

Michael Melich and Cold Fusion: A Love Story

Marianne Macy

Note: This story aims to provide a sampling of Michael's life and work. I wish this story could have everyone and everything in it. Later, when I have finished following up on Michael's many projects and update ongoing work on LENR with the oral histories of scientists in the field, I will write more about Michael's history, work and collaborations. Michael and I fought his cancer for three years, but the last year it was battle after battle. Our families and friends were with us. We missed all of you we couldn't get to.

I was with Michael Melich for twelve years. I had a number of guides to the world of cold fusion. My number one guide was Michael. He helped and clarified my reporting on the state of the cold fusion field and the progress of its researchers. Now, I will pursue another cycle of finding out where the work we talked about then has progressed, what researchers are doing, what they see. What the future is. The future was built by all these people.

2018

On Thanksgiving Day, Michael had emergency surgery and I was asked to sign hospice papers. I refused because I knew he'd want to fight. "He's dying!" an anguished doctor told me.

"Can't you let a man sleep?" Mike's voice came from the bed. He proceeded to give a 25-minute soliloquy about the foibles of medicine and science. He spoke of cold fusion, of integrative medicine, of a satellite that had broken loose and gone off course to the tune of millions of dollars that a group he worked with figured out how to get back when everyone said they couldn't. The doctors were frozen, listening. "My mind will get me through this," Michael told them. The next

day a multidisciplinary team of doctors come in to see him. He was with us through June 28, 2019.

Beginning

People would ask me where I met Michael Melich and I'd say, "At a cold fusion conference in Russia." That usually resulted in a moment's pause.

In 2006, I'd met physicist Scott Chubb at one of Tom Valone's Conferences on Future Energy. I told him how a hot fusion physicist I'd dated and his Noble Prize-winning mentor had insisted how ridiculous cold fusion was and that there was nothing to it. "Then why are scientists from serious institutions all over the world still working on it?" I'd asked. I read Gene Mallove's book *Fire from Ice*, Charles Beaudette's *Excess Heat* and some other material and decided I would write a grant proposal to do oral histories on the field. It was a shock when Scott Chubb called me toward the end of May 2007 and said, "I raised money for your project! The conference is in Sochi in three weeks!" We ended up in Russia and it was Scott who introduced me to many of the scientists, among them physicists David Nagel and Michael Melich.

One night we all sat on a balcony looking over the Black Sea and talking. Mike said, "You're a journalist? My two sisters are journalists!" He spoke of them in such an enthusiastic and respectful way that I was touched. We were drawn together that week. I interviewed as many people as I could and in the meal and coffee and evening breaks got tutored by these American scientists. The last night the Russians danced, toasted and celebrated the meeting's close and conference co-chair Yuri Bazhutov's 60th birthday while Michael and I walked under the full moon on the beach. It was so romantic.

I went back to New York thinking, "What an idiot I am. I have to work with him. What if I never see this guy again?" As soon as he returned from making his way back from other stops in Europe, he came to New York to see me and we started a long-distance relationship. But Mike surmised, "If you need to do historic interviews with people involved with cold fusion, let's go!" He packed not only me, but realized the only way a cold fusion tour across the country would work would be if my cats went. We stopped from coast to coast, staying with people and doing interviews, talking cold



Mike Melich and Marianne Macy at ICCF15, 2009.

fusion experiments, current work, visiting. As we drove, I ran tape on Michael talking, giving background. You can hear my six pound Burmese cat Phebe, who seemed to believe if she just screamed loudly enough we would turn around and take her home to New York. Soon, Phebe fell in love with him too and would thrust her body between us, as she believed Michael was hers.

