



John Thomas Rystad

October 19, 1953 - May 27, 2020

John Thomas Rystad, resident of Bloomington, passed away unexpectedly on May 27, 2020 after a short illness. John was born on October 19, 1953 to Daniel and Beatrice Rystad. John is survived by his wife Betty, beloved dog and companion, Vika, sisters Nancy Lacina (Ray), Kathleen Strong (Paul Radunz), mother-in-law, Margot Jelleberg, sister-in-law Mary Jelleberg (Tom Koch) and brother-in-law Scott Jelleberg (Carin) and many nieces and nephews. John is also survived by life-long friends John Peterson (Shirley), John Lund (Diana) and many more.

John was raised in Moorhead, MN and graduated college at Moorhead State University. After college John worked at NCR Corporation and retired from Holiday Companies after 30+ years in their IT department. John enjoyed many physical activities; from sailing, sailboarding, in-line skating, winter skiing and swimming. John recently returned to his favorite activity of photography, spending many hours capturing outdoor nature and architecture. He recently won awards for his nature photos which can be viewed at his flickr account by searching under j-rye.

John will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him. John was once asked, "What do you want to be remembered for?" His response was "I was a good guy." John you were, you were one of the best. Miss you so much already.

Private services will be held. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to support the Three Rivers Park District.

Tribute Wall

PW

“ *Betty, Rystad family and friends, my heart aches for you all! I only met John a few times, but he always seemed so nice with a sweet smile and a good disposition. God bless you all during this very difficult time!*
Pam and Don't Wostrel



Pam Wostrel - June 12, 2020 at 07:27 PM

DT

“ *John was a dear friend and so many years have passed... Words can't describe the sorrow I feel after just hearing this news. So many memories, so many memories, so many memories... I am so grateful for the fingerprints he left on my life during the years we spent together in high school and college. We grew up navigating those awkward years together. I will cherish those remembrances and life lessons learned together with John for the rest of my life.*

He was the best Best Man a newlywed couple could ask for. I will remember his laugh, his thoughtfulness, his desire to come alongside and care for others. He was interested in a thousand things and a good roll model to my wife and I, always encouraging us to explore new adventures. John will be missed. Indeed he will be missed. Mert and I send our love and condolences to the family.



Dr. Byron Tabbut - June 09, 2020 at 09:08 PM

AD

“ I worked along side John for nearly a decade at Holiday. He took me under his wing and taught me anything I was willing to learn. He was an intelligent and kind person that always encouraged me to do more and to do it better, even after he retired. He truly was one of the good guys... I am so grateful to have had him in my life. He will be greatly missed.

Amy Duncan - June 08, 2020 at 10:26 AM

DS

“ 3 files added to the album 2017 Bend Visit



David Schumacher - June 07, 2020 at 01:53 AM

DS

“ I was so saddened to hear of John’s passing. Our friendship goes back to a tennis court in Wausau, WI around 1980. I was just hitting balls on my own when John approached me and introduced himself. I was wearing a Moorhead State University t-shirt which caught his attention as he had also graduated from there a year earlier. John said he recognized me from campus. From that point on we shared a lot of great times. He usually beat me in tennis but it was always a fun match. I ultimately got into cross country skiing and didn’t know squat about it but John took me under his wings and taught me the basics. Eventually, we XC skied a lot at the Escanaba ski trail just east of Minocqua where the photo was taken in 1982. We loved that trail. The snow was always powdery through thick trees and rolling hills. The final loop ended with a short downhill with John doing a telemark turn into the parking lot. Me, well it was kind of hit and miss with some trees at the bottom but I usually escaped. Not very pretty but we ended with a smile and the long drive back to Wausau. Our skiing adventures also took us to Montana and Colorado for a week of downhill on multiple occasions. Each day was spent seeing how many runs we could make. One of our memorable days was probably at Arapahoe Basin in Colorado. We were Midwest naive and not realizing that when skiing all day above the tree line on a cloudless day that the sun can be very intense. We both looked like a couple of racoons from wearing ski goggles as we headed back home! Oh, what a time it was. In Wausau, John also took me sailing on his Laser on Lake DuBay and Crystal Lake. A Friday fish fry at the Hiawatha was a fine ending to most weeks. Did I mention we usually had a beer or two or three along the way? However, we always looked out for each other as good friends do. After John moved to the Twin Cities we remained in touch. We manage to stop by for visits whether in the Twin Cities or wherever Sandee and I landed. Our friendship was strong despite the miles between us. John was always the mindful person treating others with respect regardless if he had just met or long time friends. John was indeed loved by many including ourselves. I will always remember that first day we met on the tennis court and every time I go XC skiing I believe John will be there encouraging me to try that telemark turn.

