

THE KAVANAGH GAZETTE

Volume 17

December 2010

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Welcome to the 2010 edition of *The Kavanagh Gazette*. The purpose of this newsletter is to give you an update on the family out here in Oregon.

DOGS 2010

As reported last year the Kavanagh's were down to one dog again. Cinnamon was very lonely and mopey, but the family was not up to fostering anymore. Both then thingd changed

Richard's neighbor had a 3 year old Golden Retriever that they need to give up since they had a newborn in the house. Instead of going through Golden Bond or Craig's list, Richard had us talk to his neighbors about Westie. Well now as of late summer, we have 2 dogs again.

Cinnamon instantly latched onto Westie as her younger brother. We have renamed Westie, RUSTY. His full name is Rusty the Love Bucket. He is a big mush. Now Cinnamon is even looking for petting.

THE KAVANAGH NORTHEAST TOUR

In October Mark & Cyn traveled from Portland Maine to Philadelphia and points in between, we're still waiting for the "Tour 2010" T-Shirts :).

The trip started with flying from Portland Oregon to Portland Maine (via Newark). It just seemed like a neat thing to do. When we arrived it was pouring rain, we thought we were still in Oregon.

We spent 2 nights at a B&B in Old Orchard Beach, ME, the oldest Inn in Maine dating from the mid-1700's. We saw the world largest rotating Globe at DeLorme HQ in Yarmouth. We toured around Kennbunkport and saw the Bush residence on the Ocean. Then spent a half day at the Seashore Trolley Museum, the world's largest Trolley/Transit Museum

We had great meals at Gritty brew pub in Portland, and The Landmark in OOB.

Next stop Boston. We drove the Rental Car to Logan Airport, then took the "T" to the Hotel Buckminster in Kenmore Sq. This is where the St. Paul's Trinity Choir was staying for our group tour of Boston (which Mark was one of the planners for) for Columbus Day Weekend. The choir sang at The Old North Church, The Mission Church (the Catholic Basilica), and Trinity Church at Copley Square.

For sightseeing, Cyn went with another choir member to Harvard to see glass flower exhibit which she loved! We took an Old Town Trolley Tour with the choir which was fun and informative. The Samuel Adams Brewery was a must stop. The tour was by donation with 3 glasses of different beers at the end, yum!

For Meals we ate the the Irish restaurant Durgin Park, a great Italian Restaurant in the North End, Eastern Standard at Kenmore Sq, and Doyle's the second oldest restaurant in Boston, all were fantastic!!

From Boston, we boarded an Amtrak Acela train for NY. This is the fastest train in the Americas. I clocked it at 148 MPH. We used the "Quiet Car" where loud conversation and cell phone use carried the death penalty, I'm not sure if the conductor was kidding or not. It was a very pleasant. We spent the night at in NYC for free at the Radisson Lexington. We even got upgraded to a corner 1 bedroom suite. We could look down 47th St and Lexington Ave. In the evening we went to see a play. Mark got tickets via half price TKTS in Times Square. The show was "Life in the Theater with Patrick Stewart. It was opening night, which made it even more fun! The show didn't last and closed 3 weeks early.

The next day we boarded a normal Amtrak train for Philly. We

picked up a rental car at 30th Street station to pick up our Niece Heidi for dinner. We had a nice dinner at a Japanese buffet.

After spending the night near Philly, we drove out to Lancaster County to visit the PA Railroad Museum and the Strasburg RR., then onto Budd Lake, NJ to Cyn's Brother house.

We spent the rest of the trip visiting the NJ Ackleys, Mark's Mom and sister, and meeting up with Mark's Cousins which he had not seen in decades.

Finally the trip came to an end with a drive back to Philly to fly home.



Rusty and Cinnamon

The Family at Red Robin's
for Teresa's Birthday



CYN'S GOINGS-ON

Cynthia has been very faithful to her weekly routine of exercise. 3~4 days a week she leaves the house at 5:30am (yes AM), to join her friend Debbie for swim aerobics and excersizing. Mark is proud that she can do that. He is barely coherant when she leaves, although he leaves for work at 6:15am.

