



MARLER

Christmas Newsletter



Volume 20

December 2010

Well 2010 was definitely a very busy year. Like usual we will pick up where we left off in late December 2009. Kristy and her girlfriend, Laura Anderson saw Cher in concert at Caesars Palace. Kristy was astonished that she knew so many of the songs, showing her real age. Our master planned community was looking for a name for the community's newsletter, so Jeff sent in several suggestions. The association picked one of his ideas and awarded us a free night at the Aliante Station Hotel and Casino. Kristy's parents came to Las Vegas for Christmas so we were able to relax at the hotel while they watched the kids. Kristy took her dad, Jim, to see the Cirque de Soleil show Love based on the music of the Beatles and took her mom, Mary, to see the musical Menopause and stayed at the Luxor Hotel and Casino on the Las Vegas Strip.

On New Years Day we all decided it



would be fun to take the kids to Mount Charleston to go sledding in the snow before the Kristy's parents returned to Denver. Unfortunately Kristy's mom was hit by a snow sled which broke her ankle. She was taken to the hospital by



ambulance but they were unable to set the ankle right away because of the swelling. Mary needed surgery to repair the damage and stayed with us through her recovery.

In February Kristy and Jeff were able to go on a date for Valentines Day. Six weeks after the accident Kristy's mom was mobile enough to return to Denver. The kids definitely enjoyed the extended vacation with their Grandma.

In March Keegan turned 11 and went



to the movies with two girlfriends to celebrate. Jeff went to Albuquerque for a week for simulator training and returned in time for Spring Break. Keegan also got her first pair of glasses over Spring Break. She looked very stylish and her teachers noticed an immediate improvement at school.

In April Kristy turned 44 and celebrated by spending all day at the Red Rock Casino Spa getting pampered followed by dinner with the family. At the end of the month, Jeff traveled to Alabama for a military function, to Tennessee to attend his friend Todd Johnson's assumption of command ceremony, and to Florida to attend the Jolly Green Giant reunion (Vietnam War Combat Search and Rescue personnel) in just 4 days.

As the school year came to a close Kristy passed the responsibility/torch of decorating the elementary school to the next Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO) volunteer. She has been decorating the school's common areas for a few years. Although she knew she would miss the creative outlet, she planned to enjoy her free time.

After having a slow month in May, June was quite a whirlwind. Jeff, Kristy, Braden and Keegan got on an airplane and went to Oklahoma for two weeks. First Jeff and Kristy spent a day with Jeff's youngest brother, Randy's family in Norman. Next we drove to Lake Murray for a family reunion which brought together everyone on Jeff's mother's side of the family. Before leaving Norman Jeff and Kristy drove all over town reliving the years we spent there while Jeff was in college at OU. While in Norman we were able to visit



with many friends: Lisa Marie Henderson, Trish & Vince Hawley, Shane Smailey and Kimmi Butler. We were forced to stay in Norman an additional day when torrential rains caused flooding that shut down the highways. Eventually we made it to Enid to visit Jeff's mom, Lucille, and Jeff gave the family the tour of the town showing where he lived and went to school. Then it was back to Norman for our eldest niece, Lora's wedding and to spend some more time with Jeff's brother's (Kelly and Randy) families in Norman. Once we



returned to Vegas, Kristy was able to see a special high school girlfriend who was in town for her Radford High School reunion: Patty (Hutcheson) Reynolds.



At the end of the month Kristy spent a night down on the strip with her girlfriend Laura at the Monte Carlo Casino. They lounged poolside all day and enjoyed a nice dinner with drinks by night. The perfect STAYCATION!

In July Kristy visited two more high school girlfriends while in town: Irene (Trinidad) Hodge and Melody Baldwin. Braden and his best friend, Katie had a



shared birthday dinner right before we left for Disneyland to celebrate

him turning 13. After five days walking around the Magic Kingdom Kristy and



Jeff were definitely ready to get home and relax after living out of a suitcase for the last couple of weeks. As if that was not enough, Jeff and Kristy cele-



brated our 22nd wedding anniversary at the end of the month. We stayed at the Wynn Hotel and Casino. We basked poolside all day, had an amazing dinner in the hotel before dancing the night away. The perfect getaway!

