

December 2003

Holiday Greetings from the Swedbergs. We hope this finds you well and in the Spirit of the Season. We and 'the herd' are all doing well except for being behind as usual. Both of us were hit hard by the flu bug over the Thanksgiving week which has put us even "behinder" but it just adds to the traditional "hustle and bustle" for this time of year.

We have had a full and most enjoyable year, starting last Christmas with a truly great trip to Costa Rica. It is a beautiful country with a variety of adventures and ecosystems that would please anyone. Two days of exciting river rafting on the Pacuare River amid isolated and pristine rain forests; three days lounging in the natural hot springs at the base of active volcano, Mt. Arenal, and two days hiking the cloud forests of Monteverde, all the while enjoying the spectacular natural scenery, flora and wildlife. Topping it off we traveled with old friends and met up with new ones.

We had some nice family trips as well, including a wedding in San Mateo (Chad's nephew, Doug and bride Traci) with a day trip to San Francisco. Chad's family also held it's 100th (!) family reunion back in Sycamore, IL. Naturally there was a great turnout of family and Chad was able to talk to relatives he had not seen in 40 years (My, how you've grown - and lost your hair!). Linda took a much needed break to travel to Key West, a favorite getaway, with sister Judy; and spent another week in west Texas to help a friend recovering from surgery. A couple of months later we both went back to visit the friend and to relax in the Davis Mountains, including an awesome star gazing "party" one night at the McDonald Observatory. Finally, Linda surprised Chad for his birthday with a secret trip (destination unknown until we boarded the flight in Dallas) to the beautiful and historic Oregon coast. Linda knew Chad, in all his military travels, had at least set foot in all 50 states save one - Oregon. Now, to start over again!



We are pleased to note a safe and healthy year for all our animals. And - could you guess - to note there have been some additions. Linda has a new mare quarter horse, Sunny. It was a pleasant surprise (tho hardly surprising) that Sunny has very similar blood lines to Bingo, her treasured horse we lost last year. Sunny very definitely displays similar traits - both beloved and maddening! The new "cutie-pie" award goes to "Baby", a miniature donkey with lots of "spirit". She is certainly lovable but has a bray that would curdle milk.



The other major event in our lives was to remodel the house. As remodeling projects go, it was pretty minor, but it expanded the master bath and gave us much better space management - the two items we needed most. Due to the latter, we now have a full time, fully functional, and inviting guest bedroom. We hope it will get a lot of use over the coming years and urge you to try it out. Y'all come visit now, hear?

Love and best wishes for a Joyous and Meaningful Holiday Season, and a Healthy and Happy New Year.



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