

## Christmas, 2007

Here it is; another year gone. Hope it was a good one for you! Here's what we were up to.

In January, we had enough snow to essentially shut down the city. Snow is rare here on the valley floor, but we got our fill of it that time.

In February, we held our annual Mardi Gras party and had another good turnout. Later that month we spent our anniversary camping at Beverly Beach State Park near Newport, Oregon. The month finished off with Janet spending the better part of a week in San Francisco training on her company's new computer program. She learned a lot about the SQL computer language. Her professional computer geek husband was proud of her ☺

In March, we went to see a local play starring a friend of ours in the lead role. He played the prosecuting attorney in the Ayn Rand play "The Night of January 13<sup>th</sup>".

There was a sad note in May. Our longtime friends, Tim and Judy Huber, who befriended us as neighbors when we first came to Oregon, moved away to California. We will miss them.

July brought us a double dose of family visitors. John's sister Nancy visited 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and his brother Chuck along with Chuck's friend Marc Black came for a visit at end of July. Nancy was in town to present one of her seminars, but was able to spend a few days with us. We had a few friends over for a little get together and Nancy regaled them with stories of her Katrina adventures. Chuck and Marc made it in time for the Oregon Brewers festival, one of the biggest brew fests in the nation.

In August, we took our annual camping vacation. This year, we went to Newberry Crater / the Newberry National Volcanic Monument area, an ancient supervolcano near LaPine, Oregon. This volcano covers 500 square miles. In the center of the 17 square mile caldera is Paulina Peak, overlooking Paulina Lake and other beautiful natural scenes. During the week we dined in Bend, Oregon, visited the High Desert Museum and rode the ski lifts up to the Mount Bachelor ski area (closed for the summer, but what views!). Pictures of our adventures are on our web site, [www.majorspain.com](http://www.majorspain.com).

In September we went with friends to our first Broadway play, Spamalot. Since John is a big Monty Python fan, it was definitely a treat.

In October, we enjoyed something new. We went to pretzel party, where every kind of pretzel is served.

We had another new experience in November. We went to a Romanian couple's baby shower, which was more like a wedding reception. We were among the few English-only speakers at the gathering. I was glad the father of the new mom ended his invocation prayer with "amen"; otherwise I had no way to know he was finished.

We spent the four day Thanksgiving holiday relaxing in our camper at Silver Falls State Park. The trip was enjoyable, but when we returned we were putting the cover over the motor home when Janet fell off the ladder and broke her wrist. She is wearing a removable splint now, and we are hoping that she will not require surgery to insert a pin or a screw. We should know by the end of the month.

In December, John had to make a sudden business trip to Ottawa, Canada. The trip was a total success, earning John a nice recognition award from his employer. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, we have tickets to fly to New Orleans, where we plan to visit with friends before traveling to Jackson to spend Christmas with the family. This will be our first trip back to New Orleans since Katrina.

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

John and Janet Spain

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