

THE STEVENS FAMILY 2012 NEWSLETTER

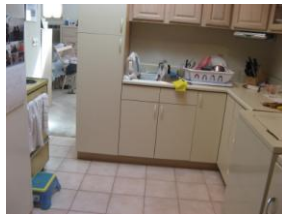
Feb. 2013



Greetings Again Family and Friends:

Time has arrived for our traditional Family Newsletter to be written, although late as usual. Our family continued with most events of past years staying the same except for a couple of major accomplishments: The much delayed kitchen remodel project was completed, and Ralph organized his 60th high school reunion.

The **kitchen remodel** has been discussed for years and work finally started on July 17th when our selected contractor moved appliances and all kitchen items out of the original 1950s kitchen and into our laundry room. Standing in the center of the substitute kitchen, Ralph could almost touch all appliances bordering the four walls. Gradually the small space became acceptable



until mid October when we moved into the beautiful new kitchen that now included a remodeled dining room, living room and entry hall. A complete series of progress photos are available at several websites listed at the end of this newsletter. We were fortunate that Kelle volunteered her time to assist in the design and decision making to help move the kitchen project along.

Ralph began organizing his **60th York High School Reunion** in mid 2011 that eventually included a 76-page indexed book of classmate information. As with organizing his 55th reunion, a major effort was to locate and itemize contact information of every living classmate (approximately 244 of 362 graduates.) Also

organized were two bus tours; a school tour with lunch at York's LaBrigade restaurant and a "Memory Lane" bus tour with

lunch at McDonald University's Water's Edge Restaurant in nearby Oakbrook, Illinois .

The bus tours were well attended as was the cocktail social (*perhaps due to the free appetizers?*)



Of the 244 known living classmates, only 43 attended the 60th reunion. However, spouses and other guests brought the total to 65, (only six shy of the number attending the 55th Reunion in 2007). Thanks to all those able classmates who scheduled the time and expense to attend. Ralph's goal is to attend his 65th in 2017 (*and perhaps the 70th reunion*) but organizing events and publishing student information books from a distance of 2400 miles will be reconsidered due to the considerable work involved. Fortunately, many friends helped

make the 60th reunion a success. A final 60th reunion publication will be a photo album providing Ralph can solicit enough photos from attendees.

Visitors during 2012 included Peter Liebsch, our 1991 visitor from Germany who now lives and works as an architect in Australia. Peter visited for two days after attending a New York business meeting. He announced that he will get married



soon and a trip by one or more of the Stevens family to attend his



wedding is a wished for, but distant, possibility.

Gerhard Kurz from Germany also came for a two-day visit during his USA west coast tour. The Kurz family hosted Scott at their home in Schnaittach near Nuremberg for three months during 1980.

Harvey and Joan Petersen from Morro Bay, CA came for a half day visit as they were passing through San Jose.



I worked with Harvey at FMC many years ago. Late in the year we hosted a week-long visit of Sandy's niece and family, Bree and

Heath Wechter and their two children, Bryston 5 and Kinsley 3. Our last visit with them was the Alaska Cruise in 2011 and we enjoyed getting reacquainted. Kinsley was the only person requiring a trip to the hospital emergency room to correct a painful "nursemaid elbow".

Kelle is still a loyal Sharks hockey fan, but the season is limited to 48 games (of original 88) because of unresolved player and league contracts. Due to poor economic conditions, her employer (Quantum) has laid off 180 people and spread the work to others including Kelle, who now has three additional employees to manage in her already large

work load. She continues to support Zachary in school and sporting activities that included a trip to Brazil for their national robotics competition. She also drives Zachary all over the Bay Area to numerous golf tournaments and other interesting events. Fortunately, her manager allows her to work at home quite often, which helps balance her busy schedule.

Zachary is in the seventh grade and joining more school events than are possible to attend. His Rube Goldberg team created an interesting mechanical machine that started with a golf ball rolling down a ramp and finally ending with a pattern of dominoes falling and bursting a balloon. He continues playing trombone in the school jazz band and joined the marching band to perform during the Chinese New Year's Parade in San Francisco and at Disneyland. Zachary is head programmer on the robotics team that has won two competitions and is planning to attend the State Championship Tournament in March 2013. Golf remains his number one sport, and he has changed coaches as well as outgrown another set of clubs. All the above requires transportation and support that Kelle accomplishes as much as possible. They attended the US Open at the Olympic Club in San Francisco, a challenging course that Zachary played the previous year (parring hole #1). *In a few short years he will probably be driving himself to these events.*

Kelle's husband Brian is still with the high tech firm, Cavendish Kinetics, and has a room growing with electronic test instruments that someday "may" become his new business venture. He somehow found the time to renovate their yard into a beautiful lawn. His two children are moving on with their lives. **Connor (19)** graduated from high school and joined the Marines. **Brianna (21)** is studying biology at San Jose State and playing lots of tennis. Their two cats, Annie and Kahlua, still have command of much of the house by not allowing many decorative items on low tables.

