

# Merry Christmas



Dear friends and family,  
We wish you a blessed  
Christmas and a healthy,  
prosperous New Year.

Last December was momentous.  
Tammy and Natalie traveled to  
South Carolina to assist  
Courtney and Chris during the  
birth of Knox, our first



Tammy & Knox - Boiling Springs

great-grandchild. In their absence, Jim traveled to  
McKinney, TX with John, Sonya and Justin to join  
other Mines fans in cheering for  
the team in their second  
consecutive try for the D2 Football  
Championship. It was a great trip  
but, unfortunately, they came up  
short. December 27 was the  
anniversary of our first date (a



Nat & Knox - Boiling Springs

double date  
supervised

by Jim's good friend, Steve  
and his date). Steve's older  
sister hosted a taffy pull for us  
— almost 62 years ago. It was  
the start to a long, wonderful  
relationship. Thanks again  
Steve.



John & Sonya - McKinney

January found us in  
Breckenridge for a few days with John, Sonya, Kyle  
and Natalie, celebrating Nat's  
birthday. It was a wild celebration,  
consisting mainly (at Nat's  
request) of a bar crawl. Great  
time, but we don't think Kyle will  
be doing it again for a long time.  
Later in the month found us in  
Scottsdale with John and Sonya.



Nat's Birthday Bar Crawl

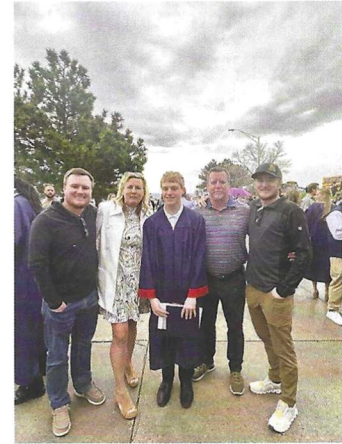
We attended the Barrett Jackson  
Auction, ogling hundreds of vehicles — quite  
impressive. Also played tourist and enjoyed some  
great food. On the way home (indirectly) we  
stopped in Palm Springs for  
a few days to visit with Bob

cardiologist thought it best to check out the cause of  
chest pains and shortness of breath.  
By mid-spring, after multiple tests,  
it was decided there was no  
problem with his heart. At present,  
it is being treated as GERD. In late  
February — early March, Chris,  
Courtney and Knox spent a few  
days here. Jim was honored to  
baptize Knox. This was made  
special by attendance by our entire  
family and the Randals.



Knox and Jim - Baptism

In April we spent a few  
days in Georgetown with  
Kyle and Natalie. We found  
that Natalie enjoys a fire as  
much as Jim — thanks to her  
getting one organized.



Justin, Sonya, Jake, John, James - AFA

In May, the entire clan  
traveled to the Air Force  
Academy for Jake's high  
school graduation.

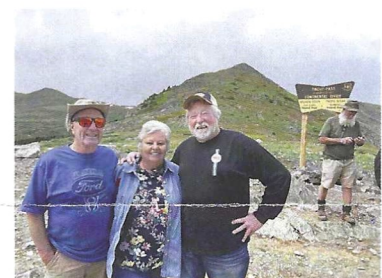


Becka with New Car

Congratulations Jake! He is now  
studying aircraft mechanics at  
Spartan College of Aeronautics  
and Technology.

In June, John and Sonya hosted a  
grandiose 60th anniversary party  
for us. We were humbled by the  
many attendees — some who  
traveled hundreds of miles. Thank you all —  
especially John and Sonya!

On the 4th of July weekend, we left the motor home  
at Jackson Lake and  
went to Estes Park to  
help Amber and Kirk tie  
the knot. What a  
beautiful venue for the  
occasion. We thank both  
families for making us  
feel so welcome. Later



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Nat's Birthday Bar Crawl

We attended the Barrett Jackson Auction, ogling hundreds of vehicles – quite impressive. Also played tourist and enjoyed some great food. On the way home (indirectly) we stopped in Palm Springs for a few days to visit with Bob and Kaye. This is always a fun time with good friends. We still reminisce about our first double date with them. The New Year Eve dinner tab was \$19.76 in 1976!



Kaye, Tammy, Bob & Jim - Palm Springs

We lost Koa, Toni's dog, on February 3. We still miss her, but do get to keep Maya, Kyle and Nat's dog occasionally. Early February into April we slowed down a little. After a visit to the ER, Jim's

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Justin, Sonya, Jake, John, James - AFA

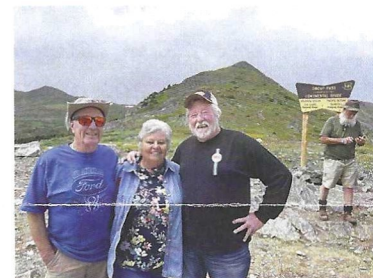


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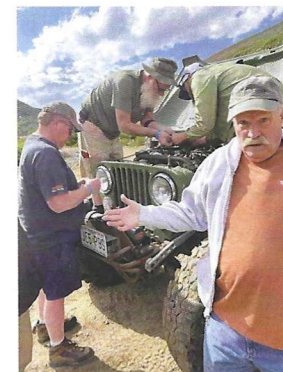
Congratulations Jake! He is now studying aircraft mechanics at Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology.

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Jim, Tammy, Bob & Dan - Tincup Pass



Breakdown - Tin Cup Pass

on the weekend, we enjoyed boating, eating, games, fireside conversation, and magnificent fireworks at the lake. It was a fun time with John, Sonya and most of the grandkids. Next we motored to Buena Vista for our annual two weeks of four wheeling, sightseeing, discussions and hiking with friends from Colorado, Ohio, Missouri,



Death March Crew - Brown Lake Trail

Arizona and ... Kudos to Kyle, Natalie, Dan and all for helping Jim survive the 6 mile hike.

August found us in Tennessee for Morgan's graduation from Lincoln Memorial University

as a Physicians Assistant. Congratulations Morgan! What a great few days with our extended family in Cumberland Gap. From the graduation we headed to Lexington to pick up Mike (Tam's brother) and friend Jan for 12 days in Kentucky and



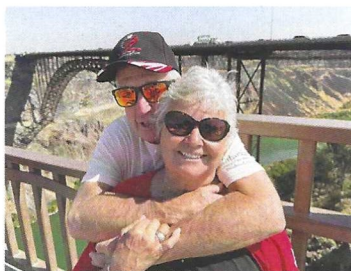
Justin & Morgan - Lincoln Memorial



Mike, Jan, Tammy, Jim - Lexington

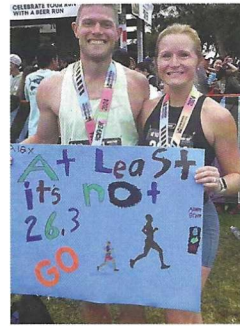
Tennessee. We tasted whiskey at 8 distilleries and visited many interesting places. Perhaps Jim's favorites were the champion horse barns and the Jack Daniel's tour – the guide was outstanding. Our visit to Nashville was entertaining. Our stay at the Gaylord was memorable.

September found us on a magnificent trip to Wyoming and Idaho with our Viper Club. The scariest time was early in the trip was in a rainstorm when our leaders (Jim and Shirely) did a 540 off the highway into the muddy median. Three hours later they were towed out and we were on our way again. No one was hurt and only minor damage was incurred. For us the Twin Falls area was beautiful, and the Craters of The Moon was awesome.



Jim & Tammy - Twin Falls

Yellowstone Park (as usual) was a definite highlight.



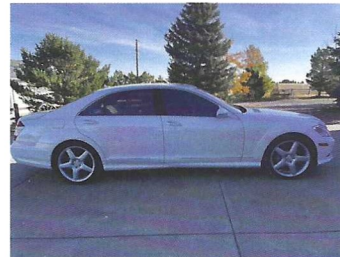
Kyle & Nat - Long Beach

We joined Kyle, Natalie, Kevin, Lynda, Geoffrey and Katya Quinn in Long Beach to support and watch Kyle, Nat and Geoffrey run in the October marathon. They all impressed us with their stamina. Kyle and Natalie finished among the leaders of the over 20,000 runners. Wow!

November has been pretty slow. We received a needed 2 feet of snow with some wind over 3 days. No complaints from Jim about chest pains and shortness of breath when shoveling. Tammy had jury duty scare, but she didn't pass the screening.

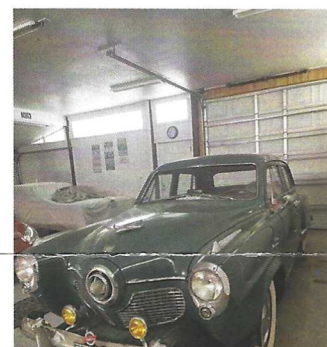


November Snow



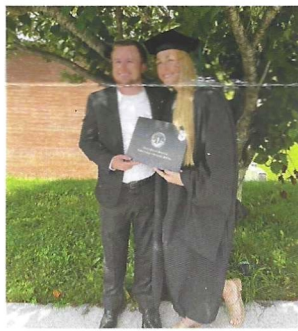
Tammy's Mercedes-Benz

Tammy has kept busy with her usuals: bargain hunting, swimming, keeping up with family and friends.... In addition, she is planning an 80th birthday celebration for her 1963 high school class. She has become the proud owner of a 2009 Mercedes-Benz S550. So far it has been kind of intimidating with the comfort and performance choices. She is preparing for Christmas early this year as Chris, Courtney and Knox are coming early for Knox's birthday and Christmas. Some of Jim's projects were installing a new hot water heater (after 26 years) and well water tank and repairing a major underground leak between the well and house. Then a few months later he was inspired to dig up and replace the entire line between the well and house. In May, we took a short trip to Salt Lake City to pick up a 1951 Studebaker. At least



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Light the Night - Wash Park

Yellowstone Park (as usual) was a definite highlight. However, the best was spending nine days and evenings with great people. Later in the month, our Light the Night team, organized by Nat, walked in memory of

Toni, Tracy and Roy, who have all earned their angel wings. The month was concluded by attending the Colorado School of Mines Homecoming and celebrating 150 years of educating. It was moving and enjoyable spending time with many fellow graduates, especially Jack, Sandy, John and Sonya.

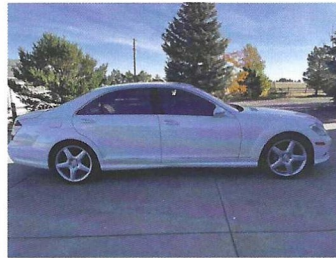
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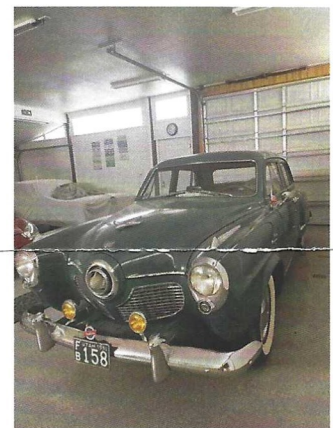
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Jim's Studebaker

We have been blessed with another year on this planet.

Love as always,  
Jim and Tammy

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