

In Remembrance of Jim Cooley

March 18, 2006

There is no question that Jim will be missed by all of us in AAI's OBT group. He was a core part of everything we did and we would not be where we are except for his efforts. But that is just one side of the Jim Cooley we knew.

We knew the technical Jim. The 'walking Skolnik' who seemed to amaze everyone especially our customers with his detailed knowledge.

He seemed to know everything about the art of radar. More than once a customer has described his designs as works of art.

We knew the part of Jim that took pride in figuring out the complicated, coming up with solutions the rest of us mere mortals could barely grasp.

There was no doubt that Jim was good at what he did. Especially when he described some insurmountable problems, with that weirdly crooked smile, followed by his 'well let me just say this about that.'

But he was human. He wasn't given to many outbursts but he had no problem telling you how he felt.

That's the technical Jim we knew.

But he also allowed us to see his other sides. There was no doubt that he was proud of his family. Many times I've heard him talk with co-workers and others about his family's and his son's accomplishments. He was so proud of them.

Then there's the side of Jim that liked his toys. It seemed like every month there was a new toy. A new cell phone toy, his remote controlled fan or his favorite blue sports car toy. It was fascinating to me to watch this big guy get out of this tiny car.

But with all that we saw of Jim we saw, I saw, that he showed that there is life after work. I've seen pictures that he had taken of his mountain hikes and the beauty that he took in just walking.

When he had his knee problems awhile back, he seemed more distressed, that he would not be able to take the hikes that he so thoroughly enjoyed.

Nothing seemed to bring him more relaxation and contentment than the hikes he had alone or with his family.

Sometimes we work so much that we forget to see the world that God created for us around us.

If there's anything we take out of our time with Jim it's this: work has its place. But spend time with your loved ones; take time to enjoy the beauty that surround us; don't be afraid to breathe.

Someone told me that our life is a gift from God; what we do with it is our gift to Him.

Jim lived a life worth living. No one can ask for a better reminder of God's gift of life.

Submitted to the Family of Jim Cooley
Lydell Bowser