



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Hope this holiday letter finds you healthy and enjoying life. We've had a great year.....still enjoying my job.....renewing family ties.....and being quite successful in canine hobbies.



☺☺☺ The best news from Indiana University this year was of my promotion to Full Professor in the Department of Kinesiology. Along with this promotion was a move from directing the professional preparation program in clinical exercise physiology to more focus on clinical research in exercise for the treatment of hypertension and diabetes. So, this is the last year you'll see a picture of my "big" master's classes. I'll be working with a smaller group of doctoral students from now on.



An adventure, driving >600 miles from LA to Weaverville California, was the beginning of my travels this year. The event was the 50th wedding anniversary of my Uncle Dick and Aunt Pat. Our journey began in LA where my mom and I met Aunt Grace and Cousins Peggy, Beth and Debbie from Michigan. In a rented mini-van we took a tour of all the rest stops along I-5 as we drove 600 through the San Joaquin Valley to west of Redding and back.



Aunt Grace, Peggy, Beth, Mom, Debby and me, at one of our many rest stops along our 600 mile drive up I-5.



Uncle Dick and Aunt Pat toasting 50 years together.

The anniversary celebration was incredible. Cousins Diane, Dick, and Denise did a fantastic job of organizing the whole event. Cousin Dwight was the social director as well as providing "pharmaceutical" tutoring. The whole Mueller family was together, except for Casey. It was the first time all of Uncle Dick's sisters and Aunt Pat's sisters were together in 50 years. All of my Michigan cousins were there except for Tom. We took plenty of family pictures. The best one

was the one of Pat, Grace, and my mom⇔⇔⇔. It was great to see everyone. I had not seen Cousin Denise's sons, Will & Kyle since my sabbatical in 1998. Boy have they grown. Will is now taller than me. I had never met Cousin Dick's children; now I know them all, except Casey. Cousin Diane's daughter Cammie is off to college in Athletic Training, but not at IU!!!!



Marion, Pat & Grace



Dart, jumping through the tire at an Agility trial in Mooresville Indiana

She was able to compete in the Vizsla Club of America National events again this year. She ran in the Agility Trial and competed in the Field Trial Bitch class of the Dog Show. We were not ready for the field trial this year because we just finished competing in the puppy/derby classes last year and have not had enough time to train or qualify at the adult level. She ran in the novice classes of the Agility Trial last year. This year at Nationals was one of her first few opportunities to run at the open level. She gave an intense effort, but it was not good enough to qualify. The Dog Show was a different story. There wasn't too much she could have done better. Pam Williams showed her to a first place finish. The fans were clapping and cheering for her. It was a great feeling to see her look better than I've ever seen her look. Thanks, Pam.



Flick executing a duck search in a workout with our local NAVHDA (North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association) group.

Dart had an unbelievable year. In April, she completed her first agility title. By May, she had earned four amateur points and two open points toward her field championship. In June, she finished her Junior Hunter title. In July, she finished her show Championship. In October, she finished her second agility title. So her name is now,

CH Red Oak Totem from SnowRidge, JH, NA, NAJ

but she still answers to "Dart-Dart". She is an amazing dog. She can run hard and far off horse back in the hunting competition of the field trials, yet stay in close and hunt like a personal hunting dog while pheasant hunting. Then, she'll have just as much fun running an agility course.



Dart winning first place in the Field Trial Bitch Class at the National competition of the Vizsla Club of America.

Flick is doing very well since he was diagnosed with Progressive Retinal Atrophy, a genetic disease which was supposed to leave him totally blind by March 2002. He is totally blind at night now, but he can see the big things within 20 yards in the daylight. I have put throw rugs all over the hard wood floor so that he can navigate at night without bumping into the furniture and walls. It is amazing to me to see how he adapts. He does not compete in the field trials anymore, but he did achieve another leg toward his Master Hunter title. Not a bad feat for a blind dog! He literally performed a "blind retrieve". He still goes hunting every year, although I spend most of the time trying to make sure he's safe rather than hunting with him. He loves it so much. All I need to do is watch him have fun.

Have a great holiday...jp

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