



Greetings to all this 2002 Holiday Season!

Hard to believe that it's already that time again, but here we are. Barbara finally retired this year back in March, and I guess having all that "free" time has made the time fly. Of course, free time is really only a myth. We can now vouch for the paradox that one is actually busier AFTER retirement. Another major change this year is that we have finally migrated to the 21<sup>st</sup> century with cell phones and DSL Internet service. Among other things, this meant new email and website addresses. We now have about ten email addresses but they all come to the same place. Perhaps the easiest to remember is <willey@willey.westhost.com>. And please come visit us on the net at <willey.westhost.com>.

One of the major things that has kept us overly busy this year has been our La Purisima Audubon Society activities. With Dick serving as President, there have been numerous administrative activities to deal with in addition to Barbara's usual newsletter and website maintenance. Birding? Oh, yes, we still do that too, but mostly while traveling, although we do occasionally get out around here as well.

We had many trips this year, including a major one in August that Dick arranged to celebrate Barbara's 60<sup>th</sup>. We flew to Stockholm and cruised around the Baltic (on the same beautiful ship that took us to Alaska last year), making stops in Helsinki, Tallinn, St. Petersburg, Å Visby, and ending up in Copenhagen. We stayed in Denmark another five days, with a tour to Svendborg on the Isle of Fyn, from whence Barbara's Danish ancestry comes. It was an incredible trip – in all our lives we never dreamed we would visit Russia. But there we were. We also had several trips nearer to home this year, with multiple stops in Phoenix, Las Vegas, St. George, Victorville, Morro Bay, Pine Mountain Club, San Francisco, Marin County, and San Diego. It was great visiting family & friends. No wonder the year passed so quickly!

In other news, Dick did a little consulting for ITT this year, which enabled Barbara to buy a new computer (Macintosh of course). And wanting something new for this decade of her life, Barbara started oil painting under the tutelage of Linda, a wonderful artist and new neighbor from across the street. We replaced our living room couch with recliners, so that we can truly play old folks and fall asleep in front of the TV. The kids & their kids (we now have seven grandchildren) are all doing well. We plan to spend Christmas in Phoenix and be back home for New Year's. And of course we've had the usual golf, wine and theatrical events to fill our calendar this year as well. Retirement is treating us very well indeed.

We hope your holidays are wonderful and that you prosper in the New Year!

With love to all, Barbara & Dick