

Merry Christmas, Everybody!!

Hope this Christmas finds you and your family doing well. This year has been thankfully uneventful and low-key.

First and most significantly, this September we were excited to make an addition to our family! We thought Chase might be lonely during the day, so we decided to adopt another Golden Retriever. Rosie is a six-year-old lover. She and Chase get along wonderfully - they love to wrestle with each other, and can get quite playful, much to the chagrin of our cats. She's very mellow, otherwise, and is a free spirit. Two cats, two dogs, and the two of us make for one packed household! In fact, I have a Retriever on either side of me right now, helping out with the letter this year!

It was a big wedding year for us, and even better - weddings in locations that made for great vacations! In July, we spent 10 days in Vancouver and Whistler, British Columbia for our friends Kevin and Candice's wedding. Whistler was absolutely amazing! Some of the trip highlights included a five-hour hike up to the snout of a glacier, a couple great days of mountain biking on trails that blew any in Austin away, and even white-water rafting and canoeing. As an added bonus, we got to see Laura (Catherine to the West Coasters), who took a quick train ride up from Seattle to spend a couple days with us.

Between the end of September and first week of October, we left for nine days in New England for my cousin Becci and her new husband John's wedding. The timing was perfect, as we went to Vermont the same time two years earlier for our honeymoon. This time, we spent most of our time hiking in New Hampshire. We did one hike along part of the Appalachian Trail that took us along the ridge of the mountains and over three peaks. The views from either side of the ridge were breathtaking. Including a stop on the way down for lunch at one of the Appalachian Trail huts (which had all 40+ bunks reserved for the night - in October!), the hike took us over six hours to complete - we were exhausted! The foliage was beautiful as well.

Alyssa is doing quite well. She left her job at Keyotee in late July, and is now doing some contract work that is taking up a good bit of her time. She is making the most of her extra free time following several creative pursuits. While I was working out of town one week in November, she completely remodeled our bedroom! I don't mean just splashing some paint on the walls - she painted the walls, hand-built a beautiful headboard and matching shelves for the wall, made curtains and pillows, and recovered her hope chest. And I thought I had had the long week come my return Friday. I was absolutely stunned. She's turning into a real Martha Stewart (fortunately Alyssa stays clear of our investment portfolio).

If you're itching to see how the room turned out, you're in luck. In addition to her carpentry and interior design adventures, Alyssa has also launched her very own "kiss my posterior!" to Creative

Memories - our on-line photo album! www.hedgefamily.net features pictures and commentary from events from the last four years. And while you're on line, be sure to send hate mail to the posers who took www.hedgefamily.com. :-p

As for me, things are also going very well. My wrists are fully healed now, and I am pleased to say that I rarely experience any ill effects of my accident. In fact, this summer I purchased a road bike! I still enjoy mountain biking, but love splitting time between the two. As for work, Vincera is still going strong after three years, despite the economy doing its worst to knock off technology businesses. We are extremely optimistic and excited about a few opportunities that may be presenting themselves early in the New Year - keep your fingers crossed!

Well, that's about it for now. It's hard to fill everyone in on a year's activities on one sheet of paper - be sure to drop by the website frequently to see what we're up to in 2003! We will be updating the site frequently with photos and journal entries on what is up at the Hedge Household! We wish your family a great New Year filled with joy and laughter!

Love,

Chris and Alyssa, Chase, Rosie, Emerson, and Maddie
www.hedgefamily.net