



Robert "Bob" Pace

April 17, 1952 - November 1, 2018

Robert (Bob) John Harry Pace, 66, passed away on November 1st, 2018 after a courageous battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

Bob was born on April 17th, 1952 in Chicago, IL to Jean M. and Robert M. Pace. Bob graduated from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. He was married to Heike Taube for 20 years, during which time they had two children, Jonathan and Joanna. Bob was an accountant for 42 years and came to know Minocqua as his lifelong home.

Bob's passions lived on the lakes and in the woods; he was a true outdoorsman. In fact, he was so in-tune with nature that he was considered the "go-to" man for predicting the weather. He often knew, even to the hour, what the day would hold.

Bob loved water skiing, cross country skiing, downhill and telemark skiing, kayaking, paddle-boarding, kite-surfing, mountain-biking, and playing tennis; if he could strap it on, he would do it. He was a long-time member of the Min-Aqua Bats Water Ski Club, and he competed at the state level in water skiing for years and was division champion several times. He dreamed big by jumping off cliffs and flying ultra-light hang-gliders, and he found refuge at "The Hunting Shack" and by practicing yoga.

When his now-adult children were young, Bob designed and built ski-jumps at Minocqua Winter Park and in his own backyard, coached soccer teams, pieced together model airplanes, designed the perfect trainset lay-outs, and built a swing set by hand.

Bob is preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his long-time partner and caregiver, Nancy Ramsay; one son, Jonathan (Elizabeth); one daughter, Joanna (Andrew); five siblings, Valerie (Al), Christine (Conrad), Laurel (Jerry), Rex (Mirta), and Jeanie (Glen); and many nieces and nephews. Donations can be directed to the ALS Association.

A visitation will be held at Bolger Funeral Services in Woodruff at 11:00 on Saturday, November 10th. A memorial service will follow at 12:00.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **10**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Bolger Cremation & Funeral Services - Woodruff Chapel
1212 First Avenue
(mailing address P.O. Box 40, Woodruff WI 54568)
Woodruff, WI 54568
(715) 356-6006
bolgerfuneral@gmail.com
<https://www.bolgerfuneral.com>

Service

NOV **10**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Bolger Cremation & Funeral Services - Woodruff Chapel
1212 First Avenue
(mailing address P.O. Box 40, Woodruff WI 54568)
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Tribute Wall

JM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



James Mascitti - February 10, 2025 at 09:09 PM

JM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



James Mascitti - February 10, 2025 at 08:37 PM

JM

“ *Uncle Bob, Its been years since your passing and I still miss you. Every trip to Minocqua always meant spending a lot of time with you. You introduced me to a lot of exciting sports, even at a young age. You taught me to water ski, to sail, to cross country ski, to kayak, to ice blade, and helped me do just about anything else physical, just a little better. Your love for sports was paired with a patient desire to help others learn and improve. Im grateful for all the time we spent together.*

James Mascitti

James Mascitti - February 10, 2025 at 08:11 PM

AE

“ As I sit here in Madison I'm think of Bob's family and friends as they put Bob to rest. I also am thinking of how Tom and I met Bob at the boat landing on Clear Lake. He was on his bike and I foolishly asked if he water skied. He smiled and said yes. I then asked if he would be the third in our Mastercraft. He said yes. That turned into several years of shared fun on the waters of Clear Lake. Our last skiing run was in Bob's boat on The waters of Lake Minocqua. Bob and his son took the jump. That was late August of 2016. Sorry Johathan, but I think your Dad out jumped you that day.

I will always remember his smile and the way he could teach. I was not his best student, but he even improved my water skiing skills. As Tom and I continue to enjoy the waters of Clear Lake I know that I will always remember the good times we shared with Bob.

Annette and Tom Esser

Annette Esser - November 10, 2018 at 04:00 PM

DH

“ 4 files added to the album Memories of Bob



Debbie Harvey - November 10, 2018 at 08:54 AM

RC

“ Bob was a lot of fun and very good at getting Ski Jumping a start in Minocqua Area. Last time I saw him was at Joe's Summer Party. I sat by him at the picnic table and talked. Bob will be missed vey much. Peace be with you Bob.

Ron Capacio - November 09, 2018 at 06:29 PM

MS

“ 1 file added to the album Bob



Mary Stadelman - November 09, 2018 at 12:56 PM

“ To My Brother

Perhaps my most entrenched, adrenaline-laced memory of our time together is when you taught me to ski jump. I was never even fractionally as talented as your son Jonathon at flying through the air, but perhaps I had some aptitude, for a girl.

