

Dear Pops & Mom Feb. 15, 2011  
Hope your month went well and you are both feeling well. Thank you so much for the Birthday card and money. I hate to admit it but it was the only Birthday card I received. Don't get me wrong I got many, many Birthday wishes but people send internet cards and emails these days and... well... it's just not the same! After spending over 2 weeks at the Ogier's Andrea went back to school and tension seemed a little high around the house. I mentioned that to Tim and Mike while we were checking out the raft and Tim suggested I come to Aspen to help him move into his new place. For my work he would pay my room and board. After quite a bit of research it seemed



that the train from Denver to Glenwood Springs was the most economical. Little did I know it is the tourist train and is very, very slow. The scenery was beautiful but I think I could have jogged there faster! I did see a herd of elk running across a snowy field and an eagle sitting by the river. Of course, the camera was not out at the time. The train went along the river and I recognized boat ramps that Dale and I had

used on different river trips years ago. The places looked quite a bit different with all that snow though! I love traveling by train because the train goes a different route than the highway and I get to see new things. However I do like the train that runs up the Pacific Coast better as it is so much faster! Once in Glenwood Springs I took the bus to Aspen which dropped me off about a 5 block walk (trudging







*The view from the upper deck.*

Then the economy went into a slump so they are just holding the house. Tim works for the city so they offered it to him to keep an eye on and live in rent free. Now that is hard to turn down! The best part is that the house is 5 blocks from the Aspen Gondola and pedestrian mall. It is right downtown and walking distance to everything. Aspen is a very interesting place. It reminds me of a beach town in Oregon. A small town with regular people and many tourists. The difference is the Aspen tourists have lots and lots of money. It is not



*The view from the upper deck zoomed in. You can see the chairlift and ski runs.*



hard to determine who are the tourists and which ones are the locals.

Tim has been trying to move from one place to the other for months but for one reason he works so many hours he doesn't have time and another reason is he has way too much stuff and is very disorganized. Ah! What a perfect project for me!

I started by painting and remodeling the upstairs. We tore out the old kitchen and using some cabinets the city had left from

*The creek down the street. It's all so frozen!*

through the snow) to Tim's new house. He is moving from a 3,000 square foot house he and his wife shared up high in the mountains of Snowmass to a place in Aspen. Around the turn of the century the Aspen house was actually 2 log cabins side by side and in the 60's someone built an A-frame house over the two houses. It was most recently owned by a guy that kept a studio apartment upstairs and rented out the 4 bedrooms downstairs. The downstairs has a shared bathroom, living room and shared kitchen. The City of Aspen bought the place to tear it down and build low cost housing.



another project made a great upstairs kitchen. The bulk of the work however was sorting and getting rid of his stuff. I sorted, threw out, gave away, boxed up and moved stuff every day.

I have to say it was a lot of fun painting, moving, arranging and setting up the house. Now that is something I have not done in over 20 years. I think I must have rearranged the furniture every day till I had it just right! There is still a lot to be done downstairs but he has a great apartment upstairs for the time being and he can work on the rest. It is hard to put much into it though as the city will eventually tear it down.



*I made one of the downstairs bedrooms just for his river rafting gear. A river runners dream!*



*Most of the old logs have been covered up with barn wood but there are some areas where they show through. This summer he is going to take more of the wood off to expose the wood.*



Tim gave me a ride to Denver the next weekend as he needed to go in so I spent the weekend at the Ogiers and went to the Denver Stock Show and Rodeo. It was actually a lot of fun and the first rodeo I had ever been to. Afterwards it was out to my birthday dinner. Jeez can you believe I am 60! The best part is I got my first Social Security check last week. \$1,000 per month. I know that's not much but it doubles my income! While in Denver I had dinner with Jace. He seems so happy and so full of life. He works an awful lot and explained all about a national award he won. He was just leaving the next day to go on a trip to New York and accept the award with his



