

Dec 2014

Greetings from the Swedberg household. This year I sincerely hope to get our cards and newsletter out before Christmas - a novelty!

We have had an eventful year, mostly good.

Linda had been struggling off and on with her neuropathy issues and fibromyalgia but since starting her warm water pool therapy at the local physical therapy center, she has been doing better. She has still managed to keep busy with her volunteer activities with Wildlife Rescue and Habitat Stewardship with the National Wildlife foundation, tho limiting her active outdoor work. She also enjoys her time with her book club and lunches with her retired worker friends, the "Lazy Girls". Linda and the rest of the family were thrilled with the arrival of her new grand-niece, Charlotte Elizabeth (Charlie).

Chad stays busy working around the property and with his volunteer work with tax return assistance for the elderly/low income. He now coordinates the activities of 10 sites in nine cities within 75 miles of home. October thru April are very busy times. His "bad news" is the loss of the old workhorse 96' pickup: someone towing a trailer clipped the front end; no injuries and really not too much damage but the insurance totaled it. So he now has a 2004 workhorse pickup that's still getting properly broke in. The low point of the year was the loss of a good friend Jim Hix, whom Chad had known since Academy days. Jim & Chad served several military tours together in the U.S. and in Southeast Asia. Fortunately, they shared some good time together at the Raven reunion in October, just a month before his passing.

Our big project for the year was to remodel the kitchen and other minor remodeling. Like all such projects, the end product is great, but the process less so. First, the start date got moved back so it started the week Linda took off for a week to the Alabama coast with local friends Carolyn & Judy (she had a good time). That week we had a wind storm that uprooted over 30 trees and damage another 60 or so (Chad is still cleaning up after that). So the remodelers got a little roof repair added to the project. Making decisions on the fly, the kitchen remodel expanded to opening two walls above the counter top, emailing photos to Linda while on the phone discussing options. But, again, the end result is great. Finally Linda got home to help and promptly tripped and broke her leg in two places. The breaks were minor (it two 10 days and an MRI to confirm them) but were of a nature that a cast wasn't viable - she just had to stay off her feet (which she actually did, most of the time). Crutches were a disaster and a wheel chair in a remodeling zone was no good so we made do with a walker. Did I mention the END result is great?! And Linda's leg is fully healed now.

For more fun times, in September Chad attended his 50th high school reunion in Sycamore, IL and really enjoyed seeing and catching up with many old friends. With the help of others and a class web site Chad put together, there was a fantastic turnout. Then Linda joined Chad for a follow-on week in Chicago with our long time traveling friends, Paul & Kathy. Paul treated Chad & everyone to a Cubs game at Wrigley Field, celebrating it's 100th anniversary (its getting a major renovation as I write). Chad hadn't been to a Cubs game since he was a little kid, pre-