

The Bainbridge Blabber

Holiday Edition

www.BainbridgeBlabber.com

December 2021



Merry Christmas

Christmas Greetings to you all: We hope this finds you doing well and having survived the Covid 19 pandemic and various variants. 2020 is a year we are glad to have in the rear-view mirror. What an awful year in terms of personal health issues, masks and lockdowns. 2021 was a much better year for us, and we are hoping that 2022 will be even better.

Health Report—Good News: Sandy finished her Chemotherapy treatments in February and seems to feel better and better every day. Aside from a few minor latent side effects from the chemo, she seems to feel great and has more energy than before. Although it will be a five year wait until she can be declared “cancer free” (down to a bit over 4 years now), she is very optimistic about her potential for long term survival. Praise the Lord and thanks for all your prayers.

Bob is feeling good and had no major health issues this year other than needing a root canal. Again, we are thankful that he continues to be very active and have a high energy level and continued zest for life.

Daughter Carla was diagnosed with rectal cancer last year which subsequently spread to her liver. She endured colorectal surgery, an ostomy bag, and lots of Chemo with unpleasant side effects; however, the colorectal cancer seems to be gone. The liver cancer was treated with radiation including some proton beam radiation at Mayo Clinic. For now, her prognosis looks good as the radiation appears to have been successful in treating the liver cancer, but only time will tell. Through it all she remained surprisingly optimistic but was very determined to push her doctors for more aggressive treatments which seem to have paid off. We are thankful that she now appears to have the potential for long term survival.

Sandy the Pink Punk Rocker: One of the side effects of Sandy’s Chemotherapy was that she lost her hair 3 weeks after her 1st treatment in October of 2020. After five “bald” months, and a month after her final chemo treatment in February, her hair started to grow back. After such a long wait, she proclaimed that when it finally came in she was going to dye it pink to celebrate! Here is the result. While it was fun, it did fade fairly quickly to the bleached blonde under the pink. She has kept it blonde ever since in an effort to see if “blondes really do have more fun”! So far, the jury’s still out on that claim (ha, ha).



Life in the Promise Land: Sandy opted to not do a vegetable garden this year and instead worked on improving her flower gardens. Putting in an ornamental dry creek, adding some new perennials and mulching everything to keep the weeds down kept her plenty busy. The deer noticed the improvements and were nice enough to render their endorsement by eating off her

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new plants as soon as she put them in. They also gobbled up plants they typically don't bother like Yucca and ferns; and of course, went after more tasty favorites like her Daylilies, Hosta, and Iris. She in turn sent them a message by enclosing the new plants in cages and using wildlife netting. Take that!

Meanwhile Bob was unable to do much fishing as every time he went to take the boat out the battery was dead. New batteries didn't seem to help. A frustrated and irritated Bob was the result. A trip to the boat mechanic and the application of money finally found the problem. He's hoping for a better fishing year in 2022.

Bob continues to brew great beer and make exceptional wine. Always looking for new recipes, this year he made a "Voodoo Ranger" and a chocolate hazelnut porter that even Sandy likes.

The Bainbridge Solar Farm: Bob, ever the futurist, looked at the rising cost of electricity in a world that currently eschews fossil fuels and decided that it would be prudent to put up some solar panels. We currently have solar power on our boat dock so this was not a foreign notion for Sandy. However, while Sandy was envisioning a few solar panels on the roof, Bob was thinking a mini-solar farm in the backyard. Bob convinced her of the wonderfulness of it all, and having a large, sunny backyard, she agreed to go for it. The final project included 32- 4' x 8' panels and measures 40' x 60'. While not everyone has the opportunity to have a solar installation of this size, it worked out great for us. On sunny days, we watch our electric meter run backwards!



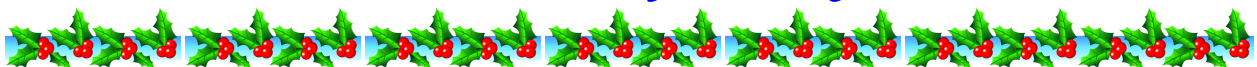
Hunting update: Bob was lucky enough to shoot a nice buck this fall and we were able to get a good amount of venison steaks, tenderloins, roasts and over 25 # of deer sausage for the freezer. We do our own butchering and make our sausage from a great recipe Bob found online that most people really like. He mixes and grinds the meat with ground pork and savory spices while Sandy helps with the sausage stuffing. Now them's good vittles!



Life Post Cancer: While there are still a few minor lingering side effects from chemotherapy, Sandy's sense of taste is back and was able to enjoy a great Thanksgiving dinner this year. She also pulled out all the stops to decorate the house for Christmas this year to try to get back to a sense of "normal". Even Bob was more enthused and added to some of our outdoor decorations. We feel good and are optimistic about the future. We hope you are too.

We feel so blessed to count you all as family and friends. Let us all take time to reflect on the many blessings we have whether home, family, health, or whatever. We wish you all the merriest Christmas.

Bob and Sandy Bainbridge



May this Christmas Season be one filled with love and joy for all of you, and may you find the New Year filled with blessings and all good things for you and your loved ones.