Prior to my first jump, you told me “Keep your knees flexible as you hit the ramp, and keep the tension steady on the ski line in your hand.” Sounds logical...as you pulled me along at a blistering 22 mph, I watched in horror as that hard wooden ramp became huge, and appeared to go vertical! Not logical at all.

Terrified, I was mumbling “Knees soft rope tight knees soft rope tight”.

Well, my skis hit the ramp, the hallucination ended, and the wood went back to its usual inclined angle. I went up the ramp, slipped over the edge into free air, hit the water hard, and held on. I made my first jump!

You taught me to take a double-cut when approaching the ski ramp so that I could hit the ramp as fast as possible, in order to pop off the lip of the ramp for maximum air. Wow. You told me “I am going to raise my arm in the air, and I don’t want you to start your cut until I lower my arm.”

Now I’m nervously looking at your raised arm, the ramp, your arm, the ramp, and I chicken out and start cutting before you drop your arm. Immediately you cut the power on the boat; I sink into the water up to my neck. You were not going to let me cheat! I sure do value that you were so helpful in helping me to become a Tomboy. You were strong and skilled at many wonderful sports; you were my idol.

Bobby, you were brave to perform the hang-gliding act in the Min-Aqua Bat ski shows, not because flying through the air is inherently dangerous, but because our Father had forbidden you to do it. Well, you stood up to him; you wowed the crowd as you soared up to altitude. Every spectator in the audience was in awe and amazement as they wished they could fly like you...and then finally, on your final approach for landing, you nailed it by landing on the dock, and keeping your feet dry. Not only were you the Wisconsin

State Water Ski Champ for two years running; at this time in your life, you were an absolute Rock Star!

You were kind and caring to me when I fell on the kindergarten playground; you picked me up and I knew then that my skinned knee was not the end of the world. You were a good big brother. It used to rain so much in Florida that we were let out of school early if someone came to get us. You came, in your gold Cadillac convertible, and rescued Rex & me from our boring lessons; then you pulled us in the dinghy on the water that had accumulated on the cul-de-sac in front of our house. What fun we had!

As we both got older, you taught me more subtle, sophisticated skills, like how to roll a tight joint. You handed me a tray with a good amount of herb on it, and told me "Roll that up". While we listened to Jamie Brockett sing "The Legend of the USS Titanic", I did roll maybe 15 fairly sloppy, sad looking joints. You said, "Unroll it, and roll it again." Well, what do you know? By the time Mason Profit was singing "Buffalo", I had rolled several super-tight joints...of course, no one really smokes anymore. But it was handy for awhile back then.

You were very helpful to Al & Val in their endeavor to renew the Minocqua house we grew up in; you helped make it a Happy House again; I feel I've gotten a piece of my early childhood back.

Often at dinnertime, your Type O DNA would show itself as you gnawed on a meat bone until it was so clean it appeared that a pack of wolves had chewed that bone. What big teeth you had! Of course, then you'd wash it down with a big glass of nice cold milk. In recent years your body failed you. Was it just all that milk you drank? Perhaps we'll never know. Einstein determined that energy can be transformed, not destroyed. Now you are free of your failed body, and I believe you are onto your next Adventure!

Fly like the wind!

Laurel Pace - November 09, 2018 at 11:14 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Pace.*



November 09, 2018 at 10:36 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Pace.*



November 09, 2018 at 12:57 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Pace.*



November 08, 2018 at 07:24 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



John Lund - November 08, 2018 at 07:13 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Pace.



November 08, 2018 at 12:13 PM



“ Vonnie Braun lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Pace



Vonnie Braun - November 06, 2018 at 09:56 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Bob



Joe Sanfilippo - November 06, 2018 at 05:09 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Pace.*



November 06, 2018 at 01:59 PM



“ *A huge loss for Nancy and the Pace families. Bob had a big heart when he shared his gift of water skiing talents with a young family friend of mine who was practicing for tryouts with the Min-Aqua Bats Water Ski Club a few years ago. What an awesome spirit. Bob is a legend in the water ski world.*

*Deborah Leonard
Ironwood, MI*

Deborah Leonard - November 06, 2018 at 01:56 PM



“ *I knew whenever I was outside in the winter Bob expected me to “pick up the pace” or he would overrun the tails of my xc skis. I learned to acquiesce to this speed demon. Dan Clausen taught us variations of the V1 and V2 techniques at the Winter Park Monday night classes. Bob would be the last skier in for the night, always ready for one more base loop ski. Many fond memories of Bob will stay with me.*

mary dunphy - November 06, 2018 at 12:35 PM

JS

“ 4 files added to the album Bob



Joe Sanfilippo - November 05, 2018 at 09:34 PM