



MARLER

Christmas Newsletter



Volume 19

December 2009

Can you believe it is this time of year again? Where does the time go? We are pleased to send you our annual newsletter and holiday greetings! Sit back and enjoy our 2009 journey!



We finished up 2008 with a curious little trip to Disneyland. Let us fill you in on that fiasco. The day we were to drive to Anaheim, Las Vegas had a freak winter storm that dumped snow all over southern Nevada. As we arrived at the Nevada/California border the roads were shut down. After fighting the traffic heading back to Las Vegas we headed south to enter California a different direction. Once we reached that area the snow caused that road to close. No one was leaving Las Vegas! A normal one hour drive to the border took us eight hours to only to end up back home. After calming the kids down from utter disappointment we headed out the next day and took the long way to Anaheim.



We made it and all seemed fine. By end of day 1 at the parks Braden got sick. By end of day 2 Kristy got sick. On day 3 as we were leaving the Disney Pier Hotel Keegan had a seizure. We pulled over and administered her anti-seizure medicine. We turned around and check back into the hotel to allow Keegan to sleep off the Phenobarbital. This medicine knocks her out and causes her to have very shallow breathing. We couldn't travel with her in that condition. After 4 1/2 hours of being knocked out

Keegan came around and regained the ability to speak. We checked out again and headed back to Las Vegas. We were all exhausted and poor Jeff had to do all the driving. Despite the setbacks, we enjoyed Disneyland and all the Christmas splendor. It truly is a magical place!

The family was well enough to welcome a visit from Santa. Apparently the kids were great all year long because Santa left them quite a bit. We also spent some time with Kristy's dear ole' friend, Suzee and her lovely family who flew in from Hawaii. We even managed a few holiday gatherings before ringing in the New Year.

When January arrived we were back to our old routine. Jeff was busy with a RED FLAG exercise. A highlight was when Jeff was named his Squadron's Flight Commander of the Year for 2008 and his Operations Group's Flight Commander of the Quarter for the Fourth Quarter of 2008.

In February, Jeff was very busy at work with another RED FLAG exercise. This resulted in many weeks of long hours. We rarely saw each other.

Come March, Jeff's work pace continued. Luckily, he was able to attend Keegan's 10th birthday party. This year she had her first mixed party with many friends from school. We rented out our community clubhouse and threw a pizza, arts & crafts, games and cupcake party. The kids had a great time and the adults enjoyed watching them play the games. Keegan loved all the Barbie gifts. Two weeks later we celebrated St. Patrick's Day. We enjoyed a nice dinner out in our Irish duds. Braden started Special Olympic training for Track & Field events. He also had to say "farewell" to his long time school aide, Mrs. Sandy. She has been with Braden since first grade. She is still on campus so they get to sneak a peak at each other on a daily basis.

In April Kristy celebrated her 43rd birthday, Jeff was named the RED FLAG Flight Commander of the Quarter



for the First Quarter of 2009 and Braden and Keegan participated in Special Olympics in several track and field events. Before the month was over Jeff was back on the road again, this time to New Mexico to attend Simulator training.

In May Jeff left RED FLAG and moved to another squadron, which should assure us another 3 or 4 more years in Las Vegas.

In June, Keegan finished the third grade and Braden finished fifth grade, graduating from Neal Elementary School. With the kids out of school, we hosted a family reunion for the Lappin clan. Kristy's parents, Jim and Mary, and sister, Kerri, and family stopped by



Las Vegas before we all travelled down to Disneyland. We stayed at the Paradise Pier Hotel and spent three days at the Magic Kingdom. After returning to Las Vegas, Kristy and the kids went to the Lion King musical with her parents. After staying the night in the Mandalay Bay Hotel, they spent all day in the pools getting tan. Before Kristy's parents left, Jeff and Braden went golfing with Kristy's dad. It was a fun day on the links with Grandpa giving Braden a few pointers.



July was a very interesting month. In mid July, Braden celebrated his 12th



birthday with a Bowling Party with his best friends. Braden scored pretty well and beat Jeff's score. Kristy's high



school in Hawaii (Radford High School Class of 1984) decided to hold their 25th reunion here in Las Vegas at the Suncoast Casino. Kristy began reconnecting with classmates on Facebook and decided to have a mini-reunion for her drill



team, the Rhythmettes. Kristy spent weeks putting together a party for her fellow precision military drill team members. She created a PowerPoint slide show with music and planned a whole day of events. She really enjoyed catching up with old friends and reliving stories of the fun they had together. Kristy especially enjoyed her time with Brian & Tina Gomes when they went to



the Donnie and Marie show. The last night of the reunion, Kristy and Jeff attended the class dinner and continued to reconnect with the people who made her high school year's memorable. Jeff also enjoyed meeting many of the people that he had only heard about over the last two decades. Unfortunately the reunion had to end, but thanks to Facebook the personal connections will continue. As if that weren't enough, Jeff and Kristy celebrated their 21st wedding anniversary at the end of the month.

In August it was time for school to start again. Keegan returned to Neal Elementary to start fourth grade and Braden started at Seville Middle School as a sixth grader. The middle school does not have a uniform so Kristy has had fun buying skater/surfer clothes for our soon-to-be teenager. This year Braden is riding the school bus to/from

school and loves it. He actually looks forward to going to school everyday just so he can ride the bus.

September was hot as usual as the



summer came to an end and the kids quickly got back into their daily routine. The kids enjoyed our community's pool on the weekends before it was closed for the season. You should have seen their tans.

In October, Jeff also turned 43 and Kristy threw him a combination birth-



day/Halloween costume party. Jeff dressed as a mobster and Kristy as a Flapper from the 1920s. This year for Halloween, Braden was a surgeon and



Keegan was a nurse. Jeff and Kristy dressed as patients and escorted Braden and Keegan around the neighborhood collecting candy. Both of the kids had a great time and really collected a lot of candy.

November was pretty normal. The Air Force had a board to select officers for the rank of Major. Jeff won't find out until March or April when he will get promoted, but we look forward to the announcement that he will soon be a Major. Kristy decorated for Thanksgiving the minute we walked back in from Trick-or-Treating. The house looked great in the rustic colors of Fall. Kristy and Jeff invited a family friend, Alex Keller, over for Thanksgiving and enjoyed the stories and company. Once again the moment Alex left the house, Kristy immediately began removing the Thanksgiving decorations to get the house decorated for Christmas.

Now that it is December we look forward to closing out another year in Las Vegas. Jeff should finish his sixth Masters class, which means he is half way finished with his MAS degree. If everything goes as planned, he should finish by December 2010. By mid month, we will have Kristy's parents with us for the holidays so the kids are really looking forward to having their grandparents for Christmas.

This wouldn't be our annual newsletter without saying a special Thank You to important people in our daily lives: **Home team**~ Robby, Trevor, Ashtynn, Raegan, Marley, Austin and our Lovaas consultant Joe Donohue. **School team**~ Mr. Kocur, Ms. Erika, Mrs. Michelle, Mrs. Manning, Mr. Marsh & Mrs. Kathy. **Medical team**~ Dr. Maller, Dr. Blum, Dr. Bernstein & Dr. Kinner. All these dedicated people have enriched our children's lives and we will cherish them always! We feel so blessed to have so many angels among us.

We continue to have monthly Lovaas workshops, endless therapy hours (ABA, Speech, OT & PT) between home and school. The kid's schedules remains full and we still enjoy seeing little gains in spite of their diagnosis's. They are our greatest reward and we are so proud of them!

Remember, if you are ever in Las Vegas, be sure to look us up for a visit. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Love,
Jeff, Kristy, Braden &
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