

Christmas, 2024

This year was a bit of a mixed bag. It was our first full year owning the Lake Arrowhead house, which was nice. Stan built a small shrine to the iPhone in the loft there, since his father buying Apple stock 25 years ago is the reason we have that house now. We've been doing little projects around the house. We bought a natural-gas barbecue for the deck, and we're learning to make pizza on the grill. Also, since we're mountain people now, we bought Kathleen a new Subaru Outback Wilderness, since apparently they do well in snow. On the other hand, she was up there when it snowed in January. Watching snow fall is pretty, but she learned just how hard it is to shovel snow off the driveway.

Another craft project Kathleen has been doing is making a 'temperature blanket'. This is a crocheted blanket with each row's color determined by the high temperature of the day. This was a leap year, so there are 366 rows, and it's quite large.

Aside from going on vacation in the mountains almost every week, we did a few trips. Kathleen went to Georgia to visit Trinh and Shiraz. And we both went to Austin in April to see the total eclipse. Sadly, it was cloudy and drizzling rain that day, so we only saw it briefly through a hole in the clouds. But we did take a boat tour of Lady Bird Lake and saw the bats up close.

A couple of not-so-good things were that Stan caught COVID just after the eclipse trip, and between that and developing pneumonia on top of it he was sick for six weeks. And then in July, he fell on a bike ride and broke a rib. Those two things accounted for almost three months of unpleasantness. And then Kathleen caught COVID twice in September. The only good part of that was that she was at our mountain house. There are certainly worse places to be isolated.

We did manage to get our renovated garage cleaned out enough to fit both cars in, although it's a bit tight. So it's worked out that the Camaro lives in there, and the Subaru can squeeze in if we want.

Random other adventures included seeing "Accidentally Wes Anderson" in Santa Monica. That was a show of travel photographs that just happen to look like screenshots from Wes Anderson movies. We also went to the Academy museum to see the big exhibit about John Waters, and we went to see his Christmas show in December. Stan went to two tattoo conventions, and also did the U.S. Bank stair climb and the Tour de Big Bear bike ride. And together we took the tour of the tunnel under Lake Arrowhead.

And that's the story of our 2024. We hope yours was good as well.