

# Merry Christmas!



Tristan



Maddox



Matthew

## Special events in our family's life

- 32 day cruise around the Baltics, including a side trip to Selje, Oslo and Bergen, Norway
- Jon & Alisha's wedding in the Cayman Islands
- Annual Thanksgiving Celebration at Tanglewood Resort

## Happy holidays from our family to yours!

Family is precious, time is short, memories are golden – our life lesson for 2008 – a year which has, for the most part, been a wonderful exciting year filled with much joy, a year we will both treasure.

After Terry's almost tragic accident at 12:15 a.m. on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007, we re-evaluated our priorities based on clear evidence of life's fragility. We had escaped tragedy once again.

Our joy was tempered by the loss of Terry's mom, dad and aunt within the short space of a year.

We decided to indulge ourselves...it was time to take that trip I had longed for - to Norway, my grandparent's homeland, time to focus on family and friends and our precious grandchildren. 2007 taught us well, and we understood in a way we had not that indeed life is short.



The Family celebrated the end of 2007 with the TransSiberian Orchestra - an American Airlines Center Suite 1004

New Friends, Vik and Troll



Madison



Sydney



## A Fantastic Cayman Islands Wedding June, 13, 2008



Nick, Patricia, Jon, Alisha, Terry

### Celebrations-Family & Otherwise

Opportunities to be together - birthday celebrations and holidays usually find the families migrating from one location to another. Family is precious, time is short, memories are golden - we flew to Minneapolis to see the American Idols with Brother Bob and Marlene visiting John and Maurie, and to Vegas for the AGT finale visiting Sister Cherie and Phil in Lake Havasu along the way. We only wish we could have seen everyone, everywhere. Pictured Below - Mike and Melissa at son Matthew's birthday party - August 9th



← Kelly and Twin - Maddox maybe?



↑Steve & Twin - Tristan maybe?  
← Kathy and daughter Sydney



## Number 1 on the Bucket List – Norway & the MS Eurodam

**Favorite Cruise Questions:**  
Does this ship generate its own electricity?

Has this ship ever sunk?

Why doesn't the cabin microwave work? (It's a safe)

Where is the elevator to the front of the ship? &

Does the crew sleep on board?

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Mike/Melissa/Matthew  
Steve/Kathy/Sydney  
Jon/Alisha  
Maddox/Tristan/Madison  
Nick  
Kelly  
Chad

**Ports of Call:** Copenhagen, Oslo, Alesund, Flum, Stavanger, Newcastle, England, Edinburgh and Invergordon Scotland, Estonia, St. Petersburg, Helsinki, Stockholm, Berlin, Denmark, with extra time in Oslo, Bergen, Aalesund, Selje



One of many beautiful Norwegian sunsets



HO HO HO



MS Eurodam in Aalesund.



Leaving Oslo. & Norway via Oslofjord

### Finding Santa

Amazingly enough, at the age of 60, I was thrilled to see the Real Santa Claus. Maybe it was crossing into the Arctic Circle...there is an actual (painted) line to cross – so you could be ½ in ½ out of the Arctic Circle. Maybe it was the airplane trip to Helsinki, or the bus ride to our port, the canoe ride into the wilderness, being eaten alive by mosquitoes hungry for southern blood, or maybe it was feeding Santa's reindeers and watching dancers perform folk dances (inviting Terry to participate), sitting in a smoky tent with painted antlers on our forehead, or eating reindeer meat (how sad) , or standing in line for what seemed like hours to see the RSC, but I found myself unusually vocal once I glimpsed the bearded St. Claus. Terry seemed to take it in stride. Course he is a man, naturally undaunted by other mysterious entities. Amazingly enough the Arctic wasn't even cold -we expected snow and ice - the picture to the right is of course a postcard taken during winter. Maybe next time.



Pat, Terry and the REAL Santa Claus, Santa Claus Village, Finland





Our relatives in Norway – Marie & Leif's family



OLE!, who made it all possible



LIV



Bergen Trolls



Astrid & Mom



6740 Selje Home



Thank you! for making our 2008 golden, Love Pat & Terry