

2008 Gordon Holiday Greetings and News



China in early March (Barry, looking 'Impertal')

Aldene started this year by terrorizing Washington, D.C. While Barry taught his 32-hour corrosion class at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Bethesda, MD. With Metro SmarTrip card in hand, Aldene visited the Capitol nearly every day. She caught some important Senate votes and even chatted with Senator Chris Dodd of Connecticut. In fact, it was Barack Obama's sighting of Aldene in the Senate Gallery that directly led to his successful presidential campaign against John McCain and the Wasilla Hillbilly. The second teaching trip to Washington in July consisted of pre-and post-class trips with Barry to Mount Vernon, the Newseum, the Supreme Court, the House of Representatives and the Library of Congress. They also had a wonderful time visited their friends the Summers, the Hacks and the Webers in Annapolis.



December Fort Myers, Florida Sunset



New Orleans, mid-March

Aldene and Barry traveled to China with the Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce in March, where Aldene nearly lost her passport while climbing the Great Wall. The trip consisted of visiting all the culturally exciting sites of Beijing, Shangai, Hanghou and Suzhou while trying to avoid the swarms of street vendors selling 'copy watch' and Olympic t-shirts. However, Barry did purchase a 60cm Wuhan gong to use with his orchestra. The Gordons were off to New Orleans for Barry's annual corrosion convention 14 hours after returning from China.



Dressing up for Halloween in our neighborhood



Buggy races at CMU in April (yes, there is a small person inside who steers the buggy!)

A trip in April consisted of a business meeting in Charlotte, NC, followed by a flight to Pittsburgh to attend the Spring Carnival at Carnegie Mellon where Aldene caught 'Buggy Fever.' Barry's fraternity, Pi Kappa Alpha, won the buggy race by a mere 0.15 seconds for the seventh straight year, setting a new course record. In June Aldene and Barry travelled to technical meetings in Seattle where they also visited with their exceptionally talented granddaughter Zoe Brozman and Aldene's high school classmates Joanne and Larry Bergen. The International Corrosion Congress in Las Vegas gave Aldene the opportunity to try video poker, a new venture for her where she netted a whopping \$1.25. A time-share stay in San Francisco was followed by a visit from friends the Brandweins. Another technical meeting in Fort Myers, FL, provided opportunity to visit with Bob's father, Shep Brozman.

Aldene and Barry's cycling club, the Los Gatos Bicycle Racing Club (LGBRC) of which Barry continues to reign as president, continued to produce great results with two National Championships in 2008, the promotion of two very successful races and being nominated for USA Cycling's Club of the Year. The LGBRC, racing as Team SugarCRM, will be entering the Tour of California in February 2009.

October, San Francisco: Using new bicycles to ride from the Golden Gate to the Bay Bridge



Washington, D.C. in January and July

Some personal notes: Aldene's mother is still living at the Terraces in Los Gatos within short driving distance of Aldene and Jim who see her often. Haley and Bob continue to travel extensively on tours to Australia, the UK and Europe. Aldene has begun swimming regularly and continues to ride 50+ miles per week with Barry on road bikes. Their two hand-raised cockatiels, Zeke and Nebbie (Ezekiel and Nebuchadnezzar, whom they discovered to be a female after an expensive egg-bound event) 'help' Aldene with her website business that continues to thrive through Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce connections and general word-of-mouth recommendations.

Our love and best wishes to all of you for health and happiness in 2009,

Aldene and Barry

Barry preparing to ride with LGBRC club members



Bob and Haley in front of their gorgeous wisteria-bedecked house