

December 2004

Well, two years have come and gone since our last update, so hopefully you won't mind the length! Our website (<http://www.funfolks.net>) is even more behind — processing photos and turning out web pages is awful time consuming — but Randy has been making a small bit of progress on the never-ending project and we have snazzy new monthly summaries up for most of 2004. One of these days, we'll even push up some of the photo pages too!! At least we can say we're still doing a great job of taking lots of pictures! In the meanwhile, here's a glance at what we've been up to since 2002.

We rang in 2003 with a rocking New Year's Eve show with *the Other Ones* (AKA *the Grateful Dead*, sans Jerry Garcia, since renamed *the Dead*). Wavy Gravy was the chubby 2003 New Year's baby ("cute" wasn't quite the right word to use!) 😊 Later in January, we traveled to New Orleans for *the Radiators'* 25th Anniversary shows at Tipitinas. It was great fun visiting with all of the fish-head friends who showed up for the celebration, though the weather was rather cold (what else do you expect in January?).

In February, we went on the annual Hapkido Snowsporting trip to Lake Tahoe (which is NOT a trip where we practice throwing each other in the snow, but rather a trip with friends from Hapkido). March found us doing another run of shows with *the Radiators*. Randy caught two shows and then headed out to Colorado via Amtrak for a ski trip with TC, skiing Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge and Keystone during the day and checking out shows by *the String Cheese Incident* and others in the evenings. Ting couldn't go since she had to prepare for the UC Open the following weekend (where she was once again tasked with being the Master of Ceremonies). Instead, she went to the 3rd *Radiators* show Randy-less and ate lots of red meat for dinner the whole week (Ting's theory on eating red meat is that you are actually helping cows achieve the next level of enlightenment by speeding up the rebirth process, so it's good for cows and carnivores alike!) 😊

We squeezed in a few more snowsporting trips before the season ended in May, and then in June, went to Korea for two weeks of martial arts training in both Hapkido and Taekwondo, with rest periods and sight-seeing tucked in here and there around the twice-daily workouts. This was Ting's 5th trip to Korea, and some of the sightseeing destinations have definitely lost their novelty for her. Randy, on the other hand, loved everything, even the sunrise run up the mountain at Yong-in University (or so he claims).

September turned out to be an especially music-filled month, starting with *the Allman Brothers* at the Mountain Winery, *Bonerama* and *the Rads* the following night at GAMH, the Annual Marin Music Festival the next day, and *David Lindley's El-Rayo-X* reunion at the Fillmore that night. The following week included a couple more *Radiators* shows during the week and *Mark Morris Dance Company* and *Shivkumar Sharma* shows over the weekend. The third week brought us *the Dead* and two *Remember Shakti* shows, and then the month wrapped up with a run of three *Phil and Friends* shows at the Warfield. We ended up seeing over 15 performances in September — that's a lot even for us!

All summer (after returning from Korea) and continuing through the fall, Randy worked hard to improve his martial arts skills, dropping about 10 pounds in the process. In December, he took and passed his first-degree black-belt test in Hapkido, receiving his black-belt at the end of January 2004. Strangely, his Black-Belt certificate certifies his experience in Yongmoodo, since that's the name used by the parent organization our local club is affiliated with.

In December, encouraged by occasional rides with his buddy Garth, Randy bought a fancy Bianchi road bike and added cycling to his martial arts training, setting out for 10-30 miles at a stretch whenever the inspiration strikes. Sadly, he's been less regular about it than hoped, but it's still a blessing to find time to cycle along the back roads of the Bay Area now and then!

Mom and Pop Tse came back to visit us for a couple of weeks at the end of December, during which we had a fun trip down to Año Nuevo to walk amongst the Sea Elephants (as well as visiting other local tourist attractions), but the best part was just having them with us (Ting thinks she has the nicest parents in the world!).

We rang in New Year's 2004 with *the Dead* at the Oakland Coliseum Arena with a couple thousand like-minded kooks. In mid-January, we headed off to Florida for the 4th Annual MonkeyBall with *the Radiators*. This year was more fun than ever, with 200+ fans all congregated at the same resort on the Florida waterfront.

In February, we hit the slopes again on the annual Hapkido snowsporting trip. Randy was hitting the diamonds on skis and Ting was hitting the blues on snowboard (although once in a while she takes a black by mistake and she finds herself leafing her way down). We made several more trips into the mountains for snow sports over the rest of the winter and spring, sometimes by ourselves, sometimes with family, and sometimes with friends. Most fun of those trips was the week we spent in Avon, CO in March, where we joined our friend Harsha at his timeshare. We lucked out on weather, getting a huge storm on our arrival and then clear days throughout the

week as we explored the terrain at Beaver Creek and Vail. And we lucked out again as our favorite band, *the Radiators*, happened to swing through while we were there, allowing us to see three more shows (of the four that they had arrived in CO to play). The UC Open was scheduled for the day after we returned from Colorado. Ting had just enough time to drop off her luggage before rushing off to meet the singer for a soundcheck (as you might guess, she was tasked again to be Master of Ceremonies at the UC Open – her 6th year in a row!).