We will pray that God watches over you Betty. Sending hugs and love.



David and Sandee Schumacher - June 04, 2020 at 01:35 AM

JL

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



John Lund - June 03, 2020 at 10:35 PM

JL

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



John Lund - June 03, 2020 at 10:33 PM

JL

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



John Lund - June 03, 2020 at 10:32 PM

JL

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



John Lund - June 03, 2020 at 10:31 PM

JL

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



John Lund - June 03, 2020 at 10:30 PM

JL

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



John Lund - June 03, 2020 at 10:29 PM

JL

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



John Lund - June 03, 2020 at 10:28 PM

JL

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



John Lund - June 03, 2020 at 10:26 PM

JL

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



John Lund - June 03, 2020 at 10:25 PM

JL

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



John Lund - June 03, 2020 at 10:23 PM

JL

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



John Lund - June 03, 2020 at 10:22 PM

JL

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



John Lund - June 03, 2020 at 10:21 PM

JL

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



John Lund - June 03, 2020 at 10:20 PM

JL

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



John Lund - June 03, 2020 at 10:19 PM

LM

“ Oh where to start! John came into our family through the Big Brother program. My dad, Don, was his Big Brother. My sister and I, who did not have a brother, let alone a big brother, watched him carefully at first. He was super organized, we weren't. He was careful, we weren't. He was thought full with his words, we weren't. You get the picture.. But he would come to the lake with us, hang out at the house with his friends and even babysat us. Can you imagine how interesting we thought he and his friends were? They had a band, a cool fort, they listened to CSNY! My Dad was thrilled to have a boy around, a boy to teach manly things to. (Can we even say that anymore?-I just did) John took up swimming, coming to the lake and messing around on boats. It was better to have John around, he was one of the nicest things to happen to our family.

To John L, John S and his sisters, I don't know how to reach you but I am thinking of you. Betty, I have been weepy since you shared the news but am so grateful you did

*Much Love,
Lady Miller (Flyckt)*

Lady Miller - June 03, 2020 at 09:06 PM

JA

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



julie ackerman - June 02, 2020 at 10:19 PM

SJ

“ I’m so sorry to read this. My thoughts and prayers are with Betty and the family.

Susan Jelleberg - June 02, 2020 at 03:19 PM

BB

“ I am a member of Minnesota Valley Photography Club along with John and have truly enjoyed his beautiful photographs the last few years. He was so creative but also a good technician of the craft. We both attended the photography workshop in Glacier National Park last fall and it gave me a chance to get to know him a little better. He was there for every sunrise and sunset, along with hiking the longer hikes offered each day. I remember watching him at Lake McDonald after sunset working an area along the shore. He was patient in his work and spent quite a while there. The end result was worth it, a beautiful photograph.

John was a kind and quiet man. He left too soon, but he also left a beautiful collection of his art. Thank you John for that.

Becky Bergmann

Becky Bergmann - June 02, 2020 at 03:15 PM

BT

“ John was a member the Minnesota Valley Photography Club. We will miss him. On behalf of the club I extend our sympathy to the family. John went on several photo outings with the group. John was a good comrade. I remember him at Banning State Park this winter scrambling down I slope to get a good shot that was well beyond what I could manage. He went on a great trip to Glacier National Park as part of the group. He had an eye from photography that is hard to teach. The club is making a donation to Three Rivers Park District in his memory. - Attaching a photo of John at Glacier Park. With Sympathy, Bob Tourdot/MVPC



Bob Tourdot - June 02, 2020 at 12:41 PM



“ John, such a very nice individual. We only knew John through the MVPC organization. He was a kind, helpful individual. We thoroughly enjoyed speaking with him at the meeting and/or outings; his photos were beautiful. John will be greatly missed. Our sincere sympathy to John's family.

