

December 19, 1994

Arrrgh! Here it is December 19th and only 7 days left till Christmas. I'm finally getting around to my cards. Chances are you will get this after the holidays so if you do, remember, its too late to send me a card by then. HA!

Well it was another dry year for skiing. I didn't make it out anywhere other than day trips to the Big Bear area. I'm hoping (and its looking like) this coming season will be better. Several friends have been out already and report that the snow is good.

No earthquakes down here this year. LA area keeps getting them but they miss us.

The big news is the booms we keep on hearing. No one admits to what is causing them. Theories range from airplanes to meteors. The rest of us know its the Aurora.

After 13 years of faithful service, I sold my MGB. It was still running great but I was using it less and less. I bought a Pathfinder (4WD truck) which now sports ski and bike racks.

After living in California for 16 years I finally took a driving trip north of Los Angeles with my new truck. You know, when you live in San Diego, LA is like a giant roadblock. No matter where you want to go, you have to drive through the LA area. You can't avoid it. Well, I left early one morning last summer and headed north. The first stop was the Tehachapi Loop, a famous railroad attraction. Next was a stop in Sacramento, at the Railroad Museum. Last and best was two days camping at the Lassen Volcanic National Monument. Its a park with camping, hiking and sightseeing. I hiked up to the top of the volcano mountain at over 10,000 feet. It was the middle of the summer but there was ice and snow at the top. The last time it blew was in 1910 so it seemed pretty safe be there.

A few weeks later, I drove up to Mammoth Lakes for a camping weekend. That is were I usually go skiing but I've never seen it during the Summer. The Mammoth area is also located at the edge of a giant volcanic caldera. The area had a swarm of earthquakes a few years ago and there are still places where boiling water bubbles up out of the ground.

Yes, I still have the BMW, it was in the shop only 6 times this year. Things are getting better. I complained a lot and got BMW to give me an extended service contract. I know that is going to be a bad deal for BMW.

All is well at work. New clients this year include Pacific Communications Sciences, Inc (they make cellular phones and modems) and WangDAT, Inc (a tape drive manufacturer). Still doing work for Sony's monitor division. Our office is filled with Sony monitors that they have lent us for our contracts with them. I've 'borrowed' one to use on the computer at my desk.

Over the New Year's weekend I am going up to visit Hearst Castle and then Monterey (both for the first time). Hope to welcome in the new year at Ghirardelli Square in San Francisco.

Happy Holidays

Mark

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