

Merry Christmas



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I hope this Christmas newsletter finds you in good health and spirits! We had an exceptionally busy & blessed 2012.

In the Spring, Mark flew up to Washington for his Mom's birthday and then a few weeks later they flew down here for a nice visit. Much to our surprise and delight, Mark's parents decided to move to Orange County!

They found a gorgeous brand new ground floor apartment in Tustin, about 20 minutes from our home and moved in a couple months later. It's in a great 50+ community and they really enjoy their new home and amenities and are adjusting to the SoCal lifestyle. It's been a joy and a blessing to have them so close and to get to spend regularly time with them.

Before going to Cabo San Lucas with friends for her official "Spring Break" trip, Ally was home and we went whale watching and saw several whales and hundreds of small dolphins just outside of Newport harbor.



In April, Mark's best friend from high school, Mike Peterson, came out and he and Mark had a blast catching up and hanging out and even taking another classic road trip.

We were sad to see dear friends Adriano, Sue and Haley move to Toronto, but are happy for them as they settle into their new life.



Although Ally didn't come home to stay this summer happily she was able to spend a good chunk of it with us, thanks to a flexible work schedule and cheap flights on Southwest. She discovered that living in Arizona in the summer is hotter than anyone can possibly imagine, so she's looking forward to spending next summer home with us! :-)

Cheryl's Mom, Dad, Sister Laura and her daughters, Cybil, Sarah and Brooke visited us in June and early July. On June 12th, Sarah turned sweet 16 and Mark turned 50! We had so much fun during their visit, going to the beach, kayaking, having bonfires on the beach and making S'mores, going to Disneyland, as well as visiting other family in CA.



Together we all enjoyed Huntington Beach's annual 4th of July parade and fireworks to cap off a wonderful visit!

In the Fall, we helped Ally move into her new townhome, adjacent to the ASU campus. Ally's now mid-way through her Jun-

ior year at ASU, where she majors in Education and plans to work with special needs children. She's getting excellent grades and also has a job.

A few weeks later, Cheryl, Mark and Harley visited Ally for Parent's weekend and enjoyed a nice relaxing visit. Harley was not impressed with Arizona's heat, but he did enjoy early morning walks through Scottsdale's neighborhoods. In September, Cheryl and Mark took turns "babysitting" Harley (now 15) to visit family out of state. Mark flew up to Montana to visit his sister Karen and husband Mike, as well as take in a Grizzly football game and visit with college friends. Cheryl flew out to Missouri to visit her parents, sister, nieces and nephew and she had a wonderful time watching the girls play ball and enjoying their company.



In October we moved into a lovely little beach cottage, just 3 short blocks from the Pacific. We're still just a 10 minute walk from HB's main street and Harley enjoys the new areas to take walks in and that we're also close to a nice park. The neighbors are all super friendly and we just love it.

We're now in full on Christmas mode and are enjoying having Ally home for the holidays and will have Mark's parents over for Christmas.

We hope you are in good health and spirits. May God bless you with a happy, healthy and prosperous new year!

Mark, Cheryl and Ally