

Happy Holidays
Happy New Year



News Flash:

Louis starts internet business: www.nexxsoft.com

Chris visits family and friends, gets patent disclosures

Katy moves out on her own in Big Sur

Andy goes to college at Cal Poly Pomona

Emily A's the 9th Grade at Calabasas High; Girl Scouts

Jeremy joins the Pokemon generation

Now that you have the summary, we would like to apologize for the length of this letter. There was way too much news and events over the past year to keep the letter to our previous standard one page.

Season's Greetings,

This year's holiday photo features the three newest additions to our family – Orion, Tiger, and Forte' (being held by Jeremy, Andy and Emily respectively). They came to us as a sibling kitten litter from Angel Puss pet rescue. The two older cats, Fudge and Furball have adopted them, and they get along nicely. The three kittens are inseparable; they play together, groom each other and sleep curled up in a single mound of fur. The kids finally have enough cats in the household to go around. Emily's ferret, Peanut, is still a cute bundle of energy. Emily's room now has a 4" sewer pipe maze under the desk for Peanut to crawl around in, but the favorite location is under the old sofa in her room.

Jeremy, 12, is interested in computer and Nintendo games especially "Starcraft". He has been competing in Pokemon tournaments, but he is currently interested in a game called 'Magic'. This is a strategy game similar to Pokemon. He does well enough in school but admits he doesn't like it (except for computer class). Louis went to a surplus computer sale at TRW and picked up a several desktop and portable computers so everyone now has their own computer. A new computer lab was set up in the spare bedroom and additional ethernet cable was strung through the attic. All the rooms in the house are now connected with network cables. The computers are connected together so games can be played from one computer to the next.

Emily, 15, is a straight A student even with three current advanced placement (AP) classes. She scored a 780 (out of 800) on her Biology SAT II test last Spring and a 5 (out of 5) on the Biology Advanced Placement exam. She is also a Mariner Girl Scout and Sea Scout. (The troop is a dual Girl-Boy Scout troop.) They attend numerous competitions against other Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops. Last Spring, her troop took "Top Ship" in the Gathering of All Mariners (GAM) competition which included all the troops in the local area Girl Scout council. She is becoming quite proficient in a number of seafaring skills. She also takes art lessons at the California Art Institute – just for fun. Her

only complaint is that there are not enough hours in a day to do all this, and actually have time to sleep too. Email her at emmy@vc.net.

Andy, 18, (Is he really 18 years old already? Must be; got a notice to register to vote and for the draft) graduated from Calabasas High School in June and now attends the California State Polytechnic University in Pomona (referred to as Cal Poly Pomona). His major is Computer Information Systems. He has a convenient schedule of classes on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons. He comes home on Thursday night and spends the weekend at home before going back to college on Monday morning. An ulterior motive is to lie down on the couch and watch Thursday night WWF wrestling on TV. He doesn't like college that much except for his new HP 8575C PC. He still has his Mac at home with a new ATI Rage Pro VR TV/graphics card. Andy also enjoys computer games and Nintendo. He is an expert at TEKKEN III and TEKKEN Tag Tournament as well as its derivatives and is willing to take on all comers. He likes the video arcade in the student union at college. He has been designing web sites and other computer related stuff. He has a large collection of computer music in MP3 format. Email him at andy@vc.net.

Katy, 19, is living on her own in Big Sur. Chris and Emily visited her last Christmas break and enjoyed the tour of the area. Katy moved out of employee housing at Nepenthe in Big Sur and moved into her own place along a creek in the middle of a Redwood forest. It is a typical Big Sur all-wood house with a translucent ceiling, a wood stove, and a great loft. She and Jesse parted company; Jesse took the dog, Katy kept the three kittens. She needed appropriate transportation, so Dad was tasked to come up with something. He got a gold color 1986 Toyota 4Runner with big tires, four-wheel drive, and a great stereo system. Many of the roads in the area are dirt and sometimes mud after the rain. He drove it up to her last October, and that was the first time that he had talked to her or seen her in two and a half years. She really likes the relaxed rural lifestyle there and seems quite happy being one of the "locals". She works at the Phoenix gift shop and is sharing the house with a girlfriend from work.

Chris, 50, (yes, the half-century mark has happened) had a very surprise birthday party for the event. She thought she was going out with Louis' parents for her birthday and walked unaware into a large group of friends. Black and orange balloons, Geritol, hair-dye, and other appropriate presents were given for the occasion. Her job at Litton has been quite rewarding. She was a co-author of a paper at the Corporate Symposium in Arlington, VA (across the river from Washington, DC) in May, and has two more patent disclosures this year. She is now in the Micro Electro Mechanical Systems (MEMS) group working on Litton's silicon gyro. She had knee surgery (again) in January, which put her out of commission for a couple of months. After a lot of physical therapy, she is back to normal (well, almost - skiing and softball are out; hiking is in). She took some of Emily's Scout troop on a backpack trip to the Mosquito Lakes area of Mineral King in Sequoia National Park in August. In October, she went back to Milwaukee for her friend Sue's wedding and visited with many old friends from her Girl Scout days. Sue's mom was the Girl Scout leader. Chris' sister JoAnna came to visit us for a week and we went rafting down the Kern river. Chris' hobby is now Sunday morning hikes in the Santa Monica mountains with friend Debbie. Email her at geosling@littongcs.com.

Louis, 54, is thinking about retirement from TRW and senior air fare deals. He has been working on a project called LANCE (Launch and Network Control Equipment). It was lots of fun working on a project that was successful and completed. The product was delivered to the customer and is being installed in Colorado Springs. He has started a new business on the side with Andy's soccer coach for three years, Armand Onesto. The company is called neXXsoft and offers network marketing for small businesses. The specialties are database management and consulting for new start-up companies. Look it up on the web at www.nexxsoft.com. He has invested a lot of time and money into it and has hopes that it will grow into a full-time business. Email him at louis@vc.net.

We had several fun trips this year. Over the Spring break, we rented a large houseboat on Lake Powell with friends Tricia and Dennis. It was a beautiful trip with a small powerboat along for fishing and exploring the narrow canyons of the lake. Andy caught several large striped bass for a good fish

dinner. In July, we flew to Minneapolis and visited Ron and Marilyn Lindner at their island in Lake of the Woods, Ontario. We all enjoyed the fishing, swimming, and boating in the North country as well as Ron's famous fish fries (Potatoes, Onion Rings, Walleye and Northern Pike). Just before school started, Louis took Andy, Emily, and Jeremy to Orlando to visit Disney World and the environs. We liked Epcot Center, Disney Quest, Animal Kingdom, Gatorland, and Busch Gardens Dark Continent in Tampa. Louis got sick on the virtual reality attractions much to the amusement of the kids.

We are looking forward to holidays at home this year and hope that you have pleasant ones also. Happy Y2K and beyond!

Louis, Chris, Andy, Emily, and Jeremy