Mike asked me to marry him somewhere near Austin, Texas, where we spent the night visiting his friend Ben Breed, from Rice University and Los Alamos, and then on to Dennis Letts' lab. Marriage? Mike had been married for 35 years. I'd never been married. He was from Utah. I was from New York. Nineteen years age difference between us (although he was the one who usually wore me out with his schedule). I thought we should wait, or as his mother put it, "I see. A trial run." There would come a day when I was at my desk in New York and realized life was no good without Michael Melich. But on this trip, we drove to Dripping Springs, Texas for a group meeting mind meld with Letts, Melich, Breed and some other people. We pulled into the Breed's beautiful ranch where cows grazed right outside the front door. Inside it was elegant, oil paintings and oriental rugs. Ben's wife Janey took one look at the case in my hand and screamed, "Cats?!"

"I'm so sorry!" I stammered. "Mike said that Ben said..." The cats were banished to a back bathroom and she was a lovely hostess. I was too petrified to tell her that the night before the cats had luxuriously sprawled in their Austin townhouse.

Michael believed that learning was something you did all your life and even people with the highest credentials weren't necessarily "those who know." He loved a book called *The Experts Speak: The Definitive Compendium of Authoritative Misinformation*, compiled by Christopher Cerf and Victor Navasky. I did not know how he would feel when he discovered that I was a journalist whose work had been published in national magazines and books and worked in broadcasting from the time I was in my 20s. Or, that I'd been admitted to a graduate program in oral history and the journalism school at Columbia, took what I needed, and never finished college because I was hired to work on the history of one of the original New York radio stations where my grandfather had been a World War II network program director who translated Hitler's speeches. I started working in New York and never stopped. Mike thought life was about learning. I questioned him about his own degrees. I read his Ph.D. thesis but was confused about his Masters work in physics. He'd been at University of Utah and Rice, and I asked Mike about that. He told me many stories about projects he'd worked on and people he'd worked with. He was a master at deflection. This summer Lex Hemple, his brother-in-law, wrote Mike's obituary for the *Salt Lake Tribune* (see <https://legacy.co/2Z8EKQ6>) and after all my years with Mike, I learned that he had a Masters in both experimental and theoretical physics, which explained the two universities! Michael never wanted me to feel lesser because of my lack of graduate degrees. That was the kind of person he was.

To start, we traveled the country and interviewed the people involved with Fleischmann and Pons at Utah. We traveled internationally and interviewed people at Southampton and Harwell. The overheated, overexcited years of the start of cold fusion and people involved slowly and sadly came together



Rodney Johnson, Mike Melich, Marianne Macy, Jed Rothwell and Dave Nagel at ICCF19, 2015.

and in many cases, decades later, people spoke with regret even of their own thoughts and actions, wishing it could have been different. There were unsung heroes of such great caliber, as well as tragic villains or maybe those blinded by self-interest. No, make that villains. But the unsung heroes...Michael wanted me to get to them and made sure I did.

Michael had been there in the start of cold fusion and knew everyone. His father, a former Utah state senator, had been on the committee that had allotted funds to Fleischmann and Pons to set up the National Cold Fusion Institute (NCFI). He'd called Mike and asked, "What do you think?"

"Cold fusion?" Michael responded. "Ridiculous!"

"Well, we just gave these guys a lot of money and I'm sending you all the papers to review!" his father responded. Michael said it was almost three years later, reviewing Fleischmann and Pons' data from Harwell, that he felt, "This is a real effect." Later, making my way through the extensive papers at the University of Utah Marriott Library and personal papers people let me have access to, I found a note from a University of Utah official to another saying, "Can we please get someone besides Michael Melich negotiating for Fleischmann and Pons?"

Throughout the years, I have been funded in part by an anonymous supporter of the field, a person who was there when no one was there and without whom, in essence, we probably wouldn't have cold fusion. In addition, Michael introduced me to Greg Thompson, the head of the historical archives at Marriott Library, and in Greg I found one of the true courageous souls in the background of the field. Greg Thompson was a friend of the Melich family who, much like University of Utah president Chase Peterson, believed in academic freedom more than academic politics.

Over the years, Michael took me to everyone he had worked with and reviewed work for and made sure we spoke.

