

Dear Friends,

We hope you are well, and thank you for holiday cards. Here's an update from us.

Anne's sister, Ellen, is thriving with her interior design business in the well-heeled town of New London NH, and shares her house and a happy relationship with Richard. Ellen's son Jeff lives in the Boston area with friend Elena. Ellen's daughter Amy works with Ellen and lives on their old homestead where she grew up. Roberts's sister Adria teaches and counsels adult students at the University of RI, and sister Lea lives with husband Jon in North Port, FL. Robert's parents celebrated their 57th anniversary, and father turned 92 this year. They still enjoy many activities in their retirement community in Coconut Creek, near Fort Lauderdale.

We lost our last cat, Cadbury, this year. Although we miss him, it has been liberating to be "cat-less" for the first time in decades.

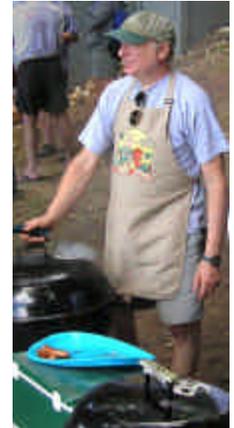
Anne has been half-time Coordinator for Stow's local access TV station for over a year, reporting to a town committee. It's been interesting to learn about the town and who's who, and interact with a range of town officials and residents. The TV station is little bigger than a closet. So far we mainly broadcast "slides" of event announcements which are creative to make. By next year, we plan to broadcast Selectmen's meetings and resident-produced recordings, and own a camcorder and video editing software. That should be more fun than the planning we did all this year.



Robert is still happy with his short drive to work and the environment at Status. He modifies operating systems to take advantage of the Stratus hardware features. From Feb to June he was "loaned" to Linux, then returned to Windows. Last week he was reassigned permanently to the Linux group, under a manager that he particularly likes. Since he has been entertaining himself with Linux on home computers for a long time, this is a good work direction. In his spare time, he's been bicycle riding and edits a ham radio newsletter.

In April we visited Robert's parents on the east coast of FL, and drove to sister Lea's in North Port on the west coast. We visited Sarasota Jungle Gardens, and on Longboat Key we walked the beach, took a walk in a nature park, and out to dinner. We greatly enjoyed an afternoon with a ham radio friend in Punta Gorda, who took us out in his Boston Whaler to tour the Peace River where it runs into Charlotte Harbor.

We spent every summer weekend and vacation at the cottage in Sunapee. We treated our boat to a new 50 HP Tohatsu outboard motor and a green custom-made cover. As a result, we spent zero hours working on the motor or bailing rainwater from the boat. Our favorite activities were cruising the lake, and barbecuing excellent dinners. One moment of excitement occurred when we capsized our sailboat. Up-side-down, the 18-foot mast was aimed at the center of the earth. It was a cold blustery day in June and we were grateful to other boaters who helped us recover.



In the middle of summer, a Perkins Pond neighbor since the 1950's decided to sell her cottage, and we jumped for it. Our reasons are mixed: winterize it for spring and fall visits, maybe rent, maybe retirement. It's a short walk from the one we now share with Ellen, and has a great view of the lake. It took until mid-December to work everything out but now it's ours. Ellen has generously applied her expertise to give us some designs for a complete reworking of the interior. Amazingly, Robert and Anne agreed on the same design, which bodes that the next year will be busy, and maybe somewhat harmonious.



Best wishes for 2005.