

Hi Sadie,

Al Smith asked if I would send you some memories or thoughts about your dad. It would be an honor to share some things about Fred.

I met Fred in 2008 while taking an astrophotography class at Cabrillo. He and I were the two 'old' guys in the class so we naturally gravitated to each other. It didn't take too long to discover that Fred was a really smart fellow. He was always willing to share his time and knowledge with me. By the end of the class we were fast friends. We'd meet at Carpos regularly for lunch and talk imaging and astronomy.

Fred and I had a lot of fun together and managed to go to 25 star parties or camping trips in the eleven years that I knew him. We'd get our telescopes and cameras set up and let them run most of the night while we sat in the dark and talked about just about everything under the Sun (or Moon). Fred was always laid back and even-tempered. I never once saw him get mad at anyone or anything. He always had something positive to say.

It turned out that we were on opposite ends of the political spectrum, but we set that aside and enjoyed our friendship through our love of learning. We shared books that we both enjoyed. Oh, he was a master at BBQing ribs :)

I know that he loved to take off in the Sprinter and just go. He'd take the back roads on his trips and stop and talk to people he met. He was always looking for something new.

As far as astronomy and imaging go, it didn't take Fred long to master all of the aspects of producing wonderful images with his telescope. If you look through his laptop I'm sure you'll find his images. Fred was also a very accomplished photographer. He had an artist's eye for color and composition. I've always enjoyed checking out his photos.

I feel really bad about not getting over in time to say goodbye to Fred. It kind of feels like I let him down by not making it over, although I think Fred knew how much I care for him. He was my best friend. One of the nicest and caring individuals I've ever met. His passing has left a huge hole in my life. I'm really going to miss him.

Thank you for letting me share all of this with you,

Ron Yelton

September 2019