

Darlene@JoeRitchey.com — Christmas 2009 — Joe@JoeRitchey.com
Joe & Darlene Ritchey Family Update

Dear Family and Friends,

Excitement is building as we open Powderhorn ski resort a week earlier than planned. Due to early snow in October and another storm that brought in almost 3 feet of snow in less than 2 days, opening day was moved up to December 12th. What is good for the ski resort is not always good for Joe's project. Work has slowed down in Grand Junction and the project sites in Moab and Crescent Junction (CJ) UT where weather there has brought 6 to 12 inches of snow and temperatures in the double digits below zero (F). It makes for many challenges for both of us.

As you may have come to expect if excitement doesn't come to us then we go to the excitement. Last year's ski season ended in March, which consumed most of Darlene's time to that point. Darlene helped manage the food and beverage areas, learning many different aspects of running a grille and managing people. One of the benefits of the job is that Joe gets to snowboard every weekend. Yes, he is getting quite good for someone who hit the double nickel this year.

During the winter Joe's project was completing the infrastructure for moving 16 million tons of uranium mill tailings from Moab 30 miles to a new disposal cell being constructed at CJ. The start of hauling began in April with a celebration in early May that included the Governor of Utah and Congresswoman Grace Napolitano from southern California.

May was the month of traveling; we began in Chicago for John's graduation from Judson University. It was good to get together with family. This was followed by a trip to San Antonio for Joe's work with ASTM and the Office of Surface Mining within the Department of Interior. To finish off the month, we then took a 6-day raft trip-of-a-lifetime down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon with Joe's boss and his wife.



A stop on the Colorado River

June finds us in Victoria and Vancouver BC to attend another ASTM meeting. This is followed by Darlene spending time in Ohio with family and friends. It is important to visit with those who have blessed us. Joe joined her in Cleveland for the family's 50th anniversary of the Ritchey-Dager reunion held at the Ye Olde Mill in

Utica Ohio. It was great to see so many family members. Joe's dad and wife are doing well.



Mandy, John, James, Tim and Rachel in front of Uncle Dave's restaurant in Geneva, OH

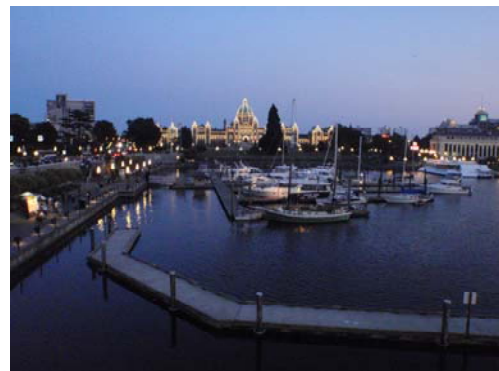
Summer activities for Joe were complicated by the Moab UMTRA project receiving \$100 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The recovery work was largely performed by the Remedial Action Contractor (RAC) (Joe manages the Technical Assistance Contractor (TAC) which supports the construction and tailings haul activities performed by the RAC). During this time Darlene was planning and assisting in weddings held at Powderhorn.

During July, James joined the Moab project by relocating from Los Alamos to Moab to be part of the ground water and surface water sampling team under the TAC contract.

Fall brought more travel to Charleston SC and news of John's engagement to Mandy Rivera of Elgin IL. We look forward to the wedding planned in February.

Tim continues working in the Cincinnati area as a Help Desk technician for a national business. Tim and Rachel Gibson announced their engagement on December 17th.

We are looking forward to a visit from Dar's mom and her brother, Bob and family for Christmas. The girls, Mandy and Rachel will join us after Christmas. Our hearts are blessed as we celebrate our Savior's birth.



Victoria, BC

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