

Christmas 2010

Dear family and friends,

Well, what did we do in 2010? Seems like we were just writing the 2009 version of this letter. 2009 was a busy year and maybe we are glad things have slowed down.

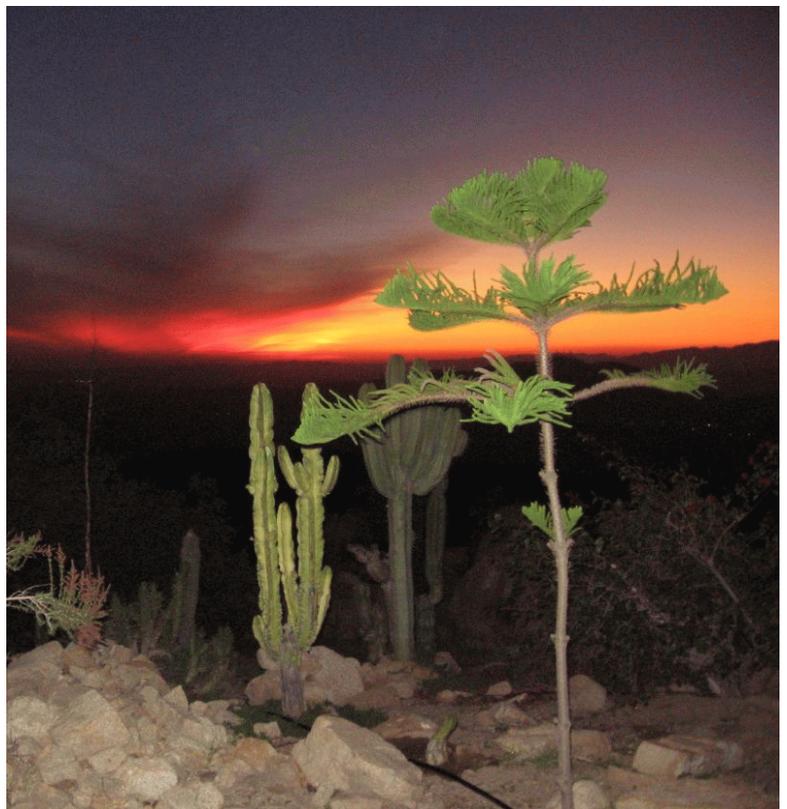


We have been getting settled in our new home. ... Speaking of disclosures, you know when you buy a home, you have to disclose what you know about the home - things like radon seeping into the basement, asbestos in the walls, and so on. Well one thing no one told us about was the weeds. Weeds. WEEDS.

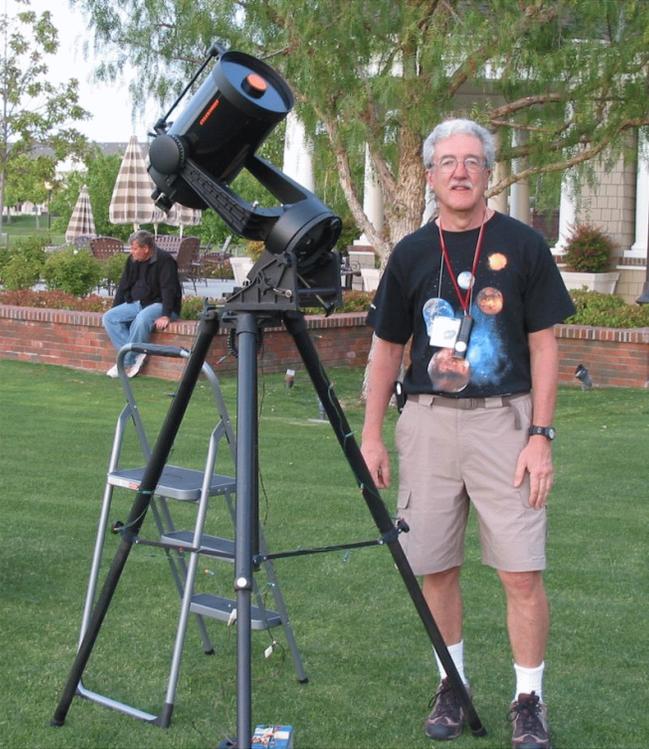
We thought we were moving to a desert area. At least it looked that way in the middle of the summer. We have rocks, cactus, sandy soil, sagebrush. We found out we also have weeds. After a fairly rainy winter, they showed up. By late April, they were everywhere and they were 1-2 feet high. Every spot of soil grew weeds. Mark went out and

bought a gas powered string trimmer and spent 1-2 hours every day for almost all of the month of May wacking at the weeds. Sally followed Mark around with a rake and trash cans gathering up what he wacked down. We filled four trash cans every week with weeds.

Out here, they are pretty serious about fire suppression and require that 100 feet horizontally from the house be substantially cleared of brush and weeds. There is a requirement that this be done by June 1st. In early June, the fire marshal goes around the area and checks. Well our clearing job was not up his standards. We had to work on the weeds for a couple of more weeks and Mark had to hire a brush clearing company to thin out the brush along one hillside in front of the house. Well we learned a lot from this. This coming spring, Mark plans on using more weed killer and getting an earlier start on the job. Our neighbors tell us that we should have started on this in January.



Mark joined the Temecula Valley Astronomers, an amateur astronomy club. During the year the club does a lot of ‘star parties’ at local middle and high schools and community centers.



In early June, we had a visit by Palmieri cousins from Australia. Two siblings of their family ended up in the Australia and two other siblings ended up in the US. This was a time for the descendants of those siblings to meet up again. They are related to us on Mark’s father’s side.

In June, Sally and I went on separate vacations together.

We started out together, though, driving to Kaysville, UT to the home of her daughter Kelly. We stayed there a few days. The real purpose of the trip was that Sally is planning a trip with each of her grandchildren when they are 10 years old. This year, the first trip, was with Alyssa. Sally called it the “Meet the Cousins” trip. They flew up to Oregon and Washington. In all, Alyssa met 41 new relatives on her grandma’s side of the family and had a great time with

cousins at amusement parks, horseback riding, jet skiing, etc. Sally enjoyed catching up with all of the relatives too!

<http://www.silogic.com/2010%20Alyssa%20Roundy/Meet%20the%20cousins%20trip%20-%20June%202010.html>

After dropping them off at the airport in SLC, Mark headed to Denver. He was towing our tent trailer. His trip was a genealogy trip and was his first (non-skiing) trip to Denver. On the way, he stopped in Rock Springs, WY to do some research at the cemetery there. In Denver, he visited the Public Library and Historical Society. He toured the house of a cousin, Prospero Frazzini, and visited many cemeteries. More at:

<http://www.silogic.com/genealogy/frazzini.htm>. He stayed at a RV park in Wheat Ridge. Mark returned to SLC via Grand Junction and picked up Sally and Alyssa at the airport and were back at Kelly’s house for the 4th of July.

In August, Sally’s brother and 2 sisters and spouses all came to our house for a “Sibling Reunion.” We had a weekend up in LA visiting Universal Studios and The Getty. The rest of the visit we had fun reminiscing, playing games, and eating! The climax came as we watched Rob and Ron sail from Del Mar, over Rancho Santa Fe at sunset, in a hot air balloon. We felt like “storm chasers” as we followed the balloon in our car to their landing place.

Sally took a beginning quilting class and is proud of her first finished quilt!



Though Mark's main 'job' is genealogy, he's been working on his train room. Our new house has a large garage and he took over part of it to build a model train layout. This year, he insulated the room, put up a wall to separate it from the cars, installed new lighting, and painted it. This coming year, he expects to actually start on the layout itself.



Mark also built a small portable layout. It has buttons and bells and whistles for kids. He has taken it to several train shows in southern California.



As always, you can read more at <http://www.silogic.com/>.

We send our wishes for a wonderful Christmas,

Mark + Sally