Jerry and Linda Hoss

Jerry Linda Hoss - June 02, 2020 at 12:39 PM

JL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



John Lund - June 02, 2020 at 11:56 AM

JL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



John Lund - June 02, 2020 at 11:53 AM

JL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



John Lund - June 02, 2020 at 11:49 AM

RL

“ There are so many great memories it is hard to even start, but John was a very creative and daring thinker - full of ideas and wacky schemes. We had backyard campfires and underground forts, raiding gardens and learning to juggle softballs. Entire days spent down by the river climbing trees and going up on forbidden rooftops. We made sneezing powder and played tricks and had lots of backyard chase games.

John was so full of life and energy it was awesome. I was younger and so got teased a little, but John was really so good to me and was a good, kind person. In fifth or sixth grade he played "Ode to Joy" on the piano for the entire school and I was very impressed. He was like another brother who lived on another street. We had so many great adventures together! I miss you, John!

-Rolf Lund

Rolf Lund - May 31, 2020 at 04:06 PM

BK

John was a member of our camera club. He inspired so many of us as his photography was outstanding! I'm so glad he went on the club's field trip to Glacier. We didn't have the best weather, but he made the most of it! While I sat in our vehicle during most of the rain, he was out there taking photos! He's going to be so missed. My heart goes out to his family.

- Bev Kiecker

Bev Kiecker - June 02, 2020 at 10:23 AM

JL

John and I met when my family moved to Moorhead in 1956. We've been friends ever since, and it's hard to believe he's not here in the same way any longer.

We swung on a rope tied high in a tree over the Red River. We climbed Robber's Roost. We made untold numbers of forts - below ground, ground level, and in the treetops. We each had our own 'rockers' (personal spaces in a tree), and even utilized 'elevator trees' to help us access big trees that didn't have low enough branches to grab. We would dive off a high branch and reach out to grab another branch with our hands.

We'd eagerly look forward to the coming TV season, always hoping for great adventure shows. Then act out in some fashion the derring-do of our heroes. We had secret codes, imaginary enemies, and saved the world many times.

John played organ in our little band. We were loud, not so very nuanced, but enjoyed making music together, invariably ending a session with The Monkees' 'Not Your Stepping Stone' at the highest volume. He had some great dance moves while playing his parts.

John got me going on cross-country skiing, and we had lots of great winter trail adventures. Though I don't know if he ever forgave me for getting him out for his only marathon distance race - the 35K Mora Vasaloppet, on a day with an air temperature of -17° and a strong wind of 40mph.

John helped me get out of the woods after I fell on a bike trail and broke my arm. He was part of Diana and my wedding. He was at many family events over the years. For our kids, he was like another uncle.

John and Betty, John and Diana, and John and Shirley planned many get-togethers over the years - birthdays, ski weekends, lake weekends, fall leaf-looking, New Year's holidays. All kinds of occasions. There's been a full agenda.

He was a great friend. I'll miss him a lot.

John L.

John Lund - June 02, 2020 at 12:32 PM

JA

John went with a group of us from MVPC to Banning State Park on the 29th of February, this year. The steps and path down to the river were iced over, treacherous at best. Almost everyone took one look, shook their head and took a different path. Not John, he was the first one down the hill, no fear! When he saw a spot to take a photograph, he was there; he had a keen eye for beauty and captured it with his camera; a true artist. He was quite and soft spoken, yet really excited and willing to share his knowledge about photography and his equipment - from lenses to winter gear. Thank you for your enthusiasm and for inspiring us with your beautiful photographs. We will miss you.

julie ackerman - June 02, 2020 at 10:08 PM

PH

The Rystads and the Hueys were such good friends in Moorhead and then through the years. The families even had boys born just two days apart in October 1953, John on the 19th and Tim on the 21st. I am so grateful that we had a gathering in January at my home that John and Betty and Nancy and Ray were able to attend. John and Betty sat together in our big stuffed chair, and we all laughed as we shared memories of those Fargo-Moorhead days long ago. Our love and sympathy to Betty.

Pam Huey

Pam Huey - June 03, 2020 at 01:46 PM