



Charles Moore Swift Jr.

SEP 26, 1940 - DEC 30, 2024



Scan to Visit



Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 6
Media	Page 11



Charles Moore Swift Jr.

SEP 26, 1940 - DEC 30, 2024

Born on September 26, 1940 in Boston, MA, Charles Moore Swift Jr. was the eldest of three sons of Charles Moore Swift and Mary Titus Swift. Known to all as Charley, he and his brothers Tom and David spent their formative years in Exeter, NH, where their father taught math and coached rowing at Phillips Exeter Academy. Childhood hijinx included tales that, by some tellings, were later immortalized in novels by John Irving. Charley's first home was 42 Front Street, then known as Exeter's Bell House. His love for the Boston Red Sox was nurtured by his mother from his early youth, where he particularly identified with Dom DiMaggio who successfully played for the Red Sox with pronounced glasses, much like the "Coke-bottle" glasses Charley wore from a young age. His own Little League career was punctuated by an unlikely game-winning home run captured in the local paper and saved (and shared) for decades.

Charley attended Phillips Exeter Academy, graduating in 1958. Coached by his father, he was a part of a crew fondly termed the "Whiz Kids" for their intellect and surprising boat speed. A race on Lake Quinsigamond in Massachusetts was captured by a Sports Illustrated photographer, with an image that Charley would proudly show, pointing out how his boat was outpacing the puddles their oars produced. He continued his rowing at Princeton University, where he graduated with an AB in Geology in 1962. While there, Charley met his first wife, Tricia; they were married in 1963. After graduating from Princeton, he went to Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where in 1967 he earned a PhD in Geophysics. His thesis dissertation, titled "A Magnetotelluric Investigation of an Electrical Conductivity Anomaly in the Southwestern United States", was with Professor Theodore R. Madden, who was both an academic mentor and fellow avid club hockey player. In this dissertation Charley devised a method of reducing magneto-telluric data that became known as the "Swift Equations", which is taught at university and professional levels to this day. By Charley's telling, by hip-checking Professor Madden in a club hockey game he added a month to his thesis timeline.



Obituary

Charles Moore Swift Jr.

SEP 26, 1940 - DEC 30, 2024

After completing his PhD, Charley and Tricia moved to Salt Lake City, UT, where he worked for the Kennecott Copper Corporation, and during which time his daughter, Alison (1970) and son, Geoffrey (1972) were born. In 1976 Charley and his family moved to Berkeley, CA, to work for Chevron Corporation (Standard Oil of California) and raise his family. Charley was a dedicated Chevron employee, advancing to be Chief Geophysicist. He earned Chevron's "Chairman's Award" in 1991 for his work in discovering a major copper-gold deposit in Chile.

Charley was an avid and accomplished hiker, which started in New Hampshire's White Mountains where as a teen he worked as a "hut boy" at Madison Hut and Crag Camp in the 1950's. During his years in Utah Charley and his family skied at Alta and Snowbird and hiked in the Wasatch Mountains. In California, he loved hiking, camping, and skiing in the Sierra Nevada mountains with family and friends. In addition to sharing his love for the mountains with his children, he pursued his passion summiting Mt. Shasta, the Grand Teton, Mont Blanc, and the Matterhorn.

Charley married Linda Dismore Raedeke on March 14, 1992 (Pi day!), brought together by a love for geology, mountains, humor, and music. They built a house atop the Berkeley hills with architect Henrik Bull; this was a particular joy, as Charley often described himself as a "frustrated architect". He and Linda immersed themselves in the project and had a wonderful time doing it. Many evenings were spent enjoying their sweeping view of the Bay Area with food and wine, music, family, and friends.

Charley was struck by a bus in Australia in late 1993, and suffered a traumatic brain injury, shaping his later years. With the support and love of his devoted wife Linda, these years were loving and full as they together demonstrated remarkable courage and tenacity throughout his recovery. Charley and Linda continued to travel, with trips to Italy, Greece, Turkey, Switzerland, and New England and Montana. In later years they enjoyed self-described "paradox patrols" - a pun on their PhDs - and explored the California coastline extensively in a Sprinter Van. He lived at home with Linda and his beloved Maine Coon cats until 2021, when he moved to Chaparral House in Berkeley.

Charley is survived by his wife Linda of 33 years; brother David of Exeter, NH; daughter Dr. Alison Packard (married to Zander) of Chestnut Hill, MA; son Geoffrey (married to Meg) of Yarmouth, ME; and grandchildren Caleb, Avery, and Rowan Packard; and Hannah and David Swift.



Obituary

Charles Moore Swift Jr.

SEP 26, 1940 - DEC 30, 2024

In lieu of flowers, please consider a tax-deductible donation to Chaparral House, in memory of Charley Swift.



Tribute Wall

Charles Moore Swift Jr.

