

# We Wish All of our Friends and Family A Wonderful 2012

This isn't our usual Christmas letter, but still comes to hope that everyone had a great Christmas and enjoyed the time with family and good friends. We were in England for two weeks in early December and just couldn't get things together in time to get out Christmas cards this year – our apologies and thank you for all the beautiful cards and messages received.



We had a great trip to the U.K. and enjoyed lots of good family time and all the festivities of the season of Merry Olde England. It was actually warmer in England than it was in Austin for the first week we were there. We spent the majority of the time in Suffolk, where Chris' sister and brother live. We stayed at Peter's house on the farm, where Chris grew up. The house is over 450 years old and it brought back lots of memories. Please feel free to take a look at our scrapbook (which Martin does a great job of keeping current) for pictures and videos of our trip and other pictures posted each month. Here is the link:



<http://phantomprod.com/sc2011DecUKTrip.html>.

We both are still enjoying working from home. Martin continues his contract work with the University of Texas Center for Disability Studies and has completed several video projects for them including one for the U.T. School of Social Work and Fort Hood Family 360. A second contract with the Texas Education Agency through F2F Houston keeps him busy working on their 550 page web site. We produced a 3-day video in Dallas for Mike Murray as well. Martin has now sold over 230 copies of the two DVD set on his vintage recording collection produced last year and continues to grow the on line museum.



Chris is still working with David Perkoff doing entertainment bookings (20 years now). Things have been a bit slow the past couple of years, but hopefully will pick up next year. We do have an active New Years Eve entertainment schedule



2011 has been quite busy and wanted to share some of the highlights with you.

In February, we again shot the video for the Austin Brazilian Carnival Event at the Long Center. A very fun event.



To celebrate Martin's birthday in April we did two fun things. I did my first Sky Dive at San Marcos. It was something I had always wanted to do and I'm so glad that I did. What an exhilarating feeling to be free falling from 11,000 feet and the views were wonderful. Now that is off my bucket list.



That same afternoon we got to fly in a B-17 Bomber. They had several WW2 planes out at Bergstrom Airport for a commemorative event. We flew for a good 45 minutes and it made us appreciate just how the airmen managed to work in such tight quarters and in very uncomfortable conditions and operate their equipment.



Also in April we went to Las Vegas for a couple of days to meet Peter and Elaine there. We packed a lot into our short visit and one of the highlights was seeing the Beatles LOVE show. What a fantastic event it was, probably one of the best shows we have ever seen. It was like a Cirque de Soleil show, set to Beatles music. If you ever get a chance to see it, you won't be disappointed.



In early May, Chris visited Anthony, Sharon, Julius and Rowan in Seattle and they came to Texas at the end of October (we got to share Julius' 5<sup>th</sup> birthday with him). Anthony is thoroughly enjoying his job at Creative Designer at the Starbucks headquarters in downtown Seattle. He has been working on several exciting projects and one of the projects has just been released, with great accolades, including a write-up in the New York Times and lots of media publicity. Anthony came up with the idea of using cargo containers to build Starbucks' stores. There are so many containers coming into the Seattle port, this is an excellent way to recycle. We are very proud of all that he has accomplished in just one year with Starbucks. They just moved into their new house on Mercer Island in November. Sharon continues to work with her friend Kimberly on their company named "Table365." Ken is still living and working in the Houston area. He wasn't able to join us for Christmas this year. His Dad's family all live around Houston and we see him as often as we can.



It seems that this year we have experienced very unusual weather all over the World. We had over 100 days when the temperatures exceeded 100 degrees, and even got to 112 degrees on a couple of occasions. We also have had a terrible drought in Central Texas throughout 2011, and it culminated in a dreadful wildfire in Bastrop County in September. The fires destroyed over 1,600 homes and burned 35,000 acres, including so many of the lovely pine trees that the area is famous for. We were lucky that the winds were in our favor, but it got a bit scary when some fires broke out just four miles from us. It made us realize how vulnerable we are and we have now done an inventory video and packed an emergency kit of important papers, etc., in case we have to evacuate in the future.



Chris has not been able to ride as often this year, however continues to enjoy the time she has to spend with Dancer and KD. Bracken & Troubador continue to keep us laughing! We are thankful that all our four legged friends are doing well right now.



Again, our apologies for not sending out Christmas cards this year and we hope that 2012 brings you good health, happiness and most importantly lots of love.