

## Christmas 2024

Dear family and friends,

This year started out with Mark and Sally in Vietnam. We spent most of the month of December 2023 there and the trip extended into the first few days of 2024.

We did a big trip report which you can view at:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXVcxbcA2PKmQpzDTkZQ08zeFvfA>

Mark got COVID for the second time a few days after we returned. It was pretty mild as he had had 4-5 vaccination shots up 'til then.

We took a trip to Texas to view the solar eclipse but we were plagued by overcast skies and we saw only about 10-15 seconds of totality between the clouds. It was, though, a chance to see some of Texas and the Gulf Coast. We included a trip to the Johnson Space Center which Mark always wanted to see, the Riverwalk in San Antonio, a drive down to the beaches of Galveston, and couldn't leave without seeing the Alamo!



Sally took several trips to Utah this year for birthdays, a graduation, wedding shower & wedding dress shopping, etc., including celebrating great granddaughter Sadie's 1<sup>st</sup> birthday!

(Her 7-year old "Uncle Ely" and Grandpa Steven introducing her to her first off-road vehicle!)



At the end of May, Sally joined her sisters Sue and Mary for a “Sister Trip” to Great Britain, all planned by Sue who wanted to share her passion for Great Britain with her sisters! In two weeks we traveled to London, explored the Cotswolds, Oxford, the Ladies of Llangollen in Wales, came upon a Gay Pride naked bike ride in Manchester, and explored the Edinburgh Castle in Scotland! Sue knew how to work the underground Metro, the buses, and the railway system, keeping us moving and getting us to our next destination. THANKS SUE!



On her return from England, Mark drove to Las Vegas and picked up Sally and Mary and we all headed to St. George for granddaughter Ashlee’s wedding to Jaden.

Mark had sold his 1966 MGB in late 2023. It went to a dealer in France who has since sold it to its new owner. <http://www.silogic.com/MGB/MGB.htm> and <https://www.pauls-classic-cars.fr/car/mg-b-cabriolet-mk1-1966-3/>.

Steven’s daughter and now my granddaughter came out for a visit in July and visited the beach for the very first time! She got introduced to boogie-boarding by her “cousin” Anabella! She LOVED it and we had a hard time getting her to come out of the water! Ha!





Mark has been helping one of his old skiing and cycling buddies navigate the health care system. His 84 year old friend Len hadn't been to the doctor in years and Mark has spent the last 6 months reestablishing Len's cadre of doctors.

On a more mundane note, the septic tank pump failed and was replaced. We finally removed the carpeting from the bathrooms and put in tile and took that opportunity to repaint our bedroom and bath. Our backup generator came in handy in December as SDG&E turned off power for 2 extremely windy days to prevent their power lines from causing a wildfire.

There were always more weeding to do.



Sally still enjoys playing her dulcimer with the North County Mountain Dulcimer group. Here is a link to one of their dress rehearsals getting ready to play for a Waldorf school Winter Spiral ceremony. (The contemplative side of the mountain dulcimer!)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcsNuQ1Q0fuocEHqXIN0QTnT0Cn7sCNgQ>

Mark continues to spend way too much time working on his train layout.



We look forward to hearing your news too! Please catch us up!

We send our very best wishes to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Mark + Sally*

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As always, you can read more at <http://www.silogic.com/>