

Happy Holidays from the Boore's

Dec. 26, 2005

We had a great 2005 Christmas holiday, with the house filled with young people: Jeff, Stacy, Stacy's boyfriend Keenan, and two young people whom Stacy and Keenan met while climbing in the Red River Gorge in Kentucky---quite a contrast to the emptiness and quiet of our house for most of the year, with Jeff living in San Francisco and working at DDB, the world's second largest ad agency, and Stacy off hiking part of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) and climbing in Yosemite, Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Indiana, Ohio, and Texas.

But we are getting ahead of ourselves. Actually, our house was not devoid of young people the entire year. To our delight, Stacy and Keenan lived here last winter and spring, while working at a local climbing gym (Planet Granite) to save money for their attempt on the PCT. Along with Stacy's high school friend Loren, we drove the kids to the start of the trail at the Mexican border near Campo, east of San Diego last May. We heard from Stacy and Keenan occasionally, including a week or so they spent here while taking a short break from the trail. Unusually heavy and late snow slowed them down, and eventually they decided to leave the trail near Bishop, after finishing the best parts (the high Sierra). Loren, continued, reaching the Canadian border on September 15. We can only marvel at the effort involved in hiking all or even a significant portion of the PCT, after our experience in 2003 when we hiked the John Muir Trail from Yosemite to Mt. Whitney with Stacy (some 240-250 miles in 19 days, compared with the 800 miles that Stacy and Keenan hiked in 50 days, including some zero mile days in towns near the trail. The entire PCT is 2600 miles).

Judy and Dave spent three weeks in Greece, Israel and the UK in May, where Dave gave lectures and an intensive class on engineering seismology (he returned to Greece in September to lecture, and starting in 2007 we will be living in Thessaloniki, Greece, for a month at a time for two years as part of an EU Marie Curie Transfer of Knowledge project).

Jeff went surfing in Peru last summer and had a great time. It was amazing to see his luggage for the flight: a large bag that contained several surfboards, his wetsuit, and his clothes. How he got the bag into airplanes, buses, and cabs is beyond me, but things went off without a hitch and he met some wonderful people and emailed us from Peru that he loves traveling. It seems that all of the family except Dave loves traveling (at least Dave grumbles a lot about not

liking traveling, which seems a bit inconsistent with the large number of domestic and foreign trips he has taken during the last few years).

The second page already! Just a few more short notes. Stacy is planning to return to this area in spring to fill in some medical school prerequisites (but she is bouldering in Bishop for a month or two first). Jeff has a delightful girlfriend. Dave's dad, Vic, is doing well at an assisted living home in Port Angeles, Washington, where Dave (and sometimes other family members) visits every six to eight weeks. Vic will be 92 on Feb. 22. Dave's sister, Sara, recently retired from the USGS, and she and her husband, Gary, moved to Port Angeles.

Dave and Judy are planning trips to Italy and Turkey in March, Malta in April, a raft trip through the Grand Canyon in May, and a trip to France in September (the foreign trips will be primarily business for Dave, giving lectures and courses).

We still hike as often as we can, though Dave has been plagued by tendonitis in his ankle for portions of the last few years, and thus has only been able to do day hikes. But he also is starting to appreciate how nice it is to return to a hot shower and a good meal after a day of hiking. We are, however, discussing a possible 2nd trip down the John Muir Trail.

Judy continues with her private practice, occasional critical-incident debriefings for companies, volunteering for the Red Cross, sewing quilts, painting and dyeing fabric, reading for a book club, putting in new landscaping, rebuilding fences, caring for the orchard, cleaning house, and pestering Dave to take her on trips. Stacy and Keenan have invited us to climb the Snake Dike route on the S. side of Half Dome this spring. Yes, well....

The year was not without sadness on both local and international levels. Dave's brother, Roger, died of cancer just before Christmas last year, and Dave lost a number of his colleagues, including his thesis advisor, during the year. Our beloved yellow tabby died last month after a long life. Our sole remaining cat seemed sad briefly, but has become much more sociable.

And finally, some captions for the photos:

First page: upper left: Stacy, Keenan, and D & J at the start of the PCT; upper right: Stacy climbing at "The Red" in Kentucky, where she led some very hard climbs (5.11, 5.12); lower left: Jeff and his girlfriend, Victoria, at a DDB company party with a wild west theme; middle right: Stacy and Keenan with Big Cat, who died last month; bottom right: looking into the Emigrant Wilderness while on a day

hike, about 15 miles from our cabin---in the foreground is our neighbor Roy Harrington (go to www.harrington.com to see Roy's exquisite black and white photos).

Second Page: upper left: Dave accepting the Department of Interior's Distinguished Service Award from Gale Norton, the Secretary of the Interior. Notice that Dave is wearing a tie! How often does that happen? upper right: Harry Potter fans will recognize this, taken in Kings Cross Station in London; middle left: Judy engaging in two of her favorite pastimes---volunteering for the American Red Cross (in Houston, post Katrina) and eating ice cream; middle right: Dave on his bench (in Kew Gardens, near London); lower left: Dave and Judy in Greece; lower right: Dave with his Greek colleague Basil Margaritis and his wife Veni, discussing earthquakes during lunch in Tsangarada on the Pelion Peninsula in Greece. Oh! the people and the food of Greece! Don't get us started on "spoon sweets."

Our relatives and friends become more precious each year as we clearly have too little time with you. We are hoping you are happy and thriving, and that the coming year will be even better for you than before.

--Dave and Judy



