

S P R I N G 2 0 1 2

HAPPY HAPPENINGS

114TH EDITION

Family Reunion July 23-26, 2012

MONDAY

Breakfast

On your own

Rafting

First run at about 8:45. And then about every hour and a half thereafter. White water and calm water available. Life jackets provided, you may want a wind breaker or a wet suit if you chill easily.

Picnic Lunch

12:00 at ?

Teton Valley Cabins

Check-in any time after 3:00

Supper

F.H.E.

Lawson

TUESDAY

Breakfast

Grand Teton National Park

Jenny Lake - either take a boat trip (\$10/adult, \$5/child) across & back, or take a beautiful 6 mi. round trip walk.

Hidden Falls Hike - 1.2 mi. round trip from Jenny Lake boat dock.

Inspiration Point Hike - additional 1 mi. moderately strenuous hike from Hidden Falls

Picnic Lunch

1:00ish at park in Jackson

Jackson

Window shopping, play in the park

Bar J Wranglers Chuckwagon

5:30 Tour old western village, watch demos

7:00 Enjoy a delicious dinner and fabulous entertainment

WEDNESDAY

Breakfast

Grand Teton National Park

Menor's Ferry, Cunningham Cabin, and Lunchtree Hill - about 1.5 mi. combined round trip walk.

Glacier, Wilderness, and Columbine Waterfalls - roadside

Picnic Lunch

1:00ish at picnic area near museum

Indian Art Museum - free

Jackson Shoot-Out Enactment - 6:00, free

Supper

Service Project

Mom and Loreen in charge

THURSDAY

Breakfast

Check out by 11:00

Anthony is planning a visit to Lava Hot Springs on the way home, everyone is invited to join him.

LODGING

Teton Valley Cabins

***388 E. Ski Hil Road, Driggs, Idaho 208-354-8153**

<http://www.tetonvalleycabins.com>

* **\$97.00** (tax incl) per night for two queen beds (linens), bathroom (linens), kitchenette (see guest service)

* **\$10.00** per night for pets

* **\$10.00** per day (or \$27.00 per week) for exercise room

* **Laura will bring two large tents for kids, bring your own sleeping gear**

* fire ring, picnic area with 2 banquet tables and chairs, laundry facilities, volleyball, and horseshoes,

ASSIGNMENTS

Larry - food assignments (each person will provide a meal for the 39 of us- call Larry to choose a meal) and **reservations at BAR J**

Lawson - F.H.E.

Leslie - ??? Something that will help us get to know each other - drawing names for a "secret relative" or for a hiking buddy or for a dinner group or games in the park in Jackson or ????

Loreen & Mom - Service Project pay per family instead or per couple and adult child? How much?

\$\$\$\$\$

* **\$25.00** per adult and **\$10.00** per child 12 and under for **Bar J** to Larry by **June 1**

* **\$291.00** for **cabins** to Laura by **June 15**

* **\$10.00** per person for **rafting** to Laura by **June 15**

* **\$10.00** per adult and **\$5.00** per child 12 and under for those who want the **Jenny Lake boat ride** (other option is a 6-mile walk to and from the trailhead) to Laura by **June 15**

* **\$25.00** per carload for **Grand Teton National Park** (good for 7 days)



₩ Katelyn & Derek ₩



Hello everyone! Hope you are all doing well and enjoying life! Derek and I are still settling into our newly-married life and we are loving every day of it! We had such a blast with all of our wedding festivities and we want to thank each and every one of you for all of your support! We had such a fun time celebrating with everyone who was able to make it down and for those of you who weren't able to, we were thinking of you from afar!

Derek and I are currently renting a house in Mesa and are quickly finding out all the joys of living in a home and having to pay for bill after bill after bill..it seems like it's never ending! But, I guess that's part of growing up, right? Summer is definitely kicking into full swing here in AZ and the temperatures are already over 100 degrees. Derek and I are very lucky to have a pool at the house we are renting, so I can already see many summer days spent in the pool, at the lake, and anywhere that involves air conditioning or water.

