

The Bainbridge Blabber

Holiday Edition

December 1998



Christmas Greetings!

Once again it is time to update our friends and family on our comings and goings.



Bainbridge's have Moving Experience

As contemplated last year, Bob and Sandy have moved their abode. Their Arden Hills home sold in late January and by early February all possessions were in boxes and had been moved to our lake home. The house wasn't quite in 'move in' condition - the kitchen was powerless, waterless, and sinkless, and minor items like sheetrock, finishing, painting and carpeting remained. "No problem" said Bob as all of our possessions were stored in boxes and remained in the garage and storage buildings until mid May when things could begin to be unpacked and moved into the house. The moving "out" experience was quick - it's the moving "in" which has been an ongoing experience! The unpacking was finally completed by late summer and the Bainbridge's have vowed not to move again for some time!

Theory of Relativity Tested in St. Paul Suburb

Following the sale of our Arden Hills house, we still had consulting clients in St. Paul that required us to be in the cities during the week. Being "homeless", the "kids" (Carla and Scott) graciously allowed us to stay with them during the week on a temporary basis. "Temporary" lasted six months until we finished the remodeling work on our lake home, and transitioned our clients into working with us on a more remote basis. Carla and Scott were extremely patient and understanding through the entire ordeal. We are extremely grateful for their understanding and hospitality during this time. Presently we commute to the cities for three days every two weeks during which time we are staying with Sandy's folks in Golden Valley, which gives us a chance to help them out with things from time to time.

Coming Soon: Yet another Change of Address

No - this one is not our fault. Due to the National 911 initiative, all rural locations in America will be getting a street address instead of the route and box numbers used presently. Our address will change in early 1999. The old address will continue to be operative for another year. We will advise you of our new address (yet again) in the next edition of the Blabber. In the meantime you may contact us using the address found at the bottom of this page.



Squirrels - 6 Bob - 0

This Fall, we put up two birdfeeders which are much appreciated by our fine feathered friends. However, they are more appreciated by the squirrels which have been matching wits with Bob since late November. Every time the squirrels would get on the feeder, Bob would design an obstacle to keep them off. The squirrels would study it for a while, then overcome it. And back and forth - reminds Sandy of Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd pursuing that "wascully wabbit"! Sandy's dad, a veteran birder and Northwoodsman, noted that the smart money would be on the squirrel every time. Time will tell who prevails in this one.



In a related story, a squirrel has managed to set up housekeeping in our attic. It delights in running back and forth over the master bedroom starting about 11:30 p.m., and we are still clueless as to how it gets in and out. Having discriminating taste, it refuses to eat any of the mouse poison, which has contained the occasional visits of other related rodents. Bob tempted it with a live trap baited with a delicious mix of peanut butter and sunflower

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seeds. The squirrel enjoyed the bait leaving not a smidgen, but conveniently did not spring the trap. Any suggestions as to how to encourage the little visitor to leave would be much appreciated.

Wildlife Briefs

The wildlife report was quite colorful this year. Even though we have been coming up north for many years, we have seen more wildlife than usual this year – almost as if to announce that we were going to be imposing on the space that they owned. A couple of bossy chipmunks took up residence in the small pole building (after they found the stash of birdseed), and they were quite indignant, chattering noisily when asked to leave. We have had a neighborhood fox, which is fairly tame and came around at least once a day during construction to inspect the progress. It would sit down and watch the workers (who fed it doughnuts), or it would snooze in the driveway. Often, when Bob was working in the small storage building, the fox would stop by and peer in. Bob would talk to it and it would watch him work. One day we opened the door from the house to the garage and there was a **large** turtle right next to the door as if it wanted to come in and inspect the place. Another time there was a **large** salamander – Sandy had never even seen a salamanders that big. At least two turtles decided to lay eggs in the sand by the large storage building. One batch, I believe ended up as Sunday brunch for the fox. Even the deer have been profuse this year. It was common to see several along the road during the summer, and Bob saw many in the woods during hunting. Since they were all does, and he had no doe permit, they all escaped unscathed. The highlight was a white ermine in the woods that Bob watched for almost a half-hour – a very rare sight.



Clean Sweep Reveals Boat

While we didn't take a vacation this year, we did buy a used pontoon boat. We have wanted one for several years, but never felt "old" enough to buy one. What pushed us over the edge was a storage building so full of excess goods from combining two houses, that we couldn't get the powerboat out of storage. One of the neighbors had their pontoon boat for sale, so Bob bought it in a desperate attempt to get out on the lake. In late August, we finally got our act together to have a giant garage sale. We sold for two and a half days and got rid of lots of stuff. Finally, the storage building got cleaned out and organized so we can actually find most things again – including the boat!



Back to The Future

At last we are finally settled - living and working from our home. We remodeled with that as an objective, so now we have large office area, room for three or four employees, and a testing lab. We are presently working for our clients in the cities via phone, fax, e-mail, and the Internet. Our goal for next year is to start building a local client base. Bob is doing database, network and data communications consulting, and Sandy is consulting on accounting systems, financial report writing tools, and related software. Most engagements eventually result in management consulting activities as well. There is plenty of opportunity here. Bob has started going to township board meetings, Sandy is going to join a local church, and we are attending local events where possible. We seem to enjoy living here immensely. We feel confident that we will be able to build a business and we are looking forward to 1999 and the opportunities that may arise.

May all of you have a wonderful Christmas with the blessings of home family and friends.
And may the New Year bring happiness, health and prosperity to all.

