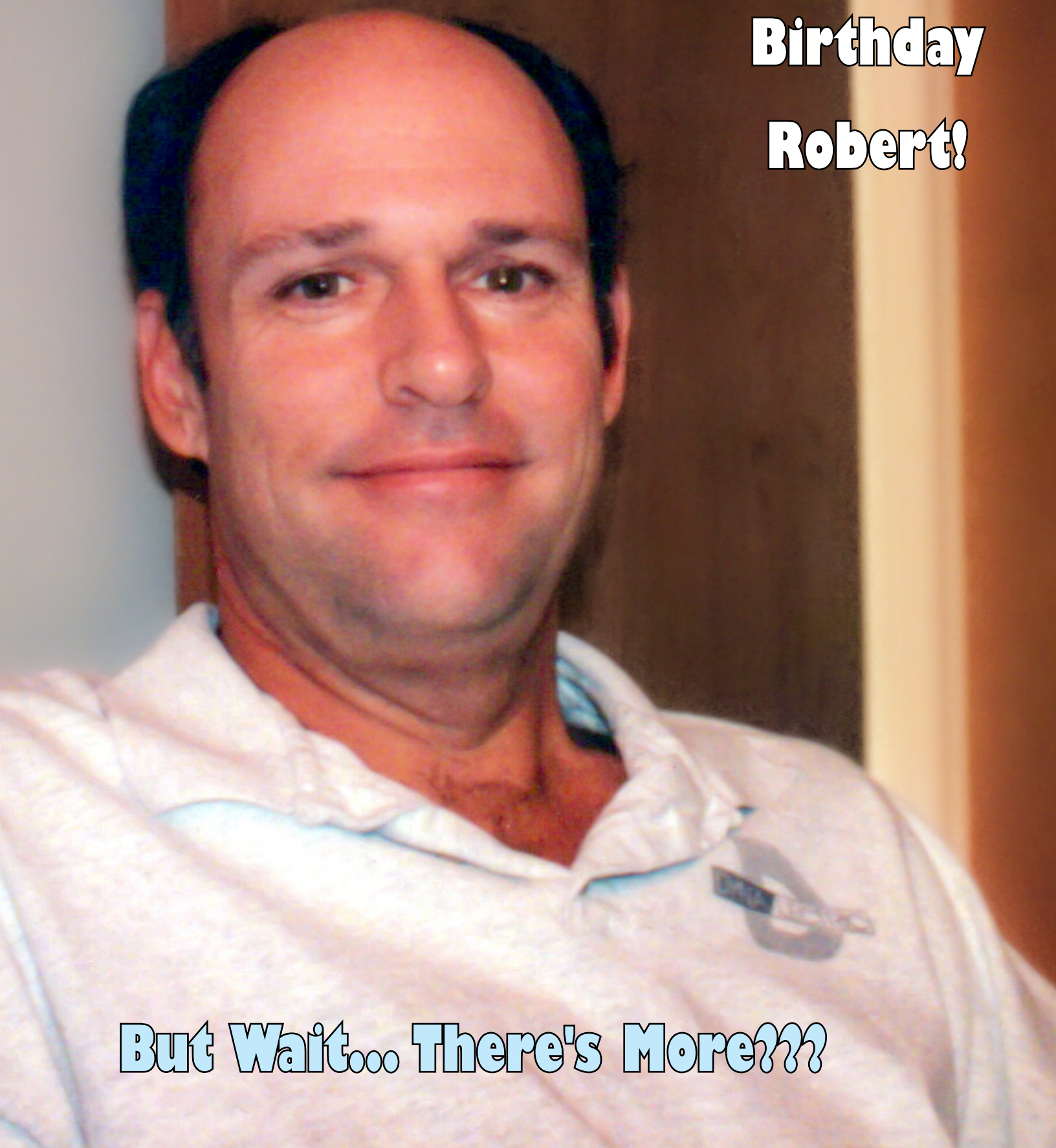




**Happy 65th
Birthday
Robert!**



But Wait... There's More???



Robert Turns 65 and... Announces his Retirement

By Listy Gillingham

Turning 65 is a great reason to celebrate with the family and that's exactly what happened on April 9th for Robert Riel; all during our weekly Pickleball lunch at Listy and Bob's house. Margaret, Bud, Carol, Jeff, Listy, and Bob were all on hand to share in the fun which included ice cream drumsticks and BYO lunch sacks. Robert was super excited to get a brand new Pickleball Paddle and other notes and cards.

This gives him no excuses when it comes to joining our Saturday fun.



