



Christmas 2004

Duelm Family Newsletter

from Julie, Brian, Tony, and Brock in The Woodlands, Texas

Happy Holidays!

We hope this festive season finds you healthy and happy, with fond memories of the past year and excitement for the year to come. And, we hope you enjoy our family tradition of pictures and stories from the past twelve months.

We Moved!

After 14 years in the only home we've known in Texas, the clan packed up the wagon and moved ... a mere five minutes away from the old homestead. See our new address in the lower-left corner below. The experience was quite a roller-coaster ride.



Kumba coaster - Busch Gardens

Working...the Streets?

Julie went back to work this year, although not without some controversy. After 17 years of marriage, she informed Brian that her life-long dream has been to work the street corners, and get paid for doing it. To his great relief, she took a job as a school crossing guard. While it doesn't pay as much as the alternative, at least she practices "safe intersections."

Midlife Crisis

In our last newsletter, we reported that Brian's 40th birthday passed without an incident of midlife crisis. Well...that ended this year. Not with a Harley, but rather that Brian took a new role at HP. He now manages services training delivery for HP Americas. His territory extends to Latin America, but we've had no business trips to Cancun yet. Darn.

Sleeping Sound

Brock joined Boy Scouts this year, and in June went with the troop on his first summer camp. As the opening ceremony wound down, bolts of lightning appeared in the distance. The scouts hunkered down in their tents and went to sleep. The storm hit after midnight, and Brock's tent-mate woke to find the tent flaps still open, and the rain pouring down on Brock. He never stirred.



Brock (center) - Boy Scouts summer camp

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Brock - 6th grade

Not the Closet!

Recently Julie and Tony were at Julie's favorite restaurant (Starbucks) and exchanging some banter while waiting for their drinks. After a rather wicked comment from Tony, Julie responded, "If you don't be quiet, I'm going to put you in the closet." Tony replied, "Not the closet!" at which point an older lady turned wide-eyed to him and asked in a most disturbed voice, "How long does she put you in the closet?" Tony, using his best deadpan face said, "Usually an hour, but I prefer three." The woman stood there astonished...until Tony cracked a smile. [Wait, I need to stop writing this. Children's Protective Services is knocking at the door.]



Julie & Brian - at an HP event

The Rest of the Story

In other news, Tony is a freshman in high school this year. Where does time fly?! His school runs an "accelerated block" program which squeezes a year-long class into one semester, but he still finds time to play football, basketball, baseball, and violin. He also tutors at the junior high as part of math honor society, where he was one of only a dozen incoming freshmen to be inducted this year.

Brock is in 6th grade this year and currently playing basketball. He took the fall off from soccer to participate in Scout activities, and is currently Patrol leader. His troop tries to have a campout every month. Brock also will be confirmed in the Methodist church on April 24, 2005.

Happy Holidays from Julie, Brian, Tony, and Brock!



Tiger - new addition to the family

Gone Fishing

We're sorry to report that after 17 years our beloved Whiskers now enjoys the great litter box in the sky. We adopted a feisty new kitten from the pound. Not long after, as Brian was mowing the lawn, Brock ran out to alert him that there was water all over the living room floor. It first appeared that the fish tank had burst, but we discovered that a hose had come out of the tank. It didn't take long to realize that our new (and not so beloved) kitten had attempted to go fishing.



Tony - 9th grade

