

2011

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The Manick Family Year in Review

HAPPY NEW YEAR

by Steve Manick



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Since you may have missed this year's SciFi Channel biography of our family, *2011: A Spaced Oddity*, I'll fill you in on the highlights. As creatures of habit, we celebrated winter in Yosemite, where this time it hadn't snowed in four weeks and we encountered little snow in the valley. We spent a day at Badger Pass Ski Resort, where I attempted to teach Adam how to cross-country ski on hard, slick ice (it doesn't work) but spent more time sliding down hills on my rear. Darlene did some downhill skiing and Julia took her first ski lessons, but conditions were terrible. Still, the valley was beautiful and we did some good hikes. Our annual beginning-of-summer camping trip in Kings Canyon went much smoother and we even got our favorite campsite beside a full Kings River. Darlene and I were also fortunate to take a relaxing trip to Paso Robles, where we visited many wineries and ate lots of great food. ● The highlight of our year was an eleven-day trip to Hawaii in late August. We started out in Kaua'i, staying at the amazing Grand Hyatt Resort on Poipu Beach. We next went to Maui, where we stayed at our usual spot: the Hyatt Regency on Ka'anapali Beach. It actually looked small and dingy compared to the Grand Hyatt. Our top-floor ocean-view rooms on both islands had spectacular views and Adam and I each took over a thousand photos. We also took a catamaran to the island of Lana'i, where Adam and I snorkeled in the reef and toured the small island. Trust me when I say Julia and Darlene do not sail well. Our last day in Hawaii was Julia's 9th birthday, and she got to wake up in Maui and go to sleep in her own bed. Very cool. And, of course, we spent Thanksgiving in Palm Springs with the family. ● Adam got braces early in the year and now we use him as a can opener and satellite antenna (no, not really). Adam did spend much of the summer working as a Teacher's Assistant for a camp that teaches children about robotics. He is now in 10th grade and was recently selected to be on a team representing his school in a nation-wide creativity competition. His team needs to build a working vehicle that shows emotion! And at 15, he's already hounding me about his driver's license. Julia spent much of her summer attending a performing arts center, performing in both Peter Pan and Fiddler on the Roof. Our beautiful 9-year old is an actress, artist, dancer and clothing designer in the making. Darlene's eating disorders practice is doing very well. I recently converted Darlene from the Dark Side after she saw how much I could do with my iPad2—she dumped her PC laptop for one of her own. My Mom and Dad celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in February, followed by my Mom's 80th birthday in September. Unfortunately, my dad is now preparing for dialysis. Our five (oh my!) cats have trained us so well that we seem to have adopted number six outside (Charlie—a likely parent of Linus and Lucy). I'm still working at LAX as a Senior IT Planner and hoping to retire before my 2 1/2 hour per day commute kills me. ● My best memories this year include my six-mile walks each weekend with Adam (mostly talking tech), watching Julia exercise her creativity, and "family time" each evening. This year marked the end of Osama, Moammar, the war in Iraq, Borders, Harry Potter movies and the Space Shuttle. I was especially saddened by the passing of Steve Jobs (I highly recommend his biography). On the bright side, we've all been healthy. ● On behalf of my family, I wish you a very happy, healthy, moderately prosperous (this is no time to be greedy) New Year.

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