

Colville Update

Arctic Ploverland News

December 2012

Greetings from the Jim Hemericks Family

Introduction

Another year has come and gone and since Teena decided to return to the “end-of-year” timing last year, she is trying to keep with the plan and get this newsletter out by December’s end. It’s been a busy year as all our years tend to be, with highlights centered on moves and new homes. We are both glad for the convenience in communications, yet amazed at the time we now spend on electronic devices like computers, smart phones, and readers.

Family Highlights

Jim and Teena continue residence at the Colville Village “homestead”. Jim keeps busy with maintenance duties, hosting boarders, photography and several bird-related projects.



Ready for Walk

Teena continued working on several different jobs away from home up until September. In January, she worked for Repsol, a new oil company on the slope who is exploring near our home.. She handled billeting at a base office in Deadhorse, and then managed several camps out in the field.

That job ended in May as the exploration season wound down, and she then worked part time for Pioneer again as Bear-guard for environmental summer studies, as the past few summers. One environmental crew (fish studies) stayed at our homesite and accessed the field work by boat each day, so I was able to be home every night. Other studies, like with birds, meant helicopter flights each day from the base camp at OTP. I was away from home during that time, but could see the homesite every day from our work area, located on the Mainland across the river from our homesite. [Yes, the oilfield is definitely expanding ever closer to our home.]

Teena made her 4th trip to Adak to visit Isaac and family in May. It was wonderful to get back to see family and friends there.



Teena, Rhia, & Danian back from walk in Palmer.

Teena also spent time in the Anchorage and Fairbanks area in July for some fun family time and flying with Jay and Aaron. Another family visit took place here on the Colville.

Jay flew his three kids north from Fairbanks and stayed for a few days. It was special to have Jay fly our Cessna 206 on floats back to its “home” lake for the first time in many years. When Jay returned to Fairbanks, he left Melody with us for some special Grandma/pa time. A week later, he returned to take both Melody and Teena back to town. The 400 mile flight was spectacularly beautiful and a very special treat for Teena, not having had that route opportunity in over 30 years, plus with one of her sons flying her favorite

plane. Several weeks later Natasha and Elisha got to spend a week with Grandma & pa on the Colville too. Their travel logistics were a bit more complicated than just flying with Dad, and involved commercial jets, a truck ride through the extensive oilfield, and shuttle flights with Grandpa in his Super Cub. Elisha was especially impressed with how much quieter the little cub was than the C-206. Jim and Teena's "Grandkid time" on the Colville was pretty special. The kids seemed to have a grand time with the large house, new (old) toys and story tapes, and lots of island in which to roam.

Jim had successful cataract surgery in October and was gone to the Anchorage area for several weeks. Bonnie, Teena's mom, came to the Colville to keep her company while Jim was gone and it was a fun time of sharing.

Teena got more "Grandkid time" in November when she went to Palmer to visit Isaac, Crystal and kids in their new house. Since Aaron and Autumn live only a 20 minute drive away from there, she was able to spend time with them also.

Derek and Cindy have had many ongoing projects at their home in Indian, including a big new fenced garden and a huge house remodel job. The oldest part of the house was torn down, the foundation repaired, and a two story



addition added. This is ongoing, with Derek doing much of the work during time off from his slope job with Pioneer Natural Resources. Cindy continues to

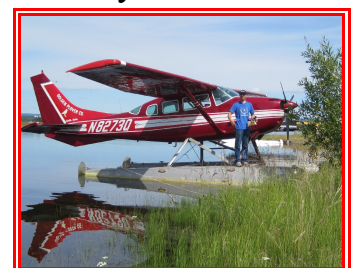
work as a Water Quality Specialist at HDR Alaska, Inc., in Anchorage.