In May, Ting took her first-degree black-belt test in Hapkido and now has the distinct honor of being one of the few females in the history of UCMAP to be a double black-belt (now you know why Randy went for HIS black-belt!) Oy! Rule #1: NO sparring in the house! 😊 Randy continued his practice diligently all spring, attending both morning club classes (and helping teach here and there, both in club and PE) and Dr. Min's afternoon PE classes (where he began learning the 2nd Dan Counter-Throw form). Randy also joined the Hapkido Demo Team. Ting remembered one evening talking to Master Ahn that she was completely distracted from her conversation by the vision of seeing her hubby doing some awesome assisted back flips (and you didn't think bears could fly!). 😊

At the end of May, we drove down to Santa Barbara for a visit with Bob Vogel; we had a great afternoon rollerblading along the public pathways of Goleta. With our last-minute planning we were unable to get a hotel in Santa Barbara (being a holiday weekend and all), but this turned out to be a blessing in disguise, as we ended up staying in Lompoc, a sleepy little town surrounded by Vandenberg Air Force base, about 70 miles northwest of Santa Barbara. Lompoc has literally hundreds of outdoor murals, and we spent most of Memorial Day morning walking and driving around town, checking out all the art! After lunch we spent an hour or two walking around La Purisima Mission, which has been kept up by the state as a sort of working rancho, complete with crops and livestock. The setting makes it that much easier to imagine what life must have been like for the early Spanish colonists. Someday we'll get the pictures posted on our website, really!

June marked the start of Randy's big editorial project, which proceeded to consume most of his time, all summer long, as he worked to select, edit and then format papers for the 6th UCMAP monograph. The book has been published (all 400-odd pages!), and should eventually be available for purchase from Amazon. Until then, you can sneak a peak at a few chapters posted on our website at http://www.funfolks.net/UCMAP_M6/. The editor thinks one of the best papers in the book is Ting's most recent effort, a comparison of kicking techniques as practiced in Taekwondo and Hapkido. And with that project wrapped up, Randy's turned back to his work creating budgets, financial reports and grant-applications for Charter Schools with his mom, Cathi, at Vogel & Associates.

After the summer term ended in August, Ting and Randy took a well-deserved vacation, heading back to Colorado for a week of hiking and chasing *the Radiators* about the state for four shows over 600 miles of mountain highways. It was great fun visiting with our Colorado buddies, particularly Gerry Gladu and Catherine Yang, who had just moved to Lafayette, CO, and Harsha Krishnan, in Denver. Kudos also to the local Wheelies and Wahoos for their excellent rally in motivating for a last-second dinner gathering in Boulder.

At the end of August, Ting started her new job at Ironport Systems as their Threat Operations Center Manager. How would she describe the change from Tumbleweed to Ironport? "It's like eating oatmeal for 5 years and then being served up filet mignon!" She loves her new job! She was featured in the December issue of Messaging News (http://www.messagingnews.com/pdf/messaging_news_2004-12.pdf). She is also going to be featured in Network World (December 20) and Network Computing (December 22). If she had stayed at her old job, she would simply be buried under a pile of political crap and would have never seen the light of day, let alone be featured in magazines! Hallelujah for new directions! At her new job, she started playing softball, but promptly hurt her ankle, so she is off softball and martial arts until 2005 so she can heal properly.

In mid-November, on the day before his 40th Birthday, Randy broke off the bottom of his right tibia while practicing *randori* (judo-style standing-throws sparring) at HKD workout. Fortunately, the X-rays showed a nice clean break, far enough off to the side that he's expected to make a full recovery. Ever since then, he's been hobbling around the house on crutches; his cast won't be coming off until January 6 at the earliest. But on the bright side, perhaps he will now find time to push more pages up onto our website and get some of the stuff done around the house that has been neglected because we are too busy having fun (and working too). 😊

We hope that you will keep in touch and give us a call to arrange a visit if you are even remotely close to Oakland. We are still at 510-339-8966. Have a wonderful Xmas and the best of New Year's and whatever you do, put your HEART AND SOUL into it and HAVE FUN! (Ting's theory on having fun is that it has the welcome side effect of keeping you young!) 😊

Love,

Ting & Randy