There was never *not* a day for LENR. I remember one Christmas Mike and I went for a walk and as usual he grabbed his phone and called someone. This time it was Rick Nocetti. First, Mike had the politeness to ascertain he was not interrupting a family Christmas. "No," Rick replied (speaker phone). "The Dragon Lady (he adored his wife) and family are in the kitchen cooking and I'm the videographer responsible for recording the girls' holiday dresses." In a



Norman Cook, Marianne Macy and Mike Melich at ICCF16, 2011.



Mike Melich and Jacques Dufour at ICCF16, 2011.

minute, he and Mike were deep into loading and temperatures and measurements. It was Christmas. They were happy now. There was some version of this every holiday and...day. Nights too.

And meetings—over the years, they were everywhere. Memories come to mind in no particular order...in labs, at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. We enjoyed the kind hospitality of Ed Storms and Carol Talcott Storms in Sante Fe so many times that I wished I could run tape just on the dizzying intellect of dinners with Storms, Tom Passell, Tom Claytor, Mike, Rodney Johnson. We visited Dennis Cravens' mountaintop lab to see his experiments and hear of his plans for a LENR-powered car. We traveled to see early titans Mel Eisner from AMACO, electrochemist John Bockris (Texas A&M) and electrochemist Mel Miles (China Lake Naval Laboratory). On the east coast there was Talbot and Scott Chubb, and Mitch Swartz's MIT conferences. Rob Duncan and Annie Sobel's house on a river, walking and talking. In Rome, theorist Norman Cook invited us to join him and his two friends from CERN for a rooftop dinner to discuss the ICCF conference we were attending. "Physics, always physics," mock sighed one of his friends. *LENR, always LENR*. Vittorio Violante and his wife Giovanna hosted us at their home. We went to Jacques DuFour's lab in Paris and at the Sendai, Japan conference—the last international conference Mike attended (he also went to the Satellite Symposium in China the week before)—we received tours of the beautiful labs of Jirohta Kasagi and Yasuhiro Iwamura. We'd meet with everyone at their institutions—Mike McKubre and Fran Tanzella from SRI, Peter Hagelstein from MIT, George Miley from University of Illinois at Champaign—or at international meetings, or anywhere people could meet us. We went to Marseille and spent time with Jean-Paul Biberian. In India, Chino Srinivasan took us to the Theosophical Society campus. Michael, Hagelstein, Mike McKubre and Nagel met with students in India who were eager to work on LENR and wanted to talk to researchers. At the conferences, we appreciated time spent with Francesco Celani, Sveinn Olafsson, Roger Stringham and countless others.

Michael deeply appreciated the early cold fusion supporters, whose stories will be in the book I'll return to finishing this year. His friend Fred Jaeger in Utah, who put together the post-NCFI effort ENECO, Mike thought of as exemplary,

as he did of some of the others involved. He applauded the efforts of those like Rick Cantwell and financier Matt McConnell at Coolescence, Brian Scanlan and Cynthia Chang at Kiva Labs. Mike loved working with such dedicated supporters of the field. In Seattle, before ICCF20 in China and Japan, we met with Xing-Zhong Li and his wife Chongkin to talk about additional LENR research projects for the collaborative initiative between the University of Washington, Tsinghua University and Microsoft—called GIX, a global collaboration between leading academic and cross-sector partners. Michael's notes and files from the last conference he attended, in China and Sendai (ICCF20), will provide more analysis and insight to come.

These are all names of people involved, but Mike was integral to the work going on. He provided the education of aspects of that work to writers like me to communicate and promote the science and its application. He was a prodigious recorder of conversations, meetings, background. He kept everything. The worst thing for me to try to write about it all is that I'll miss more people than I'll cover in this piece, but the material is there in what we amassed together and separately. Michael's brother Rob said, "If Michael Melich is within 300 miles of anyone he knows, he'll set off to see them."

