



October - 2023

Issue No: 393

A New Riel  
in the Family!



# Welcome Maisie Jan Riel



By Ed Riel



Nathan and Logan's baby, Maisie Jan, was born in the late hours of October 6th weighing in at a scrapping 5 lbs. 10 oz and 18 in long. As if she already has a mind of her own, Maisie was both two weeks early and had completely disregarded her San Diego grandparents request to stay put until we returned from our Mexican vacation on the 10th

Fortunately, Logan, with Nathan by her side, triumphed over her labors beautifully.

As much as Jan and I were enjoying the Mexico adventure we were in, like a wonderful dinner restaurant in the back streets of old Puerto Vallarta, newly owned by Canadians with the same names as Jan's family. The restaurant was missing some roofing where thunder, lightning and rain that would have washed San Diego away, simply moved the two-person guitar playing band closer to our seats. All this fun was amplified by the knowledge and unstoppable bragging on our part, of our new granddaughter. It increased the enjoyment of our vacation just like the free dessert, given our table by the restaurant owners, on a plate with the word "Congratulations" printed in chocolate syrup.



But we also lamented our absence and let it be known that no cancelled flight (just because of a two-bit, Cat-4 hurricane on the 10th) would have prevented Jan and I, with the help of our traveling buddies, the Benesch and Mehan Riels, from reserving, in the early morning, the last seats, on the



last airplane out of Mexico. As we were determined to be holding, and counting the fingers and toes, of our newest Granddaughter that very evening.

Non-also, less your RFNL reporter apologizes now for not being at the scene of the real action on the 6th and not being able to detail, the incremental, forever increasing and expanding, closeness that develops not just in a little restaurant in Mexico and in our bigger family in San Diego but also in our Maui family, and Tim and Federico in San Fransisco, and Karline in Chicago, and also our Florida family, Howard and Donna) all because of Maisie Jan.



# Taco' bout Love!

By Ed Riel



Almost nothing beats a Riel family engagement party. The theme for the party, picked by Jan, was “Taco’ bout Love.” It originated by the simple fact that we knew of a truly awesome taco truck that would be serving and feeding the party. From there came the southwest style invitations and decorations including the cactus ring toss, the tres leche cake and we should not forget the “Taco’ bout Love” candy.

Of course, at the heart of the party were those who attended. There was an equal number of Nathan and Logan’s friends, some from outside the city, and Riel family members and a pack of children to make it the cultural/tri-generational mix such parties are meant to be.

We were especially pleased that Logan's Father and step-mother, Howard & Donna could come all the way from Florida to be a part of the gathering. And we were happy that Jan's family (Wayne, Carol, and Shannon) could come from Maui. We missed you Tim and Federico.



Amplifying this exceptional engagement celebration to even higher heights was the quirky fact that it was also a baby shower; now there is something to taco' bout! And sing about. As traditional with all Riel Family engagement parties there was the song, and for this one, Jeff gave us a great one. (right) The "Do Wah Diddy Diddy Dun Diddy

Do" refrain proved to be an energetic sing-along for a party of several hours of tacos and libations. The baby girl is due end of October and the wedding is planned for next year.

Our thanks to all for the generosity and fun of your participation.



Nathan/Logan Do Wah Diddy

There she was just a-walkin' down the street, singin'  
'Do wah diddy diddy dum diddy do'  
Snappin' her fingers and shufflin' her feet, singin'  
'Do wah diddy diddy dum diddy do'

She looked good (Looked good)  
She looked fine (Looked fine)  
She looked good, she looked fine  
And Nathan nearly lost his mind

Before we knew it she was walkin' next to Nate, singin'  
'Do wah diddy diddy dum diddy do'  
Holdin' his hand and thinkin' isn't this great, singin'  
'Do wah diddy diddy dum diddy do'

They walked on (Walked on)  
To Nate's door (Nate's door)  
They walked on to Nate's door  
Then they kissed a little more

