



# MADDISON FAMILY HOLIDAY TIMES

Christmas 2015

## Earth Continues to Rotate!!

Hard to imagine, but yet another 31,536,000 seconds have passed in beautiful [Oceanside](#) California. It's Christmas again!

So.... 2015...

Starting with a bang, we finally made it to the Rose Parade float exhibit in Pasadena. If you're local, do it!

In late winter, Mary turned 11, Girl Scout cookies were sold, but very little skiing happened—we're in a drought...

Mary joined the Star Kids for another round of Spring Performances and Katherine appeared in her school play (see "[Theater](#)")

Grandma Marilyn came out to spoil the kids for a while when Todd and Patty spent some time in [Spain](#) in March.

Anna jumped right in to the High School swim team, swimming for the JV squad, doing well in races and lettering!

Katherine became a teenager in May, the Maddisons had a good time at "Gator By the Bay", and there were the usual end-of-school year awards ceremonies with the kids wearing a path across the stages.

A quick trip to Round Valley with the Survilas' was our only backpacking trip—made a whole lot more difficult by the fact that there was no water (and darn cold at night....)

Travel, travel, travel in the summer. Patty and the Girls were out on the [road](#) for a bit over a month—visiting Nebraska, Minnesota, Michigan, and a road trip through Canada to New York and back (to Detroit..)

Todd got to spend part of that with the family, and also made a quick business trip to Seattle, including some nice stops to visit a few friends up there.

Back at home again for the last

couple weeks of Summer, then school started up again.

Fall had Mary starting into Middle School, Katherine moving up to the 8th Grade, and Anna going into 10th....

.... And Todd sitting down with college financial advisors....!

... And Patty getting a job....!

Patty's working with a drug company—Gilead—documenting their sign off processes. She's still getting back into the swing of workday life but at least it's relatively flexible.

Todd was invited by the school district to be one of the Parent representatives in their budgeting committee, which he's continuing on with through the spring.

Katherine appeared in another



play in November, this time another Star Theater production—"Guys and Dolls". She's always a Doll, of course...

Grandma Judy came to see the play, and off we go on another trip, this time to Cancun.

Back from Mexico, Mary's now performing with the Star Kids in their holiday shows, Marilyn's about to make a holiday visit, and we're set to spend a little time in LA post-Christmas.

Next year? Maybe it's time for a real international trip with the kids. Destination TBD...



### Brainy Girls Rule!

Being from the Midwest, all our children need to be above average, right?

Mary ended her Elementary school career with a President's Award for academic achievement, then started Middle School with a report card showing only one A. All the rest were A+'s...

Katherine became one of the first 18 members of the National Junior Honor Society at her school, while Anna continues to rock her High School with straight A's in everything...

This year she's in AP Physics, with a teacher named "Todd". How did that happen?



### Visitations!

The Maddisons spent a lot of 2015 travelling, so not too many visitations last year.

The Grandmas made their usual pilgrimages, with Marilyn coming to visit while Todd and Patty travelled to Spain and Judy arriving to see Katherine in Guys and Dolls in the fall.

This year saw a welcome (and all-too-infrequent) visit by Patty's sister Ann, along with her friend Ted—who immediately tried to



corrupt Todd with a Big Head Todd and the Monster's show...

Where were you? It's nice and warm here in Southern California during the winter—come on down!

## Birthdays!



Mary continued headfirst toward teenagerness, turning 11 (with a bullet) in January.

Katherine made it official by passing the



13 mark in May, with Anna edging closer to that Driver's License, turning 15 in June...



As Mr. Bill would say, "ooooohhh, nooooooo!"



## Holidays!

OK, so I'm just putting this here because I had a couple inches to fill and holiday pictures are always good...



Links above lead to more pictures, of course, and here's [all of 2015](#)....

## To Spain!

In March Todd and Patty were lucky enough to be able to spend some time in Spain!



Starting in Madrid and working through Toledo, Valencia, and Barcelona, we had a great time checking out the history, eating and drinking, and—by sheer chance—

being in Valencia for the Las Fallas festival!

(read up on it [here](#), it was a truly great experience, recom-



mended to all!) Thanks to cousin Kay and Uncle Ron for some great tips, it was nice to get out in the world for a bit again and see something new.

The summer trip this year was a more major event than usual, taking the Maddison girls on the road for a month...

Patty and the kids flew out early and drove to Nebraska to see our



## ... and Minnesota!

Then followed by a week at the cabin with Grandma Judy and Uncle Mark (including the opportunity to see at least some of the cousins.) THEN another swing

through by the girls for a few days en route back to San Diego...

And that was just the start...



friends the Friebergers, were joined by Todd for a stop in Hibbing to see Dear Old Dad,



## ... and Michigan!

And this year's Main Event, the wedding of Kris and Brittney Doman in Michigan....

A beautiful wedding, with some great time spent with all the Michigan relatives.

And, as a special bonus, Patty and the girls got to head off on a road trip with Marilyn to New York City!



Making their way through a bit of Canada, seeing Niagara Falls, then spending some time in the Big Apple watch-

ing the Phantom of the Opera, visiting the Wax Museum, the Empire State Building and other attractions.

Topped off by a detour on the drive back—through the Hershey factory, of course.

Great times with Grandma Marilyn!



## ... and Mexico!

tion that involves swimming (says Patty and the kids) AND history (says Todd...)?

We had a good time exploring, it was great to get the kids out of the country on their first "foreign" trip, just one of many to come...



To top off the year, a trip to Cancun over Thanksgiving weekend....

Found a great deal on a hotel, had an adventure flying out of Tijuana airport, and spent the week snorkeling and visiting Mayan ruins.

What more could anyone want than a vaca-



## Girl Scouts!

The Scouting continues...

Selling cookies and nuts once again got them all to Camp (Winacka and Surf) several times, with their mother doing her usual exceptional job of coordinating it all..

Mary's troop built and donated a "buddy bench" to their elementary school as their Bronze Award project (with Todd making sure no fingers were lost...)

Anna turned over her Silver Award project—the Uniform Exchange—to be continued by others at the elementary school—and got accepted to a service trip to Costa Rica in 2016, helping with Sea Turtle conservation efforts! Wahoo!

The theme of the Daddy-Daughter Dance was "Duct Tape". Hmm...

Mary decided to "go it alone" and become a troop of one (and now on her quest to get every badge known to mankind...)

Todd joined Mike and Rachel for a weekend at Winacka in the "He and Me" program.

Much bacon was eaten...



## Theater!

Once again the theatrical side of the Maddison family, Katherine and Mary, continued on with some great performances.

Mary joined the Star Kids for several turns, singing and dancing in their spring show (tell me again what the Fox says?), and later for the Christmas show. They just recently did their first performance, at the Oceanside Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony.

Katherine appeared in her middle school play—the "Paper Bag Bandit", a story about the lawless West, helping her friends do their part to make the town safe for law abiding citizens.

Later in the year Katherine again appeared (with her friends Rachel and Brook) in another stellar Star Theater production of Guys and Dolls, singing and dancing as one of the Mission ladies...



## Sports!

Anna continued to represent the Maddisons in the Oceanside sports world, easily making up for her Dad's singular lack of coordination and ability with her natural skills and ability in swimming and tennis—and lettering in both!

Mary's giving it a great effort, trying out for the volleyball team at MLK, but unfortunately didn't make it—hard for a sixth grader, but NEXT year....



# The Year in Pictures...

(for more pictures from 2015, click [here...](#))



*May Peace and Love fill your Hearts in 2016!  
The Maddison Family*

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