



Here's hoping this finds you in good health and spirits. It's been a busy and sort of strange year.

We started off the New Year with a visit from Shannon, Mark and boys. We took them to see the downtown fireworks on New Year's Eve. It snowed next day, so we went to a local sledding hill for some sledding and then went out to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife area to look for Bald Eagles that winter over there. We saw a tree with about 20 of them roosting in it. We also saw more geese than I've ever seen at one time. It was breathtaking.

We got in our usual skiing last year and many of you saw the pictures we sent out several times. In April we met my sister and brother-in-law at Alta for the North Country School reunion. It snowed three feet during the four days we were there. We all had a blast wallowing in the deep snow, tho we only saw the sun one day. It was some amazing skiing! This year John and I both turned 70 and are eligible for our "super senior" discount season passes at Loveland. Takes some of the sting out of getting old! We finally get to cash in.

It was a fairly wet summer and we didn't turn on our yard's sprinkler system til July – unheard of. The forest around the cabin was super green this summer. All the deer and elk were soon fat and sleek. The game camera caught lots of them plus a flock of wild turkeys and best of all, a couple of late night visits from a mountain lion. Neighbors have seen a moose in the area, but we haven't seen it yet.

John's daughter Rebecca and six year old Paul visited in August. We took them to the cabin, up Mt Evans where we saw a flock of Big Horn Sheep, and lots of running around the metro area. Water World and Casa Bonita were big hits. Paul is in first grade this year. Elijah, Sarah's son just turned eight. Shannon's boys are now 14 and 18. Liam will be off to college next fall. What a crazy thought! Gavin is in 8th grade and growing fast.

John spent the summer working on rentals, getting them ready to sell. Both sold quickly and we only have the one across the alley from our house now. It's a lot less to keep up with. He has no regrets.

In November, I met my two sisters in Columbia to do some work for Mom. She had her 93rd birthday while we were there and we organized a birthday party for her. She, and we, were shocked to learn that she needed to have immediate surgery to replace her pacemaker's battery and put in new wires. She came through with flying colors, spent several days in rehab, and is now back in her apartment feeling much better and more energetic than she has in a while. Her two little cats are so happy to have her back.

This has been a year of loss. We have lost two of our first cousins and Jayme's husband within the past eight months. This hits way too close to home as they were our age, not a generation older. Adding to the loss, all of us have also lost long time pets this year. None of us will miss 2015 – it has been a rotten year.

Here's hoping for a better year and hope you all have a good year too.

Carolyn and John