

2004 Hugh Gregg and Becky Failor Annual Report

Executive Summary:

We did not win the lottery so we are still working at Lawrence Livermore National Lab. We went sailing in distant places, Thailand and Mallorca. Cats are still running the house. Families the same as last year. We hope you and yours are healthy, happy, and looking forward to a great new year.

Travels:

We celebrated the 2003 Christmas holidays in Thailand. This was our first time vacationing with a tour group. It was great fun with nice people. In between visiting 1×10^6 Buddhist temples (each different and truly beautiful), we rode elephants, had clothes custom-made, visited the River Kwei and the historic site of Ayutthaya, saw pandas at the Chiang Mai zoo, traveled via 20 different forms of conveyance, and after the group tour, we went sailing near Phuket (pronounced Poo-kett). The background picture is our dinghy at sunset (this was a naughty dinghy that went "walk about" without us). The photo shows us on the boat (including our "Thai boat boy" who was a 27-year old Canadian woman), on our elephant ride and in Thai finery borrowed from a museum (Becky in antique jewelry, Hugh with an antique sword).

In September we sailed off the coast of Mallorca with Bruce Newcome and "Sydney" Sue Mathews. Mallorca is one of the Baleric Islands off the coast of Spain. With highrise apartments along the coastline it was very different from Thailand sailing. Good sailing overall except for heavy weather a couple days. We decided to stay in port when we saw two planes and a helicopter marked SEARCH AND RESCUE fly overhead. The four of us rented a cute farm house 1 km outside of the small town of Pollenca for the second week. Had a grand time touring Mallorca and relaxing with the six to ten "house cats" who Bruce named "Bob". In the picture, you see Hugh on an ancient Roman bridge with a Pollenca native, who decided his being in the picture would add local color. We ended the trip with four days in London. Did all the tourist stops, like the Tower Bridge you see in the picture.

Work:

No significant changes in responsibilities for either of us at work (translation we are still running the place and letting others take the credit). Our duties keep us busy. Mistakes at our sister lab in Los Alamos increased scrutiny of our Lab. So we have plenty of people watching us work and offering their constructive (sometimes) criticism. Hugh continues to work with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons which took him to the Netherlands five times this year.

Miscellaneous:

Hugh enjoys having his plane in perfect condition (though much tinkering is done to keep it that way). Becky enjoys sitting in the right seat as a tourist for some weekend trips, such as Catalina Island.

Becky's parents had a nice party and all the family together for their 60th wedding anniversary in April.

We both sold our rental houses in Livermore, for tax purposes. Hugh bought another rental in Dublin. Becky invested in an apartment building in Texas. Amazing how much time and energy all that took, even with great real estate and investment people. Obviously, we are now in competition over the Texas and California housing markets to see whose investment prospers the most.

You:

We enjoy reading your "annual reports". Hope you are prospering and can report a bright future for 2005. If you are visiting near San Francisco, please let us know. We'd love to see you.

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