Scott is still with Anvita Health Company; a subsidiary of Humana Insurance Company. They're currently hiring new workers, so they must be doing something right. His cat Maveric is pictured in a calendar for promoting an animal adoption company. An unplanned, but major home



detailed communication with our contractor and his sub contractors. Now that it's over, Sandy and I often sit and stare in amazement at what was eventually accomplished and that it is finally finished. It is more beautiful than we ever imagined. The next related efforts will be to return the laundry room back to its original purpose and purchase some new furniture.

Sandy finished her first 16 months (of 24-month maximum) of using the new bone density medicine Forteo. Fortunately, an annual test indicated the Forteo is improving her bone density although she has experienced some side effects such as upset stomach and ill feeling. She continues to be involved with Zachary as much as possible, but his busy schedule limits his time to a few transportation rides from school each week. Occasionally he stays with us for a night or two when Kelle is on business travel. Sandy is still learning some of the many features of her Apple iPad computer and is using the free video phone calling feature "FaceTime" more often, especially during chatty calls to Australia or Brazil.

Activities for 2013 include finishing details of the kitchen (add window covering, island chairs, desk chair, etc) and replacement of some furniture that no longer fit well in the newly remodeled home. Producing a 60th York Reunion Photo album is also on the list.

Here are websites for 258 progress photos (with captions) of the kitchen remodel project:

"IN THE BEGINNING:" (76 Photos)
Starts with cardboard model including contractor moving us into temporary kitchen (laundry room) and demolishing the original kitchen. Ends with finished foundation and start of new sub floor.
https://picasaweb.google.com/103189147923261826593/2012_7_16Kitchen_start_toSubfloor?authkey=Gv1sRgCLiAhpfv98v1BA

project, was the construction of a new concrete driveway due to large roots of the neighbor's tree causing cracks and hazardous raising of his original driveway. Scott will be traveling to Australia in early 2013 to attend the Australian Open Tennis tournament and visit with Peter Liebsch and girlfriend Susanne Gering. This will be Scott's second trip to the "Land Down Under" after having visited there in 2002. He plans to tour selected areas by renting a motorcycle which should offer some interesting stories. *Hopefully he will always drive on the correct side of the road.*

Ralph and Scott camped and sailed for three days with friends Bard & Sharon Johnson and Wes Harrison at Huntington Lake, CA for the 6th year. Next year we hope to occupy one of the remodeled camp sites of the Rancheria, campgrounds (now having flat parking areas and new bathrooms)



The kitchen remodel project started seriously with finished drawings being given to three contractors in mid 2012. Then we reviewed their responses and after considerable deliberation, we signed a detailed contract with the contractor whom we considered would best keep us informed about the details of the



work in progress. New Building Codes requiring design and construction changes occurred more frequently than expected, but all were

resolved reasonably well following timely and

*Best wishes to all for a safe, happy,
prosperous and healthy 2013*

Ralph Stevens
Stevensrs88@att.net

Sandy Stevens
sandrajts@comcast.net

“INTERMEDIATE PHOTOS 1:” (28 Photos).
Begins with sub floor and searching for granite,
cabinets and hardwood floor material. Ends with
walls and kitchen roof taking shape.
https://picasaweb.google.com/103189147923261826593/KitSubFlr_walls?authkey=Gv1sRgCKWYvaH7qqPDOQ

“INTERMEDIATE PHOTOS 2:” (36 Photos)
Starts with walls and new roof taking shape and
includes more enclosure of kitchen and roof. Floor
and granite samples shown and ends with searching
for pendant lights
https://picasaweb.google.com/103189147923261826593/2012_11_13wallsLights?authkey=Gv1sRgCM2ijp2Mgo6O3wE

“INTERMEDIATE PHOTOS 3.” (62 Photos).
Starts with continued search for lights, includes
sheet rock, cabinets, island, French door problems
and ends with granite counter top installation and
prep for back splash tiles.
https://picasaweb.google.com/103189147923261826593/2012_11_13LightsGranite?authkey=Gv1sRgCPO_yN-h1YPM5wE

“NEAR THE END:” (56 Photos)
Begins with installation of backsplash tiles and ends
with Sandy sitting at the new glass-top table,
https://picasaweb.google.com/103189147923261826593/2012_11_13GraniteGlassTable?authkey=Gv1sRgCI6Pz8-6-uSu5wE

