

We went to Disney World! We went to Disney World!

We had not been to WDW for 5 years, and we finally went back in February! Debbie, Nick, and Joe went with our very good friends, the Allards (and Bringholds). There were Darla, her daughter, Jolynne, Jolynne's husband, Zach, and their two kids, Bella and Zach Jr. We were there for an entire week, and got to visit each of the four parks. It was very special seeing everything that had changed since the last time we were there, and returning to our old favorite places. And it is always wonderful to share this amazing place with close friends. Jolynne was 4 months pregnant. Amazingly, she ran the rest of us ragged!

We got to see the Hawaiian Luau at the Polynesian, which was pretty cool. We also got a look at the massive Fantasyland expansion. They added a lot of stuff, and The Seven Dwarfs Mine Car was a blast!

Debbie and Joe did some more traveling in May. We went on our first ever DVC members cruise, and our first ever cruise to Alaska! After cruising in tropical locations, this was really different. Alaska is famous for it's rugged beauty, and it did not disappoint. We cruised "southwest" Alaska, including the state capital, the site of the Klondike gold rush, and the Tracy Arm fiord. We got up close to both the Sawyer and Mendenhall glacier, and saw Bald Eagles. Incredibly, the towns we visited (including the state capital) are not connected by a highway system, but are accessible only by air or water. The weather really cooperated, with sunny skies and 70 degrees all week. It was a change after the hurricanes on our last cruise! In addition to the beauty of Alaska, we enjoyed the gorgeous Disney Wonder ship, and special activities only available on a member's cruise (including previewing Inside Out six weeks before it's release in theaters).

The next cruise will be in the Spring of 2016, and Debbie and Joe are going back to a warmer climate. This will be the first time that we have visited the Virgin Islands, and we will be aboard the Disney Magic. Since this cruise leaves from Florida, we are going to sneak in one day at Epcot on our way to Port Canaveral.

We are still thinking about that transatlantic crossing in 2017. Disney has not released the dates of their crossing yet, but we are very seriously considering making the journey.

On our 28th wedding anniversary in August, we got away for a few days to Glenwood Springs. We stayed in the historic Colorado Hotel, and spent a relaxing day in the hot springs. We even sprung for a cabana by the springs. It was a much needed relaxing experience.

Travel wasn't even the biggest news this year.

Nick moved out.

Nick earned his bachelor's in Management Information Systems (MIS) in December. He is now living in Centennial (a far southern suburb of Denver), and working in downtown Denver. He is in the MIS department of the City and County of Denver. This is now a full time position, with the same organization that he had served as an intern. In true metropolitan fashion, he takes the light rail back and forth to work most everyday. He and six friends are renting a house in Centennial.

While Debbie continues to enjoy retirement, Joe's business, Four pOint OH Consulting, keeps him hopping. His current client (actually, a returning client from some years ago) has him working back in the aerospace segment. The team he is on is developing analytic equipment in support of unmanned and possibly manned launch vehicles for the United Launch Alliance (ULA). Someday, he may even retire--but not this year!

Debbie keeps busy in retirement with her scrapbooking (she has done a LOT this year). She continues to hone her skill in Photoshop, as she produces one after another gorgeous scrapbooks.

And the Christmas card. The stars of the card, of course, are Omen and Chromaggus (the Obris Corgis). But, they share the card with other corgis who attended Tour De Corgi, one afternoon in Fort Collins. There were over 100 Corgis there, many of whom were in (pretty fanciful) costumes. We paraded around the downtown area for about 1.5 miles. It was something to see.

We have been doing a few of these Corgi events, with a group Debbie found online. Omen, of course, is a pure bred Corgi, but Chro is only half. He has been welcome though, and is happy to go!

Happy Holidays to all of you, and best wishes for 2015.

The Obris  
Debbie, Joe, Chromaggus, and Omen