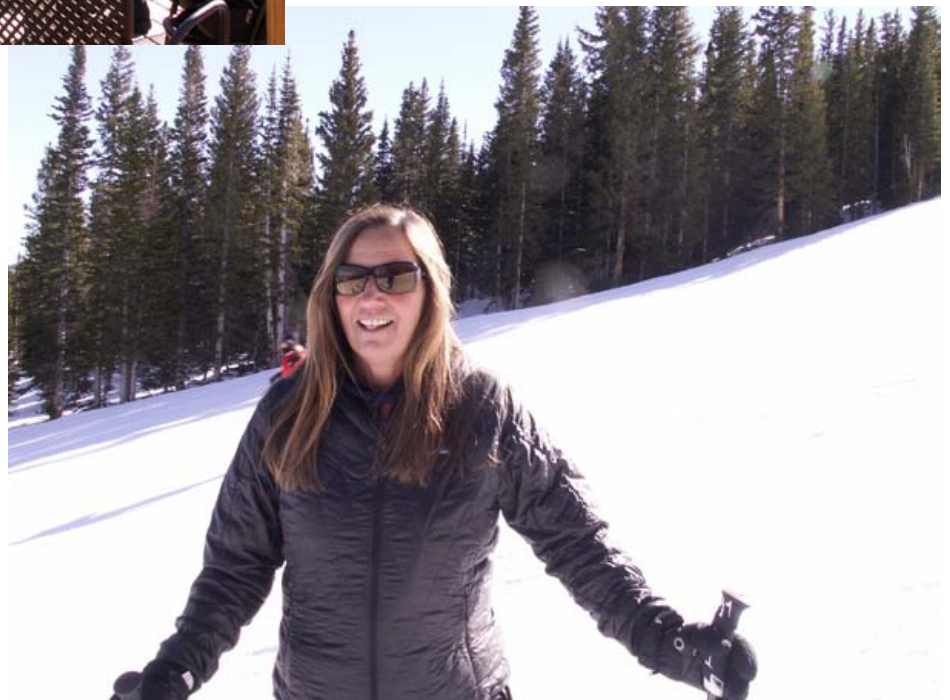
*On top of the world!*



boss and other people from his company. He was very worried about how it was all going to go but I emailed him after and he was very pleased with the trip. He was one of only 13 in the USA that received this award and was extremely proud of himself. He is still living in a condo waiting for his house that burnt down to be re-built. The thing he likes to do best is travel and he goes on these very long 4 day trips. For example he will fly out of Denver on Thursday after work and go to Italy for 3 days and fly back over night Monday to be at work Tuesday morning. Ah to be young!

*This is my kind of Skiing!*

I went back to Aspen (I'm addicted to that place) for my last week in Colorado and this time had just a little more fun and less work. I actually went skiing for the first time in about 10 years. I am happy to report they have improved on the equipment. My feet didn't hurt and the little short wide skis they gave me reminded me of old fashioned water skis. I spent one day just walking around the streets and window shopping. Yikes there



*By the end of the day I was into it and wanted to go again and again!*



are some very fancy stores there. It reminds me of Beverly Hills. The last weekend of January was the X-Games in Aspen. A town of only 5,000 people was over-run by 80,000 tourists. It was fun and very crowded everywhere. I went to the games a couple times. It is really well done and mostly catering to the young crowd. There are no seats... you just walk around and stand to watch the events. There is also no drinking which is a great thing with all those kids. Snow boarders, extreme skiers, jumps, flips, twists, turns and wild fast skiing. The wildest is the snowmobile competition. Jumps



*The half pipe.  
I watched their progress as it took them well over a month to build it with bulldozers and snow making machines.*

and flips on snowmobiles. Those guys are nuts! It turned out to be more fun to go to the games for a while and then watch it on TV. You could see much better, it was warm, there was a chair, and a glass of wine. Finally on the 31st of January I caught a shuttle to the airport and began my trek back to La Paz. Lucky me Craig and Jennifer wanted to borrow the van to visit Todo

*Jumping and flipping snowmobiles... crazy!*

Santos and Cabo San Lucas so I talked them into visiting the day I flew in. The 3 hour ride home in my own car. My boat sitters Pat and Carole were here when I returned and all was in great shape. We had a quick breakfast the next morning and they were off. Now time to get Colin working on the new exhaust system and the countless other things he has promised to fix.

*My Christmas Boots!*





*Moving "Moontide" while the Navy finds the proper mooring for the buoy.*

My friend Bill has a very sick son.... Cystic Fibrosis. It is all very sad and Bill had to leave his boat in La Paz and fly back to California. Marina fees for such a big catamaran are outrageous so he bought a mooring buoy and left "Moontide" on it with Craig keeping and eye on the boat and starting the engines. Well the green buoy in the picture on the left got loose from it's mooring one day and the Mexican Navy chained the buoy to Bills mooring! So "Moontide" was banging into this buoy! I went on a rescue mission with Craig and the boys to move "Moon-tide" to another temporary mooring until the Navy moves the green buoy. Crazy place!

Not only does Colin have to work on his tasks I need to do quite a few of my own. I still needed to put a coat of varnish on the toe rail. I wanted a nice

finished product so I spent quite a bit of time on the taping and sanding part. I also needed to clean and put a coat of wax on the hull sides. When I worked in the boatyard I would have the guys buff the boat every year but I can no longer afford that luxury so if I diligently keep waxing it every 6 months the paint will not get oxidized and turn chalky white. Then I gave all the stainless a super good shine and scrubbed the deck. There! Now the boat is starting to look ship shape again. Colin finally showed up and removed the leaking exhaust muffler. I had brought a new one down from the states but it required a bit of fabricating to make it fit. He finished just in time for the Valentines Day Race. It was lots of fun but there was so little wind we had to cancel the race before we could finish. Still a great time and fun to finally get the boat out on the water.

Next month... over to Puerto Vallarta and the Banderas Bay Regatta. Yippee!  
Love,  
Patsy



*We were in front!*