Derek is currently working two part time jobs, one being at a physical therapy office and the second being at a bank. He is also preparing to start summer school after Memorial Day, so he will be one busy boy this summer. He is set to finish up with his undergraduate degree in about a year and a half and after that it's off to Physical Therapy School. I am still working at the Desert Botanical Garden and just recently celebrated 1-year in my current position. I love my job and am glad that a lot of you were able to see where I work during our wedding reception.

We won't be able to make it to the family reunion this summer as we have a trip planned back east so while all of you are having fun together, we will be thinking of you from the other side of the country.

Hope all is well and we love you all!



Jill, Larry, Tiffany & Braelyn



Todd, Jon, Heather, Aubrey, Gma,
Gpa @ Aubrey's basketball game



Gma, Gpa, Caleb, Loreen,
Brittney, Hannah, Aubrey making
gingerbread cookies

Grandma & Grandpa

So, I wonder how in the world I'll summarize these last six very eventful months of our lives. But, I have to remember that it was my idea! I suggested to Loreen that I do the newsletter and limit the number of paragraphs and pictures so I could get it done. But then I got down with this neck thing and didn't do it. Thank you, Loreen, for caring and acting!

Let me say first how wonderful it was to be able to have everyone for Thanksgiving! Thank you once again, Dye family! That tradition is one of the most important in our lives! And to be able to welcome Sister Wilson home from her mission in Feb was great! The trip to Wyoming to meet Dax was the fulfillment of my desires! Spending time with the sweet Sorensen family brought back precious memories and we loved it!



I imagine the most important thing to catalog for history is the miracle of spending the winter in Gilbert. So much good came from those few short months and I'm sure that Heavenly Father was guiding us every step of the way. It wouldn't be entirely correct to say that "everything just fell into place," because it took

a lot of work and skill to orchestrate it. He certainly loves Loreen and works through her! From the beginning, she and her family have been so inspired and have worked hard to help us and make us feel comfortable, loved, wanted and needed. Living close to them and to Larry and family has been amazing. We spent every other Sunday evening with the Burnetts and it was a wonderful experience. We were always made to feel welcome and Jill's a marvelous cook!

Here's a picture of Gpa, Jon, Derek, Katelyn, Larry & Tiffany. Just think, being there for a Granddaughter's marriage in the Temple, a Great Granddaughter born and blessed, school activities, piano recitals, FHEs at Gramcracker's house, going to the Luminaria at Katelyn's Desert Botanical Garden, and to the Mesa Christmas pageant with Burnetts, having family to our cute guest house for parties, hanging out in all sorts of situations with family we've never lived close to! Heaven! I can't leave out the amazing "Dress" experience with Britt and Hannah. Thank you so much! If things work out and we get the home we've made an offer on, this can become an annual



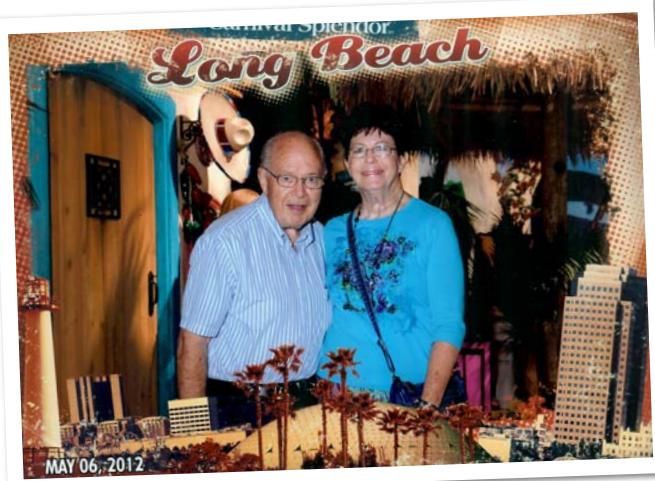
We think this is wisdom considering our health situation.

Finding a superior Neurologist for Lynn came as an unexpected bonus. Dr. Samanta prescribed medication that works and recommended a physical therapy program especially for Parkinson's disease patients. It involves "BIG" as in big strides, arm swings, arm movements. We went to therapy for that 4 times weekly for 5 weeks! The theory is that it retrains the brain, and it sure helped! He's much improved. Still a long way to go as he repeats the things he learned and exercises twice a day. We were able to use our little GPS and make our way all around the Phoenix/Mesa/Gilbert area! Plus I was a Family History Missionary for 6 months!

