

Merry Christmas, 2021

Dear friends and family members,

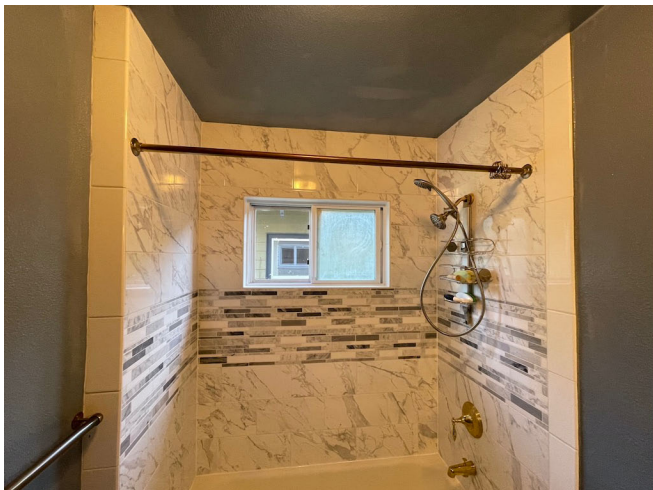
We hope this [slightly late] letter finds you well and happy. We got out and about a little bit by being vaccinated and being safe. We also had time to take on projects around the house since this is where we are a lot.

The dogs took us to their favorite beach in April.



Bear and Mattie at Point Reyes National Seashore.

When we remodeled 15 years ago, we picked some tile that we never liked. So this year, we had it all torn out and replaced.



We think this is much nicer; painted the walls also.

It is always easier to do household chores when we have lots of help



Nutmeg

May brought us a full lunar eclipse and we didn't have to leave the back yard to view it.



The Moon on May 26, 2021

The cats wanted to go out in the back yard also, or at least half of them.



"We'll come right back in; we promise."

Will painted and added some woodwork in The Little House.



The cottage in the back yard

The Kids went to Jalisco for a family wedding in August and spent several days making the most of it.



Maurie and Will

A splash of new color improved the looks, and comfort, of Button, the Airstream.



The dogs have to stay on their beds on the floor.

There are many wonderful places to have cheese in Sonoma County.



One of the cheese makers we visited.

Our wedding anniversaries are commonly spent "camped" out of Petaluma, a little over an hour trip.



Button, got all the hookups done by sundown.



After dark, Button shows off her party lights.

In October, we took off for Mau‘i. Cinnamon wanted to go along.



Or perhaps keep us from leaving.

We mostly stayed in Lāhainā but hit the sunset on the summit of Haleakalā



Summit shot, just over 10,000 feet (we drove).

When we got back home, nothing much had changed.



Four cats; Mocha hides on the pillow.

Thanksgiving included one turkey roasted in the oven and another on the barbeque.



We had just a small, safe, gathering for dinner.

The three dogs got dressed in their Christmas finery



Mattie



Bear



Leia

The last story of the year is that Michael retired after 44 years at the U.S. Geological Survey. He will stay on as Emeritus to help authors with manuscripts and teach a writing class. Colleague Rick Blakely captured Mike in one of his well-known cartoons.



Have a safe and wonderful Christmas and New Year,
--Michael, Deanna, Maurie, and Will, Mocha, Rajah,
Cinnamon, Nutmeg, Mattie, Bear, and Leia