

In memory of Trudy Davis: 1/29/1952 - 10/21/2012

Trudy Davis had a unique gift for summing up life in beautiful, simple terms. In Trudy's own words when she began search and rescue training: "It took me 6 months to figure out what role I was to play as a one half partner in a dog team". This statement speaks of Trudy's humility but also of her instinctual commitment to creating a true partnership with her dog. What drew Trudy to Search and Rescue was a desire to help people. It provided a venue that was both exciting and challenging, so much so that it caused her to move to New England from Arizona in 1991, ultimately ending up in Vermont with her life partner Sue Randall and family in Barton. She teamed up with a German Shepherd named Chinook with whom she had the utmost trust and respect. One of her classic statements came after her last certification test with Chinook where they would now be fielded on actual searches together..."Now, the real work begins". Trudy and Chinook searched together for 10 years. Trudy credited Chinook for teaching her everything there was to know about search and rescue. One memorable search for her was her first find in 1996 of an 80 year old man. Chinook stood by his side until help came to get the subject out of the woods, an amazing example of how so often K9 and handler end up mirroring each other's character.

Trudy lived with cancer for 20 years. Despite the challenges, hope and setbacks this presented her, she truly lived every moment of her life. She exhibited incredible courage and handled her illness with grace. What she loved most about life was communicating on a meaningful level with all people she came in contact with, either through work through her contacts with her many friends, or through her work in search and rescue. She was known as a woman who had keen problem solving skills and who could "fix anything", resourceful and knowledgeable about a wide variety of things. Trudy became a mentor to anyone who knew her, even after she could no longer search with the team. We will forever miss her energizing conversations and guiding wisdom, but have taken her essence and spirit into our hearts, in the hopes that we may also leave such a tender mark upon the world.