

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS, 1992

I hope this year has had nice high points for you like it has for me. It was a lot of hard work much of the time, not without it's ups and downs; all of it was well worth it. Chris has a similar story. He graduated from U.C. Santa Cruz in June with his B.A. in Politics. He has been shopping positions as a research intern with agencies involved in international affairs and as it is tough to deal with that process, he has a job as a phone-order clerk at William-Sonoma in the meantime. He will have a place of his own (with room mates) by the first of the year.

I finished the process of getting single this year and had long since been getting on with my life. My house mates include Linden, an aspirant environmental studies grad student I've known for a decade and Eric, a Frenchman who got his masters in turbulence and raced a sailboat to Hawaii in the Pacific Cup just in time for the hurricane; he is presently working for the Red Cross on Kauai. After Eric left, we were joined by B.J., and unemployed Tunisian rocket scientist. We have a lot of fun with him with "...you don't need to be a rocket scientist to figure that out. Oh I forgot - you ARE a rocket scientist."

A bright light in my life is my rekindled romance with Martha Gilmore. We first went together in 1975 and 1976 and have been back together since earlier this year. Our adventures have been many and varied including several trips to the Soda Springs area for cross-country skiing. We went on part of the Sierra Century bicycle ride but took a shortcut past a burrito place, came in quite late, and still got the T shirts. In July, we hiked over Taboose Pass in the central Sierra Nevada to Lake 11,599. Our time at this lake was as wonderful as our first trip there when we were 17 years younger and in considerably better shape. The lake is in need of a better name and we hope to get *Moondance Lake* past by the Board of Geographic Names next year. The Boot 'n Blister hike this year was to One Mile Lake (18.2 miles round trip) in the Marble Mountains Wilderness. Several of us opted for the 13-mile option to Monument Lake. We took Martha's 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-year-old daughter Katherine along in a Gerry kid pack so our loads were a bit heavy. One of these days we ought to go on an easy hike. The 1993 Boot 'n Blister hike is planned for Deadfall Lakes at the headwaters of the Trinity River. We were assured that the first of about six lakes is only about two miles in and that the elevation gain is quite small. It'll be a great place for those of us with small children (of whom there is an increasing abundance in the Club). The main trip of the year was when Martha and her mom went on a diving seminar with the Stanford Alumni Association to Bonaire in the Netherlands Antilles and I got invited to accompany them. I took a crash course for a month and became a certified scuba diver 6 days before we left. The reef life in the southern Caribbean is wonderful and the people on the trip were just grand.

Activities at the Geological Survey have been keeping me quite busy. My team finished all 18 of the maps for our part of the National Assessment for lead, copper, zinc, gold, and silver. I also got a paper on gold in Oregon published and edited the galley proof of my paper for U.C.'s White Mountain Research Station. My contributions of information to land-use managers and Congress about Northern Spotted Owl habitat and wilderness got me a couple of nice monetary awards that Martha and I used on bed-and-breakfast inns in Grass Valley and Point Reyes. My 77 publications and a great sponsorship got me elected to Fellowship in the Explorers Club this year. My field work consisted of a tour of mineral deposits in the Coast Ranges and Klamath Mountains in northwestern California and southwestern Oregon. Martha, Katherine, and I visited sites with gold, platinum, chromium, nickel, and manganese minerals in some pretty rugged country. When I got back, I wrote a Congressional briefing on manganese resources (or lack of same) in the proposed Headwaters Grove Wilderness in Humboldt County. A trip to Eugene for the Geological Society of America meeting also was a chance to see friends and family. At the GSA meeting next year I plan to present our new geologic map of the South Sierra Wilderness. Several of us at USGS did quite a bit of noontime bicycle riding until the weather turned cold and wet. We'll have to add warmer cycling togs and pick that back up again after the holidays so I can get my mile counter to break 1,000.

Both the dogs and the cars had their health problems this year but after trips to the shop for all of them, they're all back on the road. I had the engines in both my truck and the Jag rebuilt. While mechanic was taking the Jag for a test drive, he rear-ended someone so I got a nice new paint job. Duffy's lower back is stiff these days but he doesn't seem to mind. Dottie spun out on a corner and clunked her butt into a wall but limbered up fine. Martha's pup, Sienna, manages to fit through the doggie door in my house and when all six of us are together, Katherine is swimming in dogs.

We are having much of our respective families to Martha's house near Sacramento over Christmas. We hope you are well, and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Love,

Mike and the pups, Duffy and Dottie