

# Merry Christmas, 2003

To our dear friends and family members,

It has been a happy year - the happiest of our lives. We got married! We're a happy couple. On September 27, 2003, Deanna and Michael gathered with about ninety folks and celebrated at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Oakland. Deanna is in the Bell Choir there so they played for us. Jerry played the pipe organ, Sarah played piano, Tim put on a feast, Twinrocker did the invitations, Mary Jane did the wine labels, Joe did the photography... the list of people-as-gifts is endless. Deanna's 11-year-old daughter, Maurie, decided she is too old to be a flower girl so she became a young Bride's Maid. Deanna's friend Morgan was her Matron of Honor and my Groomspersons were Paul and Elsa. Deanna's dad, David, came out from Minnesota and my sister, Barby, and her husband, Harold, came over from France using my sister Linda's Frequent Flyer miles. We did a Three Cups ceremony which was wonderful. I have photos and will soon have a more organized look at [http://diggles.50megs.com/homelife/Bended\\_Knee/](http://diggles.50megs.com/homelife/Bended_Knee/) Be sure to see Chris' movie: [Mike&Deanna.mov](#). We took off for the first of three honeymoons this Fall to Half Moon Bay ("Half Honeymoon Bay"?) for a couple days and will have a few more days in Big Sur right after Christmas.



Oh yeah: Oakland. Yup, Michael moved. I rented out my house to good friends of the next-door neighbors (the little girls ridepool to school in the mornings), rented a couple storage units for a year, packed up key items (cameras, canoe, clothes...), and now live with Deanna and Maurie. I got a cute little folding bicycle that I can take on a crowded BART train and off to the office I go. So I'm off in Menlo Park with my cell phone and she's off all over the Oakland area being a home health-care I.V. nurse with her cell phone and we get to chat here and there. The next step in making the Oakland move work well is underway: put another story

on the house. We have the preliminary plans approved by the city to lift the house and put a new story on the ground floor; work may begin about April.



Last April, we did one of the house fix-up projects through Church for *Rebuilding Together*. Ballet is one of Maurie's main joys with both *The Nutcracker* in December and a Spring event in March. Reading is another family characteristic. I don't know who eats books faster, Deanna or Maurie. Deanna discovered David Brin, Sherri Tepper, Jasper Fforde and many others. Maurie had us all up at midnight for the roll-out of J.K. Rowling's new *Harry Potter* book in June. I think it lasted her three days. We got the canoe wet many times in Tahoe and Woods Lake from Bev and John's cabin to Inverness, north of San Francisco with Sarah, John, and Miranda, to the wetlands of San Francisco Bay on a field trip with Maurie's school.

USGS has an arrangement where I can "telecommute" a day or two a week. I can get quite a bit done when I don't spend any time commuting. I got five publications out this year. The last time I did more than that was in 1990. A couple of them have been in the works for several years though so it's not like it all happened at once. We got Part B of the *International Handbook of Earthquake and Engineering Seismology* published and our neighbor saw it go in the shelf at Cody's books in Berkeley for \$130. I am third author on *Selected images of the Pu'u 'O'o-Kupaianaha Eruption, 1983-1997* (<http://geopubs.wr.usgs.gov/dds/dds-80/>), fourth

author on *Sediment-Hosted Copper Deposits of the World: Deposit Models and Database* (<http://geopubs.wr.usgs.gov/open-file/of03-107/>), and umpteenth author on *Significant Metalliferous and Selected Non-Metalliferous Lode Deposits, and Selected Placer Districts of Northeast Asia* (<http://geopubs.wr.usgs.gov/open-file/of03-220/>) and *Preliminary Publications Book 2 from the Project on Mineral Resources, Metallogenesis, and Tectonics of Northeast Asia* (<http://geopubs.wr.usgs.gov/open-file/of03-203/>).

The trips to the mountains and the beaches have also gotten more numerous. I can't figure out how we do this when there are not more days in a month than before; we just don't idle very well, I guess. We took Maurie and her friend Amanda cross-country skiing at Royal Gorge in January. March is always the Yosemite Association Spring Forum; we met Mary Jane there and took a photography class. Maurie had pretty well adopted what was fast becoming no longer "my" digital camera so we spoiled her rotten and got her one of her own. She does amazing things with it. Her Sequoia photos are the best in the family. I was only gone from Yosemite a week; I helped teach students in the Mountain View High School camera club a little about geology the first weekend of Spring Break. Deanna and Maurie joined us on the last of that three-day class and we stayed on another day. The week included going to Linda's in LA, Disneyland, Sue and Fred's on the way back up the coast, and back in time for Easter and the Bell Choir. The week got much fuller very fast. I had been scheming to find the right time and place to ask Deanna to marry me; I sort of had my eye on Mother's Day at the Claremont Hotel



brunch in Berkeley. Maurie had a better idea when we were in Yosemite: "This is where Mama is happiest; you need to do it here!" "But

