

Marler Christmas Newsletter



I really thought I would have the Newsletter out before Christmas, but work and life had other plans. Still, we can't wait to tell you about our 2025 now that is almost all gone.



One of the uncommon things about living in a huge metropolis with millions of other people, is running into someone from your hometown. Jeff and Rhonda Reddick both went to Enid High School and worked on the School's newspaper. Jeff and Kristy ran into Rhonda while shopping at an antique store in nearby Grapevine and caught up about the last 40 years.



A few days later Kristy was also able to spend some time with an old, friend as well. Tina (Rumbaugh) Richardson is one of Kristy's first friends from when she moved to Hawaii in 1978. Kristy and Tina went to Ilima Intermediate School in Ewa Beach (Hawaii) and also at Radford High School in Salt Lake (Hawaii) and have stayed in touch all these years.



During the holiday break, one of Jeff's former Flightsafety coworkers, Grady Harbour, invited the family to the Fort Worth Aviation Museum.

Grady volunteers at the museum and led Jeff, Braden and another coworker on a guided tour of the various aircraft he flew during Vietnam. Besides looking at the helicopter, Braden favorite part was "flying" the T-38 cockpit procedural trainer.



We had a relatively mild winter, but still had to drive in the snow. Luckily it melted so fast that Jeff didn't have to shovel the sidewalks like when we were living in Germany.

We also had a reunion with one of our Autism therapist from Las Vegas. Kathryn Welzenbach was one of our home-based ABA therapists and was with Keegan for several years. We hadn't seen her since 2005 and found out she also lives in the Dallas area. Jeff was able to contact Kathryn and invited her over for dinner to catch up on the last two decades.

As I mentioned, Kristy and I love shopping for antiques. Twice a year the Original Round Top Antique Fair is held in central Texas, and we just had to go. Miles and miles of vendors in tents, market stalls, old barns and country stores just full of antiques. At the end of March, we rented an Air B&B and spent 5 days looking at old stuff. Luckily, we were staying close to our dear friend Jennifer Feutz who came to visit. Kristy and Jennifer got to spend a girls' day together looking for old treasures and had a blast.

In April, we celebrated Kristy's 59th birthday by spoiling her with a spa day at the Gaylord Resort in Grapevine. A whole day of indulgence with not a husband or child in sight; the definition of a relaxing day.

In May, we had multiple sets of visitors. Jennifer came up from San Antonio to stay the night and surprise another good friend, Angie Lala. Jennifer and Angie lived in our neighborhood when we were in Germany and

are some of Kristy's best friends. Lots to catch up on since none of us had seen Angie for 13 years. Amazingly Bob and Angie live less than a mile away from our house. Because of this great luck we had them over for dinner a couple of times this year and really enjoyed their company. A week later, we invited Mike and Tammy Boudreaux over for dinner as we hadn't seen them in at least a year. May was definitely a busy month full of great friends.



In June, we headed up to Colorado to see the extended Lappin Family. We timed it perfectly to celebrate our nephew Christian's 26th birthday as well as Father's Day. Kristy's sister, Kerri Hinkle and her husband, Jonathan, hosted an all-day Barbeque. Kristy made Hawaiian ribbon leis for all the Dads (in the colors of their children's birthstones). So great to reconnect with family.



Every visit to Colorado Kristy's parents, Jim and Mary Lappin, takes Braden to drive gas powered, gokarts at a local Arcade/Amusement Park called Boondocks. Every time we went Braden drove very slowly and seemed happy to let the other drivers around him. This was Braden's favorite part of our trips to Denver while Keegan enjoyed going to a couple of movies with her Grandparents and Auntie.



(left to right: Braden 27, Keegan 26, Connor Hinkle 23, Grandpa Lappin, Grandma Lappin, Christian Hinkle 26.)



