



Yuletide Greetings for 2010



Jim and I and our three furry boys, Loki, Slater, and Taberius, are doing very well. Here's an update on our activities and adventures in 2010.

- ◆ New Zealand and Tasmania - In March, we visited NZ & T for a month, 3 weeks in NZ and a week in Tasmania. We just scratched the surface in both places, and would like to return. Loved New Zealand; beautiful country, not very many people, though those we met were friendly and generally had very good senses of humor. Tasmania was also lovely, and we only explored a tiny bit. We also learned 4 weeks is about 1 1/2 weeks too long for us to be gone, a valuable lesson.



Along the road to Milford Sound



Sculpture in Hobart, Tasmania



Jim on Milford Track



Tasmanian Devil



New Zealand countryside



Forest primeval in New Zealand

- ◆ Showing our age, we bought a used tent trailer this year, and used it for our spring and fall trips to AZ and the Southwest. It's got real tires, not wimpy tires, and a sturdy frame so we can take it on many 4WD roads. It's fairly basic, but has a king bed and small galley, and room to sit inside; a big step up from our tent. I'm looking forward to LOTS of trips with this thing.
- ◆ Visited Colorado National Monument in October. It's well worth visiting, with good hiking and spectacular canyons and rock formations. We even saw a couple of bighorn sheep, a highlight.



Bighorn ram, Colorado National Monument



Jim at Rally to Restore Sanity



Camping in the Alabama Hills

◆ Responding to a call for reasonableness, Jim and I attended Jon Stewart's Rally to Restore Sanity in Washington, D.C., on 10/30/10. Jim hadn't been to Wash., D.C. before, and we had a very good time exploring a sample of the museums and monuments. Stayed in a hostel which was very well located for walking, very reasonable for a private room, and sparkling clean. We'll go back!

◆ Jim continues to spend a lot of time as a volunteer for several organizations, including the Golden Drift Historical Society, the Dutch Flat Community Center, and his own group, the North Fork American River Alliance. He was also appointed by our district supervisor to the county's Parks Commission, which is proving interesting. He'll do a great job for them, and they're lucky to have him.

- ◆ I'm still doing the local paper 4 times a year, which is lots of fun, and lots of work, and I maintain websites for several local nonprofits. I also now maintain the web pages on the Placer County website for our district supervisor, Jennifer Montgomery, as a volunteer. It's been entertaining to dive back into the county network, and to see former colleagues & friends.

We look forward to lots more travel, contributions to our community, and time with family and friends in the upcoming year. Wishing you the best throughout the season, and in 2011!

Susan & Jim



Looking west from Alder Hill, near Truckee, on snowshoe excursion



Arboreal Slater



Tabby helps me wash wool



Nap in the metate