

Richard “Rich” Schilling 1942 – 2009

Rich was a quiet, easy going guy. It would be hard to imagine Rich as a Los Angeles Deputy Sheriff, much less a lead detective. Rich’s toothy smile and soft chuckle made you think he was a friendly insurance rep. Yet he had no trouble handling security at the Roamin Angels’ car show. Because he was so quiet and unassuming you’d think that Rich was a loner. Not at all true. Rich had hundreds of admiring and grateful friends from all over the country. Rich was the kind of guy that when you met him you would never forget that grin and laugh and thus he became your friend forever.

Rich loved camping, RVing, fishing and just puttering around outside his home in Sunshine Valley (Nevada County, CA). Rich and Sandi would hook up the fifth wheel to their F250 and head out to meet long-time friends in the travel trailer club, or when a lower key outing was the ticket, the pop-up trailer would do. He and Sandi loved to take the boat out on a lake and spend an afternoon fishing. He would always tell you that Sandi was the better “fisherperson”.

Rich really loved his day each week at the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad and Transportation Museum. It was there he could learn to make and restore parts of the historical trains of the area. He loved to explain how he had learned to operate a new tool or machine and thus could make or fix something. His excitement in telling how he had been there when they fired up the engine they had been working on for so long was a joy to see. He was just a big kid again.

Rich had always had the car bug and when he found a 63 T-bird at a great price he grabbed it. Much to his dismay, he found that there was a reason for the low price and he really didn’t have time or money for a full blown restoration. He wasn’t about to give up though. He just changed plans and the T-bird became a bit-at-a-time project. It also gave him the excuse to join the Roamin Angels Car Club. When Lou Kosher decided that he wanted to sell his 55 Chevy, Sandi shoved Rich real hard, and Rich bought it. Rich’s health prevented him from doing all the work on the TriFive that he wanted to do. Now, with Rich’s passing, Sandi is determined to finish the Chevy and drive it.

Rich was also a member of the Celtic Society. When asked how a man with the name of Schilling could belong to a Celtic Society, Rich responded by saying, “It’s easy, I like to drink Scotch!”

Rich was a very spiritual man. He grew up in the Religious Science tradition. In Simi Valley he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Simi Valley Center for Spiritual Living. He was a Practitioner (a lay spiritual leader) in the Sierra Center for Spiritual Living and also taught Junior Church classes there. He believed that what you thought would become manifested in your life and it was this belief that caused him to become the gentle, quiet man with the infectious smile.

Rich is survived by his wife of 43 years, Sandi; daughter Celeste; and two sons, Matt and Mike; and grandchildren, Morgan, Jonathan, Courtney, Megan, Jeremy, Cameron and E.J. Rich is also survived by his brother Bob, and predeceased by his sister, Joni. The web site [caringbridge.org/visit/richschilling](http://caringbridge.org/visit/richschilling) is a wonderful source for Sandi’s messages during Rich’s illness and the hundreds of tributes and good wishes from all of Rich’s many friends. This kind and gentle man will be missed by many, but his spirit will live on in our hearts.