

# The Parkins Report

## Events of 2005

Another year has passed, in the same house: four years is nearly a new record for us. We remain in reasonably good health for our ages, and keep active by bicycling whenever we can find time. Most of you did not hear from us last year: 2004 seemed uneventful, but looking back, we took a lot of things for granted that we missed this year.

### Travels

Our trip to New Mexico was early this year, in January, in time to catch the Las Cruces balloon festival, but also in the midst of the mid-winter inversion cycle in western Montana. Getting home was an adventure, resulting in an extended stay in Salt Lake City on the way home between overflights of fogged-in Missoula, on one of which we jumped ship during a fuel stop in Kalispell, catching a ride with other diverted passengers and stopping at Missoula to collect our luggage, which had been bussed from Butte.

Our spring Anniversary weekend (our 20<sup>th</sup>!) took us to Helena, where we toured the magnificent newly renovated Capitol building and the grounds of the Archie Bray Foundation, a world-renowned ceramic arts center.

A planned trip to Wisconsin in May for an airplane kit builders workshop at the Sonex factory and a visit to Matt and family got diverted and extended to prepare the Parkins family home in Minnesota for sale.

Judy journeyed back to Minnesota in June with friend Connie Johnson to attend the Minnesota Quilt Guild show in Duluth, and took a solo trip to western Washington in July for a visit with niece Rose and brothers Tom and Henry.

We took in the Eureka, Montana outdoor quilt show, using our cabin for a half-way stopover.

Our resort vacation in Columbia Falls in August came up short a few grandchildren, but we had a good week with Matt, sans family, and Mark

and his family, plus some bike training miles and a canoe excursion in Whitefish.

September took us to Mount Vernon, Washington, to participate in the 2005 MS150 bicycle event, supporting the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. We rode the metric version, 150km (93 miles) over a two-day period on a hilly and windy course.

October saw us in Spokane for the annual quilt show, during which we also took in the annual Greek dinner at the Greek Orthodox church. Larye's birthday dinners of recent years have ended up at various church basement suppers more often than not...

Early December found us on our way to San Diego, where Larye attended the annual USENIX LISA conference, the 19<sup>th</sup> system administration conference, his first. While Larye was cloistered in meeting rooms, Judy toured the city, checking on the quilting, beading, and knitting scene.

We spent a quiet rainy weekend at the cabin over the holiday, our first since Labor Day: this fall has been very busy preparing for the arrival of the airplane kit on November 8 and the December computer conference.

### Home Front

This year, we remodeled the utility room and bath, having the carpentry done during the day while we painted at night. Even a cosmetic face lift, with reconfigured panty/laundry and new floor covering and paneling made a major dent in our housing budget. We are beginning to realize that when you buy an old house (ours turned 90 this year), you make one monthly payment to the bank and one to the lumber yard. We also had a built-in plate rack added to the kitchen. New storm windows and doors on the house and garage have helped reduce the increase in heating costs due to the fuel crisis. We may regret having removed the wood stove last year when we replaced the water heaters and wall furnace with a central boiler, but the cost of wood has also gone up and we have more time for winter projects if we don't have to keep stoking the stove.

The garden went neglected this year. We used the greenhouse for a paint booth during the remodel, just before the plastic cover expired from UV. This winter, the greenhouse is a tarp-covered auxiliary shed for storing outdoor items.

The major project started this year was the airplane. 38 years after his last solo flight, Larye received the first bundle of aircraft parts, which we wedged into the remaining single bay of the garage in November. During the next two to three years, he hopes to transform the pile of sheet metal into a two-place, 175mph flying machine. We are saving up for the motor (an Australian-made Jabiru 120hp 6-cylinder model), and other accessories we won't need until toward the end of the project. Meanwhile, he has also restarted his pilot training, which got put on hold to raise a family, back in 1967. You can track progress on the plane at <http://waix.parkins.org>, which will be updated often.

### On the Internet

Check our family web site for details:

This file: <http://www.parkins.org/2005Report>



*IMS150 Stage 2: sprinting across the finish line, 75km stage, 150km total. September 11, 2005. 5:10:00 stage time, 11:20:00 overall. (Lance we ain't, but we're not 33 either.)*

Browse: <http://www.parkins.org>

Aircraft project: <http://waix.parkins.org>

## Jobs

**Realizations Fabric Arts** still keeps Judy busy with quilting tops for piecers in the Bitterroot, plus a few clients in Missoula and Libby, Montana, Arizona, and California. She and the other five machine quilters in the valley have formed a mini-group and pooled their talents to keep member Grace Doyle's Wild Horse Gallery in Darby stocked with handmade quilts, which have been selling quite well. They also have stocked Coyote Gulch, a local log furniture showroom, with quilts. Judy has branched out into beaded embellishments, tote bags, and knitted scarves.

