

Marler Christmas Newsletter



2016 has been jam-packed and has flown by at a record pace. December 2015 was busy as Kristy hosted her annual Cookie Exchange party with all our friends and neighbors which produced 31 dozen cookies for the Airmen in the barracks. We also visited the Christmas

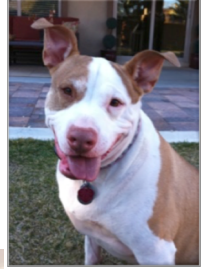
In April we went to Venice, Italy for a week to see the city surrounded by water. The kids loved riding in all boats. Kristy



December, January and February crafting like crazy for the "Royal Gatsby" cheerleader spring



banquet, which was one of the last cheer events for Keegan. The Varsity and JV squads, coaches and cheer parents were very kind and supportive and we miss them all. Unfortunately our dog Bailey, who was being fostered by special friend, Cambria, had to be put down for medical reasons. Bailey was a wonderful part of the family and is deeply missed.



celebrated her 50th birthday at a dinner with all of our close friends at one of our favorite local German restaurants. She also went to Strasburg, France with dear friends Bob and Angie Lala. Kristy then was treated to a girl's trip to the Netherlands with her besties Angie & Jennifer. Kristy's big surprise (2016 Volvo XC90) arrived shortly after. She named this beauty "Elsa". While the



markets in Koln and Trier in Germany, attended some holiday parties before topping it all off with a New Year's Eve bash (with tons of fireworks) at Cyndie & Paul's.

In January Jeff started a new job at the Air Ops Center in anticipation of his promotion. Our family attended all the



In March our little girl turned 17 so we celebrated with a lunch at Chili's with her cheer sisters and other close friends. After a big exercise at the Air Ops Center, Jeff

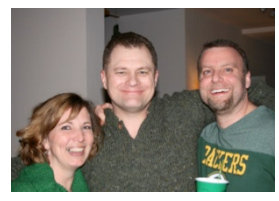


month long celebration was happening, Kristy was also busy preparing for prom. She was asked in late fall to chair the decoration committee for the RHS Prom. She was honored and excited for the challenge. She spent untold hours making pieces for the

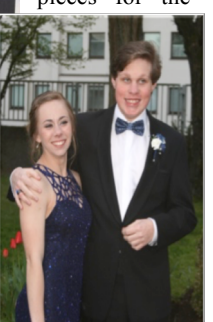
Ramstein High School boys and girls Varsity basketball games and cheer events. Keegan wasn't able to cheer as much this season for safety reasons but loved to go to support her cheer sisters. Kristy spent her spare time in



was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. Kristy organized the promotion ceremony with lots of help from Jeff's coworkers. We are all so proud of RHINO! Later we combined our almost world famous Saint Patrick's Day party with Jeff's promotion party and in one word it was "TOTALLY EPIC".



Arabic Nights themed gala. Her craft room was packed full. Braden asked a great girl, Tori, who he met in the kid's class as she was a peer mentor.





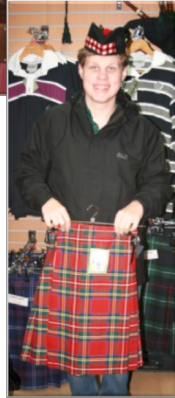
Tori was also Co-Captain of the Varsity cheerleading squad and had helped Keegan throughout the fall and spring cheer seasons. Kristy was a whirlwind decorating for 18 hours (with an amazing group of volunteers) turning the Officer's club into an Arabian Oasis. She finished just in time to get Keegan ready for her special date, her daddy. The prom was a huge success. Kristy was recognized for her efforts and presented with gifts from the junior class officers.

After a month like that, we decided to slow down in May with a trip to Edinburgh, Scotland.



We had a great time riding the double decker tour buses, visiting castles and the British Royal Yacht Britannia where Kristy jumped behind the bar to pour a wee pint for Braden.

June was busy as Braden finished his senior year as a Ramstein Royal. Braden will continue high school, so he



didn't receive a diploma but this was his special year and he participated in as many of the senior

activities as he was allowed. We are very proud of all the hard work that he and Keegan have put in over the years and look forward to see what



the future holds for them. Originally we were scheduled to leave Germany in November 2015, but the Air Force allowed us to extend for Braden's senior year. Now that the school year was over it was time to return to the states. Jeff asked to return to flying the HH-60 Pavehawk so he received orders for Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona.

In July we celebrated Braden turning 19. After packing up the household goods and shipping the cars to the U.S. we had a tough time saying goodbye to super friends who had become like family over the last 3 1/2 years. Bob and Angie hosted a neighborhood BBQ to wish the MARLERS "Happy Travels".



We landed in Baltimore and prepared for our stateside vacation. First stop, Las Vegas, where Braden got to see his best friend Katie Wolfram



before she left for college. They have been buddies since elementary school. We had another dinner with the Greg, Deb and Katie Wolfram and other wonderful friends that hold a



special place in our hearts, as they were a big part of the kid's lives and success. This fell on our 28th wedding anniversary. After Vegas we drove to Colorado. Jeff had to pay attention to prevent from speeding, as he wasn't on the Autobahn anymore. We were able to visit Kristy family who live near Denver and we were all

amazed at how much all the kids (Braden, Keegan, Christian and Connor) had grown.



Kristy's sister, Kerri, threw Braden a family party to celebrate the completion of his senior year. After a couple of days, it was time to load up the rental van and drive to Oklahoma to see Jeff's family in Enid and Norman. While we



were in Norman, we took the kids to all of our favorite college places and bought a lot of OU stuff. BOOMER SOONER!!! Then it was time for Jeff to report for training in Albuquerque where he would re-qualify as an Instructor Pilot. We rented a townhome for Kristy and the kids to hang out in while Jeff went through academics and simulator flying.

In September we made a quick visit to Tucson over Labor Day weekend. Kristy had researched which school district she thought would be a good fit for Braden and Keegan. After talking with the Ironwood Ridge High School counselors and Special Needs teachers, we looked for a home to rent in that school district. We decided on a house in the Rancho Vistoso Master Community in Oro Valley. When we returned to New Mexico we squeezed in the State Fair (which we also attended in 2001). We really enjoyed the rides, crafts, animals and food.

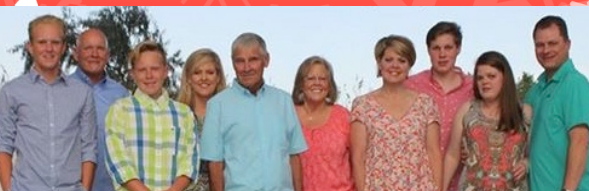
In October Jeff passed his last check ride so we loaded up the cars and headed to Tucson. Unfortunately, Jeff spent his 50th birthday helping the movers unpack our belongings. He will get a "Do Over" as that is no way to celebrate the BIG 50. We didn't celebrate Halloween as we normally do but at least we were no longer living out of suitcases.

In November Jeff was getting set up at work and helping Kristy organize the house. The kids started school and seemed to enjoy it so far. As soon as Thanksgiving dinner was finished Kristy immediately began decorating for Christmas. By the time Monday rolled around the house was seriously festive and Jeff was ready to escape back to work.

Now that December is here we look forward to a work Christmas party and a visit from Kristy's parents. They plan to catch up on Grandparent's time that they lost while the kids were overseas.

We feel blessed for our family and friends and pray that 2016 is good to us all. GOD Bless you, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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