

# RIEL BOWL IS BACK





# Listy and Bob Host Riel Bowl 32!

By Listy Gillingham

January 1st was our first Riel Bowl since Covid hit, and we were thrilled to bring as many of the family back together again. We started the party at noon, and everyone arrived promptly with something to share and good spirits. Though the weather report was dismal, with sprinkles and wetness in the air, we were able to host everyone comfortably around the house.

The game room was well used and Listy had the dining room set up ready to seat over 30 people, so space was not a problem. Robert arrived with a Prime Rib that was described by food critic Bob Gillingham as “one of his best ever productions” stating it was cooked to perfection!

We were thrilled to have all the siblings and innocent bystanders (Carol, Birdy, Robert, Margaret, Listy, and Ed) and many cousins. Megan got the award for representing the farthest away cousin who made it to our house. We missed the New Zealand and New Jersey families (Benesch, Rios, and Sorem’s) and San Francisco kids (Tim and Federico) as they weren’t able to get across the globe to see us. It was fun to finally meet Nate’s girlfriend, Logan, and we welcomed Michelle’s family (Rhys and Owen too) to the mix as they’re finally stationed close enough to come join us. We were also





sad not to see the Hartman boys (Craig, Ana, Curtis, Lauren, Scott, and Krissy); Michael and Ashley; or the Gillingham girls (Annie, Kevin, Kristy, and Seamus) for various reasons which might have included illnesses no one wanted and other issues that popped up. We did appreciate seeing David and Bethany though, so the Gillinghams were represented!



The attendance prize went to the Ed Riel clan that brought in 75% of their kids and plenty of grandkids as well (Go Kevin, Nicole, Chris, Jessica, Nate, and Logan). It was also fun to welcome Frank and Sam too who brought Avery and Brett and Carinda with Aro and Big Al in tow. Jason and Chavva also made it with their cute kids and they had fun playing with Kevin and Nicole's kids which was nice to see.



After eating a ton of food that was expertly prepared by everyone, we shifted back to our roots with a traditional White Elephant gift exchange. We helped move the game along by having families play as one team so that we only had about 15 presents to unwrap. The gifts were memorable to say the least and a few were even stolen. Everyone did a good job of following the rules and no one left an unwanted gift behind.