View from driveway side of house →



Jay and Amy and kids are approaching two years at their new place outside of Fairbanks. Home has become a "small farm" as the family develops independence and self-reliance skills. Milking goats were added recently and they are enjoying fresh milk along with their fresh eggs and rabbit meat. (Takes us back...) Natasha is 9, Melody is 8, and Elisha is 6. The children are attending a private Christian school this year, which adds extra shuttle time to their parent's day, but also frees up other time. Jay remains at his "Lead Engineer for Space Physics" job at the UAF Geophysical Institute on the Fairbanks campus. He has to travel some to share his expertise with people on other projects or do maintenance on his own. This has taken him to Dillingham, the Aleutian Islands, Tern Island (NW of Hawaii),

Jay & C-206



northern Idaho, and the Ross's Ice Shelf in Antarctica, where one of his large low-frequency receiving grids is located. Jay runs these grids remotely, but must perform annual maintenance duties at each site. Amy must "hold down the fort" with the kids and animals at home when he is gone...reminding Teena of her many days doing the same thing when Jim would be gone flying.



Rhianna & Danian

off, at home.)
They packed up,
moved back to

Isaac, Crystal, and kids have experienced significant changes in their lives this past year. Isaac accepted a new job for ConocoPhillips as the Kuperuk Airfield Manager, on the North Slope. (This is a 2&2 job, which means two weeks working on the slope and two weeks



*Palmer house
w/matching playhouse*



Crystal & Isaac

the Anchorage area, and searched for and bought a new house in Palmer, all within a month. Getting settled into a new house and community plus



getting used to Isaac's new work schedule has been a challenge, handled well. The children got to celebrate a dual birthday party the day after Thanksgiving: Rhianna is 4 years old and Danian is 1 year old now.

Jim and Teena now have 3 sons working on the slope within 6 to 18 miles from the homestead. We have visited and had lunch with all three boys. The brothers can even visit each other during off- hours occasionally. Pretty cool! Isaac has yet to make it over to "the old homesite", but will soon.

Aaron and Autumn had just moved to a bigger, more remotely located house in NE Wasilla last year. This year was dedicated to some floor upgrades and landscaping, among other projects. New grass and nice stonework around the house and



Aaron mowing new lawn



Aaron & Autumn

trees were completed. Both Aaron and Autumn remain in their same jobs: Aaron is IT Specialist for Pioneer Natural Resources, and Autumn is a case manager for SED (Severely Emotionally Disturbed) children in Wasilla.

Extras

The Colville Adventure Kids:

Natasha, Melody, & Elisha

Melody
stayed
in July



All
three
kids
came
with
Dad in
July



Natasha & Elisha
returned in August.

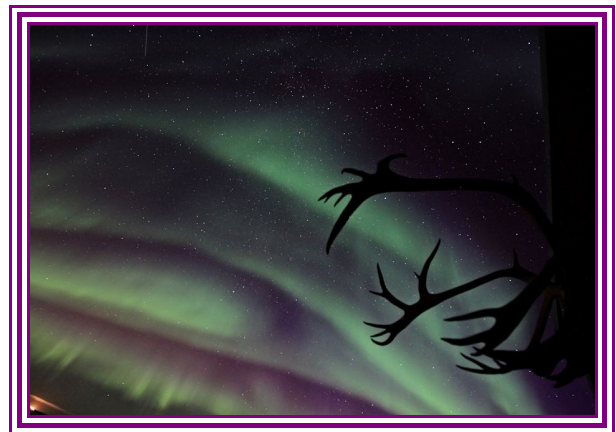


Jim's Photography:

See: <http://speikiei.zenfolio.com/>



Aurora Sky Over House On The Colville



Southern sky out back door

Love,

*Jim and Teena
Derek and Cindy
Jay and Amy
Natasha, Melody, Elisha
Isaac and Crystal
Rhianna, Danian
Aaron and Autumn
(Ruby & Jade)*

Out of the Past



Teena with parents in Barrow in 1958 by whale-bone church sign. Arctic Ocean behind.



Jim & Ruby



Teena with baby Derek on her back - Brooks Range Camp 1973



Colville
Homesite
1984

Teena, Derek, Jay, Isaac, Jim, Aaron

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God Bless You All

Jim and Teena are both on Facebook with many picture albums there.