

The Georgia McClure's Christmas Chronicle

December 2005

As the hustle and bustle of the holiday season is now upon us, I'm hearing the annual reminders that it's time to work on our annual Christmas newsletter. Somehow, these reminders get louder and louder as the days of December pass by. Maybe I'm just getting better at tuning them out!

The year started out with a construction project aimed at helping "move" the boys and all of their toys downstairs to the basement and out of mom's hair upstairs. I designed plans for finishing our basement (~1600 SF) and turning that space into a multi-purpose recreation, work and living area. Construction lasted about three months and we now have a large media room area (future theater), game room with full bar / kitchenette area, guest bedroom, full bath, large office / photo studio and plenty of storage space. We've invested in a nice air hockey table as the first family toy for the game room.

In March, exciting news came our way when we found out we were expecting our third child. There was much debate about whether we were ready for a third child or not but the "pressure" of trying for a girl wound up winning out over my reservations of dirty diapers for another two years. The agreement was to not find out what sex the baby would be so there was much anticipation over the next eight months as Denise tried out all of the "tests" and listened to all of the tales about whether she'd have a boy or a girl. At 3:18AM on October 13th, 2005 (four weeks early), all of the anticipation was over. Allison Rachel McClure was born and we had our baby girl! Allison weighed 5 pounds 3 ounces and was 18 inches long and completely

healthy. She's now a whopping 9 pounds 3 ounces and 20 inches long after two months of non-stop eating and sleeping. Big brothers Jordan and Jacob are warming up to their new sister more and more each week. Jacob is more than willing to help Mommy with the baby while Jordan seems to be a bit more timid.

Speaking of the boys, they're quite the handful now. Jordan is eight and in the third grade. He's busy with his studies now as school gets much more focused now. Math, science, reading and writing are all on the weekly homework list. When not busy with school, Jordan played baseball in the Spring and Fall this year. He's moved up to the next league now and is in kid pitch baseball with all of the traditional rules. He also enjoys playing on the computer, video games, golf, riding his bike, scooter and skateboard and participating in Royal Rangers at church.

Jacob is the more adventurous of the two boys. He's five this year and in Pre-K at a local private school. Jacob enjoys doing whatever his big brother is doing but tries to one up him and is usually much more aggressive. Jacob played T-Ball in the Spring and machine pitch baseball in the Fall. I enjoyed coaching and managing Jacob's baseball teams this year. Jacob also enjoys playing golf, video games and now participating in the Royal Rangers at church. Let me say again – if Jordan's doing something, sitting somewhere, playing with something, etc. Jacob "must" be doing the same thing!

Denise continues to work for the Department of Defense at Naval Air Station Atlanta providing transportation services, passports and visas for official government travel. News came this year that the base was placed on the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) list and recommended for closing. She hears that this is

a multi-year process so she's not too worried about losing her job anytime in the near future. Denise spends a great deal of her time now caring for Allison and plans on returning to work after the New Year's holiday. In her "spare" time, she enjoys creating beautiful scrapbooks for our family and others and all of the other joys of being a Mom.

I continued to work for EarthLink throughout the year as a manager of an information technology development and operations group. EarthLink made many defensive changes throughout the year to better position itself for the future based on how people will use, access and communicate over the Internet in the future. I anticipate making a career change in the near future taking with me a tremendous amount of experience and forward thinking ideas to further my work in business, service and technology operations and management. I continue to enjoy participating in sporting activities with Jordan and Jacob, playing golf, photography and watching/attending NASCAR races.

We managed to fit in some quality family time this year. Denise and I vacationed in Hawaii for the first time this year (compliments of all my past travels). We hit all of the traditional tourist spots on Oahu over five days and enjoyed the quality time together before the baby's arrival. We were also able to spend time with Denise's Grandpa Bob and Barbara who knew all of the great restaurants and sunset spots! (Thanks to Grandma coming out from Oregon to watch the boys!) We vacationed as a family in Hilton Head, SC in early August before school started and enjoyed plenty of beach, bikes and golf. Family visits included trips by my parents from Oregon and Denise's family from Augusta, GA.

We visited Georgia's new aquarium last week while my parents visited between the holidays.

This is the world's largest aquarium and I strongly recommend anyone traveling to the South East to plan a trip to visit. Our home is always open for our friends and family to drop in!

We certainly hope this finds you and your family well this holiday season. With all of the devastation, disaster and loss around the country, we pray that your extended families are safe, healthy and in good spirits wherever they may be. We keep all of you in our thoughts and prayers daily and miss frequent contact with you immensely.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Doug, Denise, Jordan, Jacob and Allison

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