

President's Award (2023)

Tim Kneeland, Owner of Survival Educators and member of BICEPP Board of Directors

I'm going to go back to 1965 to begin my story about Tim. Not that I knew him back then, but I think that year clearly set Tim on the course that got him involved with BICEPP.

In 1965, Tim joined the United State Air Force, where he become a Survival Instructor (known as a Survival, Evasion, Resistance & Escape Specialist), serving in Reno, Spokane and his last 15 months at Clark AB in the Philippines with some time also in Vietnam. Tim was chosen as Airman of the Quarter while at Fairchild AFB and was selected to attend the prestigious Academic Instructor Course at the USAF Air University in Montgomery, AL.

After leaving the Air Force in 1969, Tim eventually founded and directed the Institute for Survival Education (ISE) in Seattle and later in Minneapolis.

Then in 1972, Tim co-founded Safety Survival Rescue Equipment Company (SSRE) to design and sell survival and medical kits. SSRE later became Safety Developmental Industries. In 1980, ISE rebranded as Tim Kneeland & Associates, Inc. (TK&A).

In addition to survival and outdoor recreation education, TK&A also produced cross-country skiing, canoeing, hiking and bicycling adventures, usually benefiting various charities. Beginning in 1981, Tim served for nine years as the National Trek Consultant for the American Lung Association, headquartered in New York City. From 1983 to 2003, bicycle touring became the primary focus for TK&A, creating and producing dozens of one-day, weeklong and cross-country events, plus two around-the-world cycling tours. Odyssey 2000, Tim's largest world tour, took 250 cyclists through 43 countries on six continents from Jan 1, 2000, to Jan 1, 2001, starting and finishing in Pasadena's Tournament of Roses Parade. Pretty cool stuff.

In 2004, Tim created Survival Educators to again focus more time and resources to teaching survival and self-reliance skills to government, military, and general audiences. In 2004, Tim also joined Emergency Response International, Inc. (ERI's)

small team of instructors and consultants as a contractor to deliver survival programs to Customs and Border Protection's Office of Air and Marine - pilots, aircrews and marine officers - and USCG's Aviation Survival Technicians (Rescue Swimmers). In 2008, he joined and continues to be a contractor with CAPS Aviation in Van Nuys, CA teaching Crewmember Emergency Training courses. I'm told that to date, Tim has taught nearly 600 courses to over 5300 pilots, flight attendants, mechanics, security professionals, and frequent travelers. Beginning in 2013, Tim also began teaching first responders and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members outdoor survival skills, focusing on surviving unexpected disasters and emergencies.

Pretty good resume so far, but the most important item, at least to me, happened in 2016 when Tim became a Board Member of BICEPP. Since then Tim has been one of the hardest working members of the board, specifically by maintaining and enhancing our website and resource library in a variety of ways. He has also been helpful by teaching several survival skills workshops on behalf of BICEPP. Most importantly though, he has been a constant smiling face on our monthly Board Meetings who challenges the Board to do all we can to help enhance the capabilities of our communities and the companies within them to be better prepared to prevent, respond to, manage and recovery from emergencies. Tim is moving onto other activities in 2024 and is leaving the Board, but for his 7 years of service and his friendship to all of us on the Board, I am pleased to present the President's Award to Tim Kneeland.