



Happy Holidays 2010!



It is hard to believe another year has gone by! Jerry started the school year with a 3 month substitute teaching job, but is still looking for a full time position. With the extra free time, Jerry has been climbing and helping with the Corvallis Mountain Rescue Unit more than normal. Kristin is still teaching fifth grade and has a class that is substantially easier than last year!!! After her ninth puppy, Kristin stopped raising seeing eye dogs. Marley did not make it into the advanced training phase and we took him back to be our pet.



Jerry is still very active in the Corvallis Mountain Rescue Unit. This was a slow year for mountain rescue activities, but there were more than enough searches, including the one for Kyron Horman in the Portland area. Jerry was elected as the President for the Oregon Mountain Rescue Council and was also selected as the Member of the Year for CMRU.

Jerry took a 6 month class in advanced rock climbing. He and Kristin got to travel around the Northwest going to different rock climbing sites. Jerry also continued his normal alpine climbing exploits. Jerry went on nine different trips this summer. His longest one was for a week to the Monte Cristo area in the North Cascades of Washington. He got to spend the week climbing over glaciers and rock with some really cool people, including one gentleman that was 74 years old and still going strong. Jerry hopes he can be climbing at that age as well!





One of the cool things CMRU has been doing the past few years is training the park rangers at Crater Lake National Park in rock rescue techniques. Kristin came this year and, even though it was August, it was cold the whole time and it snowed the second day. She still had fun watching Jerry and going sight seeing with the other significant others that were there. Kristin was going to go on the boat trip around the lake, but it was canceled due to the bad weather. Jerry still had to train the rangers, but he enjoys bad weather – weirdo.

We took a trip to the Oregon Coast for our birthdays in January. We stayed three days at our favorite hotel in Yachats and spent a lot of time exploring the local beaches, pubs, and blow holes (see the upper photo to the right). Kristin was really thrilled by the large number of sea lions right off the beach. It was a very relaxing time and we got to watch some storms from our hotel room.



Kristin's sister Sharon got married in Las Vegas this spring. Kristin, Jessica, Bunny, and Sharon flew down early for a girls night out. They stayed at the Luxor hotel, which is shaped like a pyramid. Sharon and Chris were married in the same chapel Kristin's parents were married in 50 years before. After the wedding, Kristin and Bunny spent an extra day in Las Vegas and enjoyed the sights, including the Liberace Museum and the lights at night.



Sharon and Chris Kellar welcomed friends and family to their house for a reception at the beginning of the summer. It was fun meeting Chris' family and friends. There was tons of good food. You can tell Taylor was having a good time!



Yvette and Marley always enjoy seeing their friend Yukon for a game of tug-of-dog-war!

Hi! My name is Marley! I like chew rings! I like to eat! I like to bug Yvette! I have lots of energy! I decided to stay with Kristin and Jerry forever! Hee! Hee! Hee!





Kristin's mom, Bunny, finally made the move to Corvallis. She got a dog, Luna, to keep her company. She is in the process of sorting through two houses worth of stuff. It looks like she is making progress. Kristin is enjoying having her mom in town. They especially had fun going to the Christmas craft shows this year.



Our nieces Stephanie and Ariel graduated from high school this year...congratulations Stephanie and Ariel!!!



Kristin and Jerry and Mom and Dad Heilman took a long fishing trip in the Oregon Cascades. They spent time exploring streams and lakes just to the south of Mt. Hood. It turned out to be fairly crowded, even in the middle of the week. As normal, the fishing in the western foothills of the Cascades was not good at all. Jerry and Dad enjoyed playing solitaire and drinking beer more than the fishing. Mom always made sure Dad's beer was cold with lots of ice cubes....maybe a few too many! Mom and Dad's RV had a few tire issues during the trip. One tire blew early in the trip and a second on the way back to Yakima. Luckily, no one was hurt and there were Les Schwabs nearby. Mom was not very happy about the tires and threatened to take Dad's lug nuts away.

The annual day after Thanksgiving hike took place with Dad Heilman, Bob and Jerry. They explored a section of the John Wayne trail, which runs from Idaho to the west side of the Cascade Mountains following an abandoned railroad bed. It was not a very scenic area and it was pretty cold. It could be more interesting in the spring with wild flowers in bloom. We saw lots of rabbit and coyote tracks, but did not see any of the badgers that were supposed to be in the area.



Sending you warm wishes throughout the new year!

Jerry & Kristin
Dogs Yvette & Marley; Cats Sassy, Tiggy, & Sunshing;
Turtles Scooter, George, & Evenrude

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