LENR: The Big Picture

Michael Melich was an advisor to the U.S. government on many things, some classified. Martin Fleischmann originally wanted their research in a government lab because of its weapons potential. Physicists and the top people in the field all did some degree of classified work, but the LENR work was public. Michael was able to weave private sector support, government funding and researchers from all over the world together if the research called for it, such as work done with Russians Andrei Lipson, Ivan Chernov, Alexei Roussetski, Boris Lyakhov, Aslan Tsivadze and Andre Liders. At the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL), Michael worked on numerous research projects, including with some of the following: M. Ashraf Imam, Ken Grabowski, Graham Hubler, David Kidwell, Dawn Dominguez and Alex Moser.

The government program directors Mike worked intimately with were together from the start of cold fusion in 1989, some before, and were as much his friends as work col-



Robert Nowak, Debra Rolison and Mike Melich, 2014.



Martin Fleischmann and Mike Melich at ICCF15, 2009.

leagues. Simply put, their work together was to support technologies that were important to the country. Mike spent years working with government program managers, such as Robert Nowak (Office of Naval Research and Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, DARPA) and Bill Wilson (Defense Threat Reduction Agency) and the peerless head of the Office of Net Assessment in the Pentagon, Andy Marshall. Michael worked with former Los Alamos National Laboratory Technical Director, Pete Nanos, Pete Wilhelm at Naval Center for Space Technology at the Naval Research Laboratory, and Tony Tether, the Technical Director of DARPA. These men, like Mike, were patriots who were deeply interested in national security issues, environmental issues and science. They worked together for years on different cold fusion efforts and, in later years, joined with Mike on a number of his other science and medical pursuits.

In the cold fusion world, Mike reported on research, raised money for it, put together international groups, traveled all over the world, analyzed, spoke, collaborated with people. He was extraordinary at meeting people, assessing their strengths and coming up with ways to get a project going and execute it. Nataliya Famina, who is the translator, liaison and international friend from the Russian research community to the rest of the world, wrote me, "What a wonderful person he was and how much he has contributed to our science and how much he helped scientists to promote their projects and about a million other things which we took for granted! I wish you would express our deepest respect and our gratitude to Michael for what he was and how much he has done!"

In recent years, the Silicon Valley and financial investors showed up on the cold fusion scene. And they are more than welcome. Mike Melich and his friends made it possible. I'm a suspect source, his wife. My job is to write down what they do. But the truth is, these people, Mike and his community all over the world...they made it happen.

Michael and Martin

Michael Melich and Martin Fleischmann were enormously close friends. They had been working together since 1989.

Michael and Martin (and earlier, with Stan Pons) had worked on outlining and analyzing research approaches. Mike was determined that the Fleischmann-Pons effect would be carved onto the historical tree. He and David Nagel made sure the conference they headed in 2008, ICCF14, emphasized the Fleischmann-Pons Effect, in addition to other efforts including commissioning country histories.

We visited Martin and his wife Sheila many times. In 2009, we worked with Irv Dardik and Michael McKubre (and an amazing group of others) to get Martin and Sheila to the United States to receive alternative treatment for Martin's early Parkinson's symptoms.

In 2011 Mike had me go to Tisbury, England and stay with Martin and Sheila to do historical interviews. Mike had the good sense to marry someone who had actually done that professionally in her first jobs. Our work with Martin was interrupted by Martin's health, but we did better on a second month-long trip. By 2012, Martin was very ill and Mike, like many people in the field, was desperately trying to get a working technology for Martin to see before he died.

While Mike was focusing on Martin's health and traveling the world following up on LENR technologies, he had his own health setbacks.

Health Scares, but Still LENR

In 2012, Michael Melich was flying back and forth to Greece to help Defkalion, when he suffered a major health setback, a massive heart attack. By some miracle, Mike didn't have the heart attack on the transatlantic flight. Or the two hour subway ride from JFK airport in New York to his sister Tanya's apartment. He was stricken in a restaurant near Beth Israel, an excellent hospital where they hit him 19 times with paddles when his heart stopped. Usually they quit at eight or nine times, but the brilliant young cardiologist had spoken to him on the way in and said, "No, this guy is strong, let's keep trying." He saved Michael's life.