I don't have a ring yet," I replied. Maurie and I snuck around in the Ansel Adams Gallery and picked out the perfect ring. "She's gonna say 'yes,' y'know" Maurie assured me. So we faked a little side trip for the three of us to the Ahwahnee Hotel for warm drinks out of the snow. With Maurie grinning ear to ear (no give-away there; she does that all the time), I Got Down on Bended Knee, pulled the ring out of my GoreTex parka, and asked Deanna to marry me. I did, indeed, catch her by surprise ...and she said "yes." I looked at Maurie and said "She said 'yes.'" She put her little hands on her little hips and said (you guessed it): "I told ya so."



In the Summer of 2002, Wayne, Justin, and I climbed Mt. Silliman which was the lead-up to trying to climbing Mt. Brewer this year (<http://www.diggles.com/brewer>). We had six of us on the Brewer trip adding Jon, Deanna, and Maurie. It took us three days to get to the base of the peak with thunder showers every day. Deanna was fording creeks and Maurie was climbing every boulder in sight ("Rock is my area"). On the fifth day, Jon, Justin, and I got





going before dawn and made it to within 3/4 mile of the summit when the first lightning bolt hit somewhere not too far away at 11:00 AM. Leaving the shelter of a cave we found, we decided that 12,300' was high enough for a good view and we headed back through the hail. We did the 13 miles out on the fifth day all at once. The boys asked me how many, if any, peaks I had turned back from in my life. It seems that every few minutes as we hiked, I thought of yet another. I think this makes six. Next year, we plan to have the family mountaineering trip start at Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite National Park where you can drive to 9,000' before you even start. Amelia Earhart Peak, 11,952', is 13 miles south up the Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne River. We could spend two days hiking to a base camp, perhaps 10 or 11 miles in, a third day going from camp to the summit and back, and a fourth day hiking out. The boys also want to do the next tall peak mapped by William Brewer: Mt. Whitney. We may do the Mountaineers Route that John Muir pioneered. The first trip will have under 3,000' of elevation gain whilst the second will cover 7,000' to 14,496'. Come join us on either or both.



We got one more trip to Yosemite in before the wedding when the three of us took Elsa to the Yosemite Association meeting in Tuolumne. We took her to the saddle under the summit of Lembert Dome and the top of Pothole

Dome the next day. Mind you this is after she told us how nice she thought the view was from the Khyber Pass when she was a bit younger. The annual Humboldt State University alumni trip for the Boot 'n Blister Club was to Pear Lake



in Sequoia National Park this Columbus Day, a week after the wedding. We count this as a Second Honeymoon. We had about 20 people on this hike. We got to take some of our new wedding-gift backpacking gear with us (we had a Bridal Registry at REI). We had three little girls along to keep prodding us to keep up the pace. We ran out of daylight early but that meant the moonlight on the granite cirque behind the lake was early. Next year we are planning to go down the coast of the Kings Range Wilderness Study Area in southern Humboldt County from the mouth of the Matolle River. See <http://www.diggles.com/bnb/> for past photos and future plans. We got one more trip to Yosemite



in *after* the wedding also. November was my fifth year teaching geology to my sixty 11-year-olds in Yosemite during a week-long trip. <http://www.diggles.com/yi/> Since we have an 11-year-old of our own now, I got to take her along this time. Maurie joined me for when I gave my classroom lecture the week before. She had to ditch school in Oakland so she could attend school in Sacramento; pretty cool. She made friends with several of the kids as they sat together on the floor of the Multipurpose Room so by the time they were all in cabins in Yosemite in the snow and hiking around the



Valley together for the next week, they were old buddies.

Trying to remember what happened this year was pretty easy: Except for a day in Diggle Gulch in Siskiyou County mapping rare plants, I either went on every adventure with Deanna, Deanna and Maurie, or a couple times, with only Maurie. Just track where they go and

you can find me any time over the next 150 years. Poke around <http://www.diggles.com/> for more stories and lots of photos of the year.



We wish you all peace and joy in the New Year. Have a wonderful Christmas and a safe holiday season.



(Two angels on top, last year and this year)





