

**Chuck Wirth**  
**12/17/36 – 12/12/14**

**by Doug Kent**

To those who knew and loved him, Chuck was a complicated, intelligent, sophisticated, humorous, loving, caring, individual who led an extremely interesting life. Born December 17, 1936, in Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin, he had a childhood that led him to the University of Illinois and a Degree in Industrial Design. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a second Lieutenant and was stationed in Boston, MA. After his military service he worked in designing convention displays, then for a short time opened his own kitchenware shop. Boston would become his home, where in 1970 he met and moved in with Kevin Kelly, his partner of 24 years. Kevin, a journalist, was the Drama Critic for the Boston Globe. They bought and refurbished a ski home in Thornton Gore, New Hampshire. They traveled extensively, enjoying the theater, opera and classical music in Europe and in the States. They enjoyed sailing, skied all over the world and kept company with many famous drama and theater personalities. In 1978, Chuck went back to school at age 42, and became a computer programmer, a new and growing field, and started work with the New England Telephone company, where he retired early in 1994. They enjoyed this wonderful, sophisticated life until late 1994 when Kevin passed. Devastated, it was now just Chuck and the ever protective and faithful Emma, Chuck and Kevin's English setter. Emma provided the strength that Chuck needed to weather this storm.

In 1995, a good friend introduced Chuck to the Boston Prime Timers and he quickly used his computer skills to develop the database still used by the group today. Chuck had been managing the Fort Lauderdale Prime Timers database as Membership Secretary for over 11 years, during which time he also served on the board of directors for many years.

Life slowly returned to a normal state for Chuck and he sold the ski home in New Hampshire, and began the snowbird trek to Florida. He purchased his home in Florida in 1997 and continued to snowbird until 2004. In 1998, while in Florida, Chuck met his close friend Martin Haberland and they shared many activities together. While cruising in 1999 on the online dating Apollo Network, Chuck met a young man from Washington D.C. and they decided to meet. And meet they did. It was during the 2000 Gay Ski Week in Aspen Colorado that their long term relationship truly began. Upon their return, Rick took all his earthly belongings, packed them into his Saturn, and moved in with Chuck. They were married in Washington DC in 2013. For 14 years their life centered around time together with Martin in Ft Lauderdale and DC where Rick worked until July, 2013. After a two year battle with cancer Chuck passed peacefully with Rick at his side on December 12, 2014 at 6:45am.

Chuck's wish is that his body be cremated. A small ceremony will be had at Haulover beach - one of his favorite places in FL. His remains will also be spread in his lovely, quiet garden at their home with his faithful Emma. Rick would also love to take some ashes to Steamboat Springs - his favorite place to ski.



**More photos below.**

