



“Fear is just excitement in need of an attitude adjustment”

“We are always more afraid than we wish to be, but we can be braver than we expect.”

Perry Johnathan Krinitt, a friend and inspiration to an entire community, passed from this life on August 31, 2010 as a result of a tragic accident while doing what he loved most. He was a helicopter pilot, drag-racer, adventurer and instant friend to everyone he met. Most of all, he was a loving husband, son, and brother.

Perry lived a life that many people envied, doing more than most people could fit in to most lifetimes. He was born in South Redondo Beach, California on September 17, 1966 to Perry and Marilee Krinitt. He later moved to Bozeman with his family and graduated from Bozeman High School in 1985. During these early years he spent summers in Guam, scuba diving and even led some tour groups on sunken ship dives.

After graduating from high school, he attended Montana State University for one year. He then worked one season on a tuna boat near Guam where he realized what he really wanted to do – fly helicopters. He went back to school and received his A&P Mechanic license at Helena Vocational Technical School in 1989. He received his Commercial Helicopter Pilots license from Civic Helicopters in Carlsbad, CA in 1992. He flew and wrenched for Civic Helicopters, Mel Cane, and various other companies before moving on to work for Big Eye. While working for Big Eye who contracted services with tuna fishing companies in Guam, Perry flew reconnaissance on tuna boats, beginning his helicopter flying career. From there he flew for Inner Island Helicopters flying tourists around the island of Kauai. He then worked for Minute Man Aviation flying on exclusive use wildfire contracts in Montana. In his last years he flew a K-Max for Superior Helicopters, logging forests and fighting wildland fires all over the west coast. At the time of his passing he was working for Leading Edge Aviation in Clarkston, Washington where he had been doing wildlife surveys for the past year. Working towards his final career goal of animal capture.

When he wasn't flying, you could find Perry snowmobiling or at home working on his race car and a multitude of other projects with Shannon and his large host of friends. He was fortunate to complete a life-long passion – build a drag racing car and compete in several races in the United States and Canada. He always found time to laugh and talk and drink a beer with anyone who stopped by his shop, no matter how busy he was. He was a teacher of not only mechanical things, but also of how to live life with a positive, bold, confident zest.

Perry is survived by his wife, Shannon Spies; his mother Florence Krinitt (Lee) of Bozeman and his mother, Marilee Spurlock (Bill) of Hawaii; his Dad, Perry Krinitt of Laguna Niguel, California; his sister, Eryn Peralta (Curt) and his nieces, Beauty & Dayne.