

Carlo and Greti Séquin's 2017 Retrospective



We just celebrated a wonderful family Christmas on the Sierra Valley Ranch. We experienced this “retreat” in all four seasons. We stayed here in spring, as the snow started to melt, and we enjoyed cross-country skiing near Donner pass as well as some spring-time sunshine and vernal pools with our granddaughters, who thought the big puddles were made for wading. We also stayed here in May after a wildflower journey through the Kern River valley and the Mohave Desert to the Alabama Hills, near Lone Pine, CA. There were plenty of great wildflowers, and we had a good time climbing around in the spectacular rock formations and enjoying our dinner while watching the rising full moon in the Eastern sky. Subsequently, we traveled north along Rt. 395 to Sierra Valley, to visit again our daughter's



family. At that occasion, we all attended a baseball game in Reno. This was the very first baseball game that Greti and Carlo had ever attended, and they even had a chance to get a hug from Archie, the local mascot.



The highlights of 2017 were a trip to Switzerland in June and seeing the total solar eclipse in the USA in August. While in Switzerland, after a three-year absence, we were glad to see many of our old friends from university and high school times. Carlo celebrated the 57(!)-year reunion of his Matura-class; they met in the Grand-Hotel des Rasses in the Jura mountains and hiked to the top of Le Chasseron.



We then enjoyed two weeks in S-charl, a tiny village near the Swiss National Park, where we had vacationed several times with our children in earlier years. We had the great pleasure to be visited there by several friends and family, and even by some hiking friends from the USA, all enjoying the beautiful scenery.



The other highlight of the year was our camping trip to Rigby, Idaho, to see the total solar eclipse on August 21st. Our daughter

Eveline had organized a nice campsite at a lake a year ahead of schedule, and had invited a couple of friends and their families as well. We had a great time swimming and biking and experimenting with many types of water floatation devices. Then came the feverishly awaited, awesome moment: At 11am, the sky went dark, it got cold,



and we could see stars come out! Subsequently, we camped with Eveline and our granddaughters in the Yellowstone and the Grand Teton National Parks.



Our son André, who lives in San Francisco, flew to Rigby with his airplane. He later had another exciting flight adventure in Switzerland, this time flying with his uncle and godfather, also a pilot, in the Alps of Switzerland. When not flying, André works with devotion in his thriving start-up company “Odd Bagel,” producing thousands of gluten-free bagels every week.



Our daughter Eveline continues and applies her wildlife research with coworkers at the University in Reno and by doing a study for the Truckee-Donner Land Trust. In addition, she acts as a manager for a neighboring ranch, whose owners live most of the year in the SF Bay Area. A few times a year Eveline and her three girls visit Berkeley, and we do all sorts of fun activities: Climbing the stairs and rocks in North Berkeley, or baking, painting, playing music with Gross-Mami, or helping Gross-Bapi to clean out the support in some of his models that came off the 3D printer.



Making 3D-prints of geometrical sculptures or mathematical visualization models has been a dominant activity in Carlo’s “retired” life. He took two trips to the East Coast and two trips to Waterloo, Canada, to talk about his designs and to attend the annual Bridges Math-Art conference. He also showed some of his work at the annual Science@Cal day, at the Math-Science Research Center, and at the Winter Design Showcase in the Jacobs Institute for Design Innovation. The latter place has about 20 3D-printers, and Carlo spends a fair amount of time in this adjacent building, “devoted to his hobby.” In fall, Carlo taught again his Freshmen Seminar on “Symmetry and Topology” and also took on eight URAP-students, “Undergraduate Research Apprentices”. This provided additional motivation to create new designs and try out new techniques.



Greti remains active in the local chapter of the American Chemical Society and their public outreach programs. Besides all this professional work, Greti relaxes with gardening (Eveline and her girls love the garden!). Greti also goes on a couple of hikes each week with friends and enjoys playing chamber music with other music enthusiasts.



We already look forward to upcoming 2018 activities:



In mid-February, as we have done this year, we plan to visit again the Anza Borrego Desert State Park, hoping to see plenty of wildflowers and some borregos.

In the meantime, we send you our greetings and our very best wishes for the coming year!

Greti & Carlo