

Dear Family and friends,

Our best wishes to you for the Holiday Season!

Our past year has many events that are noteworthy. Barry has retired. He still does a little consulting for his last company, but that is more a hobby than anything else. A highlight of the year was attending Barry's 50th High School Reunion in Peoria. The picture is of best buddies Joe (left) and Gary (right). It was a great time seeing old friends from high school as well as former neighbors and relatives. Next year is Anne's 50th reunion and we are planning a round the US car trip that includes the reunion and as many friends and relatives we can see in the month or two we figure it will take. Let us know if we can put you on the planning list of places and people to see.



While we were in the Midwest for the reunion, we visited Barry's sister in Wisconsin. We enjoyed a few relaxing days on the lake. The picture is from the roof of their boathouse.



We enjoyed our annual trip camping in Gold country at Bear River. It was great to see how the kids who were toddlers when we first started are young adults now. Left is 2002 and right is 2013!



Anne is still volunteering at Santa Maria Urban Ministry program for 3 and 4 year olds, but says this is going to be her last year. That is how we will make the time for our trip across the US.



We had a wonderful visit with Anne's sister Carol in February to celebrate a major birthday. While we were there we were able to visit the Space Shuttle Endeavour at the California Science Center in LA.

Barry has finished scanning a lifetime of slides and negatives and is starting to put them on the server. That was a little more involved than it should have been. The server is upgraded to a new machine (actually an old laptop) with much more disk space and we moved from AT&T to Comcast to speed things up. He is still working on the transcription of the Poole manuscript and is about half done.

Anne's cousin's daughter and husband moved back to the Charleston area and we helped them get a car shipped back. We were sorry to see them go.

The birds continue to be good entertainment. Barry's primary job is keeping the humming bird feeders filled. The last two months the front feeder has been going through a quart of food every two days. There are sometimes more birds than perches at the feeder.



We have a new roof and solar panels. Our electric bill has been almost non-existent this year. We have to pay a base maintenance fee for the infrastructure, but we have been supplying more energy than we have been consuming. We expect to get some money back at the annual settle up bill in March.

Jon is still working at Lockheed in Marietta (actually for a company that supplies IT to Lockheed). Ted has been working as a contractor for Intel in Austin. His year contract is up in a few months, so he has started looking again. Both Jon and Ted will be in California this Christmas. It will be great to have the family together for Christmas.

In the switch from AT&T to Comcast, we have started using our gmail email exclusively:

Barry: briggsbd@gmail.com Anne: briggsap@gmail.com Web page: bdbriggs.dyndns.org

Best Wishes for a Blessed Holiday Season and New Year,

Anne + Barry