

Obituary for David Wheeler Smith



12/8/1952 - 12/3/2015

David Wheeler Smith (1952 - 2015) David Smith died on Thursday evening, December 3. He was born December 8, 1952 in Boston, Massachusetts. The son of Stephen and Joyce Smith, his early years were spent in Bethesda, Maryland. He grew up in Boulder, Colorado, attending Boulder schools. He was a National Merit finalist, learned to ski, and participated in Boy Scouts, earning his Eagle rank. He especially liked the winter camping, collecting frost points, the midnight hiking with ghost stories, and the fifty mile hike he made with two other Scouts. Life took him East where he graduated from Princeton, and Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University, NY. He met and married Debra Trimble of Longmont, CO when they were both serving in the Navy. She, as a nurse, who later retired as a Commander, and he, as a Doctor in California. He especially enjoyed being a sleuth as a Pathologist and working with the surgeons at Kaiser Permanente of San Rafael. He volunteered with the Orcas swim team, and was an integral part of its success. He served as team President for four years and mastered every major volunteer role on the team. He was especially proud of his restructuring and organization of the league's ten team championship meet, where he also served as Meet Director. Admired and respected by the community for his generosity, and tireless, selfless volunteerism, the Orcas team pay their highest honor for outstanding contribution with an award in his name. He had many loves beside his family; among them were hiking, reading, music, and climbing ice falls. He ran cross country in high school, played the coronet, and rowed crew at college for two years. He was predeceased by a brother, Jeffrey. Besides Debra he leaves three children; Ben, a graduate of UC Davis, Bonnie, currently at CSU Monterey Bay, and Amy who is at the University of Colorado; his parents Stephen and Joyce Smith; and three brothers Douglas, Gordon and Philip and his wife Lisa and their daughter Savannah. He liked going to the family cottage in northern Michigan, and loved the peace of the woods. He was our beloved "professor". Both of his daughters will be carrying out his wishes and will be overseas next semester, so a memorial service will be held on April 23, 2016.

Published in Marin Independent Journal from Dec. 15 to Dec. 20, 2015