

Rick Cruise Recollections

April is here and the schedule calls for visit to the East Coast Large Scale Show. It is the first event in the Spring when over the last few years, several members of the club have gathered and spent the weekend telling tall tales, eating good food and representing the BTOC to the visiting public. Over these years, one couple that we could count on attending this show and helping to man the BTOC table was Rick and Marge Cruise. We would spend time talking about the upcoming convention and things that needed to be done to get ready for the convention as well as what needed to be done at the convention. Sadly, we will miss Rick and Marge at the Spring shows this year as Rick passed on March 1, 2023.

Rick and Marge were strong supporters of the BTOC and though Rick would not run to be an officer of the club, he was a member of the Convention Committee, working with Marshall Adams and Scott Fowler. He was always there early and was providing a helping hand wherever it was needed. At the 40th convention at Bird-In-Hand, he was one of the principal members getting the track around the pond. That included the building of a bridge where the sidewalk dipped down. I have discovered that Rick was also involved in building a bridge at his local golf course! Rick and Marge were great promoters of the BTOC, taking many items from the convention and using them as raffles at meetings with their local train club. Rick liked his sea food and with a sense of humor, had a picture taken with his head on the body of a lobster!

Rick according to Marge, was not one for a long grieving process, so this is meant to be a celebration of Rick's life and contributions to those around him. Besides his activities with the Club, he worked with Toys for Tots and Leesburg Food Bank along with many other organizations in his area. We are still missing Rick with some sadness, but mostly with the joy of having known and worked with him on club activities.

We look forward to meeting with Marge this June at the convention and sharing tales of Rick with her. I am sure that when the train of life stopped at his last station, he was greeted with happiness by those on the platform as he got off the train. And I am sure he is busy working to build a railway in the sky to share with us when we also reach that final station on our train of life. Here are a few photos of Rick from our convention activities. Please enjoy the memories that these pictures may bring to your mind.

(All pictures courtesy of Teya Caple-Woods who has done a great job of recording club events.)



Enjoying the Farewell Banquet



He was a winner!



One of several boat rides that the club has taken over the years at various conventions. Rick and Marge right up front!

Over the years, Rick had purchased the club T-shirts but never wore them during the convention. At the EACLGTS in 2021, he showed up at the BTOC booth wearing his Cleveland T-shirt.



Rick as a lobster!



Having a good meal with friends.
 Front: Marge and Rick
 Back: Bonny and Charles Bartel
 Not shown, but taking the picture – Teya Caple-Woods



Rick Cruise and Scott Fowler
 Taking care of club business!



He was a winner – Mystic 2022



And another car for Florida!



Farewell Banquet
Mystic 2022