Cyn gave everybody a scare in early November with symptoms of a heart attack. All the signs and family history pointed to a heart attack. She was in the hospital for 2 nights. The tests came back negative. Luckily the cardiologist did not tell us until afterwards, but he was pretty certain she was going to need not just stints by a full bypass. As it turned out it was none of the above.

On a lighter side, Cyn is really enjoying her fused glass classes. See photos of her work on Mark's Facebook page. She is also making glass tiles to be used on our future master bathroom. She really is an artist!



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2010 KID HAPPENINGS

The year has been turbulent for the kids, some good some not so good.

Teresa remains employed at the local Petco, including being their Dog Trainer. Erik is very close to completing his practim to be a message therapist. A broken leg did set him back a little. Sadly Teresa and Erik and their housemates got caught up in the nationwide foreclosure crisis. They have moved out of their house and moved into a rental house in Salem. The bank still hasn't auctioned their house.

Emily and Matt continue to attend Western Oregon University with Emily working part time at their "help desk". Matt remains employed at Borders. They are saddened by their best friends moving to Denmark, but they now have a

goal to go visit them there.

Richard and Ellen have been blessed this year. Ellen Graduated from WOU in June! Richard got a FULL time job at WOU in their IT department. He now gets state employee benefits. In addition, as an employee of the college, he gets a 75% tuition reduction. He will graduate in June 2011, and is considering attending Oregon State for his Masters. In November Richard & Ellen moved out of their apartment to a rental house, only a block away in Monmouth.



GEOCACHING MECCA

July 4th weekend was a big one for international geocachers in the Seattle area for Geowoodstock. Mark, Cyn and Cinnamon were part of the fun. We stayed at a hotel in Bellevue with Cinnamon. She is very good in a hotel room.

The first day Mark and Cinnamon hiked the trail to the famous "APE" cache. There are only 2 APE caches left in the world. They were placed as publicity for the Planet of the Apes movie. The cache is located on the old Milwaukie Railroad right-of-way. Sadly the tunnel at the pass was closed, but it was fun to meet so many other cachers on the trail.

That evening we all went to a pre-event for Geowoodstock. We met up with old friends that had adopted our 2nd foster dog, Buddy. It was great to meet them again!

On 7/3 was the main event, Geowoodstock. About 5000 geocachers were at this outdoor event at a farm. Vendors, seminars and other activities kept people busy.

The following day, Groundspeak, the company behind geocaching.com, held a big block party in the Fremont section of Seattle. The scavenger hunt was the most fun, Fremont is neat neighborhood.

Next year Geowoodstock is in NE Pennsylvannia, there is only a slim chance we will go, but we had fun this year!!



865 D STREET

The original Master Bedroom was finally gutted. Plans were drawn up to add a bathroom and walk-in closet. Current housing market value is not allowing for a loan to add the bathroom by professionals at this time.

Mark & Cyn have started to add the walls for the bedroom and hallway. The hope is to have the bedroom portion finished in Q1'2011. Stay tuned to the next Gazette for their progress.

MARK'S WIERDNESS

Well 2010 started as terrible yeat for semiconductor. ASM continued to shrink and cut costs. But in mid -Q3 things turned around and now we are so buys without enough manpower to handle it.

Mark did have some travel in 2010 with a trip to Germany in January, and a trip to Japan in February and September, and several trips to Phoenix. But his role at ASM has changed to be more focused on the big Portland customer, not sure what that means for travel in 2011 yet.

Outside of work, Mark remains president of a local geocaching group, but it appears to be failing. He got elected Secretary for the local trolley museum (and ran the annual banquet AGAIN). In September he put on a 2 hour presentation on the history of streetcars in the Pacific Northwest for the Electric Railroader Assoc. convention in Portland for about 80 people. It was well received.

For Choir Mark remains a tenor and even did the Psalm as a solo for one service. He was alos one of the key planners/leaders for the choir trip to Boston.