The down side is that I was not well pretty much the whole time I was there. It started out with severe herpes simplex not only on my face and in my mouth but down my esophagus. UCK. HOW did my neck discs go so fast? I went from normal to hurting to not being able to hold up my "bowling ball" (my head)! We've already been through lots of medical stuff for it and we're not through yet!

Can't leave out the CRUISE! It was amazing in lots of ways. And we enjoyed it. Advice to all: Don't go cheap! Get a cabin with a portal! Your Mother / Grandmother is a visual person and as soon as t h e 'refrigerator-type' cabin door slammed shut on a room just big enough for a bed and a little

more, breathing became difficult and there was a period of claustrophobic trauma that ensued. I prayed and tried and I did it! Truth is, though, it's not our style of fun. Refer to the paragraph above on family and I can genuinely say "THAT, we loved!"



I don't want to leave out what I consider one of the greatest leaps I took in my spiritual life! I learned to 'open my mouth!' Yup—I was a member missionary! It started with the FH seminar I presented to 30+ non-members. Then I talked openly to our landlady, Nora, about our church. On the cruise I spoke to other passengers, stewards, waitresses about being "Mormon" and found several to talk to. We even gave one a B of M! Now, that's progress! I credit my service at the Mesa FHC and watching the Coons! It was great!

Uh-oh, I'm exceeding my share of the newsletter space. So I'll just say—"Can't wait for the reunion!" Love to all!



* Amberly *



Sunflowers: Happiest of flowers

Forget-me-nots: Gone but not forgotten

This is a labor of love from Grandma in remembrance of the happiest little soul who may be gone but certainly NOT forgotten.

the SORENSEN family

We are all doing well. The end of the



Rix blowing a bubble!

school year is a very busy time, but we are really looking forward to Summer break.

We are almost done building the house (picture below), and have someone who wants to put earnest money on it. It

we bought a 400 acre farm, so that has added to the pot of things to do. Aaron is planning on growing alfalfa and pinto beans.

We are planning on baptizing Dixon on June 9, and confirming him on the 10th, so if you haven't done

have you join us.



Dax

THE

Utah

Burnetts

It's been a while so here's a rundown of the year so far!

Meg turned 9 in Feb. She's a good girl and does very well in school. She played soccer this spring and enjoyed that. She hopes to start doing tumbling.

Landon turned 11 in March. He played basketball. His team did very well and went to the county playoffs. Our town is offering lacrosse now and Landon's been wanting to try that out. So we signed him up and he loves it! It's pretty busy with 3 practices a week



good at it. He hopes to play on the high school team next year. Thayne has a paper route and is pretty good to get up and get it done each day. I drive him on Sunday's with the bigger papers.

Tanner is coming back home soon. We're going to try to make things work out for the next while hoping to get him to a position where he can live on his own. He's doing ok and has a good plan to get some welding training at a technology college and then get work so he can live on his own.



and

at least 2 games each Sat, but he really enjoys it and it's lots of fun for us to watch. His spring season is done and his team only lost once.

Thayne bought a season pass to Power Mountain. He and a friend were able to go snowboarding nearly every Sat through the winter so they got their money's worth! Thayne has had a busy spring playing on 2 soccer teams. I coached the AYSO team he played on. He loves soccer and is really

have a goal to ride 500 miles this month. I'm at about 425 so I should be able to achieve my goal easily. I'm thinking about a century ride next (100 miles in a day) and maybe a triathlon.

In Feb we had a fun trip to St. George. Thayne had a soccer tournament and we took advantage of the opportunity to visit some friends there. I took my mountain bike and had a great time riding 26 miles around the Hurricane Rim and a couple of other trails in the area. We also took a day to drive to Kanab and visit Dad and all there. It was a nice visit.



Cason turned 20 in Jan! Crazy! He's still working at the same job and things are going well for him there.

Kelly is in the primary presidency and still plays indoor soccer. She did the PE job at the elementary school again this year and enjoyed that.

I'm working with the 11 year old scouts. My latest thing is road cycling. I got a road bike and

Tanner's lab Koda had 7 puppies. They are all sold and will be going to their new homes over the next couple of weeks. It's been fun to have puppies around. All the neighborhood kids really love it.