He also had a few more announcements to make. First, Karla has a new job working for a union electrical contractor (not Dynalectric). She is very excited to get back to doing what she loves the most which is accounting, payroll, and bookkeeping. She will be starting her new job on Monday April 18th and we all wish her good luck.

Next, Robert dropped the big news, He has decided to retire from Dynalectric after over 35 years with the company and close to 40 years of service within the industry. His last day working will be May 31st and then he and Karla will set off for a month of vacation during June. Well almost, Karla will have to cut part of the vacation short to get back to her new job. Meanwhile, Robert will take his time getting back. This added to the festivities as he's the last Riel sibling to officially step down from full-time work.



Not to miss out on a chance to celebrate, the running club also wanted to honor Robert with a special run and then, treat time after the run at Mary's Donuts. Running colleague, Joyce (who was out due to a recent fall at work) showed up after the run to decorate Robert's car with toilet paper so he could feel the love of the team. Doug bought him the biggest donut they had at Mary's and we happily sang to him the birthday song which got us applause from the neighboring tables. All in all, Robert got a weekend of fun and adventures to help note this epic birthday. Happy Birthday Robert!





Brian Turns 33!!

This past weekend we decided to celebrate Brian's 33rd birthday. He has been talking nonstop about going to a hibachi grill for dinner. After talking to Petey and Daniel we decided on Benihanas as the best place to go. So, I planned a weekend full of fun with some of our friends and a surprise of Karla coming out to spend the weekend, which originally, we weren't sure was going to happen with gas prices the way they are. But she got in on Friday afternoon before Brian got off work. Our niece Emma was in town and waiting for my brother Adam and his wife Lacy to stop golfing. So, I hid Karla in Brian's office and Emma videoed the whole thing. Not knowing what to expect he tried to get Kona to go in first thinking "something was going to scare him" but instead he saw Karla and screamed "MOM!".

The next day was very busy. We went to Petey and Daniel's house with Karla so she could see their new home and take the grand tour of Morningstar Manor (which is the name for their new home) Then we went to this great brunch spot called Hash Kitchen. We had some very strong drinks and amazing food. Then we went back to Morningstar Manor to relax and chill by the

pool. The temperature was just warm enough, so Petey jumped in and swam for the very first time in their new pool. A little later, we went to the next thing on our agenda, an escape room. We were limited with the options they had since Brian and I have done two of the others in the past. So, we did Outbreak, an escape room about a pandemic where we had to find the vaccine and distribute it through the nation's water supply (this escape room was put together before COVID). To raise the stakes this room was rated "Hard". We were joined by our friends Kate, Tom, Donnarae, and Lyle.



It was a huge group and Brian and I have never failed an escape room, so the pressure was on! It was a difficult task to get the vaccine created and into the water supply. But with everyone's hard work we got out with 1 minute to spare. Then a little while later, we all met up for dinner right around the block. Our chef was amazing, he had some amazing skills and was super funny. He did a good job not only making great food but making fun of everyone but Karla, he knew not to mess with "the mom". The food was amazing, and the refreshments were strong, if you know what I mean, and everyone left with full bellies.



Then on Sunday to round out the weekend we went to brunch with my brother and sister-in-law Adam, and Lacey, along with Karla and us. This would be the first time the two families truly met one another, other than our niece Emma but she doesn't count, ha-ha. It was a great weekend full of games, great food, drinks, and good company. Next year for his birthday our plan is to cross the pond and go to England for the first time. We want to visit some Harry Potter filming locations, visit some friends, and experience the culture. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY BRIAN!**





Surprise Surprise... The Sorems are moving - Again.

By Brett Sorem

There are certain phenom-enon's you can count on year after year: The winter Solstice lighting up Stonehenge. Phil the Groundhog eventually seeing his shadow, and Brett and Carinda will uproot their lives again.

