

Merry Christmas

Happy Holidays from Julie, Brian, Tony, and Brock. We trust this festive season again finds you in good health, grand spirits, and filled with anticipation for the year to come. And, we hope that you will enjoy our family tradition of pictures and stories from the past twelve months.

School, Sports, and more...

With the boys at ages 9 and 11, we've hit full stride with the Duelm taxi service. Tony continues to do well in school, is playing violin again with the school orchestra, and is in sports year round – football, basketball, baseball. Brock is also doing well in school, joined Cub Scouts this year, and is playing football, basketball, and soccer. Julie spends almost enough time helping at both boy's schools to qualify for full-time pay. This year began the "phase-out" of Dad as coach after six years at the helm of the Tony's YMCA basketball team. Tony decided to play in the competitive basketball league this winter. When I asked whether he would like me to sign up as coach, Tony replied, "Well Dad, I've liked you as coach, but think its time for me to have a different person so that I can learn new things." I have to give him credit for being politically correct! Brock's team is 2-1, but somehow I think that reflects good kids and not necessarily good coaching.



A Small World of Coffee and Big Macs

After a two-year lull in travel, Brian was once again on the road. The highlights were trips to Beijing and to London early in the year. Of course, regardless of where you travel in the world, Americans are never far from "home." Just down the street from Tian'anmen Square in Beijing were a Starbucks and a McDonalds. Julie joined Brian in London, where across the street from Windsor Castle were, you guessed it, a Starbucks and a McDonalds. And, if that weren't enough to remind us that it's really a small world, the wife of our Brian's Chinese translator was attending college at the University of Texas.

Family Travels

The family also traveled a bit more this year due to a change in Compaq's vacation policy that forced us to use two years of accrued vacation. (Hmm...is that good or bad?) During Spring Break we went to Santa Fe, New Mexico where we had a new diversion riding four-wheelers with a friend. Of course, this is the same "friend" who taught Tony and Brock to ski the black slopes of Santa Fe, so we found ourselves climbing some pretty steep cliffs.



The summer started with a trip with family in Ft. Myers Beach, Florida where we fished, rode jet skis with dolphins, and enjoyed the beach. During an excursion to the Everglades we stumbled across a fishing business that apparently our boys owned. It was called Captain Tony Brock! At the end of June we drove to Illinois for Brian's 20-year high school reunion. And, in July the boys flew to the Midwest to stay with grandparents and relatives while we returned to Mexico with friends. I suspect that we'll stay closer to home in 2002.

Compaq or HP?

The big news on the work front has been the proposed acquisition of Compaq by Hewlett-Packard. As of this writing, the deal is in limbo after descendants of Mr. Hewlett and Mr. Packard pledged to vote their 18% of the shares against the deal. Each day's news reads like a soap opera, but the final decisions won't occur until February.

Stay in Touch

Our address, phone number, and email have not changed. Our address is 15 Dusky Meadow Place, The Woodlands, Texas, 77381. The phone number is 281-292-0791. And our email address is duelm@flex.net. We hope that you will stay in touch. Have a great holiday season, and...

Happy New Year!