After more stents were put in later in the week, we found ourselves in Naomi Rothwell's dear friend's apartment. Naomi is daughter of LENR-CANR founder Jed Rothwell. She came to our rescue, getting us a sublet in a stunning pent-



Mike Melich and Marianne Macy, 2012.

house on Wall Street, where we could stay while Mike recovered and received follow-up treatment.

Being in New York and not dead, Mike thought it was a great opportunity to reach out to Sam Hornblower at “60 Minutes,” who he’d worked closely with on the cold fusion story they’d done. This was five days after his heart attack and he was fasting for the first follow-up appointment after leaving the hospital. Sam came over and Mike told him all about current work in the field and new developments. Mike had a photographic memory for charts and experiments and closely communicated with everyone, so...it was riveting.

But I noticed it was getting late and tried to signal Mike, who ignored me. Finally, an hour and a half later Sam had to go and Mike said, “Let’s go to Beth Israel for the appointment!” I said, “We should call them; you’re fasting and we’re two hours late.” But Mike insisted and off we went. And...half a block outside the clinic he passed out cold on the city street. I thought he was dead. But he lifted his head, incredibly disoriented and tried to get up and fell back. “MIKE, DON’T MOVE!” I called the clinic (we were right outside it) and asked for help and they said to call an ambulance. This really was New York. With the help of streetside good Samaritans and a borrowed wheelchair, we got Mike in where the security guard helped and noticed Mike’s t-shirt, a gift from his theater critic sister Nancy: “Spare Me the Drama!” The guard said, “I deal with it every day.” Inside, the same medical staff who had saved his life were ready to kill him. “You did what? You did what? Are you crazy?” But Mike was really happy he’d been able to meet with Sam Hornblower and give him an update on current research.

In July 2012, just before Mike’s heart attack, Rodney Johnson and I attended the International Low Energy Nuclear Reactions Symposium organized by John Wallace, Michael Wallace *et al.*, which was very upbeat. Peter Hagelstein had hit his stride with new theoretical work, and a lot of other exciting work was presented, not the least of which was work presented by the hosts. John Wallace would come visit Mike a couple of months later, while Mike was

recovering from the heart attack.

Michael and I went to the ICCFs, the international conferences on cold fusion, where Mike knew everyone. Under his guidance, I came to know everyone too. Mike’s dear friend Rodney Johnson recounts some of those conferences in his memorial contribution. The only ICCF conference Mike ever missed (until last year for ICCF21) was ICCF17 in August 2012 in Korea as he recovered from the heart attack; but, conference chair Sunwon Park graciously arranged for Mike to watch the conference via a satellite link. It was remarkable to sit up in bed and watch those meetings at 3:00 a.m. in a stunning penthouse on Wall Street.

Other Scientific Pursuits

When Michael wasn’t doing full time LENR scientific pursuits he was doing other full time scientific pursuits. Many of those other projects are noted below. *Infinite Energy* will publish longer stories about things he worked on in the future. In the next year, besides finishing follow-up interviews and processing ones from years past, my life will also consist of processing Michael Melich’s archives.

Tesla and Mike: My interest in cold fusion evolved from my interest in Nikola Tesla. In the early 2000s I met Alexis Guy Obolensky at a Russian Easter party in New York thrown by my friend and boss at Environmental Defense, Peter Klebnikov. I was talking about Tesla and the twinkly-eyed inventor said, “Then I am the person you should talk to because I have a machine based entirely on Tesla’s work!” The first year I was with Mike I told him about it and he said, “Let’s go!” and that opened up a relationship that lasted until Guy’s death in 2018 and continues with his partner John Essmyer’s carrying on his technology. Mike and I spent years doing treatments in what was like a Flash Gordon-esque electric sauna, which reduced inflammation by shooting sparks of electricity to you as you stood naked in a dark room until the currents found where your inflammation sites needed balancing. Mike brought scientists such as David Knies (from NRL) and Coolescence to see it, and they were deeply impressed. I helped Guy write a definitive description of his work. We all helped with scientists and contacts. There was yet another project Mike and Guy and John worked on...But Mike contributed years of concentration on the Tesla technology of Guy Obolensky.