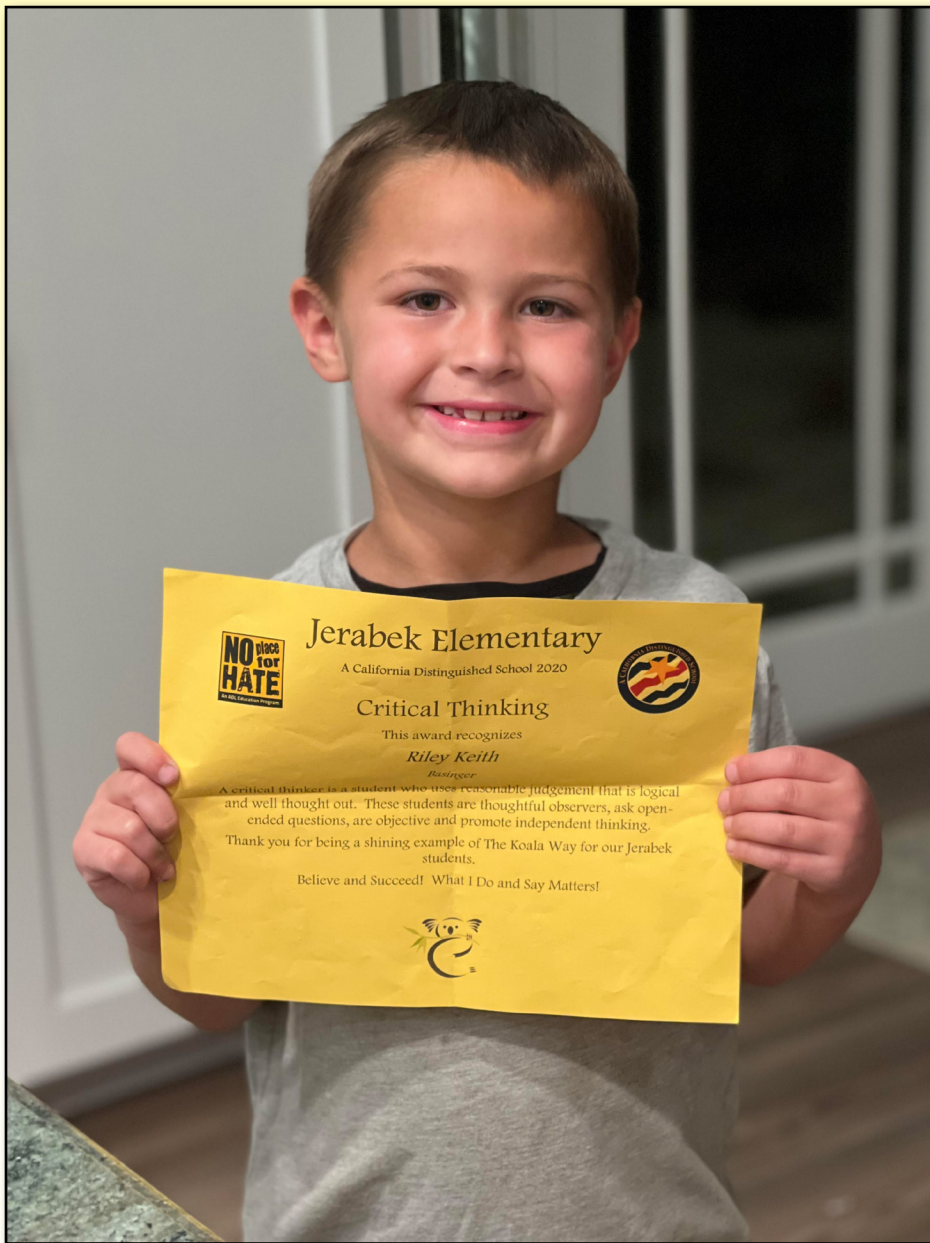
But one of those annual events may be coming to an end, or at least it seems that way. The Sorem's are moving back to California this Easter weekend. Halfway between SD and LA just north of Temecula is Menifee. Swearing to never live in the hell that is Los Angeles, we are close enough if Brett needs to go up semi often for work, while also being close enough to head down to SD for some Padres games and family outings.

We will definitely miss the Austin area and what the Hill country had to offer but planting some roots near home is what is in store. We can't wait to see y'all at the next Riel outing this Summer!

ABC

Aro
Brett
Carinda





Riley Wins Another Award at Jarabek Elementary

By Listy Gillingham

Riley was recently awarded the Critical Thinker Award at Jarabek Elementary. To avoid the fanfare, he did not tell his mom or dad about the award. Kristy found the certificate when she was cleaning out his backpack. She sent us a video of him reading the passage as to what makes him a “critical thinker” and gave him the kudos he deserves for being a shining star among the first graders in his class.

The award states, “A critical thinker is a student who uses reasonable judgement that is logical and well-thought out. These students are thoughtful observers, ask open-ended questions, are objective, and promote independent thinking.” We have seen Riley display critical thinking every day when he’s with his brothers and he wants to make sure everything is done fairly! He comes up with some creative decisions (that might favor his opinion) in various situations while trying to navigate his life as the youngest brother. We are very proud of Riley and look forward to seeing him continue to show his outstanding leadership skills at school.

Grandparents Try SOLO Trip with Three Grandsons to the Desert!

