

Seasons Greetings Everybody

Steven:

College is more than just an experience; it is a shock to your system. But than again I volunteered for a school that is notoriously harsh on their freshman. Oh well. I am reapplying for USMA this year. But I am glad to be home. This break will be the longest I have been home since July 2nd. God it is good to be home.

Ed:

Wow, what a year!!! There were a lot of events, mostly good, but that echoing you hear is the sound of an empty nest

Unfortunately the year started out on a down note for my father. In February he went into the hospital for a knee replacement and developed very low blood pressure problems. A heart attack followed. He is currently bedridden, but is beginning to recover slowly. Right after Thanksgiving he started walking a few steps. As he said "not much, but it's a start"

March was very busy. The two highlights were a trip to The Citadel and Steven's Boy Scout Eagle Court of Honor. Steven went down to compete for academic merit scholarships, and ended up getting a partial. He was also awarded a 3-year ROTC scholarship. For his Eagle Project Steven and Troop 88 built an outdoor bulletin board structure for MMA. There is a nice write-up of the project, including pictures on our family web page ed.cragg.info.

May saw Scott's graduation from the University of Rochester. As a double major in both Computer Science and Psychology, he walked across the stage twice. While we were up there he took Steven and me out to Letchworth State Park. Ignoring the dreary drizzle, it was a delightful excursion. We took quite a number of pictures, and as soon as I can organize them, I will put the best on our web page. (Don't hold your breath). I rented Scott and Tiffany a minivan and they left directly from Rochester to move to the San Francisco area where he had a job lined up. Since we had gone up in two cars, Steven drove one home, and I drove the other. That drive was a bit too solo, too late at night, and too long. I developed a good case of the empty nest blues.

In June Steven graduated valedictorian from Massanutten. As his father, I was invited to address the graduating class during the Baccalaureate ceremony. I quite effectively put the cadets to sleep. However, during his address the next day, Steven brought all assembled almost to tears when he called me up and presented me with his sword. As with Scott's graduation pictures, as soon as I can organize them I will get them on the web.

(continued on back cover)



2004



July had another highlight - a road trip to San Francisco - or as I like to sing "See the USA in my BMW" (in German, W is pronounced "VAY"). Since Scott and Tiffany had driven out in a minivan, somehow his BMW needed to get out there too. It was tough duty, but someone had to do it. The first stop was Mammoth Cave. From there stops at the St. Louis Arch, Georgetown Loop Railroad (outside Denver), over Berthoud Pass, through Steamboat Springs, Dinosaur National Monument, Colorado Monument, Arches National Park, Donner Pass, around Lake Tahoe, and finally into the Bay area. Ten days in all, and I could have spent ten weeks.

After that the highlight(?) of August was to drive through Hurricane Charley to the flooded streets of Charleston SC taking Steven to report in at The Citadel. 'Nuff said!!!

September contained the second down period for the year. Back in May Skyle developed a very aggressive form of bone cancer. We tried to contain it by amputating his back leg, but it had spread. By September his quality of life had deteriorated to the point that I put him down. The following weekend PurrFur also had to be put down - she just wore out after 18 years. Both are now buried in my back yard

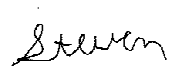
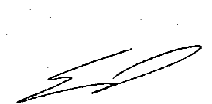
October was another busy month. First Scott proposed to Tiffany and she accepted. My reaction "But they are so young". Pictures of his proposal can be found at scott.cragg.info. Later in the month was The Citadel's Parents Weekend. Steven was assigned to "Palmetto Battery" which is the ceremonial unit down there. He was most pleased to get that placement. I took quite a few pictures, the best of which can be found at steven.cragg.info

The year ended on a high note with both boys and Tiffany visiting for Thanksgiving. Since Scott and Tiff were going to visit her mother in Chicago for second half of the week, I took the whole week off. We had our Thanksgiving Dinner on Tuesday. I spent the rest of the weekend listening to Steven grouse about how short the break was (when he wasn't playing Halo2).

And that was my year that was.

I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**



This year I registered the web address cragg.info

You can now find the family web page at ed.cragg.info

Scott has things, particularly his proposal pictures, at scott.cragg.info

Steven related things are at steven.cragg.info