

## ***We wish all of our Friends and Family a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year***

What a strange year this has been. Who would have thought when we wished everyone a good 2020, that it would have been one that none of us will ever forget.

Both Martin and I have managed to keep well, but it has been so different to just stay at home and not mix with anyone. Seems we just go to the grocery store and pick up food curbside from time to time and do short drive-around trips.

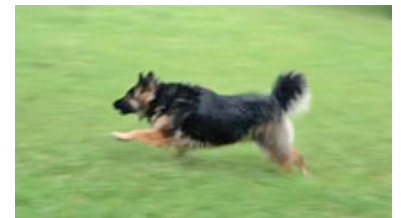


This has been a very hard year for my brother Peter. He has been active all of his life and since he was 16, has run the 600 acre family farm in England. He was diagnosed with a debilitating disease in February. Thankfully Elaine, his wife, has been able to care for him and keep him as comfortable as possible. I hope I will be able to visit him once the travel restrictions to the UK are lifted.

On another sad note, I had to put my horse Taffie down at the beginning of November. She had developed Cushings, then she got Anhidrosis (which is the inability to sweat - very hard in the Texas heat) and then she foundered. She was only 18 and had been in perfect health before. She was a very special and sweet natured mare.



Last December we adopted a long haired German Shepherd named Sophie from the Bastrop Animal Shelter. She is very sweet and loving now (with just a few quirks left) but it took a long time for her to trust us. She was found as a stray and we think she was abused. She is happy now and can't believe she gets to chase all the deer, armadillos, squirrels and rabbits that share our space. Interestingly, Sophie chases lightning and thunder vs being scared of it. Very fun to watch!



Martin continues updating the vintage recording collection. He was interviewed via video cast by the International Society of Broadcast Engineers. He enjoyed talking about his



history and providing photos. The live stream is now retained by the Society membership for future reference





We were lucky to host our 25<sup>th</sup> annual Superbowl party prior to the Covid lockdowns.

Martin patrolled for the Bastrop Sheriff's Department the first part of 2020. His last patrol was March 7<sup>th</sup>. Then Bastrop County suspended volunteer services. In November, some volunteers began limited patrols. However



due to unpredictable Covid encounters, Martin is waiting to return. Hopefully he can get back into doing this in the Spring.

Martin decided to retire his seven year old Murano. When Consumer Reports and Motor Trend choose the new Telluride as SUV of the Year, he began looking. It's a great vehicle, with so many innovative, high tech features. I have said that I think you almost have to have a degree in Telluride to drive it.



Anthony, Sharon and the boys are still in Mercer Island, near Seattle. The boys have been in school virtual learning since March and they miss all their usual activities with friends. Photo (left) from last Fall.

Ken, who lived in Eugene, Oregon, decided to move back to Texas in October, to be closer to his Dad's family and to Martin and I. He just found a job and is settling down, but misses his Oregon friends and the beautiful area around Eugene. It's lovely for me to have him close by again. That's Ken and I "social distancing" at Thanksgiving (right).



We're enjoying the deer who have adopted our property!

We hope to be able to do a little traveling in the Spring (something we had intended to do this Spring), but time will tell.



In the meantime, we wish all of you a Merry Christmas and certainly hope 2021 is a better year for us all.

All our love,

*Chris and Martin*

