

N Merry Christmas
from the entire Arnold Family

Dear Friends,

Once again we come upon a Christmastide, remembering those who have gone before us that we might live free in this wonderful country. We give thanks to God we were born here, into loving families, at this time. We thank God for our family members who have gone before us and given so much that we might live free and thrive. In particular, we acknowledge the un-payable debt we owe members of our Armed Forces protecting our freedom, at great cost to themselves and their families, under extremely difficult circumstances with little support from the government at home. God bless the soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, coastguardsmen and contractors of our country and their families.

This letter is customarily written on the Sunday of Thanksgiving Weekend. We have just finished the four day weekend dedicated to thanking God for our good fortune this past year. Not everything has gone our way, the economy is in free fall, with the government sponsored retro-rockets firing 180 out, but with God's help, we will get past that. But so much has gone our way; we are all healthy, we are employed, we are free to worship and we do. All in all, we can but marvel at the good fortune we have had. This year like each year past, this has been a wonderful year. We finished the year far better off than last year, a year very good in and of itself, better in fact than the year before that. The thing that stands out above all others is our friends. We have been blessed to work and worship with good people around the country who have become our friends. Each year we grow closer to our friends and family. If you are getting this letter, that means you (that may be good or bad depending on your perspective, we hope good). One thing has not changed, we are still so very blessed and we all know it.

The Silver Tipped Grizzlies (STG) (mostly retired Air Guard people) have been getting together now for about fifteen years now, though no longer monthly but about quarterly, the third Saturday of some month at a local Los Angeles area airport for breakfast. They call it breakfast, but Jack and Hap mostly eat hamburgers. Take a look the website: <http://www.grzly.org> and see what we have been up to. Better yet, join us. We know you have heard this before, but Pat Rodgers has been putting together Number 11 prototype F-4; like our Cessna 150, it will fly soon! Maybe even sooner than it was going to fly last year. If you want to get on the mailing list, send a note to our SOF: cmac@grzly.org.

We have lost several Silver Tipped Grizzlies this year, first Dennis Crosby, then Baron von Meyer, then Ken Jennings. Hap and Jack did the burial service for Ken. That was a tough one as Ken and Hap flew together in the F-4 the whole time Ken was in the unit. The two had their name on every F-4: the C, the E and the RF. When they were single, they were gone every weekend flying somewhere together. Godspeed to Ken and His Love to Ken's wife Terri, son Trevor and daughters Tawnya and Tessa. PS – If you never heard of Ken, that is because his real name was Grasshopper.

Just like every year since 2001, no family vacation, but this year we did a lot of travel! Hap has been to Dallas and Seattle a number of times on business, as well as the usual San Francisco trips.

OFA Mid-Year this time we took the Aztec so we could all go. Good plan! Fogo de Chao with its all you can eat Brazilian beef, chicken, sausage and others, BBQ for lunch and a chance to meet our friends. Great way to spend three weekdays!

Guam Trip for Jack – July 2013 – Jack spent a little over two weeks in Guam visiting our erstwhile neighbors, the Thomases. He had a great time with them, he always does. Our airline, United, flies there! The Thomases are in Okinawa now, Jack is already working out travel plans!

Brian and Mel Smith Wedding – 25 August 2013. We took the Aztec back to Dallas to attend Brian and Mel's wedding. The wedding was held at their favorite restaurant Arthur's near their home. Hap was the Best Man, so he and Brian got matching haircuts, quite the sight! The wedding was an amazing event, we would not have missed it for the world. And, in addition to the customary visits to Fogo de Chao and Spring Creek BBQ, we managed to have breakfast at Benedict's with the newly wedded pair before the flight home on Monday!

