



MADDISON FAMILY HOLIDAY TIMES

Christmas 2016

Time Marches On... (well...actually it's more of a silly walk, but...)

Yet another year for the Maddisons of Oceanside California. And... hey, *how did that happen?* It's Christmas again!

So.... **2016**...

The biggest news of the year? Early in January, Toshiba (Todd's employer) decided the PC business wasn't for them—and "downsized" the business...

Oops. There went Todd's job (with 250 others...) In March his daily 12 hours a day spent commuting to Irvine stopped and he became a combination of "Mr. Mom" and Bob the Builder.

Fortunately Patty's job is doing well. And the garage finally got cleaned out (along with a bazillion other odd jobs...). We have a ping-pong table again!

Second biggest news? Harper! In July we found a dog at the local Humane Society, and she's been with us now for six months.

Mary appeared in more stellar Star Theater productions—the Little Mermaid in the spring, the lead in 101 Dalmatians during the summer, Shrek in the fall, and many Star Kids and Glee club performances in between.

Katherine's GS troop completed their Silver Award project—building a demonstration aquaponics garden for the local middle school (with Todd as the general contractor to count fingers during construction.) Then she not only moved on to High School this year but made the tennis team, and lettered!

It was a banner year for Anna. Not only continuing to be her awesome self and moving on to 11th grade, but turning 16, getting her first job (lifeguard on Camp Pendleton), a driver's license (clear the roads!) and spending a couple weeks in Costa Rica/Panama on a Girl Scout Sea Turtle Conservation trip. Wow!

Travel? Not as much as 2015, but we got around. . . Patty had some time in New Orleans with the Schwegman women, we finally got to Washington, and for the first time in 40 years Todd got to spend more than five days at his family cabin!

Plus, of course multiple desert flower-backpacking-meteor shower-ski trips, etc... The usual!

Todd continued on with the school district involvement—as "parent representative" on the district's budget committee and expanding to become vice-chair of the high school's site council. Plus chaperoning multiple field trips, including college visits and an overnight to UCLA for a "Model UN" conference.

Patty continued to not only



work but also do her incredible work with the Girl Scouts, organizing all kinds of activities and charitable efforts by the girls' troops. AND keep the kids in clothes...!

Coming up? Fence rebuild and fireplace remodel in progress (see "Bob the Builder"), with new kitchen countertops to come... And we haven't left yet as this goes to press, but we're set to have a tremendous time visiting the Michigan relatives over the Christmas holidays—first time in a long, long time..!

Next year? Total solar eclipse in August! Grand Tetons!



Girls Still Rocket Scientists!

Oscars, Mars landings, and Presidential elections are still to come, but in the meantime...

Mary continues to prove that all our children are above average in the 8th grade, and has moved into the school's Associated Student Body group.

Katherine has not only contin-

ued her stretch of A+ work in High School, but added to that with a bazillion club memberships.

Anna is, of course, Anna—keeping up the tradition of being "the best at everything..." whether it's her grades, her driver's license test, or her participation in extra-curricular activities!



Not only did the Grandma's make their annual visits, but this year we were fortunate enough to see both Ann and Jean in Oceanside (at least for a few seconds...!)

Marilyn and the sisters came to visit and have a nice little wine-tasting trip together in Temecula, celebrate Ann's birthday, and meet Harper.



Visitations!

Judy arrived in November to watch Mary's performance in Shrek as well as help to celebrate Thanksgiving (how do you carve a turkey, again...?)

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



Birthdays!



Mary's sooooo close to being a teenager, turning 12 in January....



Katherine made it to 14 this year (and survived paragliding...), while Anna had multiple 16th birthday celebrations, in Washington DC as well as San Diego!



Harper!



OK, OK, so if you know us you know the deal... Kids and Patty have wanted a dog for years, Todd resisted because he felt there needed to be a few more signs of responsibility by the kids at home before we took that on...

