

Summers Scrapbook 2007

As the calendar rolls to a new month it seems like only yesterday that I was sitting in this exact chair contemplating the activities from the previous year. As we get older it seems as though time marches along more quickly with each passing moment. Fortunately for me Trina is older so I can safely observe the runaway calendar from a distance before having to experience it myself. I can say things like that because I know I am the only person in this family who is technologically capable of editing this document hence I have the power. Let me assure you that this is the only power I seem to have so no one need worry about my plans for world domination. It is that time once again when Trina and the children busy themselves around the house decorating for the holidays while I am banished to the computer to chronicle the activities from the past year. It's a fair trade, I don't have to climb a ladder and Trina doesn't have to try and figure out what menu item controls column width or font leading. I invite you to pull up a chair and a cup of hot chocolate as I attempt to put on paper the misadventures we have experienced during 2007.

January

January is typically a quiet month at our house so the family was quite surprised to find quite the opposite happen this year. It started off with Whitney's birthday where she turned 13 and officially became a teenager. Mallorie returned to school at BYU-Idaho for her sophomore year. She is majoring in Spanish education and having a great time. Dakota is now on a travelling soccer team which has tournaments every month. This month they were in Tucson where they tied for first place in their division. Large numbers of people were seen fleeing Arizona this month when Tiffany received her driver's license and became a legal driver. To celebrate she dented the bumper on the Suburban. Jeff and Trina are still not sure what happened there. Jeff had a meeting with the Arizona Diamondbacks this month. Based upon his web site they are interested in having him collaborate on a book detailing the 10 year history of the team. Trina continued to struggle with her health and went through a minor surgical procedure that will hopefully resolve some of the pain she has been experiencing. For a change Jeff is now taking care of her which the family believes is a sign that the end of the world is at hand.

February

February started out with Tiffany beginning track season. She is a junior at Corona del Sol high school and the coaches have big plans for her in the high jump and the triple jump. Dakota spent the month travelling to several soccer tournaments around the state. His team is doing quite well considering this is their first year playing together. Dakota is becoming quite proficient as a midfielder and as a striker. With each game he seems to get more confidence. Whitney is a seventh grader at Apprende Middle School and has made the honor band playing the flute. This month the honor band was given an opportunity to play at Disneyland in California. They met with the head of Disney music and learned a song from a Disney movie. They played the song and had it recorded to a movie sound track. Whitney was thrilled and impressed with the results. Jeff, Trina, Tiffany, and Dakota travelled to Disneyland to watch Whitney and have some fun at the parks. When he returned from California Jeff received a promotion from Wells Fargo. He is now a Vice President working as a solutions architect. He is responsible for developing the direction for all of their online payment systems for their wholesale line of business.

March

March at the Summers' household can mean just one thing, baseball season has arrived. Jeff, Tiffany, and Dakota all went to a Spring Training game on Jeff's birthday while Whitney and Trina went to school. Prior to the game Jeff received a phone call from the Arizona Diamondbacks who wanted to interview him for a feature article in their magazine. They were interested in his web development and with his blog which is now being visited by over 250,000 people per month. The article will appear in the April issue just in time for Opening Day. Tiffany has decided to follow in her sister Ashley's footsteps and become a lifeguard. She completed the training this month and hopes to work at one of the Chandler pools this summer. She also began track season this month with her first meet. She took first place in both the high jump and the triple jump and exceeded state qualifying marks while winning these events. The coaches are extremely excited that Tiffany is beginning the year where she left off last season. Whitney entered a National History Day competition and her entry on Helen Keller won first place.

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in the school and also in the region placing her at the state competition at the capitol in Phoenix. Jeff took her to the competition while Trina took Dakota to yet another out of town soccer tournament. Whitney won honorable mention at state while Dakota was named Most Valuable Player at the tournament. Jeff was proud of all of them but he was especially proud of Whitney because after her state History Day competition she went to the Diamondbacks game and was Mustard in the Hot Dog condiment races where she beat Ketchup and Relish to win the prize pack.

April

As April arrived Jeff headed out of town to Denver Colorado to watch the Arizona Diamondbacks season opener. He claimed it was research for the book but Trina knew better than to believe that. Jeff went with his friend Mitch Jarvis and they had a blast watching the Diamondbacks come from behind to win. Jeff arrived home just in time to greet Trina's sister KayeLynn and her husband Mike who came to visit over the Easter holiday. It was wonderful spending time together with them. Trina especially enjoyed hanging out and sharing craft ideas with her sister. Jeff and Trina made their annual trek to Chase Field to watch the Diamondbacks home opener. This date marks the first of 81 nights that Jeff would be at the ballpark with one of the family. It was an eventful night as a foul ball came into the stands and Jeff caught it for Trina. Dakota was eager to go to a game and got his chance this month. While at the ballpark he was approached to be the honorary bat boy for the Diamondbacks and got to go down on the field with the players prior to the game. The Diamondbacks called Jeff this month and invited him to be their guest at the pool area in right field for a game. He was able to get 4 tickets so that Trina, Tiffany, and Dakota could also attend. It was an amazing game and an incredible experience. Tiffany continued her track dominance winning the city championship in triple jump and high jump. She has now qualified for state in both events. Dakota celebrated his 10th birthday in a most fitting way. He went to the Diamondbacks game and took some of his friends. His birthday happened to be bobble head day which totally impressed the boys he took with him to the game.

May

Fresh from her city championship, Tiffany entered the regional track meet in May and won both the triple jump and the high jump. She is making quite a name for herself and she is getting very close to eclipsing Trina's high jump mark and Ashley's triple jump mark. While she is very competitive there is a part of her that doesn't want to break those marks out of respect for her family. She is definitely a wonderful kid. Jeff and Trina are very proud of her. Tiffany did well at state but was unable to put together a series of jumps that she was happy with and just missed the finals. It was still a very successful year for her and something to build on for next season. The kids and Trina got out of school this month and the very next day Tiffany left for girls' camp. Trina and Whitney left for camp the next day leaving Jeff and Dakota home alone. That of course is very dangerous which Trina found out when she returned to find that Jeff had replaced her stove, refrigerator, and 2 ceiling fans. The boys are not saying why these things had to be replaced and Trina is just glad to see the new ones are working and the house hadn't burned down.

June

June was a very eventful month to say the least. It began with Jeff and Trina going to a Diamondbacks game (that part was normal). When they arrived at the ballpark they received a call from Whitney who claimed the house was being attacked by killer bees. Jeff thought that meant 1-2 bees but it actually meant approximately 15,000 Africanized bees who were somehow drawn to the house. Jeff told the kids to stay in the house and he would take care of it after the game; not exactly what the kids wanted to hear. So while the game was going on Trina was working with an exterminator who went to the house to destroy the bees and rescue the kids. The good news is that the bees are gone and the Diamondbacks won. Jeff and Trina spent their 26th wedding anniversary at Chase Field watching a ball game which Jeff seems to think was much more romantic than last year when they were at Disney World. Jeff did get her something nice from the team shop and let her pick wherever she wanted to eat at Chase Field; she chose the Lexus club. They watched as the Diamondbacks beat the Tampa Bay Devil Rays for the first time in team history so it was a very good night. The end of the month the family went to Idaho to visit.

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Everyone that is except Tiffany who had to stay home and work. Things did not start off well. Tiffany was involved in a car accident the first night Jeff and Trina were gone. Fortunately no one was hurt but the car suffered substantial damage that would take several months to repair.

July

While visiting in Idaho; Jeff's mother was admitted to the hospital. Jeff and the family were very worried about her health but fortunately the doctors were able to give her the treatment necessary to allow her to go home. It was a wonderful visit with family in Idaho and Jeff was even able to talk Trina into making a couple of seat cushions in the new Diamondbacks colors of Sedona Red and Black. This of course led to several sleepless nights for Trina but the cushions turned out incredible. Several people have offered to purchase them and are amazed to hear she made them by hand. She is definitely a talented woman. This month Mallorie came home from school. She has successfully survived another Winter-Summer track and is now a junior. Ashley came home with Mallorie so she did not have to drive alone. It was amazing to have all the kids under one roof again but it made Jeff and Trina realize how large their family has become. While here the family all went to the Harry Potter book premier and dressed up in their muggle shirts and entered the costume contest. It was a lot of fun even though they did not get home until well after 2 AM. The month ended with Ashley returning to Utah and Trina returning to work at the Kyrene School District.

August

As August arrived Jeff was called to be the Executive Secretary in the bishopric. The family believes this is yet another sign of the second coming. Trina has been called to work in the nursery which is very similar to what she does at home dealing with Jeff and the kids. This month marked back to school time for the kids. Dakota is now in the fifth grade meaning it is his last year of elementary school. Whitney is in the eighth grade meaning it is her last year of middle school. Tiffany is a senior at Corona del Sol meaning it is her last year of high school. Mallorie is working at World Gym meaning the day she moved back home was the last day her bedroom was clean. Jeff continues to spend most of his time at Chase Field and working on his book and his web sites. He has developed

quite a relationship with the team that took another unexpected turn this month when he was asked to become a columnist for the team's publication D-Backs Insider. He has a monthly column titled "Summers in the Stands" and is about to write about anything he thinks the fans might be interested in. Jeff thinks the Diamondbacks might want to rethink the creative freedom they have given him as no good can come from this. His first column appeared in this month's issue and so far feedback has been good.

September

September was another busy month for the family. Jeff was travelling for work going to meetings in Huntington Beach California then rushing home to go to Arizona Diamondbacks baseball games. Tiffany too is keeping close tabs on the team and makes sure Jeff doesn't miss anything while he is gone. The entire family goes to the game for special events such as bobble head nights or Fandemonium. During one of these games Tiffany and Dakota were sitting in the upper deck where they won \$50 gift cards to Fry's Marketplace for groceries. Tiffany and Jeff also attended a game and an post-game concert where the group Smash Mouth performed. It was a lot of fun and they both had a blast. Whitney this month is involved in honors testing for advanced placement in high school. She has already skipped a grade in math and now her teachers are evaluating what other subjects to have her test out of. Whitney is taking all of this in stride. Dakota's soccer team disbanded due to lack of players in the league and so he finds himself not playing soccer for the first time in over two years. It is probably good to give him a break but Trina is not sure she can deal with him and all of his energy around the house for an extended time.

October

When October began the Arizona Diamondbacks had won the National League Western Divisional title putting them in the play-offs against the Chicago Cubs. Trina only thought things were crazy around the house during the regular season that was nothing compared to what it was like when the post season started. The month began with the family attending the team party on Rally Monday commemorating them making it into the play-offs. This was followed by two games in Arizona where the Diamondbacks beat the Cubs and ultimately would sweep the series putting them in the National League

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Championship Series for the first time since 2001. Jeff was completely insane at the thoughts that his team might actually go to the World Series. That was of course until the Diamondbacks faced the Colorado Rockies and were swept in 4 games. It was all Trina could do to keep Jeff from becoming suicidal once he realized that baseball season was over for the year. What made matters worse was the fact that Mallorie proclaimed herself a Red Sox fan. Jeff asked Dakota what they should do about that and Dakota's suggestion was, "I think you should kick her butt for that!" Out of the mouths of babes...

November

November began with Trina and Mallorie dancing at enrichment meeting; something Jeff hoped he would never have to witness. Trina is enjoying having Mallorie around and spending time with her at church and at home. Tiffany is busy preparing for high school graduation and is ordering cap and gown and invitations which helps to remind everyone of how busy 2008 is going to be. Whitney is once again in band and has earned first chair in the flute section. Dakota is desperately trying to stay out of trouble at school which so far has not worked out too well. He keeps coming home with reports that say he talks a lot in class and has become the class clown. Jeff cannot seem to figure out how this has happened and has come to the conclusion that despite his best teachings the boy has chosen to take after his mother. This year marks the final year that one of the kids will be participating in the Turkey Trot fun run at the elementary school. It was kind of sad since Jeff and Trina have been attending these since they moved to Arizona. It seemed somewhat appropriate that Mallorie would attend this one with Dakota since she was the first child in the family to be involved with the Turkey Trot. Unfortunately she was no match for Dakota and he ended up leaving her in the dust. After he finished the race he went back on the course and found her and ran the rest of the way with her to the finish. Tiffany is taking several photography classes and entered two of her photos in the Arizona State Fair. She received a First Place and an Honorable Mention on her pictures and had people who were interested in buying prints.

December

As December began Tiffany had a photo show at the school as part of the photography club. It was very well received and she had many people commenting on her work. She has about decided that she would like to major in photography in college which has made Jeff very excited. Tiffany is preparing for school and this month took the college entrance exams and is now awaiting the results. She is still hoping to receive a track scholarship and has received one offer but is not sure she is interested in attending a small school in California. She's really holding out hoping that BYU will be interested but that might be too much of a dream. The family has been relatively healthy this year until this month when Jeff had an accident while putting up Christmas decorations severely bruising a couple of ribs and making him unbearable to be around while he heals. He is now practicing "better living through chemistry" which will hopefully lessen the whining.

The family is now preparing for Christmas to arrive. Ashley and Eli will be arriving shortly before and will be spending the holidays in Arizona. This will be the first time since they have been married that they will be in Arizona for Christmas so everyone is looking forward to that. As the year begins to wind down I am left thinking not only about the past 12 months and the many blessings we have received but also about the future and what it holds in store for us. 2008 is already eagerly being planned with many activities penciled onto the calendar. I hope that you will join us and share in all of the fun and excitement we have planned. The memories we have gained are our most precious gifts and we would love to make you a part of them. It is our prayer that your lives will be blessed and that you will find joy and happiness in the coming year and that you will take time to write and let us know what has happened in your lives as well.

Jeff, Trina

Mallorie, Tiffany, Whitney & Dakota