



Edward R. Shunk

May 22, 1933 - July 10, 2014

After a brief illness, long time New Mexico resident, Edward “Ed” Shunk, stepped across, embraced into God’s peace and radiance, surrounded by his family. Born in Livingston, MT, Ed obtained a degree in Engineering Physics from Montana State University. While working for RCA in Philadelphia, he off-handedly answered an ad in a physics journal culling for a mysterious place called Los Alamos. Thus, the newly minted physicist entered into the vast realms of Cold War Nuclear Physics. He began his 44 year Los Alamos career with converting standard munitions, such as artillery and mortar shells, into nuclear-capable weapons. After an injury on a firing range, Ed turned to the Crock-Croft Walton Accelerator; en route to a Master’s degree doing neutron cross sections. This sealed his true oeuvre’: the intricate technical craft of making detectors for both above and below ground nuclear testing in Nevada. This evolved into Ed’s working with critical assemblies for Q Division. His ultimate favorite, however, where he finished out his Los Alamos career, was making detectors for Mars probes. His engineering skills were superlative, of the highest level; yet at the same time he possessed a deep simple, yet complex, wonder and awe about and for anything in the physical world; rainbows, sundogs, halos. All ranges of atmosphere optics were a passion. Avocations were bicycling, hiking, rock-hounding, and petroglyphs. He was a life-long, master airplane modeler. Always humble, understated; he was crazy-smart, yet possessing the common touch; the physicist can dream it, but someone has to make/machine it. His character was that rare, wonderous

meeting of awe and amazement/the spiritual with the physical world, making things that in turn, reveal the wonder and awe... He will be sorely missed. He enjoyed an active retirement with his wife, Constance, in Tijeras, outside of Albuquerque. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Joann, and son, Edward Jr. He is survived by his daughter, Katherine, and sons, Carl and John, all of Denver, CO, and acquired daughters, Deborah of Sacramento, CA, Lezlie of Indianapolis, IN, Kathrine of Santa Fe, NM, Cara, of Kennewick, WA and Amanda of Saratoga, CA. He also leaves numerous grand and great grandchildren. Memorial and interment will be at a later date at Guaje Pines Cemetery in Los Alamos. Donations/gifts in memorial, may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, 2501 South Pedro NE, Suite 116, Albuquerque, NM 87110.

Tribute Wall

LE

“ John, Katherine, and Carl, I remember your dad best as my young uncle. Home from college in the summers with Dwight, the two of them went off crop dusting at 0300. They were so kind and funny and sweet to their two young nieces. You have my deepest sympathy; I hope your wonderful memories will sustain you during this difficult time.

Louise Engelstad - July 31, 2014 at 07:09 PM

LM

“ I knew Ed since 1958 when I was thirteen years old. He was a mentor, a role model and a friend. He was such a strong presence and a wonderful person that we stayed in contact for the next 56 years, where he continue to be a role model and a friend. He was soft-spoken, caring, sharing and very intelligent. He had a broad range of interests and an equally broad range of accomplishment. Everyone that shared in his life came away a better person, including me. He will be great missed.

Connie, John, Katherine and Carl. I am truly sorry for your loss.

Lynn Morris

Lynn Morris - July 18, 2014 at 01:57 PM

GM

“ Ed was a good friend and I'll miss him. He and I met years ago while sharing our model airplane hobby in Los Alamos. We remained in contact after he and Connie moved to Tijeras. He was one the most gentle and kind persons I ever met and I'm glad he was a part of my life.

Gil Merriman

Gil Merriman - July 16, 2014 at 07:03 PM

MA

“ *Ed was a respected and well liked member of the Los Alamos Aeromodelers. On behalf of all club members, may Ed rest in peace.*



Marc - July 15, 2014 at 08:15 PM

DC

“ *Remembering Ed with love and admiration. He was always so kind to our family and we will miss him. Sending our love and prayers. Craig, Deborah, Samuel and Benjamin Corey.*

Deborah Corey - July 14, 2014 at 09:02 AM

EM

“ *Please accept my condolences on the loss of your dear loved one. Take comfort in knowing that our heavenly Creator well soon remove all pain, sorrow, and death forever! May this promise as recorded in Revelation 21 : 3,4 help you gain the strength and inner peace to cope with the days ahead. Philippians 4 : 13.*

Emanuel - July 13, 2014 at 02:39 PM

KS

“ *On behalf of the FRENCH Family of Companies, we express our deepest condolences.*

Kirbye Davis and FRENCH Staff - July 11, 2014 at 01:34 PM