THE Piersons

Hello, family! A little update on the California Redwoods. They have Pierson clan! Thanks to wonderful, lots planned to see along the way. The caring children (willing to care for boys are so excited about it. Ethan Jared), I was able to join Steve (after just knows that they are going to his work meetings) for a few days in Boston. We walked the Freedom Trail catch a great white shark in the ocean, and visited the sites where our nation began. Way cool! A beautiful place, is walking now. He is at a real fun age - but made me grateful that we don't live in a big city! The subway system worked great - thank goodness we didn't try to rent a car. The weather was perfect - a little cool and windy, but nice for walking around. Jared had fun here with his siblings. Jenny was able to take three days off work so they got to spend whole days together!

Jenny is working hard - sometimes 13 days in a row! She loves hanging out with her friends and taking care of her puppies! They sure do love her! We love having her come visit on the weekends.

Cory and LaBretta are both working full time this summer - gearing up for a new school year. LaBretta will start classes at UVU this fall. She is excited about that. She also is excited to start a new job this week. It is with a Home Health company - out

Jared still goes to his program three days a week and loves it. He also loves the people in Steve's ward - and they love him! They are good to him, and very understanding of his little quirks.

Christie and family are doing well. Riley graduates from kindergarten on Friday the 18th. He is excited about School Track team. He is finishing that. They have a family trip planned in July. They will drive up to Oregon, Washington, then down the coast to

of the care facility! Cory has been coaching the hurdlers for the High School Track team. He is finishing that up this week.

The Coons Clan

As has been stated, it's hard to summarize, but I will try. We have LOVED having Mom and Lynn here and hope things work out for them to come each year. I enjoyed helping Lynn with his personal history on Thursdays while Mom was at the Family History Center. We didn't finish it but we made some great progress. You will all love it.



DRESSES

Brittney & Hannah are doing a Personal Progress project to promote modesty. They collect formal dresses and loan them out. Mom took them to the Arizona Bridal Fair and, well, now we have over 300 dresses (\$60,000.00)! They loaned out about 60 for Prom and the project has

been great in lots of ways. The Beehive Newspaper even did an article on them. You can see it at <http://www.arizonabeehive.com/showstory.php?article=10>



Please check out the website and video they put together at <http://www.divinedesignsdresses.org/divinedesignsdresses/Welcome.html>



DISNEY

Hannah went to Disneyland with her orchestra and I was able to chaperone. We had a great time!



PUPPIES

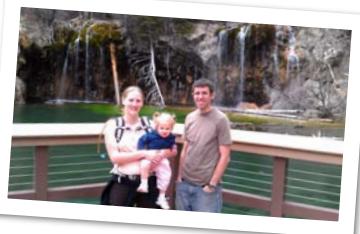
Our lab, Dandy, had 7 healthy puppies. We had so much fun playing with them for a couple of months and sold them all to wonderful families.



OUR TEMPLE

We had a once-in-a-lifetime experience watching them put the Angel Moroni on the temple. We can see the steeple from our window and have loved watching its progress. Projected completion date is Fall 2013.





Jeremy & Tara



Hey all, in case you weren't aware, Tara's pregnant. We're expecting a little girl sometime around August 31.

Quick recap of what we've been up to.

December - We painted Savannah's room, built a workbench in the garage/shop, had Christmas with family and New Years at the cabin. I put together a video compilation of all the fun stuff we did in 2011. Its 13 minutes 41 seconds so go watch it: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFZDI4X9w54>

January - We finished building the Pentomino Shelves. We also built closet organizers in Savannah's closet. We built a fun online game where you turn the lights on and off in our great room: <http://dyeclan.com/fun/interactivelights/>

February - We built a "stack-it-up table" for Savannah's room. Zac and I went caving to blowhole cave west of Utah lake. I painted the family room.



March - At our Elders Quorum party, I taught people how to ascend a rope. We went with my family to a rock show in Spanish Fork. I started building some rock collection display shelves for our bedroom.