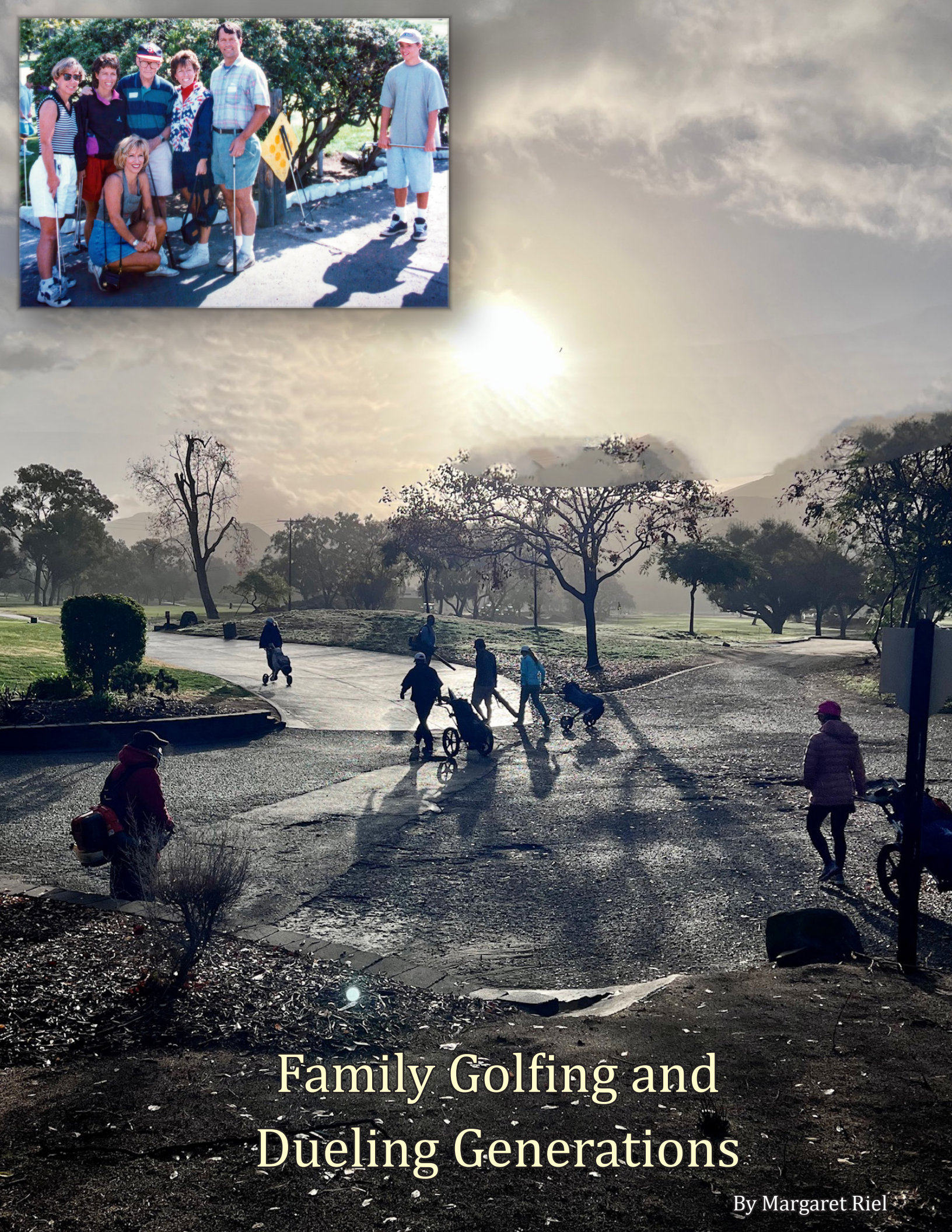




We then shifted to dessert where Margaret brought cake and ice cream to be shared with everyone. It went quickly as dessert usually does at these events. Unfortunately, the weather made our Pickleball courts too wet to host the matches we had hoped to include this year. However, Brett Sorem was able to come up with 16 people to play a friendly family golf scramble the next day which allowed some competitions to occur but that's another article.

Thank you to everyone who came and helped clean up too. We appreciated sharing our house and being together again with all of you. For those of you who would like to plan ahead, Riel Bowl will be held on Dec. 30th, 2023 which should make your New Year's Eve planning a little easier. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone. (see page 17 for more photos)



