

## **Christmas, 2004**

Wow! What a year we had! From touring Europe to buying houses to changing jobs, we're out of breath.

First, after skipping it last year we put our annual Mardi Gras party on this year. Lots of guests, both regulars and newbie's, and everybody had a great time.

In May, John had a business trip to England scheduled, so we arranged for Janet to come over when his business was finished. Then we spent 4 days in London touring around and staying in a Yacht hotel (a beautiful yacht moored on the River Thames serving as a hotel). We took a river cruise on the Thames, visited the Tower of London and the Tower Bridge, Buckingham Palace, the Globe theater and just about everything else. We were especially impressed with the British Museum.

After that, we took the high speed Eurostar train through the channel tunnel to Paris (cruising at 180MPH at times!), and spent several days touring that part of the world. We stayed in a hotel near the Moulin Rouge, and toured the Louvre, the Eiffel Tower, and all the other things you expect to see in Paris. Then we took the Eurostar back to London, and spent a little more time there. We thoroughly enjoyed both cities and plan to visit them again someday.

After coming back, Intel asked John to take another position within the company. After being with the same group within the company for 8 years, he decided to take on a new responsibility. Now he supports the types of computer systems that are used in the cellular and telephony industry that enable all the nifty things you can do with cell phones (and many more nifty things on the way).

If you keep up with our annual letters, you know we are avid campers and own a motor home. In our old house, we had no room to store a motor home, so we had to pay to keep it in storage. This was both expensive and inconvenient, so we decided that it was time to look for a new house. After some serious searching, we finally found a home that meets our needs. It is about 500 SF larger, has a 2 car garage that is so big the previous owner parked two cars on one side, a .57 acre lot crossed by a creek and RV parking along side. It also has a magnificent two story deck in back that overlooks a greenway, with big Douglas fir and cedar trees in back that block the view of our neighbors and give us great privacy.

Our phone number stays the same; 503-693-8149. Our new address is 3362 SE Willow St., Hillsboro, Or. 97123-7767

Speaking of the motor home, we spent a week relaxing in August at our favorite campground, Detroit Lake state park. This beautiful lake is nestled in the Santiam Pass in the Cascade Range surrounded by big trees and overlooked by Mt. Jefferson.

Now, here it is at the end of the year. We have our plane tickets in hand, and we are headed to Jackson to spend Christmas with John's family. Then we're headed down to New Orleans for a few days to see old friends and revisit our old haunts. Janet hasn't been back since 1998, so it will be great to see everybody.

You can see our new home and our European travel photos on our personal web site at  
<http://home.comcast.net/~john.spain/index.htm>.

Here's wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Please keep in touch.

John and Janet Spain

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