

Dear Friends,

December 2001

As we all struggle through the events of this past September, we look forward to the holidays with even more anticipation. The past year was not one of many new adventures for us. Too much work and not enough play.

The year did start off right though, we went on a skiing trip in January to Park City, Utah. This was Sally's first ski trip and she spent the week taking beginner's lessons. By the end of the week, she was pretty good. I don't think I turned her into a skier but it was a chance to try it out. As a side benefit, we got to visit her daughter and son-in-law who live just north of Salt Lake City.

Tax season for Sal was better this year. She has been downsizing her business and this year was the first year with a (somewhat) reduced workload. This coming year should be even better. In June, she moved her office to a smaller area closer to home. As it turned out, she ended up in the same office building that I had my office in for years.

In April we took a short trip to the Southern California Desert. It was springtime, we saw more flowers in bloom than we have ever seen before.

Also in June, Sal's daughter in Utah had their second child. This makes three grandchildren for Sal: Alyssa, Hailey and Ashlee. She has all three of their names on her car's license plate holder. This also prompted another trip to SLC in September where she was on 9/11. She flew back to San Diego the Sunday afterwards. Sally spends almost every Friday morning babysitting granddaughter Hailey.

In November, I got a new truck. A Jeep Grand Cherokee. It replaces my 10 year old Pathfinder which is still running fine but getting old. I've not yet taken the Jeep off road - soon though.

I'm still working for AMCC. We suffered a lot through the tech downturn over the year but so far only minor layoffs. The manufacturing part of company is very slow but the Engineering Department is swamped. We have been working long days designing new chips with the hope that we will have a lot of new products when our customers start buying again.

We got back to Pittsburgh for Thanksgiving to visit my parents. It was a chance to see a lot of the relatives outside the hustle and bustle of our more normal Christmas visit. Next year my Mom is going to be 90!

This year also marked the first anniversary of Sally's and my engagement. Yes, that's right, there is still no date set.....

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a great New Year to you,
Mark and Sally markd@san.rr.com samcpa@san.rr.com