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Climbing

Todd Montgomery (1963-2008)

Idaho-based climber, best known for his huge dynos, impossible slabs, brutal mantels, and wicked wit, has moved on. Todd Montgomery died of natural causes on March 26, 2008, in Joshua Tree. He left from a place he loved the most. Todd's list of firsts in the City of Rocks, Yosemite, Eldorado, and the Boise area (where he grew up) will forever immortalize his efforts. Those who knew him look forward to the huge doubles, and shoulder-wrecking mantels we're sure he's already working on. —*Tedd Thompson*

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Todd Newell Montgomery was born July 2, 1963 in Washington, D.C. the second of three sons of Dr. Robert and Nancy Montgomery. He graduated from Borah High School and pursued a degree in Political Science at Univ. of Colorado, where he graduated in 1987. Todd loved the mountains and the Idaho outdoors more than anything else. He remains the youngest falconer ever in the state, working with protectors of birds of prey in Idaho. He found his career in the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, where he worked for many years.

The people who knew him best appreciated him as a man of immense talent, incisive wit and a gentle soul who helped many through troubled times. Todd had a deep compassion for birds and all animals and he loved working with plants and flowers. His first love however was climbing, and it made him happier than anything else in this world. He climbed extensively in the United States, but his heart was in the City of Rocks and Joshua Tree.

He is survived by his parents, Dr. Robert and Nancy Montgomery; brothers Bruce and Judd and their families; his many devoted friends; and his dog, Mina — all of whom will miss him dearly. "Best of all he loved the fall, the leaves yellow on cottonwoods, hawks floating on the murmuring winds, and above the hills, the high and quiet stone. Now he will be a part of them forever." Todd died of natural causes in Joshua Tree, California on March 26, 2008.

In celebration of his life and in lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Peregrine Fund, 5668 West Flying Hawk Lane, Boise, Idaho 83709





Todd with Red-tailed Hawk 1977

Todd became interested in falconry at the age of seven after hearing a story read by his second grade teacher about birds of prey.

He built a mews in the back yard and worked with pigeons until they made him sick.

At this time he met and worked with Dr. Tom Dunstan who was studying birds of prey in Boise. He rappelled Todd into eagle and Prairie Falcon nests in the Snake River Canyon as part of Todd's project.

At the age of twelve, Todd took his falconry test and became the youngest falconer in the state of Idaho.

Todd, with license in hand, was aided in securing a Red-tailed Hawk by Dr. Rick Williams of Boise. He was subsequently mentored by Rich Howard, also of Boise. Todd flew his birds in the Sawtooth country and the desert as time went on.

He was single-minded in remaining involved with falconry rather than school activities. There were times when he slept in the mews as he thought the occasion demanded. This young boy learned lessons of life from his birds.

“When we show our respect for other living things, they respond with respect for us.”
— Arapaho proverb

Idaho Statesman photo by Henry Gabel, Jan. 9, 1976



Todd with Toby (Red-tailed Hawk) at Stanley, Idaho 1975