

Joe Ritchey Family Christmas Greeting 2013

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from our family to yours. We hope that all is going well with you.

Last year at this time we were waiting for the arrival of our first grandson. This year we are enjoying watching him grow and learn. He is changing so quickly. We are looking forward to Tim, Rachel, Gavin, and James coming here for Christmas. I of course got a sled to take Gavin for a ride on the snow.

At the end of January, we traveled to Jacksonville, FL for an ASTM meeting. The weather was a little chilly, but we were able to visit St. Augustine. It was nice to get away for a little while.



In February, our friends, Lora and Rich Nedimyer, came for a visit. The highlights were tubing on

the slopes and visiting Arches NP in Moab. Naturally we stopped at Milt's in Moab for a hamburger and fries.

In April, Darlene, traveled back to Ohio with our nephew, Evan after his visit to Salt Lake to ski and Moab to hike. While there she took her mom to Gavin's for a visit.

In May we found ourselves in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Los Alamos. It was fun revisiting some of our favorite places and seeing some of our friends. Also Dad and MaryEllen moved into an independent facility. The Cleveland Ritchey's worked hard to make the move go smoothly.



My friend Laura Hambrick flew out for a couple days and to help me drive back to Ohio. I went back to help get Dad's house ready to sell. Joe joined me later to attend the ASTM meeting in Indianapolis with quick visits to Gavin's, Dad's, and Marylou Ellis in Champaign, IL. Joe received an award for his long-time service to the Committee on Soil and Rock.

John and Mandy came back to the states from Germany before moving to Bahrain in July, so we were able to spend time with them at Tim's at the end of June. Joe and I drove back home with a stop in Kansas to visit our friends, Charlotte and Larry Crosley.



I started volunteering at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction. I was using the new

skills that I learned at Guest Services at Powderhorn. It has been fun meeting new people and helping others.

In August, Joe and I flew to Bahrain to visit John and Mandy. We also took a quick trip to Dubai so that Joe could go snowboarding in the Mall of the Emirates. What an experience. It was at least 105 degrees outside most of the time. We thoroughly enjoyed time with the kids and learned about what they are doing and where they are living.



I flew back to Ohio at the end of September to help my mom find and move into an assisted living facility in Ashtabula. I was able to spend a week at Gavin's and even saw his mom and dad.

We added a new hobby this year as purchased hand guns for each other and took a couple classes on gun safety.



Joe and James took a day trip on the Durango Silverton Railroad to enjoy the fall colors.



Joe's dad has been having a rough time with circulation in his legs and has a couple procedures to help correct it. As I write this letter he has just upgraded from one rehab facility to another.

James purchased a Jeep so we've been able to do some four wheeling this fall.



With lots of November snow and very cold weather, Powderhorn opened early this year. I am working in the retail store and learning all about pricing, and marketing, and customer satisfaction.

Joe has been doing a little business traveling this month, last week to Idaho and this week Cincinnati.

All in all, it has been a good year. It was hard to see the parents move out of their homes, but it is what is needed for them. We have been blessed by our family, friends, and coworkers and wish you the very best in the new year.