Integrative Medicine: Michael was deeply involved in scientific principles of integrative medical approaches to his heart attack and cancer treatment. He worked with Irv Dardik for years, particularly with the LifeWaves protocol (see my ICCF15 coverage about Dardik’s work, pp. 12-13 of <https://www.infinite-energy.com/images/pdfs/macyiccf15.pdf>).

He became deeply involved in promoting the use of hyperbaric oxygen for Traumatic Brain Injury. Together with his friend and NIH researcher Robert Mozayeni, John Davidson and Robert Beckman, he was a Board member of the Foundation for the Study of Inflammatory Disease. He was also counselor to TreatNow.org, brainchild of former Secretary of the Army Marty Hoffman. Mike dove deeply into studying the mechanisms of action behind wound healing and found that brains and other injured parts of the body heal when treated with oxygen under pressure. Mike

recovered from his heart attack by use of HBOT, which he cycled according to Irv Dardik's program. When I had a head injury in November 2017, Mike drove me for treatment for four months until I was able to drive and look at a screen again. Mike saved me. He and his compatriots were in the process of taking this to all the government and private sector supporters they knew and presenting the case. It will probably end up being a private sector grown industry as the cannabis industry has become, because of entrenched pharmaceutical interests in the Veterans Administration (VA). Statistics show that hyperbaric oxygen heals wounds safely and effectively. Insurance companies pay for its use in wound healing in major hospitals. The VA still mostly uses amputation for non-healing diabetic foot wounds. Michael and his friends worked tirelessly to make HBOT the standard care for wounds of all kinds.

Mining the Tailings Pond: Michael passionately loved his home town of Moab, Utah. His family had a long history in mining there, with his mother's father an industry pioneer in Utah, instrumental in developing treatment of lead, zinc and silver ores and a pioneer in the uranium, perlite and resin industries in Utah. His father's Serbian immigrant side worked in and around mining camps. His father Mitchell Melich was the first to go to college and law school. His parents moved to Moab in the Depression and his father went from being one of the town's few lawyers to forming the company Utex for Charles Steen in 1952 after Steen's drilling rig cut through 14 feet of high grade uraninite ore. Grandfather Snyder and Steen became partners.

So it was uranium, the cold war and a family's rise that Michael and his siblings grew up in. Mike spent his post-graduate years living with his grandfather in Salt Lake City.

Going forward in time 50 years, it would take the scientific imagination and inspiration of a Michael Melich to focus on the remaining problem from the uranium mill, a tailings pond of radioactive material that the state allotted \$200 million to move, an endeavor as risky as leaving it there to affect the groundwater. Michael worked for years with a group of remarkable Australian inventors and technologists, which included the one and only brilliant Aussie inventor maverick who has a technology to separate mining tailings and extract minerals from it. Michael put months and years into exploring this, and from 2012 to 2013 raised money to bring this group from Australia and a complementary technology from New York to mine the tailings pond. It has not happened...yet. The technology works. That's not "in a few experiments." It has worked demonstrably in Australia for months at a time and is documented. It will cost millions of dollars to move the tailings pond. Michael Melich and his group went to Moab to present how to make millions of dollars mining it. That story will follow in greater depth. It is probably closer to Mike's heart than almost anything of all the remarkable things he set out to do.

A New Battery Cell: This story will also follow soon. It involves Michael's friendship and resultant work relationship with one of the remarkable, and anonymous, figures in the cold fusion field. There are two parts. One will be a report on an LENR lab funded by that person. If, as he says, it is LENR. But they do get excess energy.

Michael traveled everywhere. He was a one million mile a



Mike Melich and Rodney Johnson, 2015.

year flyer on Delta. His last trip was a year ago in March 2018, when he went to work with me to view a presentation of our friends' LENR technology. I went to the lab. Mike and his remarkable doctor, John Allen Reilly, went to the sponsor's home.