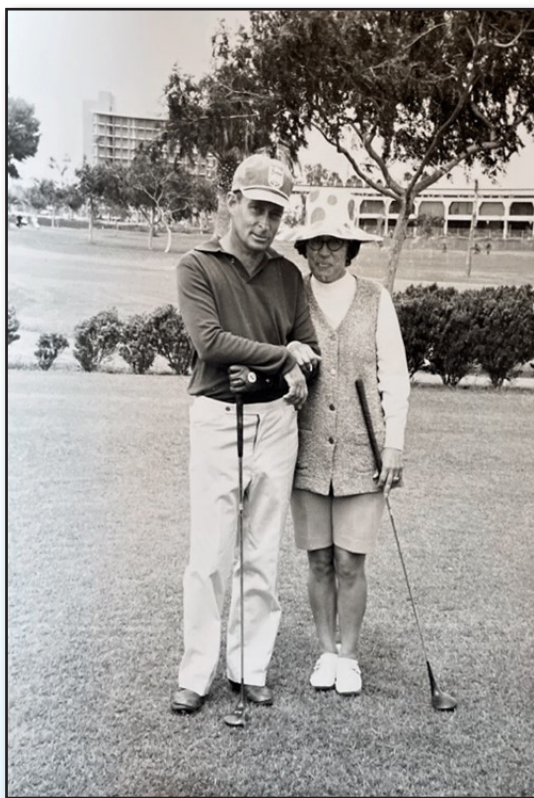


# Family Golfing and Dueling Generations

By Margaret Riel

Mom and Dad started playing golf in 1963. This was the year that Margaret turned 13 and it was legal to leave her with the younger kids (along with Francie helping). They would drive the kids to the downtown Fox Movie Theater and leave them all to watch the “A” movie, the “B” movie and then half of the “A” movie again before they returned. (In what Megan once called the olden days, two movies were paired together, and you could come for the early or late showing of the good movie. What was important is that you did not need to leave after a showing, you could stay for as many showings as you wanted.)

They played 18 holes every weekend and never wanted to miss golf –even for parties or family events. After Dad experienced a stroke at 92, he could no longer play. Margaret became the cart driver at first, as Dad went with Mom to the course, and she played with Mimi. Later when Dad died, and Mimi had health issues, Margaret became the golfing partner, learning how to play from Mom.



Mom always used to say, “Why don’t you children get your husbands or wives and all play golf together? It is so much fun!” Then she would continue about how wonderful it was to be outside and playing golf. She loved the game. She played her last game two weeks before she died at 94. The golf course worked some sort of magic on her. She was so alive and present on the golf course, full of stories and remembrances. The “ambassador” at Admiral Baker always came to check on us and chat. Once he asked if he could have his picture taken with Mom. He said she was a legend at the course. She was so flattered.

She would be thrilled to see that almost all of her kids are now golfing together. Listy and Birdy play with their husbands, but Carol, Ed, and Margaret join in without their spouses. We are sometimes joined by players from the younger generation, for example, Chris, Jason, Michael, and David.

# Kids Challenge the Parents

The Sorems brought back an interesting Riel Bowl tradition—the kids pitted against the parents in a sport. Never mind that the kids are approaching 40 and would rather call them the oldies. Brett and Al Sorem took the lead searching for a golf course that could place our group together. It was scheduled for the day after Riel Bowl, on Monday, Jan 2.

There were eight kids (a fitting number) and eight parents so we formed 2 foursomes of kids and two of parents. Bob Gillingham proposed a scoring procedure that gave the parents a slight handicap (for age). The kid foursomes would have to use their average score on each hole, while the parents could take the best score of the two teams. All of us played scramble- we all hit from the best shot. And the winners won---believe it not—by one stroke—and it was the parents. And they won the right to make their own trophy to keep all year gloating and then be ready to hand it off to the kids in the coming years.





# 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Riel Family Golf Scramble

By Brett Sorem



On and off for the last 6 or 7 years, the cousins have been getting together for a day of golf at mission trails around the new year. It was a time for the cousins to get some solo time to catch up and take out life's frustration while trying not to lose too many balls. We kept score but it wasn't really about that, more importantly, it was a break away from the wives/kids/parents/work and any other responsibility all of us cousins have coming into the busiest part of our lives.

This year the Riel golf day got...older. As we all know, most the parents are newly retired and almost all have taken up golf. When one of the

parents caught wind of the cousin's golf day, they came together and decided it was time the oldies crashed the cousins party for once, instead of the other way around.

When all the heads were counted, there were 8 Cousins:

Brett, Michael, Jason, Kevin, Chris, Nathan, and David plus honorary cousin Kendahl Benson.

And fate delivered 8 Oldies:

Lyle, Birdy, Bob, Listy, Margaret, Carol, and Ed, plus honorary oldie Big Al who would normally be categorized in the "really oldie" group.

This was the perfect recipe for a tasty scramble match up. The Oldies have competed against the kids in many sports over the past 35 years, from soccer at Margaret and Bud's held at the nearby park, to football at Bob and Karla's where the original Riel Bowl began. These two deep seeded squads have a history that rivals that of the 2022 world cup final matchup.