Anglican Orthodox Church – October 2013 – The biggest news of the year is probably in this heading. Jack was commissioned an ordained priest or minister in the AOC on 4 October 2013. Bishop Jerry Ogles and his lovely wife Debbie came out from Alabama to ordain Jack. That was a Friday. On that Saturday, we all traveled to Ventura, California for two Sunday services at Saint George's Anglican Episcopal Church (AEC). On the way, we managed lunch at Catalina Island airport, thus giving Bishop Jerry and Debbie their first twin engine Pacific Ocean crossing, as well as their first taste of buffalo. The people at Saint George's were exceptionally nice and welcoming, it was a wonderful trip.

The Trip – Hap has been involved with the defense of a very interesting case which allowed him to take the Aztec almost all around the country mid-October 2103. Out of San Diego to Merced, California, then Sacramento, California, then Portland, Oregon, then Boeing Field in Seattle, Washington, then Glendive, Montana, then Fon du Lac, Wisconsin, then Nashville, Tennessee, then Chapel Hill, North Carolina (right over AOC Headquarters in Statesville, NC), then Fort Mead, near Washington, DC, then Teterboro, New Jersey, then New Haven, Connecticut, then Morristown, New Jersey, then Clarksburg, West Virginia, then Tupelo, Mississippi, then Grand Prairie, Texas, then Lordsburg, New Mexico and finally home! Forty-nine hours of flying in nine days! What a great time!

Organization of Flying Adjusters annual meeting in Wichita, Kansas – November 2013 – We flew the Aztec first to Overland Park (Kansas City area) to visit with Paul Martin and our good friends at Global Aerospace. We had the very best ribs ever at dinner. Ever, no kidding! Then the next day we visited Paul's farm with him, spending the day there; cooking steaks and baking potatoes on an outdoor wood fire and baking a pie on top of Paul's Harbor Freight woodstove. The same one Hap has been eyeing all these years. It was kind of wet and rainy, but that did not stop Jack from rolling two paint cans with about 75 rounds of 12 gauge! Paul has such a beautiful place, pond and all. We had such a super time! Then, down to Wichita, where our report of icing kept Woody from flying his Comanche. They passed on the icing report, but not the *Clear above Four* report. The OFA meeting was held in the Airport Inn, same place where Hap used to do short layovers when he was flying for Continental 30 years ago. Not a Holiday Inn anymore, at least. The meeting was put on by the Brown family, Marty and Dee Dee, Keith and Heather. It was a first class operation and the most fun we have had in a long time. Dru and Jack did okay, but Hap managed to gain 10 pounds in that week. While there, we got to see a lot of things and visit a lot of places from the past. But, for Jack the highlight of the trip was a ride in Randy Hardy's Stearman at Stearman Field of all places! After that, off to Dallas to visit Brian and Mel Smith, who had

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not been able to make the conference. Great time with them, church Sunday morning, then breakfast at Benedict's. Brian knows breakfast! Anyway, we made it home with two engines again!

Hap got a lot of work travel in this year. No cool operational evaluations, but a fair amount of flying. There was a trip to Seattle for the Marine Insurance dinner, several more trips to San Francisco and surrounding areas for work. Plus, back to Seattle to give a talk on claims and visit friends. All in all, a great year for travel.

We know this will be a major surprise to the reader, but for the fifteenth year in a row our 180 or so horsepower Cessna 150 is still in pieces. Once again, it was supposed to fly by Jack's birthday, but that slipped. It is getting closer. As this is being written, the engine has been fitted, the cowling made, the engine removed for a precautionary teardown due to age, and a new radio package being put in. Soon! We bought an Ercoupe; it was supposedly airworthy. Maybe it will fly soon. The Aztec might be operational, Wednesday will tell. It has a Connected Panel and at least it seems every thing works! We cannot more highly recommend anyone than Aircraftsman, Inc., Corona Engines and Affordable Avionics. They have worked well together!

Jack is just over 75 percent done with his Business Accounting degree at Western Governors University (WGU). He is still working at the office with Hap on Mondays and Fridays running the Collections Division. Jack is still working hard on the guitar and his progress is incredible, although college has scaled back the practice time.