Back in Texas we had been watching a new gokart center being built in Fort Worth and told Braden when it opened Jeff would take him. Sure enough the Mario Andretti Karting and Games Center opened up just before Braden's 28th birthday and so Jeff took Braden for his first electric gokart experience.



You can see Braden wearing a full-faced helmet from his very first race. And these electric gokarts can go extremely fast up and down the hills and around those hairpin corners. For the first few months Braden was driving the Intermediate level karts but one weekend Jeff signed him up for the adult level and man Braden really enjoyed the speed. Now he will occasionally slow down and let someone pass but not often and he is experimenting with drifting the corners.



So now every weekend (if Jeff isn't working), Jeff and Braden go to Five Guys for lunch and then go to Mario Andretti so Braden can race while Kristy and Keegan enjoy their girls' day out.

Towards the end of the month, Jeff and Kristy were able to celebrate their 37th Anniversary at Capital Grille. The entire staff did a wonderful job making Jeff and Kristy feel special.



In August, Jeff and Kristy were able to attend another Texas Rangers baseball game thanks to Lindsey and Stephen. Unfortunately, the Rangers lost to the New York Yankees but it was a close game. This time Kristy convinced Jeff not to bring his glove but we had a great time anyway.



During the summer Jeff and Kristy began watching The Chosen series which brought about some interesting discussions. Kristy and Keegan began attending a local church on Sunday mornings. Followed by their girls' day shopping, and occasionally pedicure or massages.



In October, Jonathan Hinkle came down to Texas for a work trip so we were able to have him over for dinner at the house. Jeff received permission to take Jonathan to his office to experience the helicopter simulator. Jeff and Jonathan went out for a steak dinner and then Jeff showed him how to hover, takeoff and the basics of flying a helicopter.

After Jonathan returned to Colorado it was time for the annual University of Texas and University of Oklahoma football game to be played at the historic Cotton Bowl Stadium in Dallas. Jeff and Kristy did not go to the game this year but was able to attend the Texas State Fair where the Cotton Bowl resides.

In November, Jeff was able to meet up with two good friends from the Army. Jeff met John Ramiccio (left) and Mike LaMee (center) when stationed in Germany from 1995 to 1997. Jeff and Mike were stationed together at Katterbach, Germany. Jeff met John during a deployment to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1996.



After Germany all three were stationed at Fort Rucker together teaching the UH-60 Aircraft Qualification Course. Luckily Mike lives close by (in our old town of Flower Mound) and John was in the Dallas Fort Worth area on business. They spent several hours at dinner retelling stories of their time together and had a great time.

This fall/winter was very hectic for Jeff at work. Sometimes working six or seven days in a row, at all times of the day/night. Jeff still enjoys teaching but we can't wait for the workload to slow down a little. Luckily Jeff was able to take off several days around Christmas and New Years to try to catch up on sleep and projects around the house. It has been a costly year as far as house projects go. Replacing expensive stuff is supposedly the joy of home ownership.

As always, Kristy has the house perfectly decorated for Christmas. Every year it takes longer to get all the decor put out but you can't argue with the results. The house looks like it could be in Home and Garden magazine.

A week before Christmas, Jeff and Kristy were able to have Lindsey and Stephen over for dinner. You may remember Lindsey graduated Nursing school last year and, when she is not working full time as a nurse, she adult sits with Braden and Keegan so Jeff and Kristy can go out antique shopping, or to a movie or a dinner date. It is great to have Lindsey and Stephen over as they keep us young.

Unfortunately, two days before Christmas. Jeff was hit from the rear while sitting at a traffic light. The accident was a very slow speed "crash" and everyone involved was fine. Jeff's car (the Volvo Jeff bought Kristy for her 50th birthday in Germany which is now his daily driver) suffered minor damage so Jeff was able to drive home. What a way to start the holiday.

With Christmas behind us and New Years right around the corner, we pray that GOD BLESS you and your family, keep you healthy and safe this coming year. So (Late) Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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