Whoa-oh, we knew they were falling in love  
Yes, we did  
And so he told her all the things  
He'd been dreamin' of

Now they're together nearly every single day, singin'  
'Do wah diddy diddy dum diddy do'  
They're so happy, and that's how they're gonna stay, singin'  
'Do wah diddy diddy dum diddy do'

Well, Nate knows (Nate knows)  
That Logan's fine (Logan's fine)  
They both know it's baby time  
Wedding bells are gonna chime

Whoa-oh, we knew they were falling in love  
Yes, we did  
And so he told her all the things  
He'd been dreamin' of. . .  
Do wah diddy diddy dum diddy do  
Do wah diddy diddy dum diddy do



# Aro Turns Two and Gets a Very Special Gift!

By Brett Sorem

Aro recently turned 2 on October 3rd. We had a very small party for him at Carinda's Grandparents in Hemet. Both dad's (grandpa's) were in attendance to celebrate his actual birthday. But we couldn't go without having a party on the following weekend in San Diego for friends and family.

On October 7th, we threw a party at a local Scripps Ranch park near Lyle and Birdy. Lots of our closest friends, many of which have kids near the same age came to wish us more so than Aro, the best of luck raising a toddler. Aro played in the sand with beach toys, went down the slide, tossed around the baseball, and kicked the soccer ball with some of the bigger kids.



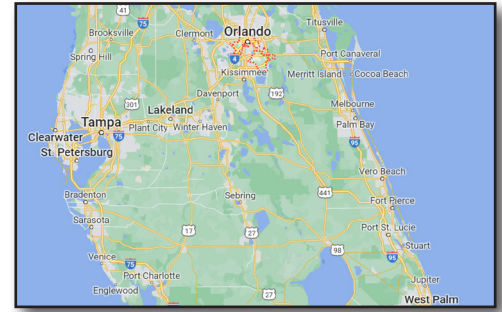
Though there is one present Aro has been told about but he still hasn't received yet, and hopefully he won't have it until next March. We have told Aro that he will be getting a **BABY SISTER**, and while sometimes he seems like he grasps the idea, you can never be too sure.

But yes, Carinda is in her second trimester and starting to show. As much as we want to fast forward to welcoming her into our family, we also realize these last five-ish months will be the only time left we have to dedicate to Aro only.

So for now we are enjoying these precious days, doing just that, while also very excited for next year to come. Life couldn't be much better.



# Lyle and Birdy Visit Orlando, Florida



By Birdy Hartman Hall



Welcome to the happiest place on Earth, Orlando, Florida. That's where Lyle and I spent the first days of September. As I entered the property, I got that swell of little girl excitement that I used to experience every time Roar night rolled around. My dad, Frank Riel, worked at Roar and once a year we were treated to a Disneyland party evening just for employees.

I can remember running around that park as fast as our legs would take us riding and re-riding all our favorite coasters. Which brings us to Disney World. The crowds were plentiful but with the aid of a lightning pass you could easily ride all the thrilling coasters you wanted in a day.



We were accompanied by Mark and Lyn Scott. Mark is one of Western Fire's inspection managers and Lyle was only too happy to treat him to some fun for all the hard work he does for Western Fire Protection. It was an adventurous two days. We went on some scary, fast-moving rides and some calm "Birdy friendly" attractions. I loved wandering around Walt Disney's walk of history.



It was so nostalgic to see the beginnings of Walt Disney's dreams take place. That man was filled with imagination and ambitions. His playful spirit has entertained all of us for so many years. I can still lovingly remember Sunday nights watching The Wonderful World of Disney with my parents and siblings. In our home, it was a staple and a great way to end the weekend. I also thought that the Star Wars area was such a unique display of making you feel like you had entered another world. Everywhere you looked was filled with desert formations that could only come from the imagination of Star Wars writers. I was truly impressed.

