

Marler Christmas Newsletter



We can't believe it is already time to write another Christmas Newsletter. This year went by so fast and was filled with lots of milestones. Kristy hosted her annual 2014 Cookie Swap Party with her girlfriends in the neighborhood. We went to two work parties before taking a vacation to the Alps in southern Germany, plus visiting the Rothenberg and Nurnberg Christmas Markets. We stopped by Bad Windsheim,



Germany, where Braden was born, and on a whim drove by Kristy's Obstetrician's office. It turns out Dr. Gampe is still in practice and was able to visit with us. During our visit, Kristy



was able to find Braden's baby picture on Dr. Gampe's wall of pictures from 17 years before. Pretty cool. Just like last year, we ended 2014 with a New Years' Eve party at a neighbor's (Cyndie & Paul) house. Braden loves the fireworks that the neighbors fired off.

January gave us lots of snow. We still get excited over having snow. We had a bit of a scare when the young woman who adopted our dog, Bailey, was going to move and couldn't keep her. We scrambled and found a new home for Bailey with Keegan's best friend in Las Vegas, Michelle.

In late February we went to Disneyland Paris for Keegan's Sweet 16 birthday as Jeff had a large exercise in early March. We all had a super time as usual and all the Park employees made Keegan very feel special.



In early March, our beautiful Keegan officially turned 16 years old. We had a small family party to celebrate. After Jeff's exercise was over everyone was in the mood for a wee bit of Irish shenanigans so we had a St. Patrick's Day party.



In April, we went to London for Spring Break. We were able to see all of the typical tourist hot spots: the Tower of London, London Bridge, The London Eye, Buckingham Palace, and Braden's favorite double decker busses. While there we took in a musical: Charlie and the

Chocolate Factory. In the middle of the trip, we celebrated Kristy's 49th Birthday while visiting Harry Potter World. As the Birthday girl, Kristy got to open the doors to the Great Hall at Hogwarts. It was very interesting to see the props for the different movies.



In May, Braden and Keegan participated in an adaptive softball game against the Kaiserslautern Special Needs classes. Braden actually got a pretty good hit this year. You can see Braden working on his slide into home plate.



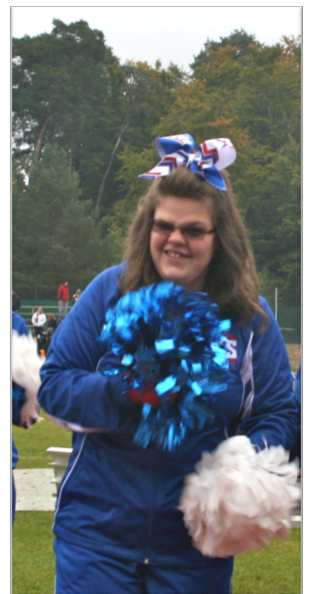
Before the month was over, Kristy went on a bus trip to Poland and bought a few more pieces of Polish pottery for her collection.

In June, the Ramstein High School Varsity Cheerleader Coach, Tarah, who works with



Keegan and Braden in the Ramstein High School Special Needs classroom, asked if we would allow Keegan to be an honorary RHS Cheerleader for the coming school year. Of course we were humbled and delighted that Keegan would have a high school activity and participate with the other girls on the two Cheer squads. All of the girls on both the Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams were very supportive and Keegan had 24 new girlfriends to give hugs to. Jeff was working very long hours planning for a Presidential visit to Kenya and Ethiopia.

July was a very busy month. We asked Braden where he wanted to go for his birthday. Of course he said Disneyland Paris. So back to the House of Mouse for another very special celebration. It is hard to believe Braden is now



18 years old. We had a great time as usual and it was Braden's turn for the special attention from the Staff members. Once we came back to Ramstein Braden had a second Birthday style



celebration at Chili's with some of his friends from High School.

Jeff got some great news from work. He was selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. Not bad for someone who enlisted 29 years before. He won't pin on the rank until 2016 but it is one more important milestone in his long career. As if that wasn't enough Jeff and Kristy celebrated their 27th wedding anniversary at the end of the month. Unfortunately, we also received word that Michelle could no longer keep our sweet Bailey. With help from some amazing friends we have found a foster family until we return to the U.S. Cambria & Jake added Bailey to their pit family. Bailey loves her younger brother Luke and sister Sally!



In August we went to Belfast, Northern Ireland to visit Kristy's extended family. Kristy had only been there twice in her life, once as a child and once in 2011. This was the first time that Jeff, Braden and Keegan had ever met this part of the family. We visited Kristy's uncle & aunt and her cousins and their families for several days while travelling around Belfast taking in the sights. We had a special treat of a



pub-crawl to celebrate our anniversary. Jan Teen-sat the kids and trust me when I say they had a night to remember as well. After visiting the family for several days, we spent over a week driving around the emerald isle. Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are very

scenic and have a rugged beauty that we loved to see. We visited the Giant's Causeway on the way to Portrush. We stayed in Sligo, Galway, Limberick, Cork, Waterford and ended in Dublin. We took in everything there was to visit along the way. A few of Jeff's highlights



were the Old Bushmills Distillery tour in Antrim, Cliff's of Mohr, kissing the blarney stone while visiting the castle and the tour at the Guinness Distillery. Jeff loves scotch! Luckily the weather was great for most of our time on the isle but after two weeks we had to head back to Germany.

Before we knew it summer was over and it was back to school. The entire family attended all of Ramstein High School's home football games to support Keegan and the other girls on the Cheerleading team.

In September, we attended the Air Force Ball and dressed up in our fancy outfits for a night at the base Officer's Club. Before school got too hectic we decided to squeeze in a trip to Bavarian Alps. We stayed in Garmisch, which is one of our favorite places to visit. Luckily our trip occurred during Munich's



Oktoberfest. Kristy bought us all traditional German outfits: Lederhosen and Dirndls. We rode the train to Munich which we are sure was Braden's favorite part. We spent a nice day seeing the sights visiting the beer fest tents and riding a few amusement rides before taking the train back to Garmisch.

October was a whirlwind. First the kids participated in an adaptive soccer game against the Kaiserslautern High School. Then it was



homecoming week. Braden and Keegan dressed in spirit clothes during the week and Jeff present Keegan with a bouquet of flowers during the Homecoming football game. At the end of the month we had our Halloween party at the house



with all our friends. Jeff celebrated turning 49 as he burned baby burned in the Disco Inferno!

In November, Kristy volunteered to decorate for the Cheerleader Fall banquet. The luau theme was a big hit and we had a chance to



thank the girls and their parents for being so supportive of Keegan. The Varsity team wanted to do something special so they bought Keegan a letterman jacket. It was a very touching gesture and they presented it to her during the luau. Since this is Braden's senior year he had a professional photo shoot next to an antique train. He looks so mature! Weeks later he had all four wisdom teeth taken out and to stayed home for almost a week to recover.



Our house looks likes a Christmas wonderland. We're attending a few holiday gatherings, hosting a cookie exchange party and looking forward to Santa's arrival. We hope your holidays will be filled with love and friendship as well!

We feel blessed for our family and friends and pray that 2016 is good to us all. GOD Bless you, Merry Christmas (Frohe Weihnachten) and Happy New Year (Glückliches Neues Jahr).

Jeff, Kristy, Braden and Keegan Marler
PSC 2 Box 14155
APO, AE 09012
(702) 655-1440
JKMarler@me.com

Go to www.JKBKMarler.com to see every Christmas Newsletter we've written since 1991.

