

Marler Christmas Newsletter



We can't believe another year has gone by already and it is time to send out another newsletter. 2017 was definitely an interesting and memorable year for us. We finished up 2016 with Kristy's parents, Jim and Mary, visiting from Colorado. The boys were able to attend the Arizona Bowl where the Air Force



Academy Falcons beat the South Alabama Jaguars. The kids had a great time with all the Arizona activities their grandparents planned for them.

We were also lucky enough to see friends from Germany, Brian and Denise, when they stopped through Tucson on vacation. We had a great



time getting caught up, but as you can see Jeff's selfie skills are lacking.

Through Facetime, Kristy was still able to celebrate New Years Eve with our friends in Germany. It looks like everyone had fun at Cyndie and Paul's Murder Mystery party and we really wished we were there in person.



In January, we began to process to request guardianship of our two young adults. After meeting with court appointed advocates and lawyers we went before a judge to be granted the ability to make life decisions for our kids throughout their lives.

In February, Jeff began visiting Las Vegas to meet and train with the Squadron that he would be commanding overseas. Unfortunately while he was gone, Kristy was rear ended in her Volvo, ELSA. Nobody was injured but Kristy's car would need to spend some time at the body shop. After two weeks in Vegas, Jeff returned to take the family to Disneyland. We had to celebrate Keegan's 18th birthday a little early, as Jeff had



to go back to Vegas for the entire month of March. We really enjoyed returning to our unofficial second home after being overseas for 4 years. Luckily it is just as we remembered it and the kids loved it.

In March, Jeff returned to Las Vegas but planned to bring the family up for Spring Break. However both kids got very sick the night before the flight so we had to cancel last minute. Jeff decided to drive down to Tucson to see how everyone was doing but had to turn back around 36 hours later to get back to training.

In April, we celebrated Kristy's 51st birthday and Jeff finally returned after being gone for almost 7 weeks. It was great to all live under one roof again.

In May, we planned to make up for the missing Spring Break with a belated trip to Las Vegas to attend Jeff's deployment briefing and for Kristy to meet the fine group of men and women Jeff would soon be leading overseas. We took in many Vegas shows, highlighted by a Journey concert at the Hard Rock Casino. We had a



super time listening to the music we grew up with and Facetimed one of Kristy's best friends from high school, Tina and her husband Brian, who loves Journey. Although the lead singer isn't Steve Perry, we all still enjoyed it. Unfortunately the schedule was so hectic that Kristy was unable to attend her nephew's, Christian, high school graduation in Colorado.



Before we knew it, it was time for Jeff to load up his gear and fly to Las Vegas to join his Squadron for their trip overseas. They would be providing Combat Search and Rescue for U.S. and Coalition military personnel in the Middle East. Luckily he was able to keep in touch on an almost daily basis so he could see the kids and keep Kristy up to date. He left right before we



got a visit from our great friends, Greg, Deb and Katie Wolfram on Memorial Day weekend. Braden and Katie have been best friends since elementary school. Katie is going to Greenville University and was a member of the NCCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship team this year. We are so blessed to have the Wolframs as friends and are very proud of Katie.



June was a fairly low key month as the kids were out of school and enjoyed sleeping in and laying around the pool.

In July Kristy's dad came down to accompany the family on their drive up to Colorado. En route they stopped at Durango to ride an historic



steam train to Silverton, CO and back. The views were simply breathtaking and it was the perfect way to celebrate Braden's 20th birthday. Braden was very excited and hung his head out the window whenever he could. At the end of the trip his face was covered in soot. Kristy,



Grandpa and the kids drove on to Broomfield where they could properly celebrate Christian's graduation. While in Colorado they visited parks/attractions, took another train ride at the



Devil's gate and rode a gondola in Vail. Kristy was able to visit Tina and Brian for a night before the trip was over. After two weeks Kristy, her dad, and the kids loaded back in the Volvo for the 2-day trip back to Tucson. Though Jeff couldn't be home for their 29th wedding anniversary, he sent flowers from

overseas and was able to call and talk to Kristy. Kristy had the rare opportunity to meet up with her tennis coach from 30 years ago in late summer while he was traveling through Tucson. Jerry Kreasig and Kristy had a great time reliving the days on the Barber's Point tennis courts.



August was hotter than normal, so Kristy, her dad and the kids spent as much time in the pool as possible before school started. Once the kids were in school that allowed Kristy and her dad to do some activities that the kids wouldn't like, such as the Biosphere 2, International Wildlife Museum, visiting Mission San Xavier, hiking Sabino Canyon and visiting Mount Lemmon. The one thing they really wanted to do during his stay was to spot the allusive Havelina (wild pig). No luck!

Once September came it was time for Kristy's dad to return to Colorado. Jim was a great help



with Braden and Keegan and Kristy was sad to see him go. Luckily some more help was very close at hand. Tyler, who had gone to Braden and Keegan's high school the previous year and was attending University of Arizona, agreed to help with respite care for the

kids. Our family loves TYLER!

In early October, Jeff finally returned from his deployment. Both Kristy and the kids were very happy to see him and he was happy to be home with his family. The first weekend back, Kristy took Jeff to a local University of Oklahoma Alumni watch party to see the Sooners play football. Luckily we were able to make it to several watch parties and were glad to see how well the team did this year.



Of course Kristy had the house decorated to the nines for Halloween. But it wasn't all football, we took Braden and Keegan to see Disney on Ice and celebrated Jeff's 51st birthday too. Probably the coolest thing this year is Kristy has decided to try to run her own craft and home décor business: The Rusty Rooster Designs. We've jumped in with both feet. Once she decided to go ahead, Kristy only had only 10 days to make enough products for her first Crafts Fair. We sold enough to feel successful and hope this will be the start of her empire. Martha Stewart look out. But Kristy was going to miss Halloween this year.



She planned a bucket list trip with her mom, Mary, to go see New York City. She actually left on Halloween so she could fly to Denver to catch a flight to



NYC on November 1st. It was a once in a lifetime trip. They stayed right off the infamous Times Square. They managed to see all the major attractions, rode on buses, a cab, the metro, ferries and a pedi-cab and saw the beginning of the holiday decorations alongside all the NYC marathoners. Kristy specially enjoyed seeing "Wicked". Mary really enjoyed visiting Ellis Island and finding out more about her ancestors. Thanksgiving came and went with little fuss. Our niece, Payton, gave birth to her precious daughter Phoebe Elizabeth that afternoon. A true Thanksgiving blessing!

Jeff started a new job in December with the 55th Rescue Squadron and Kristy created and sold more crafts for her second Craft Fair. We have been so busy that she just finished decorating the house for Christmas. You know she typically has that done the minute Thanksgiving is over. We are looking forward to a quiet Christmas at home and a very special visit from amazing friends before the New Year rolls in.

We feel blessed for our family and friends and pray that 2017 is good to us all. GOD Bless you, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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