

Christmas, 2005

Merry Christmas, everyone! Here we are with another year gone by. We hope everything is good with you. Let us bring you up to date with our activities.

The winter at the beginning of the year was extremely dry for Oregon. We had no playing in the snow, as almost none fell in the mountains. The winter now underway seems to be making up for it as all the ski areas are open early, so perhaps before December is out we'll get a chance to do a little snowshoeing.

Early in the year, Janet volunteered to take a separation package from her employer, Boise Paper Company. The agreement continued her pay and benefits for 5 months. She took a month off, and then found another position as an occupational health and safety nurse at Gunderson Inc., a manufacturer of barges and rail cars. She is much happier with the new job, and now works a 4 day week with Fridays off.

John had a major job change also during the summer. He left Intel Customer Support and joined Intel's LAN Access Division as a Technical Marketing Engineer. He now works with major vendors like IBM and Lenovo and assists them in integrating Intel networking chips into their computer designs by advising on design technicalities and reviewing their schematics for proper implementation.

Improvement and remodeling of our new house continues. During the summer, we cleared by hand almost all of the thick blackberry bushes that covered the slope of our back yard from nearly the house all the way down to the creek and we found time to re-landscape the front yard. John has also been busy with mechanical and electrical work inside, including the installation of ceiling fans in every bedroom. Painting the interior is next, which we hope to finish by the end of the year.

Janet has continued her work with her church. This year she completed all the required training and is now officially a Parish Nurse. She is vice president of the women's missionary league, and she was also in charge of the women's retreat this past summer, which included 50 women and was judged a great success.

During the summer, John traveled to Dallas to support the "CyberAthelete Professional League" North American competition, which is both a convention and a computer gaming competitive event. It was quite interesting to work with professional computer gamers. See <http://www.intel.com/personal/gaming/cpl.htm> for some great pictures.

After the show in Dallas, John traveled back to Jackson to visit family. It was great to see everyone again, and we rented a meeting hall for a family reunion style dinner.

Our annual fall camping excursion this year was a week at Lassen National Volcanic Park in Northern California. Our friends Vince and Susan Sheetz from San Diego met us there and spent a few days with us as well. Pictures are on our web site at <http://home.comcast.net/~john.spain>.

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

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