

BOB NULL MEMORIAL

*A short disquisition
on the Bob Null Memorial
held at LASFS
on Saturday, August 14, 2010*

Maybe I am too close to this and others should weigh in and comment; but, I think that the Bob Null Memorial went off smoothly.

Earlier that morning I suddenly realized that the only photographs of Bob which would be on display would be those provided by his brother Richard, photos of a Robert Null much younger than that remembered by current LASFS members. All well and good, and maybe instructive to LASFS members, but not very enlightening to members of Bob's biological (First) family who would have seen them before. So I went to www.lasfsinc.info, clicked on "Memorials," then on "Merlin R. 'Bob' Null," and picked seven photos which I put into Publisher, one photo at a time. I retained the colour when I printed them, full size (8½ x 11), putting borders around them, and later put them on display at the Memorial. (After the Memorial I gave these photos to the Null Family. I also gave Richard Null the Guest Book which everybody had signed.)

On my way to the club I stopped at the Ralphs Market to pick up a few things which Eylat, the day before, told me we needed. I got to the club a bit before 9:00 am, prepared to help Greg Bilan do the setup which we had previously discussed, only to find out that he had gotten there early enough to just about finish the setup work. He had also put

the orange cones on the parking spots to reserved them for members of the Null Family. A great idea—but why did not anybody mention it to me earlier when I had handy (at home) Richard Null's telephone number? The next best thing was to put signs on the cones, saying, "NULL FAMILY PARKING." A good idea, but ...

See, when the Moffatti showed up, they gave me 2 reams of blue paper for use in printing their zines for this APA. I took the paper and put them into the back of my car. When I closed the back door and turned away from my car, I noticed, coming down the street, the wives of two of Bob Null's brothers, soon followed by their husbands. (One of Bob's brothers had arrived earlier.) All of the brothers said that they were happy with where they were parked and that we should open up these parking spots for others. Which I proceeded to do.

Just before I started the proceedings I mentioned to members of the Null family where the two bathrooms were located. After all, the rest of the attendees were LASFS members and I made the assumption that they did not need this information.

Soon after 11:00 am I felt that there were enough people in the room to start things and I made a few preliminary remarks, welcoming all to LASFS, and asking people to give their names before they started speaking as a courtesy to others. I introduced Richard Null and asked him to introduce the other members of his family. I also told people how we would be proceeding, with me giving a few preliminary remarks and then turning the podium over to Richard Null. After that, anybody who wanted to could take the podium and speak for as

long or as short as they wanted to. I also pointed out that there was a lot of food in the front building and if anybody felt hungry or wanted to take a short break, they could go the front building for these refreshments. Greg had taken the couches out of the front building and put them in the patio, under the shade of a plastic awning stretched between the two buildings. Greg also set up our picnic table under the shade of the lemon tree.

At Bob's funeral I had spent a little time talking about Bob; so, at this Memorial, knowing that there would be more people talking about Bob, I kept to a minimum what I had to say about the person who was like the brother I never had and soon turned things over to Richard Null.

At one point in the proceedings I again took the podium and mentioned to people that if they heard a speaker mention something which sparked a further recollection of Bob, it was all right to go back to the podium and say more words about Bob.

After several hours I felt it incumbent upon me to not only say a few more words, but to call for a short recess/food and drink break - but that anybody could continue to talk about Bob if they wanted to but that we would "reconvene" in the room afterwards.

In the front building there were lots of tasty goodies brought not only by LASFS members but also by members of the Null Family. It was easy to eat too much.

After this food and conversation break, I called people back to the meeting room and reemphasized that it was all right to get up and speak again if one had al-

ready done so.

After some time it appeared that things were winding down, so I got up and asked if anybody else had anything else to say - and only one person did. I then asked the Null Family if they had anything to say, with Richard standing up to say only that they thanked us for this Memorial.

I then pointed out Greg Bilan, sitting in the Treasurer's chair, and thanked him for all of the physical work he had done to get the LASFS ready for this event. He was applauded. I also thanked Eylat Poliner for the competent arranging she did in putting out the Pot Luck food - and she also got applause.

After thanking the Null Family and the other attendees for helping all of us honour Bob Null, a person who was one of the most essential people we have ever had in the club.

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