



# Happy Holidays 2012!



We had another eventful year here in Corvallis. The biggest change was that Jerry has started a handyman business. You can look him up at [TheFixItMan.biz](http://TheFixItMan.biz). We have been pleasantly surprised by the amount of work he is getting! He is still substitute teaching too, but we hope the business will eventually replace that all together.

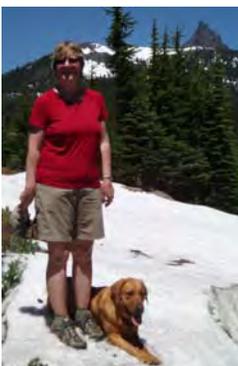
Kristin is still teaching 5th grade and received the "Golden Apple Award" recognizing her as the outstanding elementary teacher of the year in the Corvallis school district. It was a special surprise complete with a little gold apple bell, a check, and a loaf of bread. It is hard to believe she is in her 15th year teaching here.



We have been continuing to get outdoors, even in the wet and dark months. Snowshoeing is our new outdoor activity together and we are really enjoying it. We went out a few times last winter, including a fun overnight trip at the Maxwell Butte shelter with many members of the Corvallis Mountain Rescue Unit. The shelter had a wood fired stove that we used for heat and cooking. It was quite a party!



We went on many hiking trips throughout the year. We "enjoyed" the rain and very windy weather on the Oregon coast for Spring Break. We went to the Three Sisters Wilderness and explored the Obsidian Trail, which is so popular you need a special permit. The trail goes through areas covered with glittering obsidian "chips," beautiful scenery and great lupine meadows. We hiked along the Tam McArthur Rim and really enjoyed the huge lava bombs from when Broken Top erupted. Marley has become a real trail dog, notice that Jerry has trained Marley to drink from his hydration tube!





We welcomed a new great niece this year, Haylee Weaver. Jessica and Ron are engaged to be married in 2013 and Kristin, Bunny, Sharon, Jessica, Taylor and Haylee went to watch Jess try on wedding dresses. We also hosted a BBQ and enjoyed all the adventures in our backyard. Taylor is becoming quite a climber!



Our annual camping trip with the folks was to the Saint Joe River in northern Idaho. The fishing was just okay, but the area was really nice and we enjoyed exploring the region. Daily resting with our beers and wine coolers was a great way to end each day. Marley enjoyed being an only dog with no competition for attention. As usual, we ended the trip at the Tucannon River, in boiling southeastern Washington. But, the fish were not very cooperative there either.



Stephanie and John asked to use Jerry's folk's gardens for their wedding. There was a lot of work done to get ready for the wedding. Some of the more interesting work included Wendy and dad clearing weeds out of the pond. Wendy was quite the brave woman! Friends and family got together and scrapped and painted the house and garages. Flower beds were weeded, hedges trimmed, vine arches made and the lawn mowed way too many times!



At Stephanie and John's wedding, it was a HOT but beautiful day. We helped with all the preparations and enjoyed seeing how happy the newlyweds were as they danced. You could see the pride in Chris's face as he walked his daughter down the aisle. It was great to visit with so many of our family and friends that we get to see so infrequently.





Jerry went on an unusual canyoneering adventure with his friend Nate. This was not canyoneering like in the slick rock canyons of the south western US. They rappelled down 8 water falls in a rugged, old growth filled canyon, including a final waterfall that was a 240 foot drop. It took 7 hours to travel two miles through the canyon. Jerry was exhausted, but they had a great time...and the cheap pizza at the end of the trip tasted fantastic!



A new project for the Jerrys last winter was recovering the pool table. Lots of new skills learned and teamwork required. Mom and Kristin were drafted into helping fill holes with melted beeswax and stretch the cover. It turned out great! The pool table is getting more use now that the "hazards" from the scratches and divots are gone and the balls actually bounce off the side rails correctly.



The guys took their normal Black Friday hike, while the ladies went shopping. They explored Robinson Canyon, just south of Ellensburg, this year and didn't get rained on until the end. They saw lots of wildlife in the Yakima Canyon on the way to the trail, but just scenery during the hike. Bob got stuck in the mud and tried to leave his shoe behind, but they were able to recover it!



Sending you warm wishes throughout the new year!

Jerry & Kristin  
Dogs Yvette & Marley; Cats Sassy, Tiggy, & Sunshine;  
Turtles George & Evnrude

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