishness. When I graduated, he was the one that handed me my diploma. It really meant alot that he was the one that handed it to me because he was the teacher I enjoyed most. I don't think I've ever done a project since and not thought about something he taught during shop and how it applied to what I was doing. One drivers ed class, we were driving in Topeka on the boulevard. The other two guys with me and I saw a pretty girl in the car next to us and were waving at her. I was driving and not paying attention and Mr. Hoch had to grab the wheel to keep me in my lane.

Sean Kress - May 20, 2025 at 02:50 PM



“ Charles Hoch

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM

JP

“ Charlie was a special friend of ours and we were so blessed to have him and Melanie as neighbors for many years. The memories I have of times with Charlie could fill volumes. From our hunting trips, annual guys weekends, sports events, holiday celebrations (the canon on the 4th) and our group vacation in Cancun. These and many more will stay with us forever. Thank you Charlie for giving us a part of your life. We are so blessed to have shared those times with you.

John & Carolyn Platt.

John Platt - December 13, 2022 at 08:50 PM



Thank you, John & Carolyn, for sharing your fond memories of Charlie. We did have some fun times with both of you. Hearing memories like these from friends provides comfort during this difficult time.

Melanie Hoch - December 15, 2022 at 10:23 AM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Charles Hoch.



October 06, 2022 at 12:44 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Charles Hoch.



October 06, 2022 at 07:59 AM

JP

“ So sorry for the passing of Charlie, one of our best sailors and kindest persons we knew. May you RIP.
With our Deepest Sympathies,
Jim & Joy Phelps, Sherwood Sailing Club

Jim & Joy Phelps - October 06, 2022 at 07:51 AM



Thank you Jim and Joy for the kind words. Some of Charlie's happiest moments were sailing on Lake Sherwood and hanging out with his sailing friends. It was a big part of his life.

Melanie Hoch - October 06, 2022 at 12:21 PM

BL

“ So sorry to hear of Charlie's passing. I always enjoyed visiting with him about the important issues in life - like British cars and beer. He will be deeply missed.

Bob Leland - October 05, 2022 at 08:37 AM



Thanks for your condolences, Bob. You're right--those were two of his favorite topics!

Melanie Hoch - October 05, 2022 at 09:00 AM

BW

“ I taught at RVHS with Charlie for over 20 years. I always looked forward to his Halloween costumes! He would dress as someone who was in an industrial shop accident. I miss his sense of humor at school. I also remember him telling me about the year he got those boxes of Edge shaving gel as a promo for drivers ed safety. He thought it would be nice to give them to the kids. Not sure how long it took to clean up the "shaving cream war" that broke out! He was a great guy and will be missed by all.

Barb Williamson - October 03, 2022 at 02:05 PM



Barb, thanks for sharing your memories of Charlie's Halloween costumes and the shaving cream. I don't think he had to buy shaving cream for several years! He enjoyed his 31 years of teaching at RVHS and had a positive effect in the lives of many students. He will be missed by many.

Melanie Hoch - October 03, 2022 at 10:26 PM

RB

“ Charlie was a Sigma Chi Fraternity Brother at Fort Hays State University. So very sorry to hear of his passing. He was a great guy. He will be greatly missed. All honor to his name.

Ray Bachman - October 03, 2022 at 01:37 PM



Thanks for your condolences, Ray. Charlie had great memories of his Sigma Chi days at FHSU. Yes, he will be missed by many.

Melanie Hoch - October 03, 2022 at 10:18 PM

NS

“ I'm so sorry and shocked to hear about this. I had Charlie do a lot of work on my home. He was the best! Very caring and honest man. He will be missed dearly by many!

Nita Sellens - October 02, 2022 at 01:06 PM

MH

Charlie enjoyed his handyman work and was glad he could use his expertise to help others.

