

ROBERTA (ROBBI) BENZAN



Robbi passed away in April 2007.

Robbi joined Abreast in a Boat in 1998 when Barnett first started under the nurturing care of Norma Hicks (now in Nanoose Bay).

It was our first year paddling and the most wonderful experience sharing our joys and sorrows of breast cancer with new friends. She would wade waist deep to get the boat on its way, and was our trusty Board liaison.

Robbi had a wicked sense of humor and huge compassion, and somehow we had such fun together. One of our highlights was the first away regatta in Victoria. We all said we felt like we were in our teen years again, fighting and giggling over beds in the hostel and dancing the next evening (and how we danced!) in the town square. Meeting with Merv Griffin that weekend and having our team picture

taken in front of his yacht polished our weekend perfectly.

Bobbi later paddled on the first Deep Cove crew where she was an anchor for the wonderful North Shore contingent. Not only was she a strong paddler, but she never wavered in her commitment and dedication to the team.

We'll always remember Robbi's lovely smile and her caring way.

- Kathy Brett and Renata Hamelin