At the end of 2015 Todd was happy and the search began...



In July this year, Todd and Katherine finally found our dog—Harper!



What kind of dog is she? Who knows, we got her at the Humane Society, but we don't care....

Links in titles above lead to more pictures and here's [all of 2016](#)....

To Washington DC!



Patty's been talking about taking the family to DC for a while (where she lived for several years after college),

and it was, of course, a great idea.

In 2016 we finally did it!



Thanks to our friend Jonesy we had great accommodations at Casa De Jones, blocks from the Capitol, and the best of possible tour guides for the trip. You've GOT to do his night-time monument tour!

Not only did we spend enough time to see



all the major sites plus a lot of the minor (and Todd finally got "enough time" in the Air and Space Museum...) but we got to spend a whole lot of time with Kerri-Rose and the Rourke's—including some inner tubing down the Potomac

(watch that current!) and a visit with nephew Steve!

Was a good time had by all? Nope, a great time was had by all!



... and Costa Rica!



In 2015 Anna decided she wanted to do something adventurous with the Scouts—and take one of their "Destinations" trips to Costa Rica and Panama to help with sea turtle conservation efforts there.

She worked hard at it to come up with her half of the cost, easily blew past the money target, and in 2016 did it!

The girls spent a week sleeping on a dock out over the ocean, feeding bananas to manatees during the day and by night helping sea



turtle hatchlings make it to the ocean while keeping scientific records on the counts.



Meanwhile, Anna learned to wake-board, got SCUBA certified, travelled through

the region, and in general had a wonderful time making some great friends!



... and Minnesota!



spending a week or so on his own—wandering around in the fishing boat shooting fall foliage and getting towed home...

In the course, he managed to catch some pretty spectacular time-lapse photos of the Northern Lights!

For many decades Todd has been fitting in "whatever time he can" every year or two up at the family cabin on Namakan Lake. In 2016, since time was now a lot more flexible, he was finally able to spend at least enough time in to start thinking it might be time to head home...

Starting out with some great time with brother Mark and some cousins (the Kluthes), then



The link in the title goes to a full set of pictures, and check out the Maddison [YouTube page](#) for video...!

Girl Scouts!

The Scouting continues...

Selling cookies and nuts once again got them all to Camp, with their Patty and the other GS leaders doing an exceptional job of coordinating it all, particularly as the girls get older.

Mary's solo this year, working on filling her vest with badges...

Katherine's troop finished their Silver Award project—a demonstration “aquaponics” garden for the local middle school (with Todd once again making sure no fingers were lost...)

Anna not only did the sea turtle conservation trip but her troop got involved in various charitable events—serving food to the homeless, and putting together backpacks of supplies for homeless teenagers.

Todd and the two youngers spent a weekend at Camp Winacka helping to do maintenance, and Todd got to be the general contractor on construction of a new trail.



Theater!

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

Katherine had to bow out of some Star Theater productions this year, conflicts with school sports and other events, but appeared in the middle school production of “Liberated Cinderella” with her friends.

Mary was a busy beaver, continuing in her last session as a “Star Kid” in the spring before moving up to the older group (“Glee”), taking roles in “The Little Mermaid” in the spring and “Shrek” in the fall, and in between performing in a dance troupe this summer.

Now, she's appearing around town as part of the Glee group, doing performances at tree lightings, senior centers, and other community events.

Next year? “Lion King”, “Hairspray”, and maybe an internship at the Moonlight? Who knows....



Sports!

Anna continued on with the high school swim team this year, doing well and lettering again.

Katherine got her first letter as a member of the high school tennis squad!

Mary's focusing her extra-curricular activities on theater, but has become a ping-pong monster since we got the garage cleared out and a table in place again....

The Year in Pictures...

(for more pictures from 2016, click [here...](#))



*May Peace and Love fill your Hearts in 2017!
The Maddison Family*

www.maddisonweb.com/xmas for this and prior editions...