After two days of vacation fun in the world of Disney, Lyle had to return to the work that brought us to Orlando. We were there for the AFSA convention to support Lyle who sits on the board of directors. As Lyle went to meetings, I was able to go for hikes around the hotel and relax with a good book. Once he was finished, we were ready to party.

AFSA is known for taking us to great places and Orlando did not disappoint. Our opening party was set at Universal Studios Dining, Dancing and Cocktails promenade area. This section was closed off to the public and was a place filled of bar party action. You could dine at Bob Marley's live band show, a dueling piano bar extravaganza or be the star of the show at a famous Karaoke Night Club. Or you could wander the boulevard while an outside DJ was kicking up the party atmosphere with some fun dance tunes. The evening flew by because you were never bored. We canvassed all the wonderful food stations and enjoyed beverages as we caught up with friends that have traveled across the USA to be at this convention. At 9:30, we were ushered into Universal Studios where again, we were treated like royalty. Like Roar, The Harry Potter Area was closed off to the public and we were given access to many of the fun rides that are part of this park. There were dessert stations as well and you could ride, drink, and eat to your heart's content.





One day, when Lyle got off early from meetings, we went to Daytona Beach to enjoy a tour of the famous Daytona Beach Race-track. Now for many of you, this might not be a big deal. But if you have grown up in the racing world, seeing the history of racing and cars speeding around this track is like Disneyland all over. Lyle has a wealth of knowledge and race trivia floating in his head. And he was quick to share with me his passion for



the sport. It made me appreciate all the things that we saw even more. I got chills as we sat up in the stands watching race cars whiz by. We were all amazed to learn that if you win the Daytona 500, you agree to let them have your car for a year to display in their museum exactly how it looked when it crossed the finish line (confetti and all), while you are the reigning champ. Kind of sounds like it gets impounded but that is the tradition. I also learned that winners get to keep the checked flag that was used in that race.

Our visit was filled with decadent dinners with friends and associates. My favorite was a place called Christinis Ristorante Italiano. Oh my, the food was ridiculously amazing. We started with a three-part appetizer which was enough to be my entire dinner. It had a dish of home-made pasta, a full-size Italian meatball, and a bowl of calamari. Next, we moved onto a fresh salad (that Lyle and I split) followed by a veal dish (their specialty) covered in a rich wine mushrooms sauce.



There was a gouda pasta on the table to share because lord knows, we might starve. And following that there was an array of desserts, each impressive in their own way. To end the night, we had chocolate martinis. Who knew being a grown-up could be so much fun!



On our last day in Orlando, we had time to kill before we jetted back to San Diego. So, with Mark and Lyn by our sides, we bravely entered Gatorland. Truly, who comes to Orlando without feeding one of their gators? We enjoyed seeing them up close and personal with a nice, bridged walkway keeping us apart. Gatorland has all types of alligators. Some pretty albino ones and some sweet just born out of the egg ones. But you can also see colorful parrots, a couple of desert tortoises, snakes, lizards, and birds. We also had a delicious soft serve ice cream cone at the end of our visit. I felt like my dad would have approved of our selection.



The entire trip was amazing. I love trips that activate your memory lane. While at Disneyland as a child, I can remember Carol holding my hand through the Pirates of The Caribbean and telling me that it would not be "too scary." I remember the family portraits we took in hopes that this year no one would have bunny ears over their heads. I remember taking my own kids with Bruce and seeing Disney through a whole new set of eyes. So much joy is wrapped up at that place and I don't care how old you are, you are never too old for a Disneyland trip.



# Wales Here We Come!



After walking across England, we learned that we really loved visiting small villages and talking to people from different areas. After viewing lots of options we settled on a small island in Wales that offered a coastal walk around it. The hike was titled “the Isle of Anglesey Coastal Path”, which happened to be about 140 miles around, which was very similar to our previous adventure across England.

None of us had ever been to Wales either, which made the option feel perfect and we knew the hiking conditions (i.e., the weather) would be cool and welcoming for us. We also learned that we enjoyed doing some sightseeing as well, so we added two other destinations, Liverpool, and Dublin to round our trip and that’s how the vacation planning began.



