

Another year passed, and its time to bore you all with the details of it!

The new year started in Mexico. Becky and I drove down to Ensenada with the idea of camping and exploring the area for Christmas and the New Year. Many of the “camping” places were dirt or semi-paved, closely spaced spaces for RVs; not real inviting places. Then we came across a resort with a good camping area, swimming pool, restaurant & pub, and condos and a hotel. Since it was so nice, we used it as a base for a week of exploring the area – beach, national forest, wineries, and relaxing (Mario at the restaurant made good margaritas!). Had great weather (photo lower-left: beach just next to our camp site) except for the last evening when we had some rain. The lower-right photo is of a proprietor of a stained glass shop – great fun wandering about and exploring his creations. I now have a collection of his work (good prices!) in a clear window over my front door – including a lighthouse, sailboat, grapes and fish – the only thing missing is an airplane (he didn’t have any).

Other projects have been happening at home – all new windows, lots of painting, a couple of ceilings cleaned of the “cottage cheese” texturing. Unfortunately, there still seems to be a lot more to do, including replacing the furnace. Sigh. I hope to get started on some of the projects in January. Also have started to get some work done on the airplane (I know, you’ve heard that story before). The goal is to have it ready for the next air race in May.

Work has been interesting; at the moment, its just a job. We’ve re-arranged things a bit, and I’m not a fan of the current arrangement. I’ll have to start scheming and see what sort of changes I can institute ... or maybe look around and see what other opportunities there are (both at LLNL and outside).

Late last spring (May/June), four of us took a sailing trip to Antigua (photo upper-left & spread). A bit late in the season – so was a bit overcast with flukey winds. The water was confused, and a lot of silt was up, so there wasn’t very good snorkeling, much less diving. An accident with the main sheet (rope that controls the main sail & boom) took 1.5-2 days out of the trip (and Becky & I saw more of Antigua’s infrastructure than we cared to). Did have some nice days sailing ...

Have done some camping about the state – up and down the coast, Tahoe, Yosemite (photo upper-right). For my birthday, Becky rented a plane (she let me fly), and we flew down to Oceano – a small town not far from San Luis Obispo. Nice area, with camping on the field. A bit windy on the beach, but a great trip. Just wait until I get my plane flying ...

Thanksgiving was is central Michigan visiting family, and am now procrastinating packing for a holiday trip to Panama. No sailing planned, but we’ll spend a few days & Christmas on some islands in the Caribbean, visit a cloud forest, rain forest/jungle, full canal transit, and New Year’s Eve on an island in the Pacific. You’ll see pictures next year ...

‘til next year,
H.