April - We redid the flower bed landscaping in our front yard. We took Zac and his friend



Bryce to Moab and did lots of hiking, camping, rappelling, and rock climbing. The next week, we went to Denver for a work seminar. We took some detours and stopped at Hanging Lake and Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

May - We put up vinyl flowers along the baseboards in Savannah's room. I went rock climbing (Tara can't wear a harness when she's pregnant). Fathers and sons was lame with no campfire and no one camping overnight. My family came down here for my birthday, and we went 4-wheeling, caving, watched the eclipse, had a hot dog roast up the canyon, and did some rock climbing. Ondy and her boyfriend stayed an extra day and helped us paint our upstairs bathroom, and then we went hiking.



The Wilsons

A lot has happened since we last sent out a newsletter. Brianna came home from her mission in Feb. It was sure great having so many of you at her homecoming talk. Here is a picture of her with one of her companions. She really wanted to take us to New Mexico to see her old areas and meet some special folks. About that time we got word that Katelyn and Derek were going to tie the proverbial knot so we headed to Mesa for the wedding and oh what an occasion that was. The Arizona Burnetts sure can throw a party. Before the wedding Todd and Loreen were kind enough to loan us their Prius and so we drove over to New Mexico and saw so many very special people. One of them was a New York Fire Fighter that was fortunate enough to be just out of the Twin Towers when they came down on September 11, 2001. It was just a great week overall, especially when you consider we left Idaho Falls is a driving snow storm and then spent a week in what would equate to our July.



Rich always keeps us hopping. Shortly after we got back from our trip we got a call from him. He is stationed at Fort Lewis Washington and he had a couple of weeks leave from the Army. He was trying to decide what to do when he saw a cheap airline ticket on line for Beijing, China. It left in a few days so he bought it and hurried and did some packing. He called while he was sitting in the airport. We wondered how it would all come out and told him to call us when he got home. The next day we got a short email saying he was in Tokyo. When he got home a week later he told us that just before he boarded the plane he read something that said that if you arrive in China without a visa they will arrest you on the spot and hold you in jail for a few days and then deport you at your own expense. He canceled and ran over to the Air Force Space Available flight terminal and caught a free flight to Japan and went there for the week. He ended up having a great time. He still has the China ticket which is good for a year so he is trying to decide when to go and do that trip.

We had some troubling news from Jeff. He said he was pretty sick and that the zone leaders were making him go to the hospital. It turns out he has Giardia and amoeba's. They got him on some good medicine and he is doing much better now. He's not completely well, but amoebas take forever to get rid of. He says that he hasn't really lost any weight, which is probably because he has found a love of cooking on his mission. He is always writing home for different recipes and has learned a lot of Dominican recipes too. He has picked up the native Spanish very well. He has been transferred to the rich section of Santa Domingo where there are lots of very light complected Dominicans and they all talk to him and think he is a native Dominican. They don't believe it when he tells them he is an American. We got to talk with him on Mother's day and that was sure great.

The grandbaby thing has eluded us so far but we are making headway. Amy and Tyler got a puppy so we have a grandpuppy. His name is Conan. He is a Shihtzu, Maltese, and Pomeranian mix. He is very good natured and gets along great with his aunt Zoey. Tyler is just about done with school and will start the graduate school application process soon. Please pray for him to get accepted to Idaho State University, just an hour away in Pocatello, for our sake.

Brianna is back in school and doing well. We all decided that it would be a good idea for her to live at home for a semester or two. It is very difficult to get a job in Rexburg with so many students trying to get the few that there are, plus she has a pretty difficult semester with an Anatomy and Physiology class and lab, an English class (lots of writing), nutrition, Old Testament and an Exercise Science class. She and her mom arranged it so that she can work out with Leslie every morning before any of her classes start. We are really enjoying having her home. She's the same but better.

Last weekend we had a Wilson family reunion. We do them up pretty big since we only have one every twenty years or so. A bout six weeks before my mom fell and broke a hip that needed to be replaced. Luckily her rehab went well and she was getting around pretty well. We had it in a fancy house up above Sundance in Provo Canyon. The place had four stories and a big theater in the basement along with a hot tub, sauna and steam room. I took a walk down the road and some of the houses were on sale. If you have \$800,000.00 to \$7,000,000.00 you can buy one and then we could have our family reunion there next year.

I am going back to Fort Lewis this summer so I will miss our reunion but you will sure be in a great place. Have fun!