It was Listy, Bob, Kym, and Doug again, because they’re our only friends who are willing to trek this far and we’re a great traveling team after having gone many places with them before.



# Part 1, Liverpool

On Sept. 6th, we flew into Manchester and took a train ride to Liverpool which was about a 2-hour trip. We stayed in the heart of center city Liverpool and loved seeing where the Beatles made their big start by walking around the city. We learned that though Liverpool's charter was formed in the 12th century, it didn't officially become a city until 1880. And during World War II, Liverpool became an obvious target as it was a strategic port and an active manufacturing center, and it became the second most bombed city in all of Britain. We walked all over the city and enjoyed viewing some of the off-the-beaten path displays as well as the typical tourist attractions.



We started the day by visiting The Cavern Quarter as this is where the Beatles began their career. We found many statues and other displays that memorialize this famous band we grew up with. There were tons of bars and restaurants to choose from and most of them had music playing which made it super fun for us. We ate at Sergeant Pepper's Tavern and loved hearing music from back in the day! If you look closely at the picture of Bob and Listy, you'll see the light fixtures were made from a drum set. The Cavern Club was known as the home of the Beatles. The "four lads that shook the world" played there 274 times and made it the most famous club in the world.



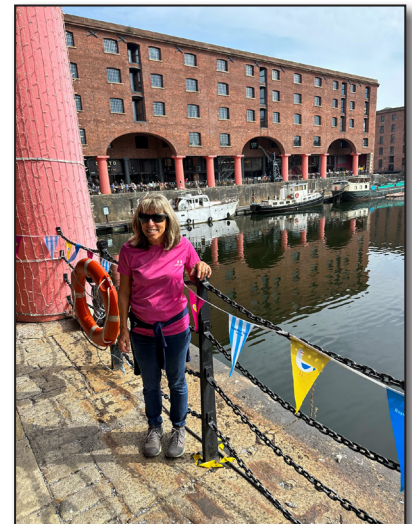
We also walked to St. Lukes Church which is known by the locals as the “bombed out” church. The church appears to be standing, but if you look closely the entire interior is missing. They host concerts here and built a World War II memorial. We also saw the Cathedral of Liverpool, which was a beautiful church in the middle of the city. We walked through China town which had a nice entrance, but all the shops seemed closed and there really wasn’t much to see. Murals were found everywhere, and they were fun to take pictures with too.



Due to Kym’s friendly and curious nature, we were lucky to get a private tour of the Yellow Submarine Bar we came upon in the Cains Brewery Village. You can rent the entire facility, which includes the cool submarine bar and some funny teepee tents sitting behind it with a GROOVEY dance floor. The bar had lots of Beatle memorabilia and displays.



We walked around Albert's Dock and saw many cool ships and nautical displays. There was a maritime museum that took you through their port history and an International Slavery Museum to share England's role in how slaves were transported to America but made a stop in Liverpool. There was the actual propeller from the Lusitania after it sunk in 1909. The Superlambanana was found everywhere. It started as a bright yellow sculpture placed by a New York city-based artist which was intended to be a cross between a banana and a lamb. We saw many stuffed superlanbanans in gift stores, on murals, and as large statues showing other famous musicians along the bay. We also found the life-sized sculptures of the Beatles who were ubiquitous to Liverpool.





“A case history,” otherwise known as “the Hope Street Suitcases” by the locals, were created by John King and went on display on the pavements of Hope Street in 1998. Each case is labeled with the person it “belongs to” with each having a famous owner from the Liverpool region. Kym is next to Paul McCarthy’s guitar suitcase.



The murals were all amazing and it was fun seeing them at every corner.



# Part 2, Wales

From Liverpool, we hopped on another train and found our way to our first stop of the epic walk in Bangor. Bangor lies on the coast of North Wales near the Menai Strait, which separates the island of Anglesey from Gwynedd, the town of the Menai Bridge. It is home to the 19th century Penrhyn Castle and Bangor University. We found the Castle bar across the street which was a great place to stop for some traditional food and a few beverages.

