

Christmas 2019

Dear family and friends,

Wow – it's the holidays already! Time for you to sit through our annual "life is great" letter. :-)

We are both doing well. Sally has been attending [Yoga](#) and Senior Fitness classes and I'm still on my bicycle a couple of times a week. We also love our Friday walks!

### The Rains

So I've capitalized the word Rains as this year (Jan-Mar) was a banner year for rainfall as we haven't seen for at least 10 years. This photo is a waterfall on our road that only flows during the winter.



With the rain came the damage. Along our street, Via Ladera, we had three culverts give way, undermining the road very badly. Over the summer after the rains stopped, we had to have the three rebuilt. This photo, taken through a hole in the pavement, shows the remnants of the metal culvert which was destroyed by water, causing the road surface to collapse.



## Poppy fields

The rains caused the hills of Southern California to erupt in orange and yellow poppies. At times, the traffic on the freeways came to a standstill due to people gazing in wonder at the colorful hills. This photo was taken by Mark as he was stuck in that traffic along I-15.



## Ashlee's graduation

We took a trip to Utah for Sally's third grandchild to graduate from High School. She is in college now in St. George, UT.



## Alaska

In July, we took a land and sea tour of Alaska. Neither of us had been there before. We started in Anchorage, took a side trip to Seward, a train ride to Denali, bus to Fairbanks, flew into Canada to Dawson and Whitehorse. Then a ride on the White Pass & Yukon into Skagway.

In Alaska, we did see a few bears but only saw one moose.



We had fun exploring the old mining town of [Dawson](#).



The train ride from Whitehorse to Skagway was spectacular!

In [Ketchikan](#), we took a jeep and canoe trip. The weather that you see in the canoe photo was typical of what we had.



After the land trip, we got on a cruise ship and spent 4 days traveling through the Inside Passage along the Alaska coast, raining the whole way until we arrived in sunny Vancouver, BC.



We took a Vancouver city tour and a day trip to Butchart Gardens. We were so impressed with the beauty of both Vancouver and Victoria!



DiVecchio  
Sisters Trip



In October, the DiVecchio sisters, Patricia, Diane, and sister-in-law, Sally got together for a "Sister Reunion" in Washington, D.C. They had fun exploring many museums, a winery, Mt. Vernon, a jazz club, and seeing cousins Paul & Maria Frazzini.

## Palomar Observatory

Mark still spends time at Palomar Observatory where he is a Docent.

He took this photo of a "22 deg halo" right above the dome of the 200 inch Hale Telescope.



## Mark's trains

Never ending work on Mark's toy train layout continues. No major additions this year but a lot of small details added. Mark started developing an RFID tag scheme to be able to track the location of engines and cars on the layout.

## Visit to Kevin and Anabella in Arizona

In November, we took our travel trailer to Phoenix (actually Buckeye) to visit Sally's son and granddaughter.

Although it's a little hard to tell, Sally and Anabella were having fun at a playground.



## Dulcimer

Sally started learning to play the Dulcimer last year and this year she has gotten pretty good. She participated in two performances over the past few weeks. Click on the photos to hear and see the players.

Spiral – This was for a school group. Four members of the North County Mountain Dulcimers played.



Library – A holiday party held at the Fallbrook Public Library. All of the members of the group played for this event.



The End..... we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mark + Sally

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(As you hover your cursor over the photos, click on any that turn yellow for added information.)  
As always, you can read more at <http://www.silogic.com/>