




The Kemmerer Family News


December 2012



Its hard to believe that another year has gone by. 2012 was another busy year for us. Anita left her job at Motorola in January when the Lowell, MA location was closed so she was in job hunting mode for the first half of the year. She is now working as a program manager at CA Technologies in Framingham, MA.


In February of this year we took a memorable trip to Bora Bora, French Polynesia. This was the yearly President's Circle trip sponsored by GENBAND. Fred was asked to chair a major telecom standards organization and attended a meeting in Washington, DC during the week of the trip so unfortunately we only overlapped with the rest of the GENBAND team for a small portion of the trip. We decided to get Amateur Radio licenses to operate in Bora Bora and did what is called a "DXpedition" from there. We brought along portable radio equipment that fit into a carry on bag and antennas that broke down to fit into our suitcases. Being over salt water magnifies the strength of the radio signals and allowed us to contact stations all over the world, including some friends back in the United States, as well as countries all around the Pacific Rim, in South America, the Caribbean and Africa.

Bora Bora is one of the most beautiful places we have ever visited. Our room was a bungalow out over the water. We could see fish in the water through windows in the floor. Besides playing with the radio, we went on a jet ski trip around the island, visited the spa, and hiked around the resort, and hung out at the beach and on our own private balcony over the lagoon. Here are a few pictures from our trip.



Our interest in ham radio led us to take on a significant project to build a ham radio station in our home. We cleaned out and then finished a section of our basement, which is now a Ham Radio "Shack". We also

constructed an antenna system in our back yard. The station allows us to talk to other amateur radio operators all over the world. This is somewhat like radio or TV transmitters but its two way so we can not only talk to people but they can talk to us as well over very long distances. Our station allows us to transmit and receive on the worldwide shortwave bands.





Above: Our Ham Radio Station
Below: Our Asntennas



We can use FM or AM much like broadcast radio stations do and we can also send digital information (similar to IM on a computer), send pictures, and use morse code. We also have access to a very broad range of frequencies all the way from those near the AM radio band up to and beyond where UHF TV and cellular phone systems work. Because of this flexibility, we had to pass a test to obtain a license from the FCC. We are working on achieving various operating awards (we have both received the DXCC award for contacting 100 countries and WAS or Worked all States for contacting all 50 states). Fred has written a blog on our adventures in ham radio at <http://stationproject.wordpress.com>.



A view of the Beach in Cabo

It has been nice to have Fred home more of the time this year - he has been working from home more but he has also travelled to China, Spain, Cabo, Washington, DC and many trips to Dallas.

Our Kitties, Shelby, Mama, and Zeke are still as cute as ever. We included some pictures of them below.

We wish all of our friends and family a Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

Fred and Anita

Left to Right: Shelby, Mama, Zeke

