

Merry Christmas, 2017

Dear friends and family members,

This year at Christmas is similar to the last two years where Maurie had to work on days close to the 25th, so we took Christmas down to her in the San Fernando Valley. We hauled Button, the Airstream, with the dogs back down with a miniature Christmas tree to be there on the 22nd.



Spoiler alert: More later

Maurie, Deanna, and I will have Christmas morning with my sister, Linda and let the dogs run in her front yard; they love that.



My old house.

We started out the year by bidding farewell to that house from a former life in Redwood City. No more landlord stuff, no more escrow stuff (oh wait; see below). End of an era, and I'm just fine with that.

Deanna is still at UCSF, I'm still at USGS, and Maurie & the dogs are still cute! Button got a wonderful new floor and a Li-ion battery; the garage is now a pretty nice shop, and the attic has a bunch of shelves so we can find stuff (like the little Christmas tree we have in the trailer for when we're on the road). I volunteered with the Advanced Photography class at a high school again and helped take a bunch of students to Yosemite for several days of creativity.



Adoration all around.



Maurie being hooded.

Maurie finished her thesis and was graduated from Calif. State University Northridge with a Masters of Social Work (MSW) in June. She even got a job as a (wait for it...) Social Worker. She can get the credit for supervision she needs to get her license in a couple years and become an LCSW.



New digs.

Well, college was out of the way but the housing situation needed improvement. So, we poked around and found a little condo very close to Maurie's office and got her moved in the end of June. It was about 105° with a couple of dogs and a U-Haul but we got escrow closed and the truck unloaded by a little after midnight. Oh, OK, more like 2:00 AM. But it is cute! Her own place, reserved gated parking spaces, elevator, washer/dryer, AC, 60 MB/s WiFi (I only have 50; the brat), and Rajah has a cat platform.



Totality.

About 26 years ago, I had my mind made up that total solar eclipses were wonderful when I was in Hawai'i viewing that one. I wanted to see the next one in 26 years. This last August was the next time around and it was wonderful. We joined several dozen other Airstreams, took the dogs, and headed to Madras, Oregon like everybody else. I took off a week early and Deanna flew in later to meet me in Bend.



Summit of Garfield Peak.

I got to give a short field seminar to the Airstream folks at Crater Lake using a map and guidebook my friend Charlie wrote. He also said I should go up

Garfield Peak as long as I was there so I did that also.

I got two more publications out this year, the data release being about 30 years overdue but hey, it's done.

Diggles, M.F., and Clemens-Knott, D., 2017, Whole-rock major-element chemistry data for granitic rocks on the Kern Plateau, southern Sierra Nevada, California: U.S. Geological Survey Data Release, <https://doi.org/10.5066/F7M043M1>.

Moore, J.G., Diggles, M.F., Evans, W.C., and Klemic, K., 2017, The saltiest springs in the Sierra Nevada, California: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2017-5053, 21 p., 2 appendixes, <https://doi.org/10.3133/sir20175053>.

In September, we went to Ohio to attend the wedding of Maurie's cousin, Samantha to the Love Of Her Life, Andrew. They are very cute and adore each other. And a good time was had by all.



Maurie and Rajah.

Maurie has her own tree this year along with a bossy cat so here's the annual shot of the Angel on [near the] Top.

Have a safe and wonderful Christmas and New Year,

-Michael, Deanna, and Maurie
-Mocha, YoYo, Rajah, Mattie, and Bear