

Monumental Memories of 2013



Before Annie's 'big' year was upon us, we finished off 2012 in Seattle with Lidija & Mike, Kelly, Jen & Allen and Lydia. Snow is a must for the holidays! The snow shoeing was a blast. < The skiing on Christmas Day was a special treat as Annie did her first black diamond slopes and even some powder. Germi was sooooo proud of his Annielein even though she could not keep up with him.

Back in San Diego, we enjoyed the end of the year celebrating Jon & Carrie's wedding. A jolly time was had by all on the

William D Evans stern wheeler. >



2013 was finally here and goals for the year were set. We would climb a 10,000'+ peak each month until our "vacation mountain" and Annie would finish her California 14ers. Thus our first weekend of the year was atop Mt Baldy in a blizzard at 10069'. <



The fun continued when Andi stopped in for a conference with a bit of skiing on the side. > Now Annie had two Bavarian skiers to keep up with...not! We ended the

weekend at our new fire tower: Morton Peak. Drive up and visit next time!



Next stop: February. The hot springs of Guadalupe Canyon in Baja were beckoning. < Of course we had to bag Pico Risco, It is a stunning peak that calls out to anyone in the hot springs but it was not 10k+. Thus, we backpacked the San Bernardino Mountains with the Initial Point as our 10k goal. We were making fresh tracks in 3 feet of snow. The going was slow, thus camp was lower than expected and

we only made 9600' with no regrets. Hedwig made our day! >



March was full of fun, from counting bighorn sheep & bald eagles to surprising dad for his 80th in Pine Bush. Dad was proud to be 80 and of his 4 successful kids. He told us at least 5 times each half hour. Tim, Bernadette, Mary and us took advantage of 'right coast' time together and ventured into the Big Apple to overwhelm a small-town Bavarian with a ferry ride around the Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island, Ground Zero, Wall Street, Central Park, and Top of the Rock. <



Back in SoCal we hiked/snow shod San Gorgonio at 11,499'. Chuckie joined us in his prep for our vacation mountain. In between all that, Annie was awarded 'Member of the Year' of the California State Land Surveyors Association for her accomplishments as the Monument Conservation Committee chair.

We succumbed to 'Climb for Heroes' in for April. As Annie was summiting Mt Baldy, she looked up to see a Marine with one leg in front of her. Tears overwhelmed her and she veered off to the side as the cameras focused on him. The funds raised allowed him to climb Kilimanjaro. Once the tears subsided, she was able to chat with him and then zip down the mountain with a new outlook on life and not feeling worthy of having a military ID. At the end of the month, we had a special treat when Ana, a Spanish PhD student, stayed with us for one week and delighted us with her cuisine.

May was a perpetual party. After biking 50+ km from garden to garden in Alpine, Diane and Monte served up a wonderful dinner in their Tiki hut. It was a perfect birthday with special friends. The next day we zipped up & hiked San Jacinto, 10,834', enjoyed a delectable dinner in Idyllwild while Annie was adjusting to denial. After a leisurely morning, we drove back to Alpine to enjoy Robyn and Annie's unofficial birthday party at Vintage Alpine. Arriving back home, Annie was close to a heart attack when she discovered 70 friends in her garage and a taco stand in front of it. > A teary eyed Hans Finsterbölder (remember last year's liar!), proud of his successful surprise was watching as Annie repeated OMG with each hug. The celebrations continued with a visit to Adobe Guadalupe in Baja California the next weekend. We treated ourselves to a luxurious B&B surrounded by vineyards and celebrated with the Baja Bunch of friends. < Our dinner with Don Miller, owner and vintner of Adobe Guadalupe, was a special, forever-to-be-cherished dinner. Don was delightful, kept the wine flowing and we enjoyed our special chat regarding mountains as his son is a mountaineer. Don was enthralled with our mountain resume. Don has since moved on to watching over us above and he has a special place in our hearts.



The annual bike ride through the vineyards of Santa Ynez was around the corner and Germi had to once again, haul a lot of wine in his bike trailer. Memorial weekend found Germar in Garmisch, taking care of mom's house and enjoying a perpetual week-long rain shower. Annie was off hiking White Mountain at 14,252'.

June found us in Guadalupe Valley again pouring wine at Guateque, an annual amateur wine festival. Barbara, Danny, Nic & Barbie are the official winos and we always enjoy helping out and discovering new wines of the valley. As to be expected, Tahquitz Fire tower was on our schedule. This time we trained Dana, John & their boys. It was a rewarding experience and we finished off our weekend hiking Miller Peak at 10,400'.

As always, we took advantage of 4 JUL and the 14er's were ours! A late start on the road from SD let us backpack into Lower Boy Scout Lake in the dark and the deer welcomed us. A leisurely hike up to Upper Boy Scout Lake the next morning allowed us to nap and wake up to snow. An early start the next day found us climbing Mt Russell at 14,094' with a fun knife edge ridge and super view of the next day's summit. One down, one to go, but Germar needed to bag Whitney, as it is the highest in the contiguous US. Therefore, up the Mountaineer's route with skypilots > leading the way and Germar was at his highest: 14,505'. < Annie's final 14er was just one mile off. Down the tourist trail, we zipped over to Mt Muir, 14,019 and Annie completed her 14ers!! Wow...what a



happy face!! She mentioned it at least five times every hour, reminding Germar of Annie's dad as we went back up over Whitney, down the route and back to camp to celebrate with a beautiful bottle of wine.

