

Christmas

2020

2020. What a long strange year it has been. I doubt anyone would disagree.

The year started out nice enough for us. In February, we took a cruise on Holland America line to Mexico, Central America, Curacao and the Bahamas. Our 15-day cruise started out in San Diego, then stopped at Puerto Vallarta and then Huatulco in Mexico, then Puerto Quetzal Guatemala, followed by Corinto Nicaragua and Puntarenas Costa Rica, went through the Panama Canal, then stopped in Willemstad, Curacao and Half Moon Cay, the Bahamas before disembarking in Fort Lauderdale. We traveled with our friends Joe and Libby Calhoun and Fred and Linda Busse. Overall, we had a great time both on the boat and during shore excursions. We were particularly impressed with Willemstad. See pictures included this year as well as on our website. We got back to the US just as the pandemic lockdowns were starting, so the rest of the year was limited to local trips in our motor home, often with our camping clubs so that we could all practice social distancing.

In March, we went camping in Woodburn with our Rose City Winnie Tascas camping club (of which John is president and Janet secretary).

June was a camping at Casey's RV park with the RCWT. This is a wonderful place on the headwaters of the Willamette river in the Cascade foothills. On the way home, the two of us stopped to go camping at Detroit Lake State Park.

In July, the club went camping together at Silver Spur in Silverton. We were there with RCWT, and stayed a few days as our Elks camping club followed starting the day the previous group departed.

In August, again we went camping with RCWT in Tillamook, Oregon. However, due to Covid-19 fears only one other couple was there. After leaving that campground, the two of us enjoyed camping in Ainsworth State Park in the Columbia River Gorge.

Our one long motor home trip for the year came in September. We traveled to Joseph, Oregon, a beautiful artist colony in the Eagle Creek wilderness. There we enjoyed visiting with Winnebago friends from around the state, taking pedal cars along the Joseph Branch Railroad and taking the tram to the top of nearby Mt. Howard, a 3700 foot vertical climb. On the way home, we stayed at Emigrant Springs state campground in the Blue mountains east of Pendleton.

In October, after the Winnebago clubs statewide outing in Junction City, we took the motor home to Grants Pass, Oregon to have "motion control units" added to the suspension, resulting in much improved cornering and less sway.

In early Nov we took our final trip of the year to Beverly Beach State Park on the coast.

Since we were stuck at home for most of the time during the year, we completed many projects we had planned over the years but never got around to. This included building a covered platform in the back yard looking out over the greenway behind the house, and cleaning out and reorganizing the storage rooms.

We decided we had too many vehicles. In November we sold our 2005 Honda CRV that we towed behind our motor home, and the 1995 F150 that John has owned for 25 years, getting excellent prices for both. To replace them, after much research we settled on a 2020 Ford Ranger crew cab 4X4 as the one vehicle to replace them both. This gives us a truck for hauling lumber and landscaping supplies and tow our utility trailer as needed, as well as a vehicle we can tow behind the motor home as it has a special mode for that purpose.

Lastly, due to lack of maintenance for years our personal website was unusable. John finally got around to completely rebuilding it from scratch using WordPress. It has a much cleaner and more sophisticated look now, and we have been posting pictures from our travels and family up there for everyone to see. Check out the new www.majorspain.com

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

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Linda & Fred, Joe & Libby, Janet @ Huatulco Mexico ↑



Janet as the ship leaves Puerto Vallarta ↑



Our ship, the Rotterdam, at anchor in Mexico ↑



The main pool on our ship ↑



Our new truck / tow dinghy ↑



Shelter we built in the back yard ↑ (w/ help from friends)