

Summers Scrapbook 2004

In what can best be described as an annual event, I find myself once again in front of the computer staring at a blank screen trying to decide where the year had gone. I feel as though it was just yesterday that I was following the same steps to recount what happened in that year, 2004 has been a year of transition for us as we have seen many changes occur during the past 12 months. Even the Christmas traditions we have established have changed this year. Instead of spending time decorating the Christmas tree and the house, I find there are only a few things around the house and our looming 9 ½ foot tree has been replaced with a 3 foot fiber-optic tree. Rather than wrapping presents in bright colored paper, they are being wrapped in plain brown paper to make their way to a box or suitcase. In what can best be described as temporary insanity, the family has decided to leave the warm weather of Arizona to celebrate the holidays on the frozen tundra of Idaho. I have never felt so unprepared in my life. It has been a decade since we last spent Christmas in Idaho and because of this we find that none of us are prepared for the cold weather. Gone are the thoughts of shorts and opening presents in the sunshine along the pool. Now our thoughts are if we own enough socks to keep us warm during our journey. So while Trina tries to explain to Dakota that he cannot just wear shorts under his snow pants, I will try and document all that has happened during 2004. I invite you to come along with me as we look back over all that has made this year so memorable.

January

The year began with a flurry of activity. Beginning with New Years, the family partied for 2 days as they celebrated Whitney's tenth birthday. Mallorie is a senior in high school and is in a government competition where her debate team goes to the finals and narrowly misses going to nationals in Washington DC. Dakota is back on the soccer field playing

spring ball and absolutely loves it. He is one of the best goalies and sweepers they have. During this month Jeff took Dakota to Bank One Ballpark to a motorcycle super cross race. Jeff has pit passes so Dakota got to meet the riders and hang out with them in their trailer. He came home with hats, posters and lots of autographs. The month ended with the family putting Trina on a plane to Indiana so she could go to a scrapbook retreat with her sister KayeLynn.

February

As February arrived, Jeff and Trina practiced tag-team parenting. Trina arrived home from Indiana where Jeff met her at the airport and handed her the keys as he left for San Francisco. Jeff is still traveling quite a bit for work as their deadlines loom to implement the latest version of their software. Mallorie has been getting ready for her final months of high school and beyond. This month she was formally admitted to BYU Idaho and will begin classes in January 2005. Jeff and Trina are very proud of her and all of her accomplishments. This month Jeff's parents came to Arizona to visit. It meant a lot for the family to see them and they are very excited whenever they come down. The month ended with silliness as Jeff held leap day celebrations for the family to commemorate February 29th.

March

To the family, March means only one thing: Spring Training. Jeff again drags the kids to ballgames so he can begin to get into training for the upcoming 162 game schedule. While baseball is still a passion, he is working a lot more hours which is cutting into his game time. His hard work is paying off though as he has successfully implemented Wells Fargo's new bill payment system. At the end of this assignment he began looking for a new challenge and during a trip to Atlanta GA he found one. Jeff accepted a position as Senior Architect for all of wholesale. Trina is hoping this means less hours but that doesn't

Summers Scrapbook 2004

mean more time for baseball. Dakota finished soccer season this month and while his team did not win many games, he had fun and learned a lot more soccer skills.

April

As the month opened, Trina and Jeff found themselves in a very familiar place. They were once again in the stands at Bank One Ballpark to watch the Arizona Diamondbacks begin another season. Jeff went in with high expectations for the team which meant that he was going to be miserable for the entire season as he watched his team decline in the standings. April is also a big month for Dakota as he celebrates his birthday this month. He is now seven years old which just amazes Jeff and Trina. On one hand it is hard to believe it has been that long since he was born and on the other hand based upon his daredevil ways on a skateboard and bicycle it is amazing he has survived this long.

May

May was by far the busiest month of the year for the family and was filled with activity. The month began with the family going on vacation to Orlando FL. While Jeff and Trina make this an annual trip, this is the first time the whole family has gone. It was a wonderful trip which Jeff documented along the way by video and camera. Dakota was such fun, every ride he went on was his favorite except for the Tower of Terror. It left him speechless for 5 minutes at which time he proclaimed, "that ride has scary death written all over it". Trina celebrated mother's day at the Magic Kingdom and had dinner w/ Mickey Mouse. In order to keep the Mother's Day frog tradition intact, Jeff and the kids made her ride Splash Mountain and pointed out Brer Frog to her. There was of course the annual Mother's Day frog hunt where she searched for her presents. Upon returning from Florida, the activities continued with Mallorie graduating from High School. Family came down for this occasion and we enjoyed

visiting with everyone and having them at the house.

June

When June started, Tiffany went to girls camp. This year is the first year she will not have Mallorie there with her. Tiffany is really growing up and just finished middle school. Next year she will be a freshman at Corona del Sol High School. It is hard to believe that this month marked her fourteenth birthday. She is now able to go to the Stake Dances and before long it will be time for Jeff to begin to explain the dating rules to her. Jeff does not think that Tiffany will be dating much when she reaches 16. She is a much better athlete than the boys her age and Jeff's rule is that the boy must be able to hit better than his daughter. Jeff took Dakota to a K-Mart Hot Wheels Collector day and his name was drawn for a limited edition set of 186 cars. He thought that was pretty cool and shows everyone who comes to the house. Trina and Mallorie are working lots of hours for Mountainside Fitness. They both work in childcare and they also work on the rock wall. People are amazed that they are mother and daughter. Trina is thrilled at the complement but Mallorie is not so sure about that. This month the family had to say good-bye to Dog Dot Com. Dottie had not been feeling well and had lost a lot of weight. It was determined that she had a liver ailment and had to be put to sleep. She is really missed.

July

The family stayed in Arizona for Independence Day and watched the fireworks from pool side in the back yard. The kids spend nearly every waking hour out at the pool as they take advantage of the cool water in the hot weather. Jeff is again traveling back and forth to San Francisco in his new role of architect. Whitney and Dakota are enjoying the summer and the times that Trina takes them to the library. Whitney thoroughly enjoys her reading time

Summers Scrapbook 2004

and looks forward to summer where she can catch up on all the books she wanted to read. Dakota just likes going to the library to play on the computers.

August

With Mallorie now admitted to BYU Idaho, she wants to make a trip to Idaho to visit campus so that she can make decisions on housing and classes. At first Jeff and Trina decided against it but after Mallorie's persuasive arguments they agreed. The problem was that Jeff was busy at work so the family decided they would leave him home and go north. This decision had ramifications that would come back to haunt Trina. While she was gone, Jeff went shopping for a new vehicle. He called to tell her what a great deal he had found on a Corvette but she explained that was not going to happen and he needed to look at something different. He took that as an approval and soon after Trina returned she learned that Jeff had bought a 2005 Harley-Davidson Night Train motorcycle. As the kids returned to school, Jeff found that sleeping on the couch was not so bad. It was kind of like camping with air conditioning.

September

September began with Jeff attending motorcycle safety training and getting his license. Right after that, he and Mallorie flew to Orlando to attend a pin conference at Walt Disney World. They were both excited about it until they found out that they would be staying with Charley, Frances and Ivan. Since a hurricane was one natural disaster that Jeff had not experienced, this seemed like the perfect opportunity. After all, it was just wind right? The damage caused by these storms was enormous but Jeff and Mallorie survived. In fact, they decided they would always go to Disney World during hurricane season since they could walk directly onto every ride without a line. For the work Jeff did at the pin

event, he was awarded a Continuing the Tradition pin by a cast member which was quite an honor. They both had fun even if Mallorie did make Jeff sing the Dora the Explorer Backpack song every time he wanted something from her backpack. He got even though; he made her sing the Kim Possible song and embarrassed her in front of several cast members.

October

Dakota is once again playing soccer. While this is his second year it is his third season. He is one of the older players on his team and because he spent all summer practicing in the backyard, he has one of the strongest legs. He would be a perfect forward with his leg strength but he only wants to play defense and goalie. One highlight was when he blocked a shot in goal then drop kicked it the length of the field into the other goal. It didn't count as a score but it did open some eyes. Whitney is now in her final year of elementary school being in the fifth grade. Tiffany is now in the ninth grade in high school and Dakota is in second grade. The kids are settling into school and having a great time. During fall break Tiffany went on a pioneer trek where she re-enacted the Saints migration. She had fun even though as a pioneer she died along the trail. It is an experience she will not soon forget.

November

Dakota finished soccer this month and had a blast playing. His favorite position is sweeper and he is very good at it. Jeff's parents came down and were able to see one of his last games. He didn't win but that didn't matter as he did his best and enjoyed his time. Mallorie traveled to Utah to see her friends, Ashley and Eli. Since she will be leaving before her friends come home and will not be back until August she wanted the road trip. Jeff too was traveling. He had a meeting with the LDS

Summers Scrapbook 2004

church to discuss software that would allow church members to pay donations via the internet. He was able to go up the night before and spend time with Ashley and Eli. He took them out to dinner and thoroughly enjoyed his time with them. Jeff, Trina and Mallorie all attended the annual Turkey Trot at the elementary school. Mallorie ran with Whitney while Jeff and Trina ran with Dakota. Jeff paid the price for this activity when he dislocated his knee and could not move it. Trina could not tell if he was more upset that his leg hurt or that he couldn't ride his motorcycle. Jeff rides nearly every day so to take a few days off nearly killed him. For Thanksgiving, Jeff took Dakota to K-Mart for a Hot Wheels event. Their luck held out and Jeff was drawn for a limited edition Hummer car. Dakota was extremely excited.

December

December brought another wave of activities as the family began to wind down the year. Mallorie's last day of work is in mid-December and she is working lots of hours up to that deadline. Her efforts were rewarded as she was named employee of the month for Mountainside Fitness. Trina is very proud of her and will really miss working with her daily. Because the family is spending Christmas in Idaho, much of their shopping this year is being done electronically and shipped directly to its destination. After all, Mallorie is taking most of the house with her to school. That coupled with the massive amounts of clothing it will take to keep the family warm means room is at a premium. The family will leave in mid-December and Jeff will travel with them as far as Salt Lake, I le then catches a plane to San Francisco while Trina and the kids continue north. Jeff has accepted the position as Channel Architect for all Payment Systems within Wells Fargo and must attend meetings during the week of

Christmas arriving just in time for the festivities.

So as we pause from the hustle and bustle of this holiday season, this newsletter gives us an opportunity to reminisce and recount all the blessings we have been given. We are each grateful for what we have been given. The Lord has blessed us with good health and an abundance of wonder family and friends. There is not a day that goes by that we do not give thanks to our Heavenly Father for all he has given us. We are grateful for the service opportunities in the church and community as it allows us to meet some wonderful people and make life long friendships. We are thankful to count each of you within our circle of friends and look forward to spending time together. While we are grateful to have the opportunity to look back on the past year our thoughts are already on what lies ahead. The upcoming year is full of hope as we experience new and exciting things and we would love to have you be our companions during our mortal trek. Our thoughts and prayers will be with all of you during this wondrous holiday season.

*Jeff, Trina, Mallorie, Tiffany,
Whitney, & Dakota*