

Merry Christmas!

December 5, 2015

In February, I drove up to Washington with John. That allowed me to be with him for his 70th Birthday and also to be there for him when he had surgery on his right big toe. He was a good patient & did everything he was supposed to do post-op. Everything turned out great!

In March we learned that my Uncle Bob (Westbrook) passed away. He and my Aunt Esther (Mom's youngest sister) made their 70th anniversary in 2014. He was a B24 pilot during WWII; completing 35 bombing missions. After his military service, he graduated with a bachelor degree in General Engineering from Iowa State University and spent 37 years working for Mid-American Energy. Uncle Bob was an engineer through and through; he was an incredible woodworker, making Grandfather clocks, sewing cabinets, and jewelry boxes among other amazing items; he trapped, hunted and gardened. You could talk to him about anything and we will miss him.

In May we attended both the San Diego Gator by the Bay festival and the Simi Valley Cajun Festival. We love the music & dancing! We will now have to find some Cajun festivals in Washington.

We drove to WA together in June with an enclosed trailer loaded with possessions. We spent a few days in WA before leaving to drive to WI. We took my Mom's bed and dresser to my oldest nephew Greg in South Dakota. It was great to see Greg, Ryan and Gretchen and the wonderful property out in the country. Then it was on to Iowa to see my Uncles and then Wisconsin to see Mom before heading to my niece Hannah's wedding. It was great to see everyone and the wedding was beautiful. At the end of the trip, John took me to the airport in Chicago for my return flight to LA. Hopefully that is our last vacation where I fly home & John has to drive on his own.

In August, I went to the Sawdust Festival and Pageant of the Masters in Laguna Beach with my good friend Joyce. It was a beautiful day and the pageant was incredible. They arrange people in famous works of art, darken the stage, and then bring the professional lights up and you would swear it is a painting or statue. I kept trying to tell which characters were real people vs painted back/foreground. It was seriously amazing!

After 35 years at TRW/NGC, September 1 was my first day of retirement. In March, I was told Suhail Ali would take over my software, so I got to take my time training him. Suhail is very bright and it was my pleasure to train him. I had no trouble leaving my software in his hands. At the end of August I had a retirement party - it was incredible! My friend Faye organized it all and it was like a family reunion of retirees and current project people. The gifts I received were so thoughtful and amazing; there are pictures on the back! Thank you to all!

John & I decided to move ourselves. We spent the month of September packing and moving. It was the hottest, most humid month I have ever spent in CA. We made 3 trips with the final trip being in October. I will be unpacking for the rest of my life! During that packing/moving time, John decided to see if he could talk our LA landlord into renting to Drew (our grandson). They came to an agreement and Drew is now renting the home that we had rented for 23 years. We are very thankful that he and his dog Kuzco are safe. Since Drew spent many summers with us, most of the neighbors know him & are comfortable with him living there.

On our final arrival at the house in Washington, just before midnight, John let Ginger out of the truck & she immediately chased some deer. When they zigged, so did she, but she squealed when she tore her ACL. She spent the next few days holding up her right rear leg. After a few vet appointments and surgery, she is now recovering. The first 6 weeks were to be very restrictive and they have been. We just had her 6 week check-up and were told she is completely healed. Now it is up to us to slowly increase her exercise (and ours)!

I have now been retired for 3 months and lived in Washington for 2 months & I love it! I love being with John full time, the cold, the neighbors, being in the country ... it doesn't get any better than this! John & I have been together for 25 years & we are looking forward to the next 25 years!

We continue to be very thankful for the many blessings in our lives – including family & friends both near & far. Here's hoping 2015 brings peace & prosperity to all our family & friends!

Donna, John, & Ginger

current contact information:

	Donna Schuetz	John Sage
email address:	dmschuetzusa@gmail.com	ipsageusa@gmail.com
phone:	360-320-4256 or 310-422-2142	360-929-4072
mailing address:	PO Box 2669	
	Oak Harbor, WA 98277	
house address:	660 Neighborly Lane	
	Oak Harbor, WA 98277	