

## John Evans

1955-2009



It is with great shock and sadness that we announce the death of John Evans, a founding member of the WEMSI Europe team. John tragically died in the Llanberis pass on 28th April 2009 while descending after completing a climb with his partner Lin.

John was an inspiration to many who worked in the outdoors. His calm, considered approach was an example to all, whether they be under-slung 100ft beneath a helicopter or rigging a single pitch climb for the first time!

John was originally from Wrexham, UK where he joined the Scouts who introduced him to the mountains and the world of mountain rescue. He became a full member of Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Organisation in May 1973 and through this organisation he was introduced to the United States Air Force Pararescue Jumpers (PJs). These are airborne rescue troops trained to recover and provide medical treatment to personnel in humanitarian and combat environments.

Always one for a challenge, John became attracted to the PJ's life and in the early 1980's he left Wales for the USA to join the USAF and qualified as a PJ. He traveled the world with them for over a decade.

Leaving the USAF in the mid 1990's he started as a mountain guide in the Alaskan mountains. Through this John was introduced to the Denali National Park Service and high altitude mountain rescue on Denali (Mount McKinley) and the surrounding ranges.

From then on John split his life between Denali and Capel Curig, Wales. When he was not in Denali he shared his knowledge and experience in Mountain Rescue technical ropework, Wilderness Medical Care and Search Management, which not only took him around Wales, England, Scotland and Ireland, but as far a field as South Africa, Turkey and Hong Kong.

John is survived by his two children, his son David (20yrs) and daughter Rhiannon (17yrs). He loved taking them on the hills from a young age and gave them his love of the mountains.

John was a true professional in his fields, a real stalwart and the man to have with you when the going got tough on the mountains.

Tributes to John are being sent from around the world. He will be missed by all those who knew him. It is poignant that the man who did so much to assist those in trouble in the mountains should lose his life at such an early age and on the mountains he loved.

There are people in our lives that we mark as those we want next to us when the chips are down, John was one of these people. His departure from this life leaves a gap in many of our hearts.