Tragically, shortly after this trip, I went to ICCF21 for the first time without Michael, who was increasingly losing ground as his cancer spread. When I returned, Mike fell and broke his pelvis, which never healed, and we were off to our last battle year. The most miserable thing for Mike and me, besides being taken away from the cold fusion community, was to not be able to present our friend's work. But now these stories all will be told. And when they are, we call upon this community to take this technology further, which the sponsor requests. And after all he's done for this community, every person standing better answer that call.

Water Environmentalism: This started by accident. We were visiting our sponsor friend at his home in Long Island and I noticed a huge stack of reports and asked him about them. This was about six years ago. He told me, "I've been working on that awhile. Take a look at that stuff."

What I read astonished me. He had been sponsoring environmental studies about his beloved Great South Bay off Long Island's South Shore and the surrounding waters. The work went back to the mid-1960s! My heart broke as I read the projects he pulled together about how the population would quadruple (it did), the infrastructure of sewers would break down (they have) and the vital clear waters would be ruined. Dead zones, fish kills, red tides, flesh eating bacteria...it all happened. He was a lifelong contributor to fighting this problem. Without knowing what I was saying, because I grew up there, I said, "We'll help."

It was Michael who threw himself into studying the prob-



Mike and Marianne at home on his birthday, February 22, 2019.

lem, finding a technology that has worked for ten years in Florida and the Carolinas. We went with our sponsor and one of my friends who had also been involved in Long Island water for decades. We introduced both of them and all of us hunkered down to do a deep dive into the problem. Three years later, perfectionist Mike had collected a group of scientists, environmentalists, government program directors, oceanographers, hydrologists...and raised money to do a pilot program. Our private sector friends said if the pilot worked they would raise the larger money to take it further.

July 2017 Mike was to leave on his multi-institutional meetings to start the project. He woke me at 5:00 a.m. and said, "We have to go the hospital." It is only now that we are picking this project up again, following Mike's plan. I've met recently with all the supporters and we're back to it to make this happen.

The Past Year

It wasn't all bad in the past year. We had the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and two 30+ day hospital stays. But we went home, and on Mike's birthday this year his friends came over and we got him downstairs and we celebrated that day. And some others like that. His fami-

ly came. His friends came.

Larry Forsley came for a visit, discussing updates about his work. And there were more scientific projects. I can show you pictures of Mike and his friend working on a project to do the kind of data analysis they used on big science projects to see if they could more accurately read PET scan data to do a better job of interpreting cancer loads. A number of times you'd find Mike sitting up in bed working with his friends Rodney Johnson, Graham Hubler, Pete Wilhelm, Pete Nanos, Bill Collins (NRL) and Roger Hillson (NRL), sitting on chairs completely intent with Mike, working the problem. As always.

The good news is that the cold fusion field continues. Participants in the cold fusion oral history project have new work to report on. In the next year, in addition to finishing follow-up interviews with oral history participants and processing ones from years past, my life will also consist of processing Michael Melich's archives.

June 2019

I wrote to Mike McKubre and Peter Hagelstein mid-June saying Mike had been in and out of the hospital but we were going home to resume treatment and he wanted to talk to them via Skype. They wrote back and we all said we would. We were optimistic Thursday, June 27 because he'd had approval for a new cancer drug and we were going home to set up treatment there with Dr. Reilly and Young Ko, the inventor of 3BP, the metabolic compound that had gently extended Mike's life by interfering with the metabolism of glucose the cancer cells feed on. We were happy that night and I said I'd see him in the morning and we'd get ready to go.

At dawn, things went in the wrong direction and I got the call. I was there with him and he squeezed my hands. He left with the other weekend commuters after 5:00 on Friday, June 28 and shortly after, my sister Rosemary arrived to take me home. When Mike died, the sky had been clear and suddenly outside his window there were incredible streaks of lightning forking all over the sky. It was only for three minutes and then it stopped. I thought it might be Tesla, welcoming him off this planet to a brilliant new realm.

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Michael Melich embraced the world and everyone in it. Photo taken at ICCF18 in 2015.