

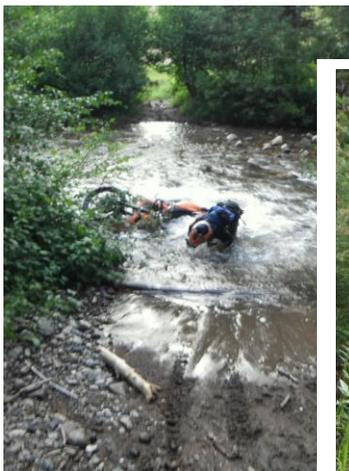


RENICK Family Newsletter

Theme for 2011: Things are getting a little better

Leonard, Barbara, April, and Grandma Nola wishing you happy holidays!

Leonard turned 65 in July and is beginning to contemplate retirement at some point in the future. He celebrated this milestone by swimming 100 yards of butterfly stroke. (He won races back in high school and college swimming butterfly.) Months earlier he tried to outdo a college kid at the gym and tore a muscle rather badly. This kept him off his motorcycles and dirt bikes for three months. In late summer he was again dirt biking in Idaho with friends when he inadvertently added swimming to riding. While crossing a stream, he hit an unseen mossy rock and did a swan dive into the swiftly moving water. (Thank goodness he wears body armor.) Note the water coming out of his boot pictured here.



This year Barbara taught eighty hours of genealogy lectures and computer labs—averaging out to seven lectures per month... which doesn't seem like a lot until you realize it takes thirty to forty hours to develop a new (one-hour) lecture and thereafter another eight hours to update it. This has to be done each and every time she gives one of her lectures since she teaches genealogists to use computers and technology to trace their family trees.

There were a few adventures along the way. In April a tornado hit and closed the St. Louis International Airport exactly one week before she was scheduled to do a seminar for the St. Louis Genealogical Society. Fortunately, they got the airport reopened albeit with carpets torn out and many windows still boarded up.

To someone who lives in earthquake country the tornado damage seemed strange. It looked as if a gargantuan worm had taken a bite out of the side of a concrete-walled warehouse. A week after the tornado, you could still see through the circular gaps in the walls as the workers scurried around inside replacing packages on the shelves.

Tin roofing was twisted around trees like spaghetti noodles and other large trees were snapped off like toothpicks. Frightening.

Happy Holidays to All!

In May, Barbara recorded her first training video for FamilySearch [see photo below of Barbara's talking head taken from the video]. In September, she did her first webinar. Links to these two free recordings can be found on the home page of her Web site (www.ZRoots.com).



Barbara is now serving on the program committee for the RootsTech 2012 Conference (a genealogy and technology conference to be held in the Salt Palace in February—Len plans to come up and snow ski while she works). She is also serving as secretary on the board of directors for the National Genealogical Society which means staffing the NGS booth at some interesting venues like the AARP 50+ Conference in Los Angeles last September.

Len has been nagging Barbara that she is sitting at her computer too much and not getting enough exercise. So when an artistic dance skating partner from her past (whose job moved him to the East Coast twenty-two years ago) appeared at the rink asking her to again skate competitively with him, she said yes. Leonard claims she has not worked out with our personal trainer (Stewart the Torturer) for the past seven years. She is now back with Stewart and training HARD because the Veterans Division in which she skates ranges from 40 to 65 year olds—and she is on the latter end of the range!

For fun, Barbara got to fly to Las Vegas in September (while Len was there at a General Motors event) and they saw the Viva Elvis show. It was a great trip down memory lane.

Our daughter April is now thirty-one years old and still loves attending her fine arts day program for adults with disabilities. April's annual school Christmas play was this past week. She had three solo parts and did the best job of her life (both singing and performing). Every person in the school had a part in the play. It was truly heart-warming.

April has been asking us at least three times per day for the last eight months if she can see *Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 1* (a movie). It finally came out and she has seen it three times already. Thank goodness her vision is so poor she misses most of the frightening parts. Unfortunately, Part 2 doesn't come out until next November. Fortunately, she is currently fixated on the Chipmunks' *Chip-Wrecked* movie. She also gleefully anticipates her annual birthday bowling party each February and summer pool party each August. Both were a resounding success (we again had a dj for the pool party so it truly was resounding) and food and fun were had by all—even the



parents. [April & Len off-roading in Sun Valley] Nola (Barbara's mother) turned 85 in September and did well home alone over the summer. Unfortunately, Ruth (her next door neighbor and shopping buddy—Ruth drives and mom does all the walking and carrying) had to go into assisted living. Barbara went back to Maryland and brought Nola to California the week before April's Christmas play so Nola could adjust to the time difference and stay awake for the program. Nola is a great cook and we are noticing our daughters visiting and dining with us more often now that Grams is here for the winter. Happy holidays to all!