

Holiday Greetings from Doug and Sherry Wilson



We'll try to keep our tendency toward blabbiness in check and make this relatively short and sweet this year.

The first half of the year we were away from home something like 6 weeks. Late January/early February brought our usual week at our Spicebush timeshare in Hilton Head. Later in February we took a 10-day Caribbean cruise out of Savannah with some of our Aiken friends. You may have heard in the news of the Celebrity *Mercury* that was plagued by norovirus -- that was our ship, resulting in our cruise departing a day late to allow for extra cleaning. The *Mercury's* problems continued on several subsequent cruises, and a number of folks on our cruise did become ill, but we managed to duck it somehow. In April we were back to Hilton Head again for a week at the Heritage golf tournament. Then in June we went on a 12-day tour of China, accompanied by our perennial cruise partners, our Ohio friends Bob and Lynn Russell.

A golf fan's dream come true! After 5 years of trying, we finally hit the lottery for four tickets to the Masters Golf tournament this April in nearby Augusta, GA. Mark and Liz Danner, former neighbors in Midland MI and now living in Chardon OH came down and joined us. We just had Tuesday practice round tickets but it was still pretty special.



Sherry and the tourist hordes at The Great Wall.

When returned home from China in June, we were pretty much homebodies for the rest of the year. Our dog Cookie is getting up there in years, has lost most of her hearing, and her hips are getting pretty feeble. She seemed to be failing fast, and we didn't want any more of the last weeks of her life to be spent in a kennel so we made Aiken our base camp. Fortunately, Cookie's condition seems to have stabilized, and she doesn't seem to be in pain, so we hope to have her around for quite a while longer. Meanwhile, during this "home stand" Bob and Lynn Russell came down for our club's Couples Member/Guest tournament.

As you may know, the arthritis in Doug's knees has become more troublesome in recent years, and we elected to have his bone-on-bone right knee replaced in November. But for the summer he was fitted with an orthopedic brace to support the knee -- it didn't fix anything, but it provided real relief when he had to be on his feet (and it sure gave him a strange looking tan pattern on his leg). When November arrived he had his surgery as planned. The weekend before the operation our



long time friends Mike and Deb Husk came down from Maryville TN to help us enjoy our last weekend unencumbered by knee recovery issues.

The hospital stay the day after the surgery took an unexpected turn when Doug fell on the knee in his hospital room, tearing out about 2/3 of the staples holding his suture together and strewing blood all over the place. This necessitated a return trip to the operating room that night to put him back together. Doug needed some care when he returned home, and Mike Husk graciously offered to come back down to stay with Doug a few days after his release from the hospital so that Sherry could go on a long-planned golf trip with her girlfriends to Hilton Head. As this is written, Doug's getting around with and without a cane, and his rehab is progressing steadily, although it's likely a slower and more difficult recovery than he'd have had without that hospital mishap.

As for the more mundane aspects of our daily lives, we continue to enjoy our days here in Aiken. We each continue with several year-round golf groups and with taking courses from our local Academy for Lifelong Learning. Sherry is still active in several garden clubs, two of which she serves in as President, and continues to ride herd on the "Book Babes" book club she formed several years ago. Doug remains active as administrator of the Timeshare User's Group's online bulletin board (www.tugbbs.com). Locally, he is on the Board for the Aiken Academy for Lifelong Learning where he also serves as editor of the Academy's newsletter, and where he received this year's Kauffman Award for outstanding contribution to the organization.



Doug receives the 2010 Kauffman Award.

If your travels should bring you down Aiken-way, please be sure to stop in and see us. Our guest room is ready and waiting ...

Best wishes for the Holidays and the coming year,

Doug & Sherry

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