



December 2011

Dear Friends,

Once again it's time to subdue reality and write our annual Christmas letter. This year's events will be reported in a positive way with only a passing nod to actual events.

We are now a 5-dog family. Yes, five large shaggy Newfoundland dogs. Your life changes when you have five dogs, even when they float between two households. And, not in a subtle way. How did this happen? A very alert and good question. As best as I can recall, Jake/Amanda had a 7-puppy litter in December 2010. Two were kept and five were given away. #5 came back on a warranty return. I now know what Snow White put up with. The dogs follow me as I look at the grounds and cabins. Many people think their names are: "Stop-It," "Down," "Leave-it-Alone," "Sit," and "Get-away-from-That."

The boys, Andrew (15) and Zach (11) are doing fine. Andrew skis for the HS school team and is the catcher on the baseball team. He has developed a strong interest in mountain and road cycling. Zach is on the MS basketball team and will join Andrew on the ski team when basketball ends. He and Andrew are true terrors on mountain bikes. Fortunately, Marilyn is a little unclear on the type of terrain ridden at full speed.

I played rugby in Aspen this fall in both the 'over 50' and 'over 55' divisions. Being on two teams required a lot of team meetings. Or, as Zach said, "a lot of drinking-with-the-boys." The high point of the trip was reached when the referee asked the players to remove their hearing aids – plays were being interrupted when the hearing aids were knocked out of ears. The game then proceeded to the grumpy calls of "What?," "Speak up!," "What!".

We have built a small office building (10' x 20') near the Lodge entrance. Political discussions will continue with just a slight change of venue. It looks kind of like a drive-thru coffee house.

Marilyn: *"Andy's summary of the year is on track and funny, as usual. Zach and I travelled to NYC in June – we did the typical plus took in the Broadway version of the Adam's Family and visited Carlo's Bakery. Andrew, invited, has his own interests now – very understandable. It is interesting to observe him growing up. In extended family relations: My brother, a Floridian, who visited for a week in July, remarked that it was too cold. My niece graduated from HS in Washington State – a solo trip for me to see her before she headed off to college. Otherwise, I try to keep track of the web of personal and business activities, holding on to a vestige of control."*

Love and Peace –
All the Einspaniers



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