With so much on the line, bragging rights for the next year, and the honor of creating the Riel Golf Cup Trophy, it's win or go home.

On a beautiful crispy Monday morning, January 2, 2023, the first annual Riel Golf Scramble took place at Singing Hills Oak course. Myself and Big Al, were the first ones on the scene desperate for some range balls and a Bloody Mary. Yet, we discovered because of this little global warming inconvenience that we are experiencing, So Cal has felt more like the tropics with all of the rain we were getting. Thus, the Range was closed due to rain and there were no golf carts allowed on the course. This of course, forced us





all to walk, which actually ended up being a blessing in disguise, as it turned out to be a really fun time. It also allowed for ample Bloody Mary time at the restaurant.

The Oldies teed off at 8:03 and 8:12 with the cousins following at 8:21 and 8:30. For the cousins, our front 9 groups were Brett, Kevin, Michael, and David on team 3. After the first 4 holes, we were 3 under with Michael coming in clutch by draining the first 2 birdie putts. Feeling pretty into ourselves, much like another Riel, we audaciously self-proclaimed ourselves as the "Dream Team."

We finished the front nine 4 under par. Chris, Nathan, Jason and Kendahl on the other hand had some trouble getting their balls to perform...(It happens to the best of us, ask the oldies:) Or should I say roll the way they wanted them to and penned a 3 over par for the front nine averaging out to 1 under par for the cousins.

The oldies got to use the best score, which very coincidentally was 2 under par. I did see Birdy, Listy and Margaret at different times spying across the fairways to get some intel on the cousins' progress. One can only come to one collusion I mean conclusion what was happening there.

So, at nine we loaded up with beverage reinforcements and switched up the squads slightly, sending myself to team 4 and Jason up to team 3. All of a sudden team 4 came alive, shoulder brush, and started off with 2 birdies. It was going to be a tight race and we knew we needed to make up for lost ground.

The oldies finished 3 under par. Team 3 of the cousins ended up even on the back nine which rounded out at 4 under from the front nine.

Team 4 was 4 under par on the back coming into 18 which was a par 5. If the cousins could bridge this hole, it would bring them to 2 under par and win them the tournament. But as fate may have it, with all the oldies standing around the 18th green not quite as tall as they once were, proved to be too much pressure for team 4 who ended up with a bogey on 18 leaving the cousins to finish off at 2 under par.

The oldies won at the end of the day, but as cheesy as it sounds, we all had a great time getting back to the roots of our Riel family with a little friendly competition.

Next year's match up will have even more to play for, and as a proud cousin I urge the rest of you to keep hitting the course as the oldies have nothing else better to do than play golf and are getting better by the week.

# Family Get-A-Way in Big Bear

By: Annie Mulholland



At the end of November, we were able to escape to the mountains! So, we headed up to Big Bear for a quick weekend getaway with the girls. There was snow on the ground from a previous storm, but the weather was sunny and in the 50's, so it was actually perfect!

Evie got to play in the leftover snow and loved feeling how cold it was on her hands. She plopped herself right down and started digging as if she was at the beach!

We rented an Airbnb and had a great time just hanging at the cabin and then adventuring around town. We have been loving watching the relationship grow between our two girls. We had the best time watching them chase each other around the furniture in the cabin. The littlest things with your kids can sometimes bring the biggest smiles.

We were also able to take the girls on a "hike." We tested out hiking backpacks with the girls in them and it turns out, no matter how nice of a backpack you have, you are still lugging heavy children around on your backs! But the girls absolutely loved it, and Kenzie was sitting on my back singing the entire time! It was a very mellow weekend but a great time to spend as a family in the nature. Can't wait to get back!





By: Birdy Hartman Hall



# Our Staycation at Laurence Welks

In early November, Listy, Bob, Lyle, and myself joined our best friends, Holly, Rex, Kym, and Doug up in Escondido for a week of merriment. Listy had found a smoking deal for a week's stay, and we all couldn't resist a little friend fun before the holidays (even though Lyle still had to commute back and forth to work).

