Family News

December 15, 2012

This year's Family News marks several anniversaries.



- 30 years ago Kathy and I said - I do - until death do us part.
- 25 years ago I began working at Chelco, our electric cooperative.
- 20 years ago we published our very first Family News Letter.
- 10 years ago Taylor Nicole Fannin came into the world.
- 10 years ago Kathy and I began building houses for Habitat for Humanity.

It's always amazing to stop and reflect on the passage of time and the many changes that come not from day to day, but from year after year. With all the anniversaries we decided to do a four page newsletter.



Celebrating 30 years in Key West

Kathy and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary on February 14th at a hotel in Key West. We woke up that morning watching the sun rise over the water from our room with a huge wrap around porch right next to the water. Then we had breakfast on the beach. I highly recommend having breakfast while listening to the sounds of waves with the one you love. And for the record, she is still the one I want to spend the rest of my life with.



Hunting Island State Park, SC

This has been another year with lots of traveling for us. After the trip to south FL in February, in June we spent a week next to the Atlantic Ocean in Myrtle Beach. In September and October I had 4 trips in 8 weeks. The last one was the best because it was not work related. We took another vacation to the Keys. We spent a week on Sugar Loaf Key with our friend and gracious host, Marty. In November we enjoyed a great Thanksgiving meal at Kathy's brother's house. Dave and his wife Deb sure know how to prepare a feast! And once again Lori and her husband Bill were kind enough to let us stay at their house. And Sea World at night with Christmas decorations is something to see!







In May Kathy finally got the new truck she has been wanting for a couple of years. Since we had the truck, we were able to take our



kayaks to the Keys with us in October. I loved watching the sunrise and sunset over the Keys from my kayak!! What a relaxing vacation!



Speaking of kayaking, we've done quite a bit of that this year. We've kayaked on the Cold Water River near Milton, the Ecofina near Panama City, Morrison Springs, Seven Runs, and Grayton Beach. And most weekends I find time to take my kayak out on Lake Juniper and play one of my bamboo flutes.



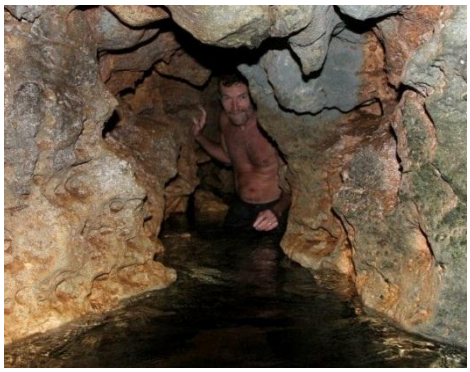
In the Keys again in Oct.

Sinder (my dear friend and partner) and I continue to make and sell flutes. We sell primarily through our website (tgflutes.com), although we did do one festival this year for Octoberfest. We sold a record 18 flutes at that festival, but are still short of selling more than the 65 flutes sold in 2011.

I continue to ride my bicycle to work. And after 18 years of riding, I am happy to say I now have a bike rack to park my bike at work. We had to buy Kathy a new bike after hers was stolen from our front porch. That's the first time since building our house in 1985 that someone stole something from our yard. I also ride my bike to have lunch with mom once a week. It's kind of strange to ride a bike on the same streets where I rode my bike 45 years ago!



Future Flute Player?



Blue Spring on the Ecofina in Bay County



Taylor, Caitlynn, Abigail, and Angel

In November I began laying the first sandbags for a new sandbag cabin. It will be much bigger than the hut (which is now 7 years old) and will have a second story loft. The kids love to go down to the lake and check out the hut. Maybe I can get them to help build the cabin when they come over.









Kathy and Taylor

Taylor turned 10 this year and she is in the 5th grade. She loves science and geology. Hopefully she will still be interested in science in another 5 years and then she and I can have some great conversations about particle physics, biology, quantum mechanics, and astronomy. She is getting very good on computers. Maybe she will let me teach her how to write computer programs someday.



Caitlynn, Taylor, and Angel with Grandpa



Caitlynn, Kayce, and Ryan



Abigail & Great Grandma Barb & Grandma Kathy



Angela and TJ

All of our grandchildren are doing well. Kayce is now 7 and in the second grade. Caitlynn and Angel are 6 and in the first grade. Ryan is 5 and in kindergarten. Abigail just turned 2 in October.

TJ and Angela are still in Kansas and doing well.

Perry, Sammy, and the kids have moved to a new house near Black Creek outside of Freeport.



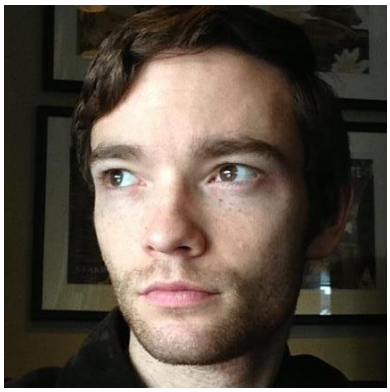
Sammy and Perry



Nancy (Cory's mom), Cory, and Abigail



Cory and Justinn



Marc

Justinn and Cory still live south of Freeport. Marc has moved back to Walton County. All of the kids are healthy and happy (as far as we know anyway). Here are more pictures from this year:












That ends this year's newsletter. Looking forward to the next 20 years! For now we'll leave with more kayaking photos from the Ecofina and sunset near Sugar Loaf Key (10 miles north of Key West).



Favorite Quote:

Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect

Mark Twain.

View past newsletters at hosttg.com/fn



Merry Christmas!!!!!