We took a walk across the pier where we could see the banks of the island we were to become intimate with soon as our hike would begin the next day.



# Day 1 Bangor to Beaumaris



This was a nice and easy get-used-to-walking hike with only 8 miles traveled with a little climbing to keep us interested (almost 1000 feet). We met up with some locals from Scotland who were fun to talk to and we all shared other hiking adventures with them.

We found a cool castle in Beaumaris that was built by King Edward but never completed because they ran out of money. It has a full moat around it which makes it unique, however a fun fact about Wales is that they have the most castles in all the world per capita. We certainly saw quite a few.



## Day 2 Beaumaris to Benllech



This was the first real hike which was about 16.5 miles, with close to 1,700 feet of climbing. Our illusion of coastal hiking being easy slipped out of our heads after this as we realized that this coastline was filled with hills. However, the views got better and better the more we traveled.



Our Bed Breakfast rooms reminded me of our house in Mission Hills, as our rooms were on the top floor, with doorways made for short people and poor Bob had to duck under the roof eaves.

We got pretty good at passing through various kissing gates and looking for the coastal path markers. Often, we would break into song, singing "I see the sign" (song by Ace of Base) when we'd find it hidden in the weeds!





We walked through woods, country sides, beaches, and farms. So fun to see so much in one day, but we were ready to stop after 16 miles of walking! Luckily the Bed and Breakfast had an honor bar, which was well-received when we finished our day. We had a lovely view of the beach and loved coming to the Seaside Bed and Breakfast Inn.



## Day 3 Benllech to Amlwch



This was another over 16-mile hike with close to 2,400 feet of climbing, but it was the beginning of the shift from the east side, to the north side of the island which was where the coastline shifted into some gorgeous views. Every day from here on out, the hike would make us exclaim that this was our favorite path, but only until the next day came!

# Day 4 Amlwch to Cemaes



We had hoped that this was going to be an easy day with over 9 miles of hiking, but it included almost 1700 feet of climbing with lots of stairs, which made the “easy day” more of a challenge! We loved seeing the map of the Island as we made our way around it. It was fun to point out our progress as we moved from one day to the next.



# Day 5 Cemaes to Church Bay



This was our first hike where we were reminded of similar views from our previous trips to Hawaii. We hiked about 12 miles, but the views were amazing especially towards the end of the hike, where we got most of the climbing done by clocking over 1,200 feet of elevation gain (similar to hiking up Cowl's Mountain).



This was a long day with over 15 miles of hiking. Lucky for us, it was relatively flat and easy to make the tracks go by quickly. We saw the boot on the footpost (get it, footpost with a shoe on it) and later found the other boot on another footpost.

## Day 6 Church Bay to Holyhead





# Day 7 Holyhead to Trearddur



This was another semi-easy trek. The beginning was a beautiful climb up Holyhead Mountain, but then it was a lovely path along the coastal edges for a little over 11 miles. Holyhead was beautiful sitting above the cliffs with several sightings of gray seals cruising below us in the water. The views were amazing and made the time zip by. We never found a pub in between the two cities, but we were thrilled to find a Bayside restaurant when we finished our hike. We sat right by the glass and enjoyed a few beverages while enjoying the view of Treadrddur Bay.



One reason we enjoy these walking adventures is because of the people you meet. This man was watching the soccer match and decided to come join us for a bit to find out why we were in the village, and he wanted to help us understand football in Wales! Everyone was so nice and we loved having them join in to help us learn as much as we could about growing up in Wales. Kym's favorite question was to ask them say the longest word in Welsh, "Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantantyllys." The last five syllables were added in 1880 as a joke trying to attract more people to the town which is what this long word stands for.



## Day 8 Trearddur to Rhosneigr



Another 16-mile hike but with the milder temperatures, