Family News

December 14th, 2015



What a wonderful year we have had. I'll begin with a couple of big events. Last January we were having a Family Night at TJ and Angela's. After a great meal, Justinn passed around a sonogram. That was her way of letting us all know she and Cory were having another baby. On August 22 James Tiberius Kurtz came into the world! With the name - James T Kurtz we just … have to call him - Captain.



Two months later, the last of our children got married. Marc and Leo tied the knot on October 17th at a wonderful ceremony in their spacious yard. The wedding had a movie theme complete with a huge blow up screen for watching slide shows and a movie once it got dark. It was a great time and we proudly and officially welcome Leo into our family!!

We've had some wonderful Family gatherings this year at each of the kids houses. In February we were at Justinn and Cory's and Kathy and I were given a fantastic gift. All of our children, spouses, and grandchildren posed for some western themed photos. They gave us framed photos as an anniversary gift. Kathy and I loved it!!!



When we gathered at Perry and Sammy's house last spring we had a great time playing corn hole. In fact, Kathy was inspired to make some corn hole boards which we carried to our first annual Family Campout at St Andrews State Park. It was a big hit.

In September we had all of our kids, their spouses, and grandchildren (a total of 17 people) pitching tents and enjoying the waters of St Andrews Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. What an incredible time

we had (in spite of eating breakfast under canopies because of heavy rain). The rain cleared out and everyone had a great time. Perry took his boat which led to an … adventure (just ask him about it). We took 4 kayaks which were a big hit with everyone. Abigail and I were able to get within 30' of some dolphins on one morning. We all agreed to make it an annual event.




I finished my two story sandbag cabin in May. I continue to spend at least one night a month down by the lake to give Kathy a break from me as well as to recharge my batteries.

Last January the hut turned 10 years old. What a difference when I look at the photo from 2005 and compare it to how it looks today. When sitting in it, you can see half a mile away looking out across the lake. I have to say, I have spent many peaceful hours sitting inside, meditating, playing my flute, or just sitting and watching nature.




Kathy and I took our first trip to Denver last April and had a wonderful time. We were on the 22nd floor (top floor of the hotel) and looking out our window, the only thing between us and the Rocky Mountains was the Mile High football stadium. There was still snow on the mountain tops making for a spectacular view each morning.



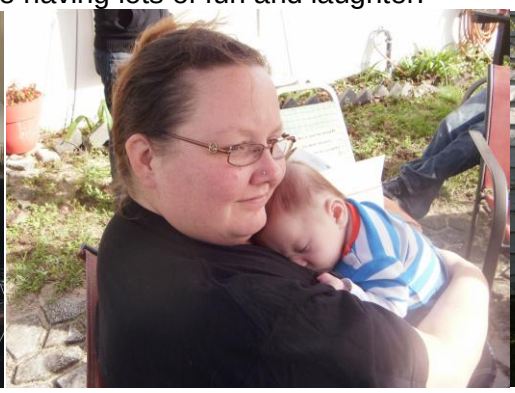


In June we spent a week in Myrtle Beach, SC. On the way up we stopped at Huntington Beach State Park and took a tour of the Atalaya Castle. Kathy and I both love history and touring old forts and buildings and this one did not disappoint us!

In September we spent a week in Athens, GA (home of the tree that - owns itself). And two weeks later I went to Hampton Beach, NH for a few days. After that our traveling days came to an end for the year.




Kathy and I bought new river kayaks this year. We've gone out on different rivers almost a dozen times this year. One of our favorite rivers (and most often visited) is Turkey Creek about 45 minutes away. We kayak with our friends Sinder and Ronda and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature while having lots of fun and laughter.


Kathy and I continue to have a date night each month and we also enjoy going to Broadway plays at our local college. In July I bought a new folding bicycle for my daily commute to work. It is so easy to fold, I can fold it up and take it into my office with ease.



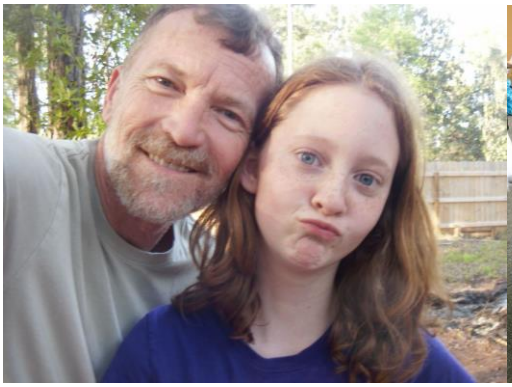


We welcomed Max (Kathy's new Yorkey) into our house last Christmas. This year Kathy and I celebrated 30 years in our house. We built the house in 1985. Thirty years is a long time to be in one place, but there is no doubt about it - it is home sweet home for us.












All of the above photos were taken in 2015.

Favorite Quote: "Rainbows introduce us to reflections of different beautiful possibilities so we never forget that pain and grief are not the final options in life." -- *Aberjhani*

That's the latest in our family news for 2015. **We wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2016!!**