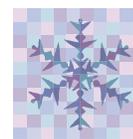




Season's Greetings

December 2008



434 689 4189
Burtparker22202@yahoo.com

Burton G. Parker family
Holiday Letter # 19

118 Merrymount Road
Boydton, VA 23917-4712

Another year bites the dust. We had a pretty full and adventurous year this year.

Kathryn finished up her BFA in Art (Photography) in May and is working in sales while looking for her staff photography position. Burton continues brushing up his portfolio while looking for his computer gaming illustration position and is also working in sales. Both continue to do freelance work in their chosen fields. Katrina continues on with her career in optometry.

We enjoyed quite a bit of travel this year. We continued our 'commuting' to Lake Gaston for long weekends looking for our lake house, finally putting in a contract in early January. We went to settlement in April and then began the labor of moving, 5 or 6 U-Haul truck loads, then the heavy stuff by commercial carrier in May. Dad gave us his Aquasport Sandpiper 22 foot runabout, which I had re-gel coated and a windshield mounted. And, we found a real nice deal on a 15 ft Dagger canoe. I spent a nice week's visit with Dad at his home in Florida the end of January, attending to numerous 'fixit' and other chores. Early in January, Burton flew to the West Coast for a computer gaming illustration convention. In early April, Jessie and friend Nancy enjoyed a nice week's visit with friends and relations in South Carolina. In May, Kathryn and boyfriend Josh spent three weeks touring around their must-see places in Europe. Early in May, Jessie and I took Amtrak to Cincinnati for a delightful week's cruise on the Delta Queen up the Ohio River to Pittsburg, this being the DQ's last year in overnight passenger service. I enjoyed attending cousin Niki Parker's wedding in early September, while the hurricane stymied Jessie and the kids from attending. Dad, Ingrid, and Albert had a fine weeklong visit with us in our new lake house after the wedding.

We've enjoyed many short but nice visits with the kids this summer here on the lake, and of course Jessie's sisters, father, and some nieces have been by for a number of day visits. Jessie's Aunt Jo Ann and husband Ralph visited with us for several days in mid-June, with Ralph getting in a lot of fishing. Cousin Eric Parker stopped by for a short visit on his way home from a BMW motorcycle rally in South Carolina. We have gotten to know some of our new neighbors, having been invited to dinner and reciprocating. We attended a community pig roast in mid August and a cookout with bonfire the first of November. We are also learning about our new environment, attending hydroplane boat races in Clarksville, Brunswick stew cook-off and fair in Brunswick, and a chili cook-off at Eaton's Ferry. Then there was the Boydton and Chase City harvest parades, and wine tasting at Rosemont Winery in La Crosse.

Of course we've been fiddling with the house to get it more to our liking. We had the front wood deck and its gazebo removed, donating the gazebo for reuse at the homeowner's association picnic pavilion. Then I painted the concrete stoop that was under the deck. I took down 10 small to medium trees and had a tree service take down five large trees to improve the view of the lake. After the first of the year we'll have the single door garage door and people access door removed and replaced with a double garage door so both cars can come in out of the weather not just mine. We spruced up the living room with a new love seat and a rocker/recliner chair just Jessie's size. We also got ourselves a nice fire pit for the back patio area. We've got the upstairs pretty much squared away and presentable, but the downstairs (which is unfinished) still has a way to go. I call it the 'warehouse', as in where the devil did I put that.

Dad and his assistant, Albert Stewart, are with us for the holidays, arriving 17 December and staying on until 5 January. Of course, the kids are visiting for some part(s) of that period.

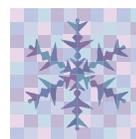
Best wishes to all for very merry holidays, and a happy and prosperous new year.

Regards,



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Burt, Jessie, Burton, Kathryn





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