By Listy Gillingham



Spring break is usually a great time to get away with family and have some adventures to break up the monotony of working hard. Unfortunately, for the Keiths, their spring breaks do not line up as Kristy teaches at Parker (Private school) and the kids go to their neighborhood school. Luckily, they have childcare arrangements at their school to help working parents. However, it isn't always fun for them if all their school friends don't show up as they do typically when school is in session. We usually jump in to help one night to break up the spring break routine and give the grands something to look forward to. However, this year, the weather was looking bleak in SD, so on a whim we decided to take them to the desert where the weather was predicted to be in the 80's instead of the low of 60's.

We took off on Weds. with the promise to return them on Friday and headed to the Renaissance Esmeralda Hotel in Indian Wells. It was the best vacation we could imagine with three boys who seem to truly love each other and get along so well. We arrived at 2 and we were in the pool by 3, relaxing and enjoying a much warmer atmosphere than we would have had in SD. We stayed poolside until 7:00 (gotta love the desert) and then headed out to dinner to replenish their calorie count and rev them up for movie time when we returned to the hotel.



Thursday was much of the same. We got them to the pool at 10:00 a.m. after playing a few games in the room and stayed there all day again. The weather was perfect for throwing a football, playing pool volleyball, swimming, and reading. The pool also had a sandy beach for building sandcastles as well. By the afternoon time, the boys all found some new friends, and their play included moving from one pool to the next and playing several games. Riley liked swimming under the waterfall of doom (I think that's what he called it) and Liam and Braeden were great at beating Grandpa at three flies up. We ended the day with dinner and a movie. They could not have been easier to be with and we loved every minute of our time with them! The drive back was easy and we were so happy to be able to spend this special time together with them. I know we'll both remember this trip for a long time (until the next one).

Jeff Turns 70!!



March/April is our birthday month, Madeline, Jessica, Jeff, and Dustin all celebrated birthdays. This year was a special one for Jeff. He gets to start a brand-new decade. Granted, it is his 7th one, and... well let's face it, the only easy one is the second one!! But starting a new one means you have 10 more years until the next one which means you don't have to dread being near the end of one for a while. I'm not sure this is how he felt so I tried to make it special with lots of fun gifts and events.

The kickoff to his birthday week began on Saturday with Jeff's favorite dessert, a 31 Flavors Mocha Almond Fudge pie compliments of Margaret and Bud. After our usual family lunch and pickleball we all sang and enjoyed a piece of the pie. Tuesday was Pickleball night at Listy's. Listy decorated with lots of fun 70's trivia, Bob wrote a song, Maria made a yummy cake and everyone else made Jeff feel special with cards and gifts!



Hey, Jeff! (Sung to the tune of "Hey, Jude")

Hey Jeff, don't feel so sad.
Take your old age and make it better.
Remember, though you're an aging old fart,
And you could be... a whole lot dead-er.

Hey Jeff, don't be afraid.
Pickleball is just a ga-a-a-ame.
The minute you let it under your skin,
Then you will lose and tha-hat's a shame.

And anytime you feel the pain, hey Jeff, refrain,
Just wa-atch that ball fly by your show-ol-der.
You try your best to be so cool, instead you drool.
In fa-act, it's only cause you're o-ol-der.

Hey Jeff, you're seven-ty,
And though quite aged, not yet a ru-u-u-in.
Remember, if things begin to look bleak,
At least you will know that you are a Bru-in.

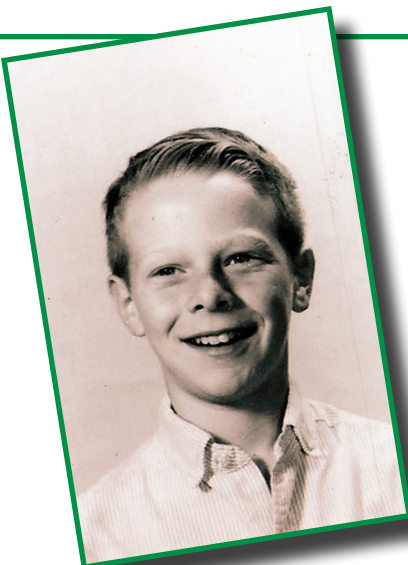
So let it out and let it in, hey Jeff, begin,
To copy your horny backyard ow-ow-wls,
Then chase Carol around the house, and up the stairs.
We love to encourage these kinds of fouls.

Hey Jeff, it's not so bad,
Enjoy your birthday and eat some ca-a-a-ake,
Remember to have great helpings of fun,
And live a long life for Hea-e-ven's sake!

Happy Birthday!

