



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year




Merry Christmas 2004 from Virginia! We have enjoyed our second full year in Virginia, and hurricane-free to boot. In terms of Robert's three-year assignment cycle with the Air Force we have hit our stride – no longer new to the block and not yet packing (that will have to wait for next summer). Once again Robert traveled from coast to coast and even a quick trip to Europe. He also spent a month in Biloxi, Mississippi for some advanced training. Davina's job took her to Arizona and South Carolina this year for military exercises lasting several weeks. Both of our jobs have kept us on our toes this year and continue to challenge us.

As always we enjoyed visiting and being visited by family this year as well. We welcomed Robert's sister Amie and her family in July. We enjoyed trips to Virginia Beach and Water Country USA with them. Davina's sister Gloria visited in August and again we made another fun trip to Water Country USA and Colonial Williamsburg.

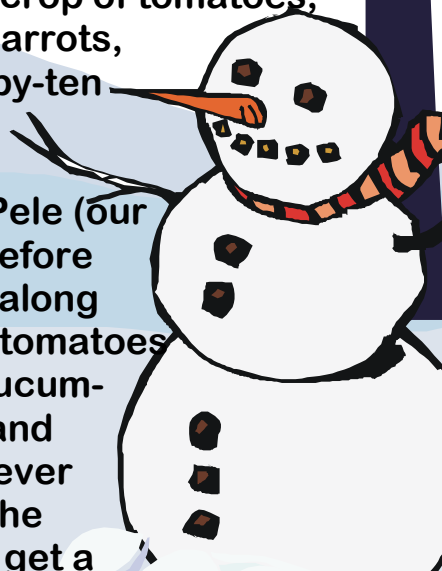
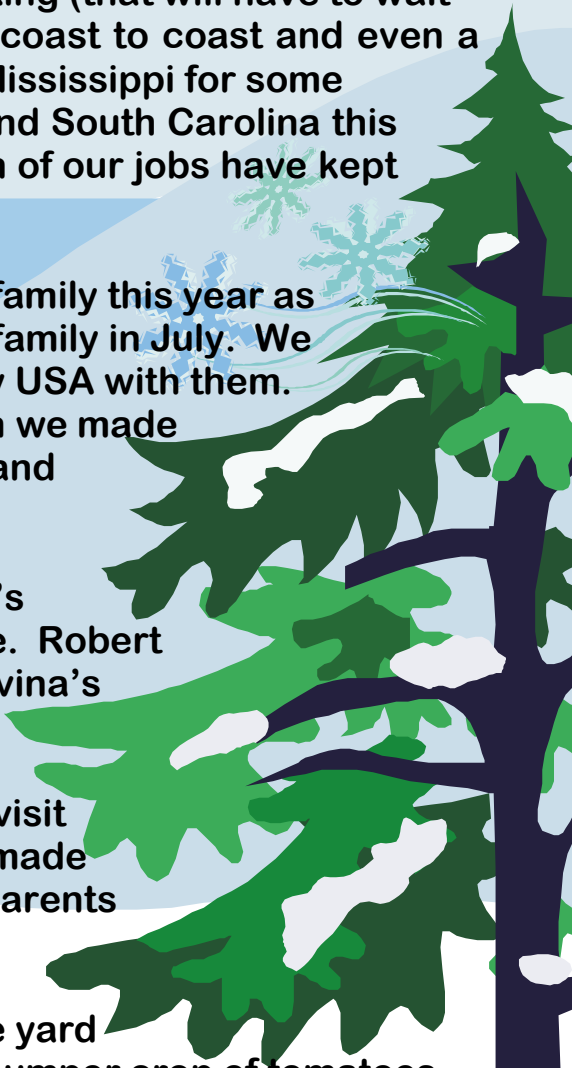


Davina traveled to Buffalo in May for her sister Jeanne's graduation. It poured rain, but we still had a great time. Robert and Davina traveled to Pennsylvania in late July for Davina's cousin's wedding. Then we traveled to Ohio in August to watch Robert's cousin Natalie star in "West Side Story." It was a wonderful visit and great acting. We also made a few trips to Phoenixville to enjoy time with Davina's parents and sister Gloria.



The rest of the summer we spent our time in the yard and the garden. Our garden produced a bumper crop of tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, beans, cucumbers, carrots, squash, and eggplant—all in a ten-by-ten square foot plot.

There were a couple of cantaloupes, but Pele (our dog) enjoyed them before we could—along with the tomatoes and cucumbers and what ever else she could get a hold of before we figured it out.



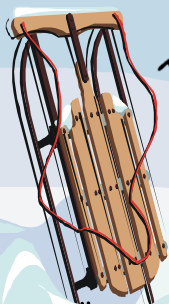
With autumn came preparations for the Great Circleville Pumpkin Festival in Ohio. We met Robert's family there, including his parents, two of his sibling's families (Amie and Donny's), and five nieces and nephews—just the 13 of us. A fun time was had by all from the hot tub right outside of our cabin to all the pumpkin foods we could eat (even the pumpkin pizza—maybe not for a second time) to some beautiful hikes.

For Thanksgiving we traveled north to Pennsylvania to visit with Davina's parents and sisters (Katherine, Gloria, and Jeanne). During our visit we went to Davina's 15th high school reunion. It is certainly hard to believe that the years have passed so quickly. It was quite a blast from the past to see faces that haven't been seen since graduation day. The experience was memorable and enjoyable.

When we returned Mom and Dad Gill called to say they would be visiting us four days later. We enjoyed time with them. Before they arrived, we hustled and finished our Christmas decorations for their visit—Robert has been “Clark Griswold” of the neighborhood with lights and “Macy's Department Store” like windows. Some neighbors claim that there is a power drain in the neighborhood when our lights come on. Now as we approach the Christmas holiday we will prepare for our visit to Pennsylvania and Ohio. Just this week we found out that Robert's next assignment will be as a squadron commander outside of Ramstein Air Base, Germany with a report date of June 2005. We are quite excited!

God bless and best wishes in 2005!

Robert & Davina



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