**We** didn't make it to Machine Quilters Innovations in Tacoma this year, but Judy did attend the Minnesota Quilt Guild show in June, taking classes from some of the best-known teachers in the field.

**Both** Judy and Larye had quilts in the Bitterroot Quilt Guild show this summer. The show was a great success. Judy had only one of her own quilts on display, but had quilted many of the entries in the show, one of which later won Best of Show for Machine Quilting at a county fair in Arizona.

**Judy** also co-chaired the Thimbleberries Club monthly sessions at the local quilt shop this past year.

**Larye** continues to work for Perot Systems Government Services under contract to the Rocky Mountain Laboratories, performing Unix system administration plus some bioinformatics programming. At 4-1/2 years, this is becoming one of Larye's longest-duration projects in his 40-year career. This year, he got co-author billing on yet another paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, and acknowledgment in another paper, published in the Journal of Immunology.

He also got sent (after much pleading and whining) to a conference in San Diego, in December, during the first big "deep freeze" of the Montana winter. Larye says he gets to go to one major conference every 19 years (CP/M '83 and the 2002 O'Reilly

Bioinformatics Technical Conference being the standard), but someone in management must have been confused by the "19<sup>th</sup> Annual" on the USENIX Large Installation System Administration conference and mistakenly approved the trip. Judy went along and explored San Diego by light rail and bus, taking care of some quilting business along the way, while Larye spent 16 hours each day cloistered with 1200 other Unix geeks in discussions and training sessions related to the profession and the practice of making computers useful to others.

**Information Engineering Services** is essentially reduced to the IT department for Realizations, but Larye keeps his options open. We acquired our first multi-processor machine this summer, a used Dell 2300, as a backup server.

## Contacts

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**Much** more on the web. Quilts, trips, photos, etc., plus an expanded version of this report with links.

## Family

**No** new additions this year.

**Passages:** Norman Strube, Larye's uncle, February 1; Pearl Parkins, Larye's stepmother, September 18.

**Visits** were lamentably short. We spent a weekend in Las Cruces in January, coinciding with great-granddaughter Claudissa's ninth birthday (shared with her aunt, granddaughter Kalen, 24), with the bonus of the Las Cruces Hot-Air Balloon Festival. We made an all-too-brief stop to visit Matt, Patricia, and grandchildren in Wisconsin between a weekend workshop in Oshkosh and real estate issues in Minnesota. We did visit with cousins Monette and Cathy in Minnesota, and Aunt Jo

(Strube) on the same trip. Judy saw siblings Tom and Henry (Bingham) and niece Rose in July, and we spent part of a resort week in Montana in August with Matt, Mark, Candice, and Ethan. And, we rode the MS150 bike event with Candice's sister Liz in September. Judy's sister Bing and husband Ben joined us in Columbia Falls for a couple of days and, of course, we visited weekends during the summer when at our cabin and they joined us for the Bitterroot Bluegrass Festival in July.

## Friends

**The** welcome mat is still out: we're in a friendly small town with great scenery, come on down. We now have a real guest room, having converted the TV room/office to a full-time bedroom.

**We** had a brief visit by Gary and Char from Washington State.

**Our** local circle of friends includes quilting and sewing groups, who make us feel very much a part of a dynamic community, and we met new folks in the bicycle club.

## Outings

**We** took in a number of cultural events this year, including our third year to attend the Bitterroot Bluegrass Festival, and took in several musical performances at the Hamilton Performing Arts Center; we missed the Shakespeare in the Parks again.

**In** addition to the local Bitterroot Quilt Guild show, we took in the Eureka and Seeley Lake outdoor shows, missing the Quilting in the Country outdoor show this year.

**While** Judy remains busy with her quilt-related groups, Larye also joined the "Moda University" quilt club, which meets monthly, and the Bitterroot Writer's Group, which meets biweekly to practice writing and critique members work.

### *Environmental Notice*

No Microsoft products were used in the production of this newsletter.

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