

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS December 2016

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Dear Family and Friends,

If we were to characterize 2016 by one word, it would be "busy." Major events included:

- Jan; the year started with a visit from our dear friends Ray & Iris Knell. We took them to visit Idaho City (one of our local ghost towns that isn't so "ghost" anymore.) and play in the snow. Had a great time even though we didn't get to swim in the hot springs as planned. Kent was a judge as usual in the Idaho Future Cities competition, sponsored by ISPE.
- Feb; conducted our annual "Beehouse Cleaning" party with "Jerry the Beeman" presiding, as usual. In late February, Jeff and Kent started on a unique and exciting father/son project. They drove to Arlington, WA where with Kent as a passenger, Jeff test flew a Glasair Aviation Sportsman airplane. Jeff tested the airplane "way more aggressively" than the Glasair representative had ever experienced. Nevertheless, Jeff was satisfied and they decided to build one of these experimental aircraft; more to follow. Kent was a guest lecturer at Bob Keenan's (a good friend who was in Sherry's HS class and a WP grad '67) Introduction to Engineering course at the College of Western Idaho (CWI) Kent talked about Hurricane Katrina what took place, and why, and about the \$14 B project that the Corps of Engineers has completed to protect New Orleans from such an event in the future. Kent finished Engineer month by serving for about the 14<sup>th</sup> time as the Proctor in the ISPE - SW region math counts competition.
- Mar; Stan, Donna, & Katie came to visit and at Oster Lakes in Hagerman (90% of the trout sold in restaurants in the US are grown (farmed) in Hagerman) Stan caught the ugliest fish ever; a Golden Rainbow (a hybrid grown only in Hagerman)
- Apr; fishing in the backyard, in Lake Elmore, started for the year, with David catching a 4 pound Large Mouth Bass.
- May; Kent, Jeff, & Mark took the bass boat to a supposed prolific fishing site, Hidden Valley Reservoir; it was a pretty location with no fish sighted or caught. Made a great trip to VA (first time that Sherry's neurologist said that she could fly since 2010); visited the Knells, Skidmores, and most important the VA grandkids, their parents and aunt & uncle.
- Jun; more successful fishing in Lake Elmore with ID grandkids. Spent time at Donnelly cabin.
- Jul; joined by Jack & Barbara and Jeff & Liz's new flying friends, Jason & Shannon Weimer, their 3 kids, and numerous others for a pre 4<sup>th</sup> of Jul celebration at Donnelly, came back to Boise and celebrated the 4<sup>th</sup> by watching the Boise fireworks from Glenn & Karen's, one of the best viewing locations in the area. Then on the 6<sup>th</sup>, Kent & Jeff towed the travel trailer to Glasair at the airport in Arlington WA (a WW II Navy training field) where they set up camp next to Glasair's facility. Jeff qualified for flying and landing a "tail dragger" and on the 11<sup>th</sup> started building "their" (Jeff is the builder of record) airplane. We had it ready to fly in record time and since the folks at Glasair decided that Jeff was a better pilot than any of them, and could test fly his airplane, he started test flying it on Jul 28<sup>th</sup>. Turned out to be a great airplane and Jeff has now put 150 hours on it including flying into back country landing strips in ID, UT and MT.
- Aug; brought T&T, the VA grandkids, & for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in many years Chris & Bridgott to ID. Adventures included: fishing in Lake Elmore, boating at the cabin, white water rafting on the Payette River, and visiting Zoo Boise. A great time was had by all.
- Sep; Kent bought a Grumman canoe exactly like the one that he got his canoeing merit badge in at Bear Lake in 1955 and added it to our toys at the cabin, tested it in Lake Cascade and closed up the cabin and bathhouse for the winter.
- Oct; Kent was a guest lecturer for the 2d time at CWI.; this time he talked about two bridges that he built; St. Barbara Bridge in Korea 1966/7 (300 ft Prestressed T beams) and West ParkCenter Bridge in Boise 1999/2000 (a 660 ft curved girder steel bridge. Lecture went well and the students seemed to enjoy it. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> along with most of the family we celebrated Kent's mother's 99<sup>th</sup> birthday (actual birthday was the 26<sup>th</sup>), with an ice cream social party; she celebrated by eating 2 bowls of vanilla ice cream, her favorite. Then on the 31<sup>st</sup>, "My Mother" (as my brother Bill and sister Janet reminded us in a great eulogy, all 7 of us called her "My Mother" because she always made each one of us feel special and we always knew that she loved each of us) joined "Our Lord" in heaven. My mother was the "Rock" of the Brown family and we are all thankful that God took her to heaven as she has been ready for a long time.
- Nov; seemed to pass in about one week. On Veterans Day Kent was the featured speaker at Riverglen Junior High School, where the students were great, followed by his receiving a "Spirit of Freedom Award" from Senator Mike Crapo at the Idaho Veterans Home. This is a special award that the Senator gives out to veterans in recognition of their service to the country and continued service to the community. This was a very nice ceremony and in order to insure that I could breathe I had the blouse for my Blue Uniform let out. The seamstress's husband, the measurer, said, "you need 2 ¾" but only have 2 ¼" of material so you will have to suck up the other ½". As many of you know for some reason our old uniforms shrank the day after we retired and that's "my story and I'm sticking to it." Then all of us Browns (Ron was here in spirit) gathered here on the 26<sup>th</sup> and conducted a very nice funeral (mass and celebration of life) for "My Mother."
- Dec; we plan to spend Christmas here in our house next to Lake Elmore in Garden City.

Jeff & Liz and Mary & David are here in their DeChambeau, AF blue house. Ted & Tammy, Kyle, Nathan & Emma Grace, and Uncle Chris & Aunt Bridgott remain in Virginia where Chris has been accepted into James Madison University's Masters Degree program in Accounting. Kent continues to serve as a Director in our HOA and as a Garden City P&Z commissioner, as a Lector at church, as a DAV driver at the BVA hospital and continues to struggle at playing golf with the "Golf Gang." Sherry is doing much better with her vertigo and heart issues (keep praying) and continues with her bible studies and her ministry at the Cottages.

God Bless You-All in 2017, Kent & Sherry Brown



