

Season's Greetings,

Tony (the 4-seat Tiger airplane that Rob flies) here again to bring you up to speed.

In January and February Rob made several trips to Killington to ski. On one trip he bought new skis to "help him ski faster". Ann's reaction was to buy a new computer to make *Microsoft Golf* run faster.

I've always said flying is better than driving and on one trip to visit her mother, Ann thought I might be right. With only 45 minutes left in an eight-hour drive the van's transmission decided to die. After many phone calls, a few new gray hairs and no dinner, Ann finally arrived in Potsdam with the van on a flat bed truck. The transmission was "serviced" (a new filter and fluid) and made it back to Ohio with no mishaps. Consequently a few nights later Ann bought a 1999 Toyota RAV4. A heated bidding war ensued at the online auction site eBay, and now the van is living a new life in California. As if the transmission incident wasn't enough, three months earlier thieves decided the van was a good place to shop. Two radios, a cell phone, two door windows, a windshield and several dash parts later the van was like new. Ann thought the local mall rather than the train station parking lot was a better place to shop.

In March, we flew to Hilton Head, NC for sun, fun and ocean viewing; (I couldn't see much ocean from the airport). While Ann was partaking of the local golf courses, Rob and his sister flew to Myrtle Beach to visit their grandparents. On the way back we buzzed the beach and terrorized sun worshippers *at* sea level. In July we went to Lake Junaluska, NC for a family wedding. Circling the Biltmore Estate (Vanderbilt residence) on our approach into the Asheville airport was pretty neat. And, believe me it was a lot cooler in the air, as the ground temperature was 103 degrees! Upon leaving NC Rob and I flew to Oshkosh, WI for our annual pilgrimage, while Ann opted for a 12-hour road trip home with the in-laws.

In October they flew commercial, (gasp!) to Atlantic City for the AOPA (Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association) convention. Rob scooped up literature, but Ann had more fun scooping up free *Frisbees* and miniature *Good Year* blimps. Rob's selling point to Ann was that it would be a romantic weekend. Yeah right, how romantic is a glassy eyed pilot drooling over new gadgets? I was upset at the conversation when they came home, as they were talking about the models Rob had found to replace me. Rob thinks home built is the way to go but Ann thinks factory built sounds safer.

Ann is playing golf weekly and played in a couple of outings sponsored by vendors of Multiverse. Rob and Ann even traveled to Dublin, OH to watch Tiger Woods play in the Memorial Golf Tournament! In November they drove to Washington D. C. to visit Rob's relatives. According to them you haven't experienced "rush hour" until you've driven through downtown D.C. at 5:30 on a Friday night. Another reason why flying is way above it all.

The home improvement project from hell arrived in late November and is still ongoing. Rob decided he needed a new computer stand to house his newly bought 27" television and two computers. The first phase was to move to a bigger room, which required ripping out carpet and sanding the floor. A little friendly advice, don't use a drum sander unless you enjoy sanding by hand the perimeter of an entire room. Now picture Ann's corner cabinet type computer stand trying to go through a normal sized doorway completely assembled. As "we can do this, no problem" was leaving Rob's mouth, Ann was watching the gouges being made in the hallway wallpaper. Once in the hall, it was clear the only way to rotate the stand to get it in the next room was to RIP out the stair railing. The stand is now in it's new space and the room is shaping up nicely. Of course Rob doesn't see anything wrong with the gaping crater in the wall and the spindle holes in the carpet, left from where the railing was. Ann is a little stressed but figures it will wait until after the holidays. Hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

