

This summer is the first time in 23 years that I have not backpacked, bushwacked, fallen in creeks, got lost, whined, got hungry, fidgeted on rock,- and been rescued and lectured by Rick. Of course, if it hadn't been for Rick's wish list, I would never have been in these problem solving situations to begin with, but then, I would never have climbed Soderholm, Pulpit Peak, Mount Gray, Mount Docking, Mount Back, Orient Point just to name a few. He opened up the White Swan Area and the Flathead, as well as the Beaverfoot Range to me and others. We hiked and climbed in many remote areas in BC and Alberta.

What amazed me was that he was willing to include me on some of these trips which, even though with his careful planning and research, sometimes contained "interesting opportunities for problem solving" (aka-SCARY). I loved exploring these areas and always felt confident with Rick. His enthusiasm, energy and good fun "this is not a rest home-this is a boot camp" turned these trips into absolute treasures.

As well, we shared the same values and political points of view (I helped him campaign for the NDP) and joined him on protest movements along with others he recruited. He did not, however, approve of "companion pets" and considered them a capitalist weakness, exploiting animals and wasting money. Consequently, I had to protect Buddy and David Thompson (my feline companions) from being yelled at.

The last trip I did with Rick was up Mount Macdonnell behind Mount Joffre. We followed the trail up to Sylvan Pass, an absolutely totally magical Alpine area and we actually passed at the base of the western part of Mt. Joffre. The route finding was pretty straightforward until we came to a headwall, which appeared insurmountable to me. I was ready to turn back, but Rick, typically, found a way up and had not for one moment considered retreating. After much coaxing, I was only able to scramble up to the col, but Rick continued up what looked like a vertical rock wall, and made the summit. I remember hearing his whoop and seeing his figure outlined on the summit before he descended.

Rick died on Mt Geike August 15, 2012, and a year later, I still believe I will hear his voice "hey there, what's up? you busy next week? weather looks good"

Christine Grotefeld