

Me: Houston, We've had a problem here. It's almost Christmas and we don't have the letter done.
Houston: Well get er' done, with those kittens, you're wasting time, having too much fun!

Me: Houston, we have a bigger problem! It's now Christmas day and still no letter!
Houston: Well since we have no where to go, no rush, do it now, it could be even better

And here it is the day AFTER Christmas when I finally get a chance to fill you in on our year.
I apologize for the lateness, I've had one heck of a year— but I'll try for condensed, no fear.
This was a year of travel and change for all. Thousands of miles by plane, bike and car.
This family went all over the states for jobs but the best were the pleasure trips by far!

Starting with Emerson's co-op with Tesla in sunny California, to be exact, the town of San Jose.
Carolyn and I drove 3,000 miles to take the Camaro out to him, do you know the way?
While visiting, we saw giant redwoods, Route 1, beautiful waterfalls and seals galore.
I can see why he loves the place, it is warm, beautiful and to do there's so much more!
When he was offered a part time Tesla job in Buffalo while he finishes school,
He said, Oh yeah! but a full time in California after that is what would be really cool!
So right now it looks like Tesla in CA will be his destination after graduation in May
We are so proud of his accomplishments, but I will be very sad that he's so far away.
I'll just have to travel more when Jeff goes out and visit him whenever I get out the door.
I'm sure he won't mind 12 and there is a lot more to see, hike, visit and explore
Emerson bought a Tesla, Model 3 this fall (go figure, right!) a suave looking car in pearl white.
I experienced the unbelievably quiet ride and it takes off like an airplane lifting off in flight!
A car made for geeks & nerds, by even bigger geeks & nerds, if you've been in one you know.
These expensive cars have all the bells and whistles and hilariously, a fart generating mode!

In taking Emerson's Camaro to California, Carolyn and I crossed 10 states in under a week.
We drove, hiked, explored and drove some more— extensively, I could definitely speak.
We bathed in the Hot Springs bath house, saw buried Cadillac's and the super bloom.
We hiked the Hole in the Wall Rings Trail, Albuquerque trails petroglyphs and I'm out of room.
Plus, I'm behind and I promised condensed so I'm moving along to the next big gig.
Jeff had a conference in Destin, Florida so I went along to sit in the sand and dig!
Not really, I don't like sand, but I did have fun and added to my tan sitting on my rear!
Then I came home to help Katie move out to St. Mary's, PA and her new job, new career.

She left the zoo to be a Ranger for the summer in Parker Dam State Park, a fine place to stay.
Then she attended the academy for more training this fall and just had another graduation day.
She worked hard and had very little time to play over in Philly, such a shame I will say.
We were able to visit her and the city once in the fall but it was not long enough of a stay.
We are so proud of her fearless attack of the program and how she has grown.
We've got some seriously cool, talented, smart kids that we're glad to call our own!
She'll be moving away in the spring, just not quite sure where yet.
The nest will be emptying out again, I'll just have to get another pet!





HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Which is laughable, a great segue, if you've been keeping up with me at all.
 Since July 12, I've rescued and re-homed 60 (and counting) foster kittens. Really ya'll!
 At one point I had 24 young kittens in 3 rooms and it was crazy busy.
 Keeping up with cleaning, meds and loving left me quite dizzy!
 I love my full-time job loving on kittens, but not so much on the good-bye day.
 It's bittersweet to see them go, and every few kittens or so I really want one to stay.
 Other than kittens, my "real" library, substitute, photographer jobs are the same.
 I was training for a Tough Mudder and Triathlon when I damaged my shoulder, oh geez!
 But I managed to run another half marathon, and the Mudder (just two days before surgery.)
 It's coming along nicely and healing as planned. I'm back to running and racing hooray!
 Ticking off the states, one by one, Hawaii in January will be my favorite one I'd say!

In May I drove with Leiah to Austin for a co-op with Samsung (I told you they are smart!)
 We visited Mammoth Cave and got half way there when her van broke her heart.
 We ended up getting her a new (to her) Jazzy red Rav 4 to finish the trip.
 At least it happened in Hot Springs so we could go take a warm dip.
 She didn't like the heat and humidity of Texas and doesn't plan to go back there - no way!
 She has a patent pending from her project (I'm not allowed to tell you what) I'm proud to say!
 Straight from Texas to Towanda and Dupont for her second co-op what a change of pace.
 Ulster is a tiny place far, far removed from the daily hustle and bustle of the city rat race.
 She walked the fields of corn and found stray cats to befriend until it got cold.
 Then she built them a warm shelter, in this family, saving animals never gets old!

We replaced 3 of 5 cars this year, we were patriotic, choosing red, white and blue cars.
 Jeff hit a deer that totaled his little red Fit, so all that's left is mine and it's a fading star.
 Jeff continued to travel a lot, being just 6 legs shy of the ultimate level in flights.
 The travel should slow down some this year with some big news in sight.
 His company was part of a merger and there is some upheaval coming our way.
 We'll find out exactly what's in store for us in just a few days.

Twenty-Twenty will have a lot of changes in store for us all and I pray will like most of it.
 Having an empty nest (with at least tons of cute kittens) again will be the absolute pits.
 So come visit me and you can play with the kittens I promise.
 To one and all consider this your Christmas hug and kiss!
 Because if you've received the invite to read our years' history.
 You mean a lot to our family and especially to me!

May your new year be bright and full of prosperity and good cheer.
 May we exchange more than just Christmas cards next year!



Rhonda Jeff Katie Emerson Leiah