



Howard "Joe" Blodgett

July 1, 1952 - June 9, 2012

Howard "Joe" Blodgett, 59, of Traverse City passed away after a six year valiant battle with cancer , at his home on Saturday, June 09, 2012 surrounded by his loving family.

Joe was born on Tuesday, July 1, 1952 in Traverse City, the son of Howard H. and Edith Claire (Saudemont) Blodgett, He attended Traverse City Schools , graduating from Traverse City Central and then earned his associates degree at NMC.

Joe was an avid sailor, having customized his own sailboat. He also enjoyed kayaking, biking, was a certified scuba diver and a gifted wood worker. He enjoyed his guitar, was a talented artist and was a voracious reader. Spending time with his family was his greatest joy.

Surviving Joe is his wife, the former Suzanne Gauthier, who he married on Saturday, June 7, 1975 in Traverse City; by his daughter Sarah, who affectionately called him "sailboat stalker" for his love of looking at sailboats, his mother, Edith Blodgett of Traverse City and siblings. Shirley (Don) Topping of Traverse City, Don (Ann Marie) Blodgett of Georgia, Michael (Ann) Blodgett of Traverse City and Harry (Holly) Blodgett of New Mexico. Also surviving are his brother and sister in law, David (JoAnn) Gauthier of Cedar and Janice Gauthier of Traverse City, many nieces and nephews, and his best friends, Dale Jackowski and Cliff Conrad, both of Traverse City

Joe was preceded in death by his father, Howard, his mother and father in law, Dorothy and Dean Gauthier and his side kick, Jessie.

A family celebration of Joe's life will take place at a later date.

Memorial contributions in Joe's memory may be directed to Paws for a Cause.

Please share your memories of Joe with his family by way of his online guest book at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com>.

The family is being served by The Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Service.

Comments



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Kurt Pines - July 01, 2012 at 10:23 AM



“ Another passion of Joe's, was his love of music. He loved to play his guitar, and all thou he listened to all kinds of music, he tended towards listening to the Blues, especially Blues guitarists, like Tab Benoit, Kenny Wayne Shepard, B.B. King, Larry McCray, Ronnie Baker Brooks, Joe Bonamassa (to name a few). One of my favorite things to do at the concerts we would go to, is to watch the crowds, see the excitement and joy the music brings to everyone....but watching Joe get into the music, seeing how he would focus on the guitarist fingers, trying to capture or memorize how they would play their instrument ...like a child watching a magician do a card trick. I got a few chances to watch him play his guitar, it was those times I was most envious ...to play with such clarity and pure passion ...to channel one's soul outward ...and seeing intense joy shine thru his eyes. Magical. I remember reading an article that Sarah wrote as she was dealing with her fathers cancer, that music helped her cope with it .., it can bring back memories of cherished times,peace to troubled minds and hearts,bring people closer together, ...in short, music can heal our souls. I was fortunate to be able to bring Joe to his last concert (Tab Benoit) last March. It was a fun night of dinner and music with a group of friends and sharing in the excitement. God may have called another "six stringer" back home,...but he is with me everyday, especially when the music is loud n' rocking. To quote a Joe Bonamassa song ..."if I ever get to heaven (and i'm praying that I do)....I'll tap an Angel on the shoulder ...and I'll be asking around for you". I miss you .. With Love ...your fellow "blues" Brother Dale Jackowski

Dale A. Jackowski - June 20, 2012 at 01:01 AM



“ Suzanne & Sarah,
We are sorry to read of the loss of your dear husband and father. May the good Lord be with him and watch over you through this time of morning and in the future.
With love from your Uncle Don & Aunt Pat

Don Witkowski - June 12, 2012 at 06:33 PM



“ Suzanne, I'm sorry. With Sympathy. Kathy Elbode Pittenger

Kathryn Elbode Pittenger - June 11, 2012 at 06:29 PM



“ My brother, Howard Josef Blodgett. Always known to me as "Big Brother Joe". In younger days, we scuba dived...Joe LOVED the water! (I was scared)....Joe and I would take out his "Joe-Boats", small kayak shaped rubber boats that we would paddle to the island with in the middle of the bay ! One windy and stormy day, Joe and I were caught in the middle of a torrential downpour WAY out in the bay...We sat in our rubber boats, tied to each other to keep us from drifting apart, and watched as the shoreline disappeared in a fog and the lightning struck the water all around us, making huge bubbles in the surface. I was extremely scared, until I looked and saw the awe on my brother's face! He was MESMERIZED by the power of nature and said, "Don't worry, Mike ! We're in RUBBER BOATS! We're safe! "Then, and only then, I enjoyed the rest of the storm!.....Joe was a lover of the sail on the water...I, a lover of the "sail" on the road (The windshield of my motorcycle!)..He had various motorcycles over the years, but the water was his love, and sailing his dream.

Yesterday, June 10th, I attached this photo of Joe on my motorcycle windshield and took my brother for a ride along the bay he loved so much. I know....I KNOW, he was with me, and we enjoyed our last ride together . I will miss you, my brother.....More than anyone can possibly know. "On the oceans of heaven, there is a sail, full with the warm air of God's kingdom...Beneath that sail is my brother, Howard Joe, with a smile that spreads across all of eternity.....With my brother is my Father, Howard, my Grandmother Claire (Grandmy), Dean and Dorothy Gauthier, and the LOVE of all of us that are waiting to see him again....And at the bow, his little Lab, Jessie, barking as the waves crest before the boat.....And Joe is happy. He is content knowing that time to him is nothing, and that in what to HIM will be instantaneous, we will all be standing at the dock as he swirls his heavenly sailboat around to welcome us aboard and ply the waters of eternity at his side." Sail on, my brother.....Sail on. All my love, Your Brother Michael.



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Michael Blodgett - June 11, 2012 at 09:10 AM



“ Joe was my closest friend in High School at Traverse City Senior High. We had many interests in common. Music, Motorcycles, Scuba Diving, Weight Lifting, and of course cars to name a few. Joe was always the upbeat one and I was the moody one in this friendship.

Joe had a talent for words and poem's that amazed me. He would a write a poem at the drop of a hat so to speak but always about stuff that either struck him funny or when he was thankful.

He was also a excellent artist as well. Many of my memories of high school were around chemistry class because I was the geek of the group and loved to do the chemistry experiments and Joe loved to do the write-ups which I hated. We fortunately got to be lab partners which worked out rather well as I would do the chemistry experiments which I thought were fun and Joe would write them up with cartoons of beakers blowing up and

poems of things happening but always with the experiment written up showing the experiment's results done up proper as well. There were always several comments about narrowly escaping with our lives when we over boiled something or spilled something in the margins. I really wish I could have saved one of those write-ups. Probably why we got an "A" in Chemistry.

My mother saved a poem he presented to my parents about the use of our home for the famous Tri-Power weight lifting that Joe, Harry, (Joes brother) and myself did in our basement. Check out the photo's page.

Joe also did drawings and sketches, mostly about seascapes or sailboats. I still think his drawings should be on display at a showing somewhere because they were really that good!

All three of us had motorcycles, which we absolutely adored, and road whenever we got a chance. We all had leather jackets and road as a group which probably kept us alive. I remember coming back from a concert very late one night and Harry's Triumph almost running out of gas.

Cars came after motorcycles which we also liked a lot, Joe had a mustang which we road around in quite a bit as well. I do remember fixing his car or my car or Harry's car an awful lot in those days. I shudder at the stuff we attempted in those days, but then in those days there was not one computer in the car and a tune up involved points, plugs and condenser plus the little tube of grease for the points so that it didn't wear out in a 1,000 miles and would last about 15,000 miles. Now you have the technician put plugs in with coils built-in and reset the computer every 100,000 miles. What a difference, no wonder I'm not a weekend mechanic any more.

We loved scuba diving in the bay as it has over 400 sunken wrecks between the two bays in Traverse City. Joe was the one who did the research in the library as to which one we would dive on. He was always discovering new items of interest on one of the wrecks, which we were so sure we would find because Joe had the clue to this or that treasure. I believe the best we ever came up with was a fishing rod and some mangled iron thing which no one knew what it was. It was still great fun hunting for treasure in the bay.

We both got our guitar's about the same time, I had an acoustic classical six string guitar and he had both a six string and a 12 string guitar. I still have no idea how he ever tuned that 12 string but he did. We were going to be rock stars of course so we had to learn how to play guitar. Of course we had a huge advantage over the thousands of other rock stars practicing guitar as we had all three chords memorized and could like strum them and everything. We actually did learn how to play half way decently as we could get through the dueling banjo's number rather nicely and it sounded just like it did in the movie only with two guitars instead of a banjo and a guitar.

Fond memories all.

I'm going to miss you bro...

Kurt - July 01, 2012 at 10:20 AM