

# The Annual Splinter

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An annual publication from the Wood family

Tom, Christina, Tiffany, Heidi, Kyle, & Madeleine

**A**fter a year of living in Corona, we're pretty settled in to our new lifestyle. The jury was out initially on year-round school for the kids, but we've found that we actually like it better this way. Breaking their time off throughout the year gives us opportunities to do a better variety of fun things.

Of course we've been doing a lot of work on the house to get it looking just the way we want. We started with Kyle's room, painting it green with blue trim, crown molding, and a new ceiling fan. Tiffany's room was painted purple with a sponging technique. Heidi's room got two shades of pink with chair molding. We painted the family room in a dark red tone - a brave step, but it turned out real nice. We'll be doing a lot more in the coming year.

We took a long vacation in July that totaled more than 4,000 miles of driving, most of it to visit family and friends along the way. Our key stops were Carlsbad, NM, Austin, TX, Houston, TX, Oklahoma City, OK, and Denver, CO. We've taken lots of driving vacations before so the kids were used to it and everyone did great on this trip as well.

Christina and the kids took another trip back to Texas in November. The kids stayed with Mike and Amy in Houston and Christina attended a conference in Austin. Christina did all the driving on this one in our little Hyundai. Funny story: Tom had given Christina a map to get her from Houston to Austin, but she got a little turned around reading it. After several hours of driving, she found herself in Louisiana - just a tad out of her way.

## Tom

**K**eeping active with sports, both watching and playing, and projects around the house. He planted a garden late in the summer growing tomatoes and cucumbers. The soil needs a lot of work and he plans on expanding it next year.

Still working at Iteris in the intelligent transportation business. Business trips this year have included Sacramento, Oakland, and Boise. Thankfully, he's not traveling as much as in past years.



Tom is still active with Kyle's Boy Scout activities. He is the advisor for Kyle's patrol and goes on many of the outings and campouts with the Troop.

## Christina

**E**njoying being a stay-at-home mom. She keeps active in all the kids' activities, helping them with homework, projects, and whatever. She's especially enjoying helping Madeleine in her first year at school, volunteering often in her classroom.

She had a job for a short time taking care of some young kids in the house. There were three boys who ranged in age from four months to five years. It was challenging to fit all her other activities in at the same time, but she managed somehow.

Christina has been quite aggressive with the house projects, doing most of the painting and experimenting with exotic colors and techniques. So far it has all turned out quite well. She spends a lot of spare time with cross-stitching and has made many custom gifts with it.

## Tiffany

**T**aking her education much more seriously now. She is diligent about completing her assignments and keeping her grades up. She's even signed up for college prep courses and has started to write to colleges to get information about programs and admission requirements. She's in her final year of junior high, so high school is just around the corner.

Being the entrepreneur that she is, Tiffany saved her money and bought her own computer this year. It allows her to type up

her homework, and play games in the privacy of her own room. She's not happy that mom and dad won't let her get a connection to the Internet though - but maybe soon.

## Heidi

**S**eems to always have a phone stuck to her ear. Heidi is a very social girl and loves to talk to her friends all the time. And being in the seventh grade, the subject of conversation is often boys. We're having to keep a close eye on this one.

As social as she is, Heidi is still able to keep up good grades in school. She recently brought home her best report card ever (3.4 GPA).

She's still in Girl Scouts and recently transferred to Tiffany's Troop that meets in Yorba Linda.

Like Tiffany, Heidi saved her money and bought her own computer. This brings our household total to six functioning computers - quite the modern family.

## Kyle

**H**aving his best year academically. Kyle is enrolled in the honors program in seventh grade, and is making straight A's. It requires an enormous amount of work, but he keeps at it with little complaining.

He's still active in Boy Scouts and just recently completed a term as Patrol Leader.

Like his sisters did, Kyle is saving his money to get his own computer as well.

## Madeleine

**S**tarted kindergarten this year. She adjusted to school nicely and is steadily learning how to read and spell.

Madeleine loves to draw, paint, and color and often produces works of art for mom and dad. She also loves to play with her friends and has several in the neighborhood whom she spends a lot of time with, either at their house or at ours.