

THE STEVENS FAMILY 2015 NEWSLETTER

May 2016



Greetings Dear Friends and Family

As always, this Newsletter wouldn't be the same if it weren't several weeks (or months) late into the new year.

The California drought continued through 2015 and kept us from sailing at beautiful Huntington



Lake for the second straight year, however we took advantage of nearby (45 minutes) Mount Madonna County Park as we did in 2014.

As always, we shared sleeping in the van's full size couch and small bed in the dinette area with air mattresses in the two-person tent.



Sandy's brother and sister in law, Tom and Jan Trammell from

southern Illinois visited and it's always nice to get together with friends and catch up on events in our lives as well as eating to our heart's delight.



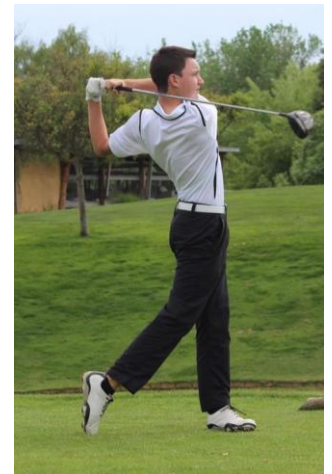
Grandson Zachary continues to play trombone with the Valley Christian High School Jazz Ensemble and enjoys the travel and competition. Their group took top honors from over 300 high school bands at the 2015 Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival at the University of Idaho and also won first place at the Reno Jazz Festival. They have also been invited to play at the 2016 Monterey Jazz festival and have discussed the possibility of performing in Cuba. Here's a link to a portion of the Idaho performance.

<http://youtu.be/om6FgKMMuQc>

Zachary qualified for the varsity golf team as a freshman and enjoys travelling with the dozen team members to play a variety of courses. Most matches require leaving school before the end of the school day which makes it difficult to keep up with demanding classes.

The Stevens family had a scare on New Year's

Eve when an unknown woman knocked frantically on our front door to tell us the neighbor's house in our back yard was on fire. Six fire trucks eventually arrived and extinguished the fire that had started in the garage and was advancing toward our house. I



kept the trees and fence wet with water from my garden hose that one fireman mentioned was a good initial response to help contain the fire.

Son Scott still lives in southern California (Carlsbad) with his two cats, Maverick and Mally. His day job of five years is now with Transcend Insights, a Subsidiary of Humana, and his business title is Senior Software QA Test Automation Engineer.

Scott still plays tennis and attends professional tournaments whenever possible. Three days at BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells is an annual favorite and he plans to attend the French Open in Paris in May 2016. The French tournament will be the last major event Scott will attend to satisfy his goal of seeing all of the majors that began 26 years ago.

Grandson Zachary will turn 16 on April 27, 2016. After many hours of driving lessons using a permit with an adult passenger, Zachary is looking forward to getting his official driving license. A couple of last remaining driving lessons by his grandfather are parallel parking, changing a flat tire and other maintenance related events such as oil and filter change, tire pressure and “jumping” a dead battery. Driving a “stick shift” car is no longer required to get a California driving license (for better or worse).

San Jose is rapidly becoming a sports Mecca of the USA due to the new billion dollar Levi’s Football Stadium where the 50th Super Bowl game will be played in January 2016. Also new in 2015 was the opening of The Avaya Soccer stadium and there’s talk of a new baseball park if politicians can resolve their differences. The San Jose Sharks NHL Hockey team are still a favorite of the family and Kelle still shares season tickets with a few friends as she has done for the last 20 years or so. Extension of BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) as well as the new high speed rail system needs to be completed to ease the predictable traffic congestion resulting from these added sports venues.

Ralph’s atrial heart flutter and peripheral neuropathy continue to cause difficulty walking. He performs daily floor exercises and enjoys

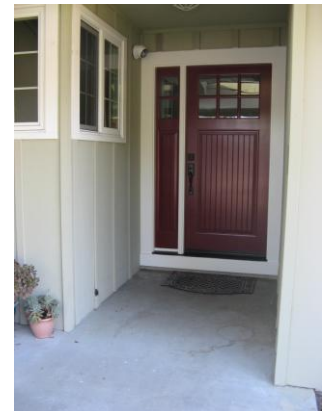
attending twice weekly stretch exercises at a local senior center.

Sandy continues to care for Zachary as often as possible, but it’s noticeably less as he grows older and becomes more independent and involved in other events. Our weekly family dinners together are also fewer than in prior years. Unfortunately, grand children grow up faster than grandparents like.

After thirteen years with Quantum Corporation, Kelle decided it was time for a change and is now the Senior Manager for Global Compensation of Palo Alto Networks, a high growth cyber security company. After a month or two of 2-3 times longer drive that her prior commute, she decided to purchase a new Chevy Volt Plug-In hybrid car which qualified for the carpool lane for the next three years.

Kelle’s 2005 Prius will be handed down for Zachary after he receives his driver’s license. With almost 240,000 miles on the original hybrid battery, it finally failed and a new “dealer installed” battery is a whopping \$5,000. Fortunately, the reconditioned hybrid battery market is growing that will reduce the cost more than 50%.

Kelle’s house now has a new front door after insurance claims were finally resolved. Stronger door design changes (wood panels instead of glass) were made in hopes of averting another break-in and home robbery that occurred in 2014.



A ten day vacation trip to Italy was a 2015 highlight for Kelle with visits to Rome, Siena and many of the hillside towns in between.

Sandy and Ralph enjoy frequent visits from Scott, Kelle and Zachary. Eating at our favorite Mexican, Chinese or Italian restaurants (and even Indian Falafals) is high on the list during their visits.

Best Wishes for a happy, safe and healthy 2016 New Year.

Ralph, Sandy, Scott, Kelle and Zachary

FYI: Scott has many photos on his website <http://www.Seizethedayguy.com>



Mount Madonna County Campgrounds has clean hot showers.



Stevens family enjoy a Sharks hockey game at Levi Stadium



Kelle inserting her hand into the Mouth of Truth from the movie "Roman Holiday" with Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck



Also enjoy new restaurant in Morgan Hill

