

Feb 2014

Well, here it is, almost Valentines Day, and I have not sent out my Christmas cards. Lots of reasons, but no good excuses so I do apologize - but better late than never, I guess. So hoping your Holidays were merry and sending you our belated best wishes for a Happy New Year!

2013 was a pretty good year for us. Our one low point was in early December with the loss of Shiner, our pet dog of 12 plus years; his health had been in decline since two operations late last year but we still had our good times and memories. Also had a scare with cat Hannah who got into something that nearly destroyed her kidneys - but she is young and over time seems to be recovering nicely. Otherwise we and the critters are doing well - taking our meds and staying two steps ahead of the medicos.

In July Linda & I, took a memorable cruise to the Baltic Sea aboard the Nautica with whirlwind, but very enjoyable, visits to Copenhagen, Berlin, Gdansk, Klaipeda, Riga, Tallin, Helsinki, Stockholm, and 3 fabulous days in St Petersburg. Chad's brother Gary & wife Liz earlier had booked the cruise and we decided late to tag along - an added pleasure being able to join them.

Family visits made up the rest of our travel - a trip "home" to Sycamore IL in August for Chad's sibling reunion and visits with family, including two of our newest members, Henry and Myles; and a gathering with high school friends in practice for our 50th reunion in 2014. Linda was off to D.C. in May for nephew Greg's graduation from George Washington Law School. Greg married last year and just recently had a new baby and a new job - a great year! Linda also took a long weekend escape to Chicago in September with girl friends, enjoying all the touristy things. And we had a nice trip to Baton Rouge just before Christmas to witness the graduation of niece Dana, getting her MBA from the U. Of New Orleans.

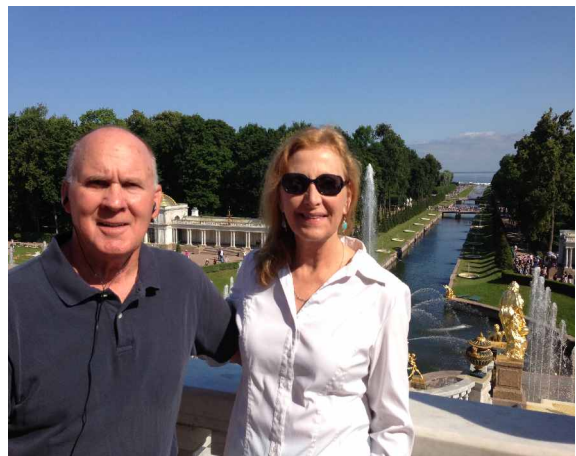
Interspersed we had visits from friends and family and we always enjoy them - we love to show off Austin and central Texas, especially as it is our opportunity to see and do things we enjoy so much but never seem to get around to - until we get visitors! So we would welcome a visit from you as well!

Chad remains busy volunteering with the TaxAide program to assist elderly & low income folks with their tax returns - it pretty much takes up all his free time November thru April. Plus it looks like things will pick up shortly volunteering with the Missing In America Project to locate, identify, and arrange for honorable internment of unclaimed cremains of veterans. A new Texas law enabled and ensured the cooperation of the Texas funeral industry so that the coming year should be a busy one. Linda remains committed as a certified habitat steward, restoring and maintaining the local habitat, writing articles and tackling projects with National Wildlife Federation and Austin Wildlife Rescue; as well as keeping up with her own private critter garden by the house. She wants to expand that to some of our "wild" acreage but that is more dream than reality for now.

Our best wishes to you all, and Happy Valentines!

Chad & Linda Swedberg
12975 Trails End
Austin, Texas 78737-9503
512-288-9390
swedtex@austin.rr.com
lintex@austin.rr.com

More photos on our web page, www.swedtex.info



Summer Palace of Peter the Great July 2013