

## 2019 HOLIDAY LETTER



We are as proud as can be!

We celebrated 50 years of RVing this spring in a strange way - we put *FOR SALE* signs on our HitchHiker this summer. We hope to sell it in the spring of 2020.

Unlike last year, we opened our cottage this year and spent 42 nights there. The boat was launched and Fred caught some fish from mid-May to mid-June. We only spent 33 nights in the HitchHiker - camping in Michigan with our Good Sam Chapter 52, spent a week at the HitchHiker forum M&M gathering and attended the Woodward Dream Cruise. We did not take any trips this year.

Our 'spring' visit with Fred's family took place in 'May' for Caitlin's high school graduation. We left the HitchHiker on their driveway and returned for her graduation party in June. While the entire family was there, we combined her graduation party with a short, one day, 2019 Family Reunion.

We have updated our Web site for family and 2018 travels and Holidays. Check our Web site at [www.RVtowster.com](http://www.RVtowster.com) >>> The *Show and Tell* page is a good starting point.

**Mary Lou** struggled with shortness of breath and fatigue most of the year. After many tests, a Cardiac Cauterization in early December found she has Pulmonary Hypertension. After a doctor's visit in mid-December, she should have medication to address the problem.

**Fred's** health was good until fall. He developed severe leg and back pain. After visits to doctors, a MRI, pain medication and lots of rest – it almost vanished. His orthopedist called it Divine intervention. Fred still has minor back pain with any exertion – but rest takes care of it.

**Fred, Becky, Caitlin and Nick:** Finishing the inside of the BIG building and doing some other home improvements continues to consume time. They attended many high school games and are good at cheering. Fred is still known as the volleyball 'team dad'. The family took a 7-day western Caribbean cruise in March.

**Fred's** business is doing well. Fred tries to get a round of golf in before going to the office some mornings. However, he spends most of his free time finishing the building.

**Becky** is still very busy listing and selling real estate. She is well known and highly respected in the area. She has worked hard to earn her reputation. She was recognized in July with a career award – *Hall of Fame* - as a top producer during her career at ReMax.

**Caitlin**, now a college freshman at the University of Indiana in Bloomington, is busy. She loves college life. She gets home for a visit some weekends. During the summer she worked at a restaurant in a neighboring community to pay for senior year and college expenses. She plays 'fantasy football' with/against her dad.

**Nick** says junior year is the best - tennis, discus and shot put and his best grades ever. He is the student manager for the girls volleyball team. Nick is now a fully licensed driver – handy for family errands. He seems to be handling being an 'only child' well.

**Michelle, Steve, Ashlyn and Lily:** Michelle and Steve continue to work long hours. The girls wanted to do a RV trip to Maine and Niagara Falls and points in between. The family rented a RV in July and off they went. Michelle and Ashlyn saw *Hamilton* on stage in Detroit. Family schedules interfered somewhat with cottage time.

**Michelle** has found that her directorship responsibilities have expanded even more this year to other countries. She makes sure that her family is a priority. She values cottage time even more.

**Steve** frequently fills in the gaps at home. If it needs doing, he does it. He enjoys 'taste testing' specialty beers. Twice this year he hosted guy weekends at the cottage – neighbors and high school friends.

**Ashlyn**, a high school senior, is working hard in school. She takes a lot of art classes and is working on her senior portfolio. She is active in the school's Art Club and her Youth Group at church. She shows her artistic talents on many craft projects. She has been accepted at all five colleges she applied to – now the decision of where to attend.

**Lily**, a high school sophomore, still loves animals - especially, the horses at the local equestrian center. She has a collection of ribbons based on her show performances. She changed her riding classes from jumping to dressage this year. Her favorite place is on the back of a horse. She attends the church Youth Group every week.

**Melanie, Scott and Wyatt:** They are enjoying being parents of a six year old. They spend much of their time together doing family activities. They continue to enjoy the various local festivals celebrated in their community and near-by communities. A vacation to northern Michigan for biking, hiking and swimming in Lake Michigan was a highlight.

**Melanie**, like other working moms with a young active boy, does not have much time to herself. Scott is always there to lend a helping hand. She helped 'Coach Scott' coach many games. And, she has refined her 'smoker' skills – they smoke a lot of their meat on the patio. Melanie had an interesting time being a class chaperone for the first time.

**Scott** added lacrosse to his coaching resume. He drops Wyatt off at school every morning - Melanie picks Wyatt up - a tag team effort. Scott's job is located very close to home - handy for Wyatt duty. He gets away for some guy time every once in a while – musical concerts with his dad, brother and friends.

**Wyatt** loves first grade. He explored basketball, baseball and lacrosse this year. He is really into states - their location and capitals. He knows most of the pro football teams, the color of their jerseys and their record. Get him started on football and he is difficult to redirect. We play Wii with him when we visit – the easy games – or he beats us every time.

*Best wishes to you  
and yours for a  
Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year*

*Fred and  
Mary Lou*