







Christmas, 2012

The older we get. . . The simpler our holiday preparations become. . . 
The closer we feel to dear friends and family as we write our Christmas letter. . . The more we cherish the oldest ornaments. . . The more fondly we remember Christmases past. . . The longer we hold on to those holiday hugs. . . The more we love Christmas!

Jim, Shirley, Braden & Ashleigh, Shaunelle & Derek

 *Send this greeting with warmest wishes for peace, joy and wonder every single minute of this season and every season this year and after.* 

 *As in years past, our annual Christmas letter is one way for us to remember all of the fabulous people and events we have been lucky enough to experience in the past year. Thank-you all for another fabulously wonderful and very special year!*

It wasn't a year without great sadness, however, as we lost several close relatives and friends, two of them due to the addiction to alcohol. We miss them all very much. But as Christmas approaches, we will concentrate on the amazing blessings and opportunities that we have experienced. It is time to reflect upon those and to appreciate our good health, our family and our friends.

2012 has been another spectacular year filled with weddings, family and friend's birthdays, barbecues at our house and other places, parties, reunions, concerts, sporting events, hikes in gorgeous areas of the country, Friday movie nights, Zoo Lights, museums, many long weekend and extended road trips.

We again enjoyed spending time with great friends at about 20 fun Viper Club events this year. These included day trips to several Colorado mountain resort towns, car collections, ghost tours, go-carting tracks, barbecues, festivals, tours of some great factories and even tractor and carousel rides in Burlington, Colorado.

Jim and I spent long weekends in Phoenix, Arizona; Deadwood, South Dakota; Santa Fe, New Mexico; and Ouray and Beaver Creek, Colorado with family and friends from work.

Longer road trips included a Viper trip, with about 40 of our favorite friends from five different states, to The Grand Staircase, Zion, Bryce, Escalante and Capital Reef National Parks over Memorial Weekend. We drove to Tennessee in August for the funeral of Jim's mom—a very sad occasion but wonderful family reunion. Then in September, twenty three members of our Viper family traveled cross country to our final destination of the 12th Viper Owner's Invitational in Charlotte, North Carolina. This was a twelve day trip with stops in Branson, Missouri; Bowling Green, Kentucky; Gatlinburg, Tennessee; and Ashville, North Carolina.

***BRADEN & ASHLEIGH** were married July 14th in Conifer, Colorado. We entertained about eighty at our house for the Rehearsal Dinner, the Reception was at Mount Vernon Country Club, and a Barbecue was hosted by Ashleigh's parents the day after the wedding. Lots of relatives on both sides came to town and celebrated together. The weather and festivities were perfect, a very special time of celebration for all of us. Braden is finishing classes at CU Denver Business School and is enjoying his marketing and management classes very much. He is still working at the Conifer Staples as the "Easy Tech Expert" Manager and will start an Internship with Chrysler Group, LLC starting next May. He will be working on a special project with local dealerships and this could turn into a career path for him. Braden is currently President of the High Country Republican Club and is very passionate about what is happening right now. Ashleigh, the most amazing*

woman in the world, says Braden, is currently working at Red Rocks Country Club. She has family in Ireland and that is where Braden and Ashleigh went on their honeymoon. They have both spent exhaustive hours dry-walling, painting, tiling and generally fixing up the small house where they live near Conifer.

SHAUNELLE & DEREK, in a relationship for almost four years now, live in a small and very cute apartment within walking distance of downtown Littleton. Shaunelle has enjoyed using some of her interior design skills to personalize their apartment just for them. They share that home with Callie, the Golden Retriever; Bella, the Chorky; Devon, the cat and Ellie, the rat. Shaunelle is working at Brilliant Sky Toys & Books in Southglenn Mall and loves it. She can't stop talking about the adorable children that come into the store with their parents. Derek was just promoted to a new position at Dish Network, also within walking distance of home. They both felt honored and thrilled to be able to play a part in Braden and Ashleigh's wedding in July and to help entertain family that stayed for another week of touring in Colorado. Derek lost his father in August, so it has been a very tough time for them, but with the amazing support of family and friends they have become stronger than ever. Jim and I are very lucky to have Shaunelle and Derek in our lives and feel that Derek is already a part of our family.

JIM is still Senior Loan Officer & Reverse Mortgage Specialist with Pinnacle Mortgage Group, fourteen years now and counting. It has become very challenging to help those wanting to purchase or refinance, with all of the new regulations and fees, so he is working harder than ever to get those loans closed. It is very rewarding to help so many people, especially in these economic times. He is a member of the Jeffco Sertoma Club, the Jefferson County Open Space Foundation and the High Country Republican Club. He is President of the Colorado/Utah/Wyoming Viper Club and Southwest Zone Director for Viper Club of America. This year has been so crazy busy that he hasn't had time to work on our 35 acres cutting and hauling trees. He's hoping that next year will be less busy so he can get out there again. No matter what he says, he loves working out in the woods with all of the deer, elk, fox, and other critters. Jim lost his mother in August. The six of us went to Tennessee for the funeral and to be with Jim's Dad and other family. His Dad is doing amazingly well with help from Tom, Jim's brother, and wife, Amy.

SHIRLEY - I've now been working in downtown Denver at Ensign United States Drilling Inc. as Field Recruiter for 2½ years. I love my job and the people I work with. I'm in my 6th year of being on the Jefferson County Planning Commission, the commission that makes recommendations on land use decisions for Jefferson County. For eleven years I've been President of Conifer Area Council. We've held 45 Community and Town Hall Meetings in that time, are working on character development, trails, historic preservation and a new master plan for the Conifer area. I'm still the Events Coordinator for the Viper Club. This is the really fun job because we get to travel to some amazing places and do some amazing events with amazing friends. I walk, hike and exercise as much as possible and am trying to get caught back up with those photo albums. We do so much every year that I can't remember it all without those pictures and our lives are too wonderful to forget even a minute. I lost an aunt, an uncle and two cousins this year. We miss them very much. My brother, other cousins and I are now the oldest generation. How could that be possible???

That's a quick glance at 2012 for us. We can't wait to hear from you and to get your cards and letters!



Never Lose the Magic!

Jim, Shirley, Braden & Ashleigh, Shaunelle & Derek

★ *Bob. Gorn,*
Have a Wonderful
Christmas!