On Wednesday I told Jeff to pack a bag for 2 nights. At 11:00am we headed north, he had no idea where we were headed. To his surprise we turned into a Sharp office where I had to have an ultrasound of my hand. Hehe, I knew once we headed east, he would know, which he did, and he guessed a casino. We got to Viejas and checked into a nice room with a patio out to the pool, it was beautiful, except the pool was closed until Saturday!! (of course, I paid more to have a room with a courtyard next to the pool, but they failed to mention the pool wouldn't be open!) It was still nice sitting out enjoying the sun.

Later in the day, and in mom's honor, we went to the BINGO hall and spent a few hours watching everyone else win hundreds of dollars while we didn't. We enjoyed reminiscing our times with mom and dad and missed hearing "1 to go, 1 to go!" and hoped they enjoyed watching us play. We had a great dinner Wednesday night, gambled a little and enjoyed walking around trying not to put more money into the machines.



On Thursday, his actual birthday, we enjoyed a spa day. We were greeted with champagne, and both had massages, Jeff got an extra-long one with hot rocks. We spent the day in a private area with a jacuzzi, sauna, and steam room. It also had a small pool that was heated to 90 degrees, nice to sit in but a bit too warm for swimming. It was a very relaxing day.

We decided to get out of the smoky casino for a nice dinner in Alpine. Jeff enjoyed a wonderful piece of salmon while my meal was not worth mentioning! We drove back to Viejas and went in search of some ice cream. We found Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory that had ice cream bars you could get dipped into dark chocolate and nuts! I sang Happy birthday, and we enjoyed our ice cream while facetimeing with ALL the kids and Grandkids!!! The grandkids sang the same song our kids sang to Jeff's dad when he turned 70. It was very cute, but it lost a little between the thousands of miles between us all. The thought was wonderful, and the grandkids were adorable!!! Hopefully we will get to hear it live this summer. It was a nice end to a great day.



We checked out early Friday and went home. The next adventure began at 3:00. Jason came and picked us both up and we took off for another surprise. Jeff had no idea where we were going until we ended up in front of the Red Door Escape room in Fashion Valley. Our camping group surprised him and joined us for a game of escape. We had 2 groups and unfortunately neither group was able to escape in the allotted hour, but we all had a lot to fun trying to figure out all the clues.

Everyone left and surprised Jeff again at Ballast Point in Mira Mesa where we all watched the UCLA game and had dinner. The night was perfect except for the outcome of the UCLA game. Which I will not mention.

To close out the week, Jason, Chavva, Noah, Maddie, and Cam treated us to dinner at Shogun, a very fun night watching the chef play with and cook our food. We all enjoyed the food and the fun!



We will be having a family birthday bash to celebrate Jeff's big event this summer when Jessica is in town, tentatively set for July 9th. Stay tuned!

Madeline also celebrated her 6th birthday with an all-girls sleep over. Her brothers went to our house while the girls enjoyed playing spa day with personalized unicorn robes, they painted each other's nails, colored each other's hair with hair caulk, put on tattoos, played games and got to order their own food from a restaurant. It was a fun night!!

Jessica also celebrated her birthday with a spa day compliments of Miguel and then a nice lunch afterwards.

And finally on April 3rd, Dustin celebrated his birthday in New Zealand with happy news of the boarder opening!! We have not seen the NZ bunch for 2 years and can't wait for our trip. The boarder opens May 2nd and we hope to go in July or Aug.



Springtime in Borrego Springs



By Bob Riel

Once again Karla and I spent some time in the desert enjoying the warm spring weather as well as the annual cactus bloom. We spent a long weekend (Friday to Monday) at the Palms RV Park just outside of Borrego Springs State Park.

Our good friends Jim and Lorelee joined us for most of the time (they went home on Sunday) and our other good friends Bob and Arlene came out for a Saturday visit. It was a lot of fun to take Bob and Arlene to Font's point for their first time (see the photo above) as it is something so unexpected. We took them down a sandy road for about 4 miles and then we just walked up a small rise and there it is. You are over 200' above the desert floor and looking out across what always looks to me like something from outer space. They were very surprised and really enjoyed the view. This is a great day trip for anyone from San Diego and is car friendly (no 4X4 needed).



We also spent some time viewing the flowers and walking into the desert areas. This year was not a great year for the annual bloom, but it wasn't as bad as last year either. There were areas with a lot of flowers, but those were mostly next to the Laguna mountains. Once you got more than a mile or two from them there wasn't much to see. But regardless a trip to the desert where it's nice and warm even when San Diego is still cold, is always a good time.



FOR FRANCIE