SEP 26, 1940 - DEC 30, 2024

G

George Reynolds posted:

I knew about Charley's academic achievements and reputation long before he visited me in Leixlip, Ireland December 1991 together with Murray Hitzman, both from Chevron, who wanted to see what I was doing with the TEM method. Charley came up with some very useful suggestions and we adjourned for lunch in a nearby hotel. He was a fascinating person, friendly and entertaining, and I felt very privileged to be in the company of two such heavyweights in the world of mineral exploration. I was shocked to hear of his accident in Australia a short time later, and took every opportunity to hear about his progress to recovery. My sincere sympathies to his family, friends and colleagues on his passing.

April 3 at 4:53 AM



Tribute Wall

Charles Moore Swift Jr.

SEP 26, 1940 - DEC 30, 2024



Larry Cathles posted:

Dear Linda (and Charlie), I am so very sad to hear of Charlie's passing, and all my heartfelt condolences to you and the family. I met Charlie in 1978 on one of my first days at Kennecott when he poked his head around the door of my new office and said "Cathles, I presume". We were good friends ever after, and I will miss him a great deal. Charlie and I both went to Princeton and worked together at both Kennecott and Chevron, so we had a lot in common over the years. The days at Kennecott were the best, perhaps because we were both young and Charlie was tremendous fun. I particularly remember the skiing at Alta, and how Charlie announced one afternoon that there would be good snow and we had to get to the slopes first thing to get the first run on the fresh powder. Work could wait. Skiing down a slope with about 2" of powder cover with Charlie in the lead was like floating on a cloud. Lift tickets were \$5.50 a day! Maybe this is what Charlie is doing now. Charlie and I organized several internal conferences at Exploration Services, and he taught me a great deal. He was a great judge of people (in the most positive sense) and knew to let the explorationists speak first to tell us what was really needed. Plate tectonics was brand new, and its many implications provided material those not so expert in exploration could contribute. Fortunately one did not have to have Charlie's exceptional skills in geophysical techniques. Charlie was not just an expert in matters scientific. He was an expert on hiking, for example. We had some wonderful hikes in the mountains around Salt Lake and I often remember his pointing out, as I lagged behind on a decent, that there was a greater variation in the speed of hikers descending than ascending. I think this is even more true with age. Charlie's tragic accident in Australia changed things a lot, and also not so much. I will, as will many, always be grateful to Chevron for how they helped. When people criticize corporations I often wish they should be aware that Chevron dedicated one of their employees to managing matters related to Charlie for a full year, and allowed Linda to spend all the time needed for Charlie's recovery. All, especially Linda/Diz, deserve tremendous credit for Charlie's recovery. None could have done better. The amazing thing to me after Charlie's tragic accident, was that his personality remained so intact. He no longer could do his magneto telluric calculations. But he was still great fun to be around and retained his interpersonal abilities. His great good humor turned to jokes of the knock-knock, why the chicken crossed the road, and word twists like when is a door not a door (when it a jar of course-- I only remember the bad ones) genre. He could have been a comedian at this stage. His reservoir of these jokes was so large that I seriously suggested to him on a couple of occasions that he write a book of them. It would be a best seller that every grandparent would buy. I wish you were still around, Charlie! We will all remember you with great fondness for a very very long time. Larry Cathles

January 6 at 11:55 AM



Ken E Witherly posted:

Attached photo of Charley in 1989 at a Society of Exploration Geophysicist meeting in Este Park CO. List of people attending attached.

January 16 at 12:21 PM



Tribute Wall

Charles Moore Swift Jr.

SEP 26, 1940 - DEC 30, 2024

TG

Ted Glenn posted:

It's with tremendous sadness to learn of Charley's passing. We were colleagues and friends. We worked together at Kennecott and later for Chevron. Some of our most memorable times were in Sslt Lake where we played hockey together. He was quite a "checker" on the ice. He was advised to stop playing when he had a retina detachment. Once it healed he was back on the ice. My last fond memory: i picked him up at his home and drove him to a meeting at Chevron. He wasn't going to work after his accident in Australia but we thought it would be nice to have ChRley at the meeting. The drive was great because his long term memory was good and we talked about a lot of old times. When got to the Chevron parking lot in San Ramon, he asked me why we were there. His short term memory was not there. Later a group of us shared a meal and great conversations. My condolences go out to Linda and his family. Fond memories, Ted Glenn

January 15 at 9:15 AM

MW

Mike Wright posted:

I worked with Charlie for a dozen years at Kennecott Exploration Services in Salt Lake City, Utah in the 1960s and 1970s. He was a pleasure to be around with his quick wit, infectious laugh and sharp intellect. Charlie contributed immensely to our exploration efforts in the U.S., Canada and Australia. He maintained an overview of all of our geophysical work and made invaluable comments and suggestions that greatly improved our efforts. He was well-liked and well-appreciated by all of his colleagues. Rest in peace, my friend.

January 15 at 6:05 AM

SR

Stephanie Rouse posted:

I was so very fortunate to be able to spend time with Charley as his caregiver for 18 years. I felt happy to be in his affable presence from our very first meeting. It was a pleasure to pause to smell roses with him during walks in Berkeley. He loved telling jokes anytime we were out and about, so that was part and parcel of a typical outing. At home, he sometimes liked me to read a book aloud; we discovered Wallace Stegner's Angle of Repose was a mutual favorite. One morning I heard bagpipe music coming from the Hall of Science, a hillside path away. Charley was as ready and eager to follow the piper as I was, so we enjoyed an unexpected adventure. Often walking was not comfortable for Charley, but was something he resolutely put up with. Diz, family, friends, their cats, humor, music, books, movies, baseball, games like mancala, and the joy and fulfillment his work, mountain climbing, and crew had given him, all helped him continue to live a zestful life. I am so grateful I got to accompany you on part of this journey, my dear Charley.

January 13 at 3:30 PM



Tribute Wall

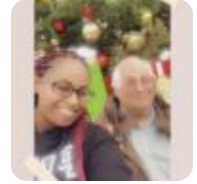
Charles Moore Swift Jr.

SEP 26, 1940 - DEC 30, 2024

DM

Desi Mcmorris shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Caring for you, Charley, has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. Not a single day goes by that I don't think of you and Diz, remembering all the times we shared together. I'll always smile thinking about the jokes you told, especially the one you loved to share: What do you call a rabbit with fleas? Bugs Bunny! Your sense of humor, your laugh, and the simple joys we shared—like our walks, lunches, and outings—will always hold a special place in my heart. To your family, please know that I am here for you always. I am deeply saddened by Charley's loss, but his spirit will live on through all of you. Rest in peace, Charley. You are truly missed.



January 7 at 1:16 PM

RP

Roger Prince posted:

I wish I had known Charley's life story before he passed. Turns out I grew up in Durham NH, two towns over and spent a lot of time hiking in the White Mountains of NH as well. I now understand why I was immediately comfortable around Charley. We had the same educational institution, small New Hampshire town upbringing (my dad was a professor at UNH in Durham). There was never anything pretentious about Charley. He was an intense and focused listener and full of humor, life and enthusiasm. So glad I got to know him and thank you to the writer (Linda?) for the wonderful obituary Roger Prince.

January 7 at 11:41 AM

MB

Mal Boyce posted:

Linda, Diz et al- I had the great privilege of having Charlie Swift as a geophysical specialist on my Chevron Overseas staff for five years- 1989-94. In his chosen field of Magnetotellurics, he had few peers. He was able to work on vexing problems that more conventional technologies could not address. I was pleased to recommend him in 1991 for a chairman's Award, one of two that I recommended in my 11 years as COPI VP. In his work with the Minerals Group, he quite accurately outlined a prospect in Chile for Gold-Copper. Chevron obtained a position in the area from the Chilean Govt which it later divested when Chevron decided to exit the Minerals business. The prospect is now the site of the world's largest Copper mine- Escondido. Charlie's horrific accident in 1993 in Australia was followed by miraculous medical treatment in a Brisbane hospital by a specialist who had been trained in the Bay Area. Lots of loving care from Linda and his family over the years gave him 30 more good years. Charlie was one of the best! Mal Boyce

January 7 at 8:03 AM



Tribute Wall

Charles Moore Swift Jr.

SEP 26, 1940 - DEC 30, 2024



Geoffrey Swift shared 7 photos to the **Geoffrey Swift** album.



January 6 at 11:55 AM



Media

Charles Moore Swift Jr.

SEP 26, 1940 - DEC 30, 2024



Desi Mcmorris shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

January 7 at 1:16 PM





Geoffrey Swift shared 7 photos to the **Geoffrey Swift** album.

January 6 at 11:55 AM



Thanksgiving in Berkeley 2019



Stephanie Rouse January 13 at 8:40 PM

I especially love this picture of Charley! It is fitting that it is a Thanksgiving photo, as he so appreciated the spirit of Thanksgiving.



T hanksgiving in Maine 2017



Swift 4; CMS Jr; DTS; CMS Sr; TBS



Geoffrey Swift January 8 at 10:32 AM

Apologies for the initials. From left to right: Charles Swift r, David Swift, Charles Swift Sr., and Tom Swift.



Media

Charles Moore Swift Jr.

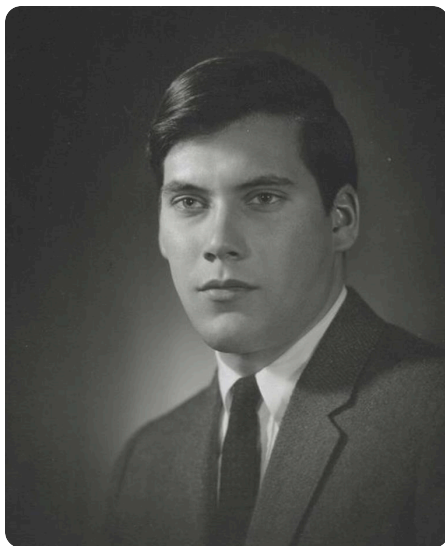
SEP 26, 1940 - DEC 30, 2024



Randolph and Madison, 1958 and 1956



Swift Family 1955



Princeton 1962



Charley & Alison



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Charles by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit

