



**Happy
Holidays**

**20
17**





Season's Greetings

I'm Tweety, (Rob's airplane) and once again I have been relegated to the hangar waiting for Rob to visit. Since I have some spare time, I'll tell you about their antics.

Surprisingly, there was only one house project this year. Rest assured, it didn't go smoothly. While relocating the furnace thermostat they lost the surround speaker plugs in the wall. Rob thought it would be clever to use the same chase as the speaker wires. It works if you don't snag the snake wire on the speaker wire and pull the whole situation behind the drywall. At that point, Ann went to the grocery store and left Rob to work out the problem. When she returned, everything was in its place and it wasn't mentioned again.

Seeing that it was "boring" at home, they decided to take on projects at Rob's cousins' vacation cabin in VT. Rob learned the fine art of glass cutting and glazing. Some lessons are more expensive than others, as he broke six panes in the process. The only price Rob and Ann paid for getting the house ready for the sliding to be stained/sealed (Thank you, Susan) and all the upstairs flooring (Thank you, Brenda) to be replaced, was sore muscles. To soothe the muscles, they replaced several mattresses. It's entertaining to watch a delivery truck try to squeeze into a smallish rural VT driveway. In addition to sore muscles, Ann found out how fast she can move when needed. A mouse decided to say hi when they were replacing the carpet in the hall closet. Ann went from the floor to the kitchen chair in the blink of an eye. Despite all the chores, Rob managed to add his own "tech" touches to the house. It now has an Apple TV, amplifier, stronger wifi, security cameras and a weather station. In addition to moving wood, cleaning area rugs and fixing various odds and ends, they weren't all working weekends in VT. Most people would say butter and cheese makes everything better, so does MAPLE SYRUP! They took a tour of several sap houses in the process of boiling; educational as well as tasty! They hosted friends from OH and made the pilgrimage to the Von Trapp Lodge (you're welcome, MB) in Stowe, VT.

Stowe wasn't the only pilgrimage this year. Rob and I returned to Sun-N-Fun and Oshkosh. It was great to catch up with my buddies after getting gypped last year. I missed the Colorado ski trip (no broken bones), but was able to visit

Rob's mother at the beach. I often get left in the hangar because I can't hold as much stuff as the car. That's why I sat out the trip to Washington, DC for Ann's 50th birthday. How much room do you need to transport your Georgetown Cupcakes? Mother Nature got the last laugh though, it took them an extra day to get home because of snow. Gotta love those December birthdays! Rob loves a good research project and not wanting to lose touch with the fish world; they went to Reefapalooza (no, I'm not making that up) in NYC. Ann was mesmerized by the pretty fish and Rob crawled all over the infrastructure; something for everyone! To mark their 25th wedding anniversary they took a weekend trip to Hyde Park. Rob didn't see himself visiting the home of a Democratic president for his anniversary, but it turned out to be very interesting. Rob continued to explore his new surroundings by motorcycle and of course that came with its own host of challenges (or excuses to buy toys). His excursions often require an early morning departure and since it's cold (Rob is such a delicate fleur), why not buy a heated bib to keep yourself toasty. Next comes the earphones; at least they're multi-purpose. Rob uses them to reduce the road/wind noise and improve his "Bellebeer" experience. Let's not forget the flat tire at 4:30 on a Saturday afternoon on his way to visit Hope in VT.

Since all the fun can't be had traveling, it's a good thing Rob is still loving his job at Phillips! Even though they continue to have issues with the VLM (a multi-level steel box with a robotic arm that pulls inventory based on computer requests), he can safely say that it hasn't eaten anyone lately. Ann isn't quite ready to let go of Cleveland and continues to make a monthly trip for work. She is glad to have a lighter work load since her sister retired in April. It has given them more time to visit each other and travel to NYC.

They didn't spend all their money on travel this year. Let's not forget the 10th anniversary of the iPhone. Yes, they were the crazy Kool-Aid drinkers that got up at 3am to order two new phones. Well worth the interrupted sleep, so say them!

We hope this finds you happy, healthy and looking forward to 2018!