

2010

Volume 20

The Manick Family Year in Review

HAPPY NEW YEAR

by Steve Manick



A manick.com Publication

December 2010



Welcome to the 20th anniversary attempt to make our mundane lives sound interesting. As usual, we started off the year with our annual trip to Yosemite, only to find it completely snowed-in and inaccessible due to fallen trees. After driving an additional four hours to the western entrance, we were able to enter (thanks to Darlene's new 4-wheel drive SUV) just an hour before that entrance was also shut down. Once in the valley, we found out that the Yosemite Lodge was without power and heat. After spending the evening in the lodge's lobby, we found the silver lining: we were offered a room in the majestic Ahwahnee Hotel. What a treat! That was the biggest snowstorm in years and the valley was beautiful, unpopulated and under several feet of snow. Services were very limited since even park staff could not get into or out of the valley for three days. Unfortunately, the roads were opened in time for our departure. Days after returning, I rescued a sick, stray cat that was living in a parking lot at LAX in order to get it needed medical attention. After getting her fixed up (yes, fixed too) I agreed to keep her for a few weeks while she healed. Yeah, sure. Now Lexie (a.k.a. Ex-LAX), a beautiful 10-year old Persian-looking "princess", is part of our five (are we friggin' nuts?) indoor feline family (number six is outside). As they say: "dogs have masters and cats have staff." ● In summer we had our annual camping trip in Kings Canyon National Park and again got our favorite campsite in the valley. Adam, who was 14 in July, attended summer school and several camps, including archery and robotics. His robotics teacher was so impressed by Adam's knowledge; he offered Adam a paying job as his assistant at two robotics camps in December. Adam loves gadgets and designs and builds electronic devices as a hobby. He and I have been taking regular weekend hikes in the wilderness area near our house. Julia, who was 8 in August, spent much of the summer in dance and acting classes, as well as continuing her piano lessons. She has become a very good artist and has a great sense of fashion style. She was thrilled to get her very own computer (a Mac, of course) after Adam received a new iMac for his birthday. Meanwhile, I suffered with a pinched nerve and rotator cuff injury that progressively got worse for most of the summer. Next time I hire a landscaper. We ended the summer with a relaxing trip to La Jolla. After an extended summer break due to school budget cuts, Adam started High School and Julia began third grade. ● When she's not looking for her keys, Darlene is very busy with her psychotherapy and eating disorders practice. She moved to a better office location and renamed her business "Safe Harbor," thus dropping "Manick" from the name. (I still like "Bambi's Escorts"). I'm still working as a Senior Enterprise Architect at the airport. Since you probably don't know what that means I'll just say it's very sexy work. My parents are spending much of their time visiting doctors and complaining about their children but are otherwise doing well. They recently returned from a two-week cruise to Hawaii. ● This was a strange year: scary politics, backward weather, terrorist plots (I guess I already mentioned politics) and leaked secret memos. These are not generally the best or easiest of times and I feel fortunate to still live a stable (no horse jokes here) life. My family and I want to wish you a very happy and healthy new year. Remember that life is not about the destination, it's about the journey. Enjoy your trip. And please try to stay in touch.

Learn more about Manicks at manick.com.

Steve, Darlene, Adam and Julia
...and of course the masters of our world:
Tigger, Luna, Linus & Lucy and Lexie