

View From the Toppled



December, 2011

Our 20th year in Alaska!

Executive Summary:

- Diane still working for the State of Alaska as a Petroleum Geophysicist
 - Bruce still 'retired'
 - Elyse graduated in May, now subbing in the Anchorage School District
 - Dylan is working at The Honda Dealership in Anchorage
 - Cin-D still a dog (11th year in a row)
 - We are still in Alaska (mostly)
- Email addresses**
- Bruce bruce at shellenbaum.com
 - Diane diane at shellenbaum.com
 - Elyse elyse.kutzer at gmail.com
 - Dylan dylan.kutzer at gmail.com

A Years Worth of News

We went back to Maui with Bob and Nancy this year, first time without any kids. It made for a quieter time. Lots of snorkeling, (Bruce got some cool turtle photos) and Diane and Bruce did another zipline tour which criss-crossed across a steep canyon, very fun.

Elyse graduated in May so the clan descended on Laramie for the day. She and Dylan

moved back up in June aided by Dylan's dad Brad. It's really nice having them in the same town. They stayed with us for less than a week before moving into a cozy one bedroom apartment.



Eagle outside (on) Homer restaurant

Not much else went on this year, a few hikes, a weekend spent in Homer, another spent in a cabin on a lake. Cin-D did get her first canoe ride on the lake. A few years ago, she would have jumped out in the excitement of it all. Now, she just settled in and let us paddle her around. She did have a tendency to tip the boat as she moved from one side to the other, and leaning over the side

to get a quick drink.

In December, we've had 3 major wind storms so far. Wind gusts over 100mph, the picture on the banner was the largest tree in our yard, which started to come out of the ground and then snapped off. It missed our house, missed our shed,

creamed the fence, hit the neighbor's birch tree, missed THEIR shed and came to rest nestled against their house. Besides some branches off the birch, the only damage was to



the fence. This tree was 18 inches diameter at the base. It could have caused 10s of thousands of dollars damage so we were lucky.

Elyse is working this semester as a long term substitute teacher, which means she has taken over a classroom for a teacher that is out on leave. Next semester will be more traditional sub work as she starts interviewing for a permanent job with the district.

Dylan is working full time as a mechanic for the Honda dealer in town and seems to be enjoying it, he's getting plenty of work and from the stories he's sharing, it's a good crew to work with.

Diane and Bruce have taken 3 craft classes this fall.

1-beginning stained glass

2-beginning glass fusion (Diane's fav)

3-beginning woodturning (Bruce's fav)

Bruce has 'dabbled' with wood turning for years, using a drill powered lathe, now he has a real one and the class has finally shown him what he's been doing wrong all these years, especially with the skew gouge.

Diane want to explore the glass fusion further but Bruce is done with it. So, we will go our separate crafty ways.

All in all, a pretty good year. We seem to be here for the long haul, especially with the kids back up here. So, come up and see us some time.

Wingtip coming back from Maui



Snorkeling with the turtles

