



Bobs + Joan -

Wishing you many joys
this Christmas Season
and throughout the New Year.

Merry Christmas

Penelope &
Jim

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CHRISTMAS 2021...a little better forward picture than 2020 for sure, though this Covid thing keeps popping up around the county and around the world. Last year's trip to France/London/Sweden was postponed to this year and then again postponed to 2022 and changed to a biking trip all around the Netherlands plus London and Sweden and it's of course up in the air for next year too dependent upon if the countries are open to Americans traveling. Our family reunion was also postponed from 2021 to 2022. BUT...you're probably more interested in what happened regarding last year's breast cancer diagnosis, no? Well...I postponed that diagnosis from November in order to do our typical Christmas in Cabo trip. Then in early January I received a lumpectomy with no clear margins, so February 1st opted for a double mastectomy. So, if you've been saving that bra with A/D cups, you can toss it, as I am now fully an A cup gal and loving the weight loss, the ability to wear many clothes I couldn't before, and no inhibition to the golf swing! Jim's wonderful daughter Christian arrived 2 days after surgery to help with my care immediately following surgery. She thought she could play nurse and help rid me of some of the contraptions they had sent me home with, including pain killer probes that were to last 3 days at home and then be pulled out. After 20 minutes of just peeling off the tape holding everything in place, she started pulling out the first needle delivering pain medication and nearly fainted when she discovered it was about 12 inches long! Chris had to lie down on the cold tiled bathroom floor for 20 minutes to keep from fainting, before removing the 2nd needle! Jim and I laughed heartily at that! I recovered from the surgery in about 6 weeks, no chemo was required, and so March 15 began 6 weeks of radiation at Shaw Cancer Center in Edwards, Colorado, an hour west of here. They provided a free hotel room with access to their fully equipped kitchen, a physical therapist and a certified Exercise Physiologist for 2ce a week sessions and personal trainer workouts, a once a week massage, a nutritionist, a psychologist and a welfare person. All this to supplement my 15 minutes a day, 5 days a week of radiation. It felt more like a spa than a treatment center. I almost hated to go home on the weekends! A golf course fairly close opened the last 2 weeks of radiation, so I brought my clubs over and played a few rounds before anyone in Summit County got to! Friends occasionally drove over to take me to lunch, so the isolation wasn't unbearable. Sweet Jim stayed home to take care of my 19 year old cat, Midnight, who's scheduled to bite the dust just any day now, having lost about 30% of her weight over the last year. I love her dearly, and will miss her like crazy when she goes, but we're ready to be "empty nesters" to be able to travel more without leaning on friends and family to look after her. We're fully vaccinated and "Have Card Will Travel!"

Life began to be somewhat normal a month after radiation was over, when we flew to Cabo with friends for a week of relaxation and a bit of golf and sun the middle of May. Those friends moved later that summer to the Atlantic northeast, so the trip was especially dear. Our summer was full of golf and e-biking and a bit of hiking, and we returned to Cabo to see what its like in August...WINDY AND HOT! We will endeavor to keep our Cabo trips to the shoulder months henceforth.

The Viper Club took a back seat this year, as I had to cancel the national Viper Owner's Invitational in Miami leaving 2 days before radiation ended. But we did get to three or four fun events, including a visit with an airplane enthusiast, to Cripple Creek, to Ouray and to the Ugly Sweater Christmas party.

I was scheduled to go to Mexico City for 2 weddings in October, but a small lesion developed on the radiated breast, which worried the surgeon enough for me to cancel that trip. (All's fine now!) Then October 7-11, my great-niece Eliza (a 17 year old high school senior) and 2 of her friends arrived to tour Colorado universities. We went to Univ. Colo. in Colorado Springs and spent 2 hours walking the campus with a guide, then to lunch, then a tour of Garden of the Gods, then a drive-thru of Manitou Springs and finally home...an overly full day since Breckenridge is 2+ hours from Colorado Springs. The girls slept on the way home while this exhausted old lady drove bravely over the various mountain passes!

After a clean review by the radiologist in mid-November (Yes!), a Friendsgiving dinner with all the close friends just before Thanksgiving, and a quiet early December, we will go to Cabo again for Christmas and enjoy a few rounds of golf before the end of the year. I'm also looking forward (when we get some snow) to skiing again this season (missed it entirely in 2020!) Here's hoping you are all well and happy and devoid of Covid issues and thriving in this weird Covid environment! Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Hope to see some of you...after the cat's demise!

Love,

Penny and Jim