

In Memory of Richard Spohn

Rich passed away unexpectedly in April of this year [2008] in Florida. For those of you that knew him, his passing was a sad loss and he is greatly missed. For those of you that didn't know Rich, he was a wonderful man. And Michael Noga has written a wonderful tribute.

One of the characteristics that I treasured about Rich was that he had such a great sense of humor. His humor was quick and easy. And it was always accompanied by laughter and fun.

Some of my best memories relate back to CUAC (Cartographic Users Advisory Council) meetings. When CUAC met, we had a tradition of walking after dinner, often from the Capitol Building in Washington DC down to the Lincoln Memorial and sometimes back to the Capitol Building. It was a wonderful time full of friendship, laughter, and great walks.

There was one CUAC meeting time I particularly remember. Rich had driven to CUAC from Cincinnati (as he always called it). He had stopped by Dulles and National to pick up several of us. We kept getting lost, missing exits, and traveling the wrong direction, but we were always laughing. And then there were the great WAML meetings and field trips that brought us together.

Rich loved the outdoors, especially the western U.S., but was tied to Florida and family commitments. He was planning an eventual move west and was considering relocating Idaho, Wyoming, or Arizona, where the family owned property.

Even though we were not in touch often, I was fond of Rich and was looking forward to getting together again. I miss him and will always smile when I think of him.

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