

Merry Christmas!

Happy Holidays!

Merry Christmas from Julie, Brian, Tony, and Brock. We hope that this holiday season again finds you in good health, grand spirits, and filled with great anticipation for the year to come. We continue our family tradition with this newsletter—a sprinkling of pictures, stories, and tidbits of family activities over the past twelve months.

What's New?

Sometimes it's welcome relief to reflect on a year and see that little has changed. Brian is still working for Compaq as a training manager. Julie continues as ringmaster and resident lion tamer over our three-ring circus of two boys and one older "kid" known as Dad. Tony and Brock continue to be actively involved in as many activities as will fit in the span of a day.

The Traveling Clan

This year saw the whole family travel more than previous years. During the summer we departed from our normal vacation in Florida to join another couple for a siesta in Mexico. Outside of pure relaxation, one of the more exciting parts of our stay was a four-wheeler funfest on the dunes of the Pacific coast. It's amazing we came away still in one piece. Who are these masked bandits?



During our stay in Mexico, Tony and Brock flew up north (by themselves) to visit grandparents, uncles, and aunts in Illinois and Indiana. They had a wonderful time, with trips to museums, the zoo, downtown Chicago, and more. Definitely a trip to remember. Then, a week after we all returned home Julie was off to Puerto Rico for her brother's wedding.

In October Julie joined Brian on a business trip to Europe. We spent the first three days in Venice Italy and the remaining part of the week in Austria, with Brian tending to business and Julie off castle hunting. Venice is unique city, built in the middle of a lagoon, with no cars...only boats for everything from taxis to the police.



School, Sports, & More

Brock started kindergarten this year, much to his delight. It's a half-day program, so Brock's only complaint is that he doesn't get to eat lunch at school. Tony is enjoying and excelling in second grade. His impression of girls? "My worst nightmare." During the spring both boys played baseball, with Tony's team winning the area world series. It was exciting. Both boys are currently playing in YMCA basketball, with Dad coaching. And, as if there were time left in a week, Tony is participating in Cub Scouts. I'm told that it only gets busier as the years progress.

This and That

This Halloween the boys chose to be inventive and make their own costumes. The result? Move over Sony!



During Thanksgiving we traveled up north to visit family. During the stay Brock decided to "test" dialing 911. This happy picture does not reflect the aftermath.



This Christmas Brock and Tony have really grasped the concept of writing to Santa. The current list includes 25 items. Good luck Santa and your Elves!

New Phone and Email

Our address remains the same at 15 Dusky Meadow Pl. in The Woodlands, TX 77381. Our area code officially changed to 281-292-0791 and Brian's email is now Brian.Duelm@Compaq.com.

School Pictures



Brock – Kindergarten 1997-1998



Tony – Second Grade 1997-1998

Happy New Year!