

The Life & High Times of

Bryant "JAYBIRD" Thomas



- **June 22, 1953:** Bryant Thomas born in Hartford, CT to parents Carolyn & William
- **1978:** Moved in with Gloria & Elmer in Enfield (and never left)
- **1970s:** CB Radio fan – His handle: "JAYBIRD"
- **1975–1998:** Agawam Rollaway Skating Rink: DJ & Skate Guard
- **Summers 1978–1984:** Lake of Isles Scout Reservation Staff (Ledyard, CT): Campcraft Director, C.I.T. Director, Program Director
- **Summers 1985–1990:** Reservation Director at Lake of Isles
- Stints on staff at Camp Nahaco & Camp Read
- **Classic moments at Lake of Isles:**
 - His famous song "Talkin' 'bout a Good Time"
 - Pequot Pete/Dude
 - Cannon blast at camp retreat to scare Lanie and the parents
- Labor Day BBQs in his backyard
- **1981:** Order of the Arrow Highest-Vigil-Honor (Qutta Wetu Chapter, Eluwak Lodge)
- **1980s-90s:** Order of the Arrow National Conferences
- Thanksgiving dinners at the Duhamels in Vernon, CT
- Thanksgiving Eve Bar Hopping
- Big E Arcade adventures
- Drinks at TJ's Sport House [originally Josie's, then The Outpost Lounge] (Captain & Root Beer)
- 4th of July Parties on Steve Daly's roof
- George Darrell's Memorial Day bashes
- Workin' for the man at Honda, Gerber Scientific, Singer
- Saturday morning cartoons
- **1991:** Drove to Daytona Beach for First Daytona 500 race
- Randy Holmes' Daytona 500 parties
- NASCAR every Sunday
- Trips to New Hampshire Motor Speedway
- Skiing trips to the Condo in Vermont
- Cooking for the gang at Sugarbush
- Hampton Beach weeks with St. John sisters & crew
- Super Bowl parties at Scott Gamble's
- Camping trips with old friends, new friends, near friends, & far friends
- **2010:** Worked at Skater City
- **May 2009:** Lake of Isles 50th Anniversary Reunion
- New Year Eve parties (at everyone's house)
- **March 7, 2015:** Passed away to the great Heavens above.
- **Jaybird Quotables:**
 - "Can't we ALL just get along?"
 - "Keep the faith."
 - "I do ME."
 - "I'm a jaybird, not a turkey. Going to have prime rib for dinner. Leave me alone."
 - "Ours is not to question why; ours is just to do or die."
 - "You lusherous gentlemens..."
 - "Hey, baby, when are you going to leave him and come be with a real man? I'LL take good care of you."
 - "Whatchoo mean?"
 - "KISMIF: Keep it simple; make it fun."
 - "and the whole nine yards..."
 - "Other than that, that's about it."
 - "That's it, ... periot!"

Universally beloved . . .