Jeff started off August on a business trip for a week just as the heat of the summer hit. Kristy took another Girls Night Out to the Mandalay Bay with two of her girlfriends: Laura and Becca. Both Braden and Keegan spent so much time in our community pool that they should have grown gills. They were very tan by the time school started back up at the end of the month.

As the new school year started Braden returned to Saville Middle School for 7th grade and Keegan started her last year (5th grade) at Neal Elementary School. The local school district informed us at the end of last school year that they would stop their Autism support home funding so we had to say



goodbye to the home therapy team. They had become a part of the family and all of us were sad that we would not be seeing them every day. Luckily for us the military's insurance has a program that picked up where the school system left off. So both Braden and Keegan continue therapy everyday after school with Tandem Therapies. As a reward for all their hard work Braden and Keegan both got a pair of bowling shoes to wear when they go bowling every Saturday afternoon.

Since we were no longer running our own home program we would also not be seeing our Lovaas consultant, Joe Donahue, every month. Just like the therapists, Joe had become a part of our family and we were sad that



October would be his last visit to our home. Luckily for Joe his favorite baseball team the San Francisco Giants won the World Series and he was able to wear the Giants jersey Kristy bought him, as a going away gift, while watching the games. Also in



October one of Kristy's dearest friends, Suzee (Faircloth) Bisch, came to Vegas for a visit. Jeff also celebrated his 44th

birthday with a steak dinner at Mandalay Bay. As a special treat, we all went to Disneyland for two days to see the park decorated for Halloween. Kristy could



not resist buying color matched, Halloween-themed shirts for the family to wear. The park was fun as always and all of us enjoyed the cooler weather; we normally go during the summer.

November brought us a pleasant surprise. Kristy's dad, Jim, decided to come out to visit us for the Thanksgiving holiday and to help pin on Jeff's new rank. Braden loved all the bike rides with his Grandpa. Keegan loved all the hugs and tickles. Kristy and her dad went on runs and played a little tennis and Jeff had someone to watch football



and talk sports with. Even Bailey (our pit bull) enjoyed her daily walks. While Jim was here we also went to an air show at Nellis Air Force Base, looked at aircraft and watched the USAF Thunderbird show.

Unfortunately the week before Thanksgiving Kristy received the news that her maternal Grandmother was passing away. Kristy arranged to meet her mother and sister in Green Bay and drive to Menominee, Michigan. However the day they started their trip, Kristy's Grandmother passed on. Kristy stayed for a week and was able to visit with her cousins and their families and her aunts and uncles. Kristy was able to say her



goodbyes to her Grandma at the viewing, eulogized her at the funeral and watched as she was lowered next to Grandpa in her final resting. Rest in



peace Grandma Mary Adrienne Streeter 1921-2010. The next day was Thanksgiving and everyone gathered at Kristy's hotel for a pot luck style dinner. In the time she had left, Kristy toured her birthplace and other significant sites in the town her mother grew up in. While Kristy was in Michigan Jeff and Jim had a uneventful week in Las Vegas and went to a local casino's buffet restaurant for Thanksgiving. No mess/leftovers.

December was jam packed with events. Jeff was promoted to Major on



the 1st and had a pin-on ceremony on the 3rd. Jeff and Kristy went to Jeff's work Christmas Party that Jeff helped organize at the Green Valley Ranch Casino. Kristy's dad stayed with the kids so Jeff and Kristy could enjoy the party and an overnight stay at the hotel. On the 7th Keegan celebrated her "second" birthday (the date her tumor was removed in 1999) and Grandpa Lappin flew back to Denver. We all miss him! Jeff enrolled for his final Masters class and should finish in March 2011- FINALLY. He is earning a Masters in Aeronautical Science. Before Santa arrives we have a few more Holiday parties to attend and then we can slow down and relax until the New Year arrives.

This wouldn't be our annual newsletter without saying a special Thank You to important people in our daily lives: **Home team**~ Robby, Ashtynn, Marley, Austin and our Lovaas consultant Joe Donohue. **Tandem team**~ Chris, Amanda, Cambria, Nadene, Michael and Christina. **School team**~ Mrs. Kocur, Mrs. Michelle, Mr. Marsh & Mrs. Mary. 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 including my Gramma Streeter.

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 & Keegan
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