

THE STEVENS FAMILY 2013 NEWSLETTER

Feb. 2014



Greetings Again Family and Friends:

The Stevens Family Newsletter continues to be an annual record of events in the lives of our family members.

Technology and the Internet makes it easy to share with family and friends when personal visits, letters or phone calls may be lacking for which we apologize.

In early January, Scott spent 3 ½ weeks in Australia

visiting long time German friends Peter and Susanne Liebsch. He also attended the 2013 Australian Open

Tennis Tourney (thanks to Susanne for great tickets) as well as touring areas other than Melbourne on a rented Harley Davidson motorcycle that he drove 1200km in three days.

Also, former co-worker friend Pamala Swan of England visited Australia during the same time that allowed them to meet and travel together. Either by motorcycle



or by rental car with Pamela, Scott toured Melbourne, Sydney, St. Kilda, Great Ocean Road, Eden and other hidden treasure towns. He hopes to return within the next few years to see more of Australia including Peter and Susanne's first daughter Smilla who was born in April. Scott's 974 photos and many captions are available on his web site <http://www.seizethedayguy.com>. He still lives in Carlsbad, CA. with his cat Maverick and is still employed as a Senior Software Automation Engineer at Humana Insurance Company. Sandy and I appreciate his frequent visits home each year.



Sandy and Ralph continue to enjoy the beauty and many conveniences of their recently remodeled kitchen and upgraded living room, dining room and entry hall. The Merillat Masterpiece cabinets provide total use of previously inaccessible areas by having full pull out and soft close drawers and doors. Other remodel favorites include "easy glide" shelves in the Thermadore gas range and the large bottom freezer of the refrigerator. The remodel project continues with the addition of tall chairs for the kitchen island and a new couch, rug and chairs for the living room. Hopefully, adding Plantation shutters in 2014 will conclude the remodel efforts.

Ralph's love-affair with his 1979 Yamaha 1100cc motorcycle came to an end in 2013. The large heavy cycle was becoming too much to handle safely and he decided to sell it and look for something smaller



such as a scooter for local area trips. His "once in a lifetime" 18,000 mile trip on the Yamaha upon retirement, including visits to each of the farthest NE-SE-NW-SW corners of the USA, will forever be remembered. One of Ralph's 2014 resolutions is to "be more cautious when moving about during work or play" as he experienced a couple of unbalanced falls. Fortunately they were more embarrassing than hurtful.

Sandy lost considerable weight when taking Forteo bone density medicine for the past two years and is diligently trying to recoup some weight back. She

recently gained 8 pounds in four months and hopes to continue more gains in 2014. Being involved in any activity with grandson Zachary remains to be Sandy's major interest. She cherishes whatever time she has with him and probably as any loving grandmother does, she asks too many questions.

Zachary plays the trombone in both the concert and jazz bands as an eighth grader at Valley Christian Junior High School. He also is the lead programmer for a second year on the WarriorBots Robotics team that once again won several competitions that took them to the State championship by First Lego League. Golf continues as Zachary's #1 event and he achieved his first tournament win on a full size course at U.S Kids Golf Bay Area Tour Championship Tournament at Half Moon Bay in February when he shot a one over par 73. He continued playing golf almost every day over the summer while competing in 18 tournaments and several top 5 finishes.



Kelle, Zachary and Ralph toured Alcatraz Island (*best value tour in San Francisco*) and discovered they no longer allow visitors to close the blackout door of the solitary confinement cell---a former "extreme darkness" experience.



Kelle, Zachary and their two cats (Annie and Kalhua) relocated into a new home just 5 minutes away that required the usual adjustments and remodeling. The transition required living three months with Mom and Dad that was accomplished with minimal confusion except for the special cat door to keep the two cats upstairs. We had to increase the door height to six feet after Annie figured out how to jump over the original five foot high door.



Kelle's career continues to evolve as more layoffs plus the departure of her manager have opened up opportunities for her. 2013 was Kelle's 11th year at Quantum where she is now Director of Compensation and HR Operations. She prepares meticulous schedules to avoid working 24-7 and still have time for Zachary. After eight years off the dance floor, she started attending an adult tap dance class with a former teacher that adds some exercise and enjoyment to her limited free time. She still has season tickets to the San Jose Sharks hockey games which continues to be a great weekend night out.

Ralph, Scott, Kelle and Zachary

camped, hiked and sailed for three days at Huntington Lake with friends Bard and Sharon Johnson, their grandson Harrison and Wes Harrison.



Rain showers one evening were much appreciated because 2013 was the worst drought season in the past 100 years and 2014 is forecast to be equally dry. Besides remembering to bring air mattresses on future camping trips, Scott will be allowed extra time to prepare for bed time as his lengthy flossing incident was a surprise to everyone. Rancheria campground in Huntington Lake had new parking areas, BBQ pits, tables and restrooms that helped make the 2013 camping experience more enjoyable.



We hope everyone has a safe, healthy and happy New Year. Best Wishes,

Ralph's new email address is stevesrs88@att.net