And then Germar was off to the middle of Greenland where he took care of one the UV spectroradiometer that his company runs with support from the National Science Foundation (thank you, tax payers!) He was working super long hours at temperatures down to -10°F , sleeping in a tent, and enjoying some "sledjoring" behind a snow mobile.



Tears flowed at the end of the month when Pico decided to go on an adventure and did not return. Sierra was even more distraught than us!

August had us on edge. The "Mountain" fire was out of control, and threatening our beloved Tahquitz fire tower. It was closed until the fire was contained. Then the "Silver" fire threatened Black Mountain fire tower and it was closed...thus they needed us up at Tahquitz. Teary eyed, we opened the tower back up to a devastating view. We woke up the next day calling in a smoke report with huge plumes at the "Devil's Slide" saddle. The lookout host serving the following day had to evacuate as the fire re-ignited. But all ended well - the tower was safe. The elevation for August was zipping up Anderson Peak at 10840' and then off to Eldon and Clara's for their annual party. Definitely a fun-filled weekend!



Labor Day soon sneaked up. Chuck, us, Raul & Michele backpacked into Thousand Island Lake as the smoke of the Yosemite fire engulfed us. Afraid that we would have to backpack out the next day, the wind direction had changed and we woke to blue skies and Banner Peak at 12936' was looming. Off we went, up, over the saddle, around the mountain to the glacier and on to stable rock. The peak was Raul's first Sierra Peak and we could see an addiction lurking in his smiling eyes. We packed in one last trainer up Mt Baldy, and then off to Africa via

Frascati, an enchanting suburb of Rome where Germi had a conference. We enjoyed Rome for one day, walking from one wonder to the next...Pantheon. Piazza Navona, Piazza San Pietro, and Colosseum, until jetlag took over.



While the scientists were debating the latest challenges in ground-based monitoring of the Earth's atmosphere heroically working through the government shutdown, Annie and Abby roamed Rome, Castel Gondolfo (the pope's summer home), and more Rome. Each evening the gals met up with the science bunch to enjoy savory Italian fare and vino. Our finale was the Vatican - a must if you are nearby. The art was pure splendor (maybe too much with all the poor people in the world but that is out of our control). The view from the cupola was magnificent and made the visit complete.



Next stop was Africa for an educational and cultural experience! We flew into Nairobi and "landed" in the parking garage because a recent fire had completely destroyed the international arrival hall. The bus ride to Arusha in Tanzania through Kenya was interspersed with cow jams and goat jams all orchestrated by the Maasai. The next day we were off to climb Kilimanjaro. Finally!! We hiked through the jungle, moorlands, alpine zone, and to the crater in six days of perfect weather. It was an easy acclimatization and summit day, 14 OCT, was a short hike to the summit of 19341' and then descending 9000'. Sleeping in the crater was our highlight (and most people do not see it). The dormant Reusch Crater was spectacular and the melting Furtwängler Glacier made Annie fuss at Germar to fix global warming now!



A safari was next on the agenda. Enroute to the Serengeti, we had to stop at Olduvai Gorge to see where the first hominid was discovered. Later, we enjoyed the lions, zebras, lions eating zebras, gazelles, giraffes, hippos, warthogs, elephants, ostriches, monkeys, cheetah, leopards, hyenas and more. Ngorogoro Crater entranced us as we drove down, down & down into the world's largest inactive caldera. The king of the crater settled in and kept an eye on us. Camping between boabob trees and elephants of Tarangire were the next thrill.



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After seeing almost all of what Africa had to offer for wildlife, we were missing mountain gorillas so we flew to Uganda to trek them. Gernar had been practicing his gorilla face for quite some time; however the gorillas were not amused.



Well, the gorillas told us to get the heck out of here, so we flew off to Zanzibar. It was a fabulous, romantic finale with a pristine beach out our front door. The snorkeling, sunrise swims, kayaking, and the South African Pinotages were all hard to let go of as reality was calling us. To keep this concise, many more details and pics of Africa are here <http://fields-of-lupine.com/Africa.pdf>

The last stop before reality was London for a long layover and more of our 36 hour 59th anniversary. Another storm-of-the-century had just passed and we had crisp blues skies as we hustled to Buckingham Palace, St James Park, Big Ben, and the River Thames. Annie tried to call dad to let him know we climbed another mountain (he always asks which mountain we climbed) but the phone did not accept Tanzanian coins.



Reality struck us like a herd of elephants as November arrived. Annie was off to a state board meeting. Gernar was getting ready for the AGU Conference. Sierra was crying each day with loneliness, so what is a mom to do?? Juniper is now his new bud. They have adjusted very well and we are back to a big happy family of four once again.

Our 60th anniversary was here. We loaded up our bike trailers and ferried over to Catalina Island for Thanksgiving, camping on the beach, mountain biking, buffalo, foxes and romantic sunsets.

Poof.. December was here. We needed snow...thus Buffalo was calling. Actually, dad and Bernadette were calling. Dad can not travel anymore,

and is at that time of life when the memory slowly goes kaput. Michael, Timmy and their families drove over from the Catskills and dad enjoyed our company. We moved dad to assisted living





and all is well - he is making new friends every day. It is reality. He still has his sense of humor, likes to smile for pictures and loves his kids and grandkids once he figures out who they are. It had been a tough bit of reality, so we decided to chill off by going down Niagara Falls in a barrel. Germi was terribly scared and the weenie this time while Annie was as confident as ever. We survived to tell the story. Woo hoo!



Finally this exciting year is nearing the end and we wish you all a super duper 2014 to come and thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your love, friendship, laughter and precious moments never to be forgotten.



Annie & Germar



and Sierra & Juniper