Melanie Hoch - October 02, 2022 at 09:31 PM

DE

“ We lived next to Charlie & Melanie for many years. Charlie is truly one of the best people you would ever meet in your life. Sorry for your loss.
Debra Engler

Debra Engler - October 02, 2022 at 12:29 PM

MH

Thanks for the condolences, Debra. Charlie and I shared a lot of fun times with you and Kelly over the years!

Melanie Hoch - October 02, 2022 at 09:37 PM

RG

“ I had Mr. Hoch as a track coach and a teacher. He taught me how to run efficiently. I also use the skills he taught me in class to this day. I put together a cabinet the other day and I remembered how he said to twist the screws with your fingers first then use a screwdriver. He was one of my favorite teachers. He was a really nice man.

Robbyn Glenn - October 01, 2022 at 08:42 PM



Thanks for sharing your story, Robbyn. I'm glad you were able to learn practical skills in his class that you can use to this day. That was one of his reasons for teaching the subjects he did--to give his students skills they can use throughout their daily lives.

Melanie Hoch - October 01, 2022 at 11:10 PM

MS

“ He was one of my favorite teachers and taught me a lot, even though I'm sure he wanted to pull his hair out. My favorite memory of him was my first day of welding class. I decided to fill in some holes in his table while he wasn't there. He walked in on me welding his table and said "what do you think your doing?" I just responded, someone made all these holes in your table. His response was "yeah idiots just like you that don't know how to weld and burn holes in it" A couple weeks later he pulled me from class to have me weld things for him. From that day forward I knew we were going to have a great time in class.

Matt Schuh - October 01, 2022 at 04:15 PM



Thanks for sharing your story, Matt. I'm glad you enjoyed his class and learned a good skill from him. It sounds like he made a lasting impression on you.

Melanie Hoch - October 01, 2022 at 11:02 PM

LR

“ We knew Charlie from the First Santa Fe Trails Plainsmen Muzzleloading Club. Always enjoyed him at the range. He was certainly a good shot! We'll miss him. Sympathy to his family.
Larry and Susy Ross

Larry and Susy Ross - September 30, 2022 at 07:59 PM



Thanks for your condolences. Charlie enjoyed shooting at the range in Overbrook and participating in the black powder rendezvous. He always had to show me his results--especially if he shot well.

Melanie Hoch - October 01, 2022 at 10:57 PM

EA

“ Charlie and Melanie were out neighbors at one time. Whenever I needed professional help I knew who to call.

Ed Aldrine - September 30, 2022 at 07:42 PM



Charlie was always willing to lend a helping hand. Although we were neighbors several years ago, he was glad to have reconnected with you in recent years

Melanie Hoch - October 01, 2022 at 10:46 PM

EB

*“ I was lucky to meet Charlie, he was our mister fix it @ my place of employment.
He was so kind, and always had a story to tell you. Sending my sympathy to all of you!*

Ellie Gartner Brooke - September 30, 2022 at 02:33 PM



Thanks for your condolences. Charlie enjoyed his handyman work and was happy he could use his expertise to help others.

Melanie Hoch - October 01, 2022 at 10:40 PM



Charlie was a brother. He was always ready to go for a burger. I remember going to see Apocalypse Now with him. We could hardly speak after! But we did eat some hamburgers! He will be greatly missed. Such a good man.

Rock Neelly - October 03, 2022 at 02:07 PM



Thanks for your condolences, Rock, and for sharing your memories. Charlie had great memories of times shared with his Sigma Chi brothers at FHSU. And he always did love a good burger!

Melanie Hoch - October 04, 2022 at 11:26 PM



JM

Sailboats, British sports cars, a loving family, grandkids to spoil and a Hunter Tompson quote. Charlie truly exemplified the Sigma Chi charge to live a full and wonderful life. Fair winds and following seas on your next journey. You will be missed, and your life will be celebrated by us all.

John Mark Mathews - October 11, 2022 at 10:42 AM



Thanks for your kind words. Charlie was taken too soon, but he packed a lot of living into those years. The quote at the end of the tribute video is spot on -- "Wow! What a Ride!"

Melanie Hoch - October 12, 2022 at 08:50 PM