

## 2016 HOLIDAY LETTER



We are blessed with a great family.

This year, we spent 70 nights in the HitchHiker and 49 nights at the cottage. The time in the HitchHiker was spent camping with several groups at various events, seeing the Tall Ships in Bay City, visiting family and attending the annual Woodward Dream Cruise.

We enjoyed our combined 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and family reunion in Troy, Ohio. The motel and all the restaurants were very accommodating. We had a fantastic time and nobody had to setup, cook or cleanup. The family all contributed photos and Michelle raided our basement for photographs and digital files. She did the layout for a BIG Shutterfly book with facing pages for each year.

We visited Fred and Becky's twice in 2016. Our week spent at Michelle and Steve's cottage was enjoyable. We visited Wyatt every couple weeks while his parents were home. However, we visited Caitlin and Nick in the Spring while their parents spent a week in San Francisco and visited Ashlyn and Lily in the Fall while their parents were on a week-long cruise of the West Coast. Fun times.

Unfortunately, we have not updated our Web site at [www.RVtowster.com](http://www.RVtowster.com) for a while. So, when you visit our Web site and see outdated photographs, please understand that retirees are busy people. We should have it up-to-date for our family and travels in a few months. Please visit our site mid-2017.

**Mary Lou** still contends with the Fever of Unknown Origin (FUO). It has not spontaneously gone away as hoped but her naps are not as frequent. A sleep study and a C-PAP machine solved her constant fatigue issue. November 14<sup>th</sup>, she had her right knee replaced - she has made a terrific recovery so far - no walker, no cane. She is exceeding expectations but not totally recovered yet - still has some work to do. She is not very happy about that. The knee is healing with nerve endings tingling and the incision sensitive to the bed sheets. She is doing well.

**Fred** has recovered well from his acute bilateral pulmonary embolisms episode in December, 2015. He fished a little this year and supervised the installation of a new roof on the cottage. Mary Lou is making him walk more and be a little more active. Maybe that is part of the reason he is so far behind on processing photographs - that is his story and he is sticking to it.

**Fred, Becky, Caitlin and Nick:** Their big anniversary trip to San Francisco was reported to be exciting. The highlight of the trip was the tour of Alcatraz. They attended most of the children's games.

**Fred's** business is doing well. He is getting addition clients as a result of the exceptional location of his building. He alternates his second season ticket to Colts football games with Caitlin, Nick and Becky. Fred has added golf to his athletic/business skills.

**Becky's** success as a real estate broker continues. With the use of technology she spends less time on the road and having an assistant permits more time at home. She is still cautious with her 'repaired' knee but is doing well.

**Caitlin** is a high school sophomore playing on two volleyball teams - JV and Varsity ... and practicing with the travel team. The BIG event in her life is a restricted driver's license - and an 'extra' car to drive. She is a big help around the kitchen. She likes to cook and bake.

**Nick** plays on the junior high school basketball, tennis and golf teams. He plays golf with Fred at the local golf club. He has gone to a couple Colts games with his Dad. He also hunts with his dad.

**Michelle, Steve, Ashlyn and Lily:** Both work long hours. However, they cruised from Seattle to San Francisco, Victoria BC, and back to Seattle in last Fall. The family enjoys each other as they find weekends and vacation time to play at the cottage.

**Michelle** had a good career year at work. She was promoted to Director. After some facility rearrangements, it worked out that she now occupies her own office with new furniture.

**Steve** is very good about helping out around the house - it is a team effort. Every once in a while he sneaks out with the guys.

**Ashlyn** is very artistic. She finds it very interesting and is good at it. Her BIG thing this year was being active in the school Color Guard Flag Corp. It involved lots of practice and performances at football games. Her summer camps were at her school and Central Mich U.

**Lily's** love of animals - all animals - continues. Again, her summer camp was 'Horse Camp'. She worked half of each day on tasks just like a horse owner. Lily's Girl Scout troop had another weekend outing this year. She swims competitively with the Marlins. Her favorite events are the breaststroke and butterfly - she knocked 20 seconds off her 100m breaststroke time - a big accomplishment.

**Melanie, Scott and Wyatt:** They are improving their expertise as grill/smoker cooks, preparing wonderful meals centered on smoked brisket, ribs and pulled pork. They enjoy taking family walks and bicycle rides. They continue visiting local festivals with Wyatt. He is becoming more of a joy each day. Leaving Wyatt home, they did a brewery tour of the West Side of Michigan.

**Melanie** is busy as a senior business systems analyst at a healthcare performance reporting company. They have hired addition help so life should improve. Like other working moms, with a young, active child, she does not have much time to herself. "Mom" is a very popular name at their house. Dad is always there as a team player.

**Scott** drops Wyatt off at daycare every morning and steps up to the plate when needed at home. His new job is located very close to home - handy for Wyatt duty. He is a little happier with the results of the University of Michigan football program. He went to a Colts game with Fred in Indianapolis - so glad our family gets along.

**Wyatt** visited our cottage for the first time - it was fun. He is busy - busy - busy! Wyatt does not miss a trick as he explores the world around him. The day care is a good fit for him. All reports say he is well like by his classmates and teachers. He loves being in pre-school. He likes his Goldfish swimming class each week. Soccer is proving to be a 'focusing' challenge for our three year old. Halloween as a "waffle" was exciting as was handing out candy.

*Best wishes to you  
and your loved-  
ones.*

*Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year*

*Fred and  
Mary Lou*