

Richard Steven Miller

April 9, 1971 – October 23, 2018

Rick grew up around airplanes. His Dad was a Private Pilot and enjoyed taking Rick on airplane rides where he developed a lifelong interest in airplanes. He started learning to fly at an early age and soloed on his sixteenth birthday. He soloed in a Piper Cub owned by Don Browett. Don was his mentor and guide and got him started as an aviation mechanic. At the early age of seven, Rick was working on the fabric of an elevator to a Staggerwing Beech. He became an A&P and IA licensed mechanic and for 17 years was Chief Aircraft Technician for VT Inc., where he maintained several corporate jets. When the company moved to Scottsdale, AZ, due to the death of the owner, Cecil Van Tyle, Rick went into business for himself. He became self-employed specializing in aerobatic and vintage airplanes. With his best friend, Bill Bradford, they managed to get lots of airplanes back in the air.

His flight instructor was a good friend, Bud Wielt. Bud was a retired pilot for TWA and as friendly as they come. Bud taught Rick how to fly the old school way in a Piper Cub, but also exposed him to more advanced aircraft, which led to another friend, Frank Lilly. Frank was a member of the glider club at the airport. Rick was first introduced to gliders in Boy Scouts while on an encampment at Central Missouri State University. He always thought they were something special and Frank gave him lessons. When Frank passed away it really hit Rick hard. He never got over Franks passing. However, thanks to another good friend, John Morrisey, Rick learned how to fly aerobatics in John's Pitts biplane. Rick enjoyed aerobatics and got fairly good at it himself. He took a couple of medals in competitions, however, the stresses of

aerobatics were too much for his body. John, also, managed to get Rick a slot as the Chief Mechanic on the U.S. Aerobatics Team with whom he traveled to Germany, Austria, and Hungary.

Rick was diagnosed with bone cancer in his right ribs in 2005. Two of his lower ribs were removed and the doctors felt he was then cancer free. For ten years no cancer was detected. However, in 2015 cancer invaded his colon and spread to other organs. He fought the cancer with operations and chemo for three years, but he lost the battle on October 23, 2018 at the age of 47.

Rick was a walking encyclopedia of knowledge in all things aeronautical. He was sought after for mechanical work on Pitts, Sukhoi, Extra, TravelAir, Waco, Great Lakes, RVs, etc. just to name a few, and he flew many of them. He enjoyed attending flyins like Blakesburg, Atchison, Bartlesville, Oshkosh, and Gardner.

Rick was preceded in death by his mother, Susan Miller, who passed away two months earlier than Rick; his paternal grandparents, Aubrey and Freda Miller, and his maternal grandparents, William and Katherine Hurst. Rick had some wonderful times with his Grandpa Hurst. Rick enjoyed riding on his pontoon boat, swimming at his house at Lake Tapawingo, and going on car rides.

He is survived by his companion of 19 years, Brenda Scritchfield; his father, Daniel Miller; a sister, Katherine Hankel; a brother, Timothy Miller; and two nephews, Elijah and Luke.

Please go to: <http://3gvairport.com/gallery/index.php?dp=Rick/> to view Rick's photos.