Jack's friend and horse riding instructor Ryan Hopkins is still in Pennsylvania on a dressage internship. To help keep the horses moving in the right direction, Kellie (a very nice young lady) has been working with Jack and Dru. That seems to be going very well. Buttercup left us on 26 November 2013, she had a very sad and hard life before she came to us, but since she joined our family, life was almost heaven. She made it to thirty, that is not so bad. She has had a wonderful time with us, but we miss her. Luke still looks for things to get in to, Leia still trots nicely and looks lovely, Liberty is still looking for poison to eat and the like. Not much has changed there. Jack and Liberty often go for runs together.

Dru has kept very busy monitoring Jack's college, researching the living heck out of horses, particularly the medical part, keeping the family, including horses, fed and watered, as well as helping with church. She is keeping well and keeping us well.

There is big news on the church front. Our parish (www.faithfulcenturion.org) is now one of two Anglican Orthodox Church (AOC) (www.anglicanorthodoxchurch.org), parishes West of the Mississippi, the other is Pastor Roy's Saint Paul's Anglican Church in Moberly, Missouri. On the other hand, the Bible based Anglican church has dioceses and affiliated parishes in 22 countries. But, that is not the big news! The big news is that after just under a year as a Deacon, studying under Presiding Bishop Jerry Ogles, Jack was ordained a priest (although we refer to the position as minister)! At 20 years old, he was the youngest man ever ordained in the AOC. Amazing! The church is a huge part of our lives and we appreciate it an awful lot.

We have not seen or heard from William for about eight years. We would appreciate your prayers that God's grace may keep him safe until he finds whatever he is looking for.

Sister Jacque is doing reasonably well at getting fit and has found a great new place to live after the passing of her previous landlady.

Brother Bruce is still working in his law office; his daughter Megan is attending college in High Point University in North Carolina and happy.

Brother Tuck, wife Robie, daughter Alison and son in law Albert are doing wonderfully. Ali got her dream job teaching second grade at WD Hall, close to her home. Brother Tuck has had a bit less to do with the horse part of El Cajon's Mounted Police Unit as he spends more time with the Black and White units. Robie still seems to enjoy her job teaching Art at Valhalla High School, but we hear retirement noises.

This year we had Thanksgiving Dinner at Tuck and Robie's cabin again this year. Bruce even made it! Dru used her two hour turkey recipe, even though it took three hours, and we were off low carb for a day! What a great time! That was followed by a second Thanksgiving with Terri Jennings and her sister Twila's family. Superb food and interesting company. Thank you so much!

Mrs. Kay Denton, our excellent friend from York, in the UK, is still pretty sick. You will never hear that from her, nor be able to tell by looking. She has been in and out of the hospital. She has neck and thumb deterioration problems, in addition to the heart and kidney problems, which require her to undergo dialysis. When you talk to Mrs. Kay, you cannot help but be in awe of her attitude. She is the most grateful person on the face of this earth and a positive joy to talk to. Thankful in all things comes to mind. Nonetheless, your prayers are appreciated.

This year there was a Friday after Thanksgiving and a New Year's Saturday Desert Shoot; great participation: Hap, Dru, Jack, Butch, Steven, and Sharon. No Pumpkin Cromwell to shoot at, but there were hundreds of clay birds. Hap brought the electric trap. The weather was perfect and in three hours they managed to expend more than two thousand rounds each!

Please keep our family members in your prayers – particularly Mrs. Kay and William Arnold

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, we look back over the past year and count our blessings: health in soul, mind and body. Those of our family here on earth are all healthy and extremely happy. Once again, we have concrete evidence of just how kind God has been to us this year. As we look over our Christmas list, we think of our friends, some we have seen, most whom we have not, and a few no longer with us. We think of years gone by, time spent together. We wish we could have spent more time together. May God be with you, as He has made so clear He is with us.

Best wishes and Love,

Dru, Hap/Bill & Jackson, Mr. O and all the Buddies

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