We headed up on a stormy Saturday and got drenched as we lugged our bags into our resort rooms for the week. The rain was pounding and made for a good stay indoors and read a book vacation start. Listy and Bob were charged with making the first dinner at their condo. So we waited patiently for 6:00 to arrive and knocked on their door. As we walked in, Lyle and I were astonished to see decorations and everyone grinning ear to ear as they yelled, "Surprise!" And indeed, we were. Apparently, our buds have been secretly planning the stage for this long-ago promise of a week vacation together as their wedding gift to us, back in 2019. We had a trip scheduled for April of 2020, but as you all know, Covid kicked that trip to the curb.

Lyle and I had just forgot all about it as the covid year turned into two. But our team of beer crawling friends were not going to let this idea end up on the side lines. So, we were hailed as "The NOT-





So-Newlywed Couple” and were adorned with bridal hats for the girls, and mustached hats for the men. Listy and Bob had steak and lobster on almost china (hey, we were on vacation) and white tablecloths. We drank wine and began the crawl with hilarious games created by Listy! The week continued with special dinners created by one and all. I can’t even tell you how much fun we had as we gathered, and played these entertaining games.



On Sunday, it poured and poured. But nothing can keep this group down for long. What better excuse to go wine tasting than a little water falling from the sky. So, we drove up all of 2 miles to Deer Creek Winery. Now wine tasting should have been the only reason we needed to make the trip, but hold on, this was no ordinary winery. Inside, outside and all around there was an Auto Museum with the largest collection of convertibles and Americana items on display. You could stroll back in time and see radios, washing machines, toys from our childhood, telephones, TVs, computers.... you name it and this family has a collection of it.



Coincidentally, this place was owned by a former Parker parent who just happened to be manning the counter when we showed up. He immediately recognized Dr. G and Mrs. Panton (who taught two of his children). He was so excited to have these rockstar educators in his winery, he would not allow us to pay the museum’s entry fee. Plus, he treated us to some special wine tasting and snacks! It sure pays to travel with the famous! So, if you ever want a day to see some amazing artifacts, this is the place to be!

The rest of our week was spent golfing while Lyle and Rex toiled away at their jobs (we can’t wait for them to join the ranks of the retired bums).



The weather made a switch from rain to wonderful San Diego sunshine. We laughed our way around the course as we landed in bunkers and bounced off giant rocks. We also were delighted to have pickleball courts available to us, and we enjoyed some wicked fast games!

I know that Laurence Welks has a reputation as being an older person's vacation place...and there sure is some truth to that. However, for those of you with kids, they have great pools (with slides and rec rooms filled with games), there is Frisbees golf and soccer golf. At night they had a dance under the stars band where you can bring your own food and drinks while you dance your cares away. We lit the place up with our crazy dance moves and before you knew it, everyone was joining in the fun!

Phew, what a week to remember! Lyle and I want to express our thanks to this group that continues to give us the best of times! They are our family when our families are off doing their own things. It is a blessing to have friends like these, and we can't wait for the next BFF trip with them!





See you next year!

# FAMILY SHORTS



Today is Megan's birthday and we all wish her the very best birthday ever!!!



Taking a sunrise stroll by the bay in Pacific Beach, the Lane boys are always on the move!



Annie, a girl who is always on the go, spent her holiday's visiting Turkey, which is the land of Grandmother Edith's ancestral heritage. She and a few friends toured the countryside and villages of the nation during her off time from work in Spain. We hope to get a full report from her in next month's issue (hint, hint).



Seamus and Kristy have announced that Liam will be getting a baby brother late in May if all goes according to schedule (maybe sooner or later these Riel kids are never on time). Here is the first picture of baby Keith number 2

10 Years Ago



Carol and family spent some time up in the snow last month and she just couldn't resist a ride down the hill on an inner tube. We are told that she made it all the way down the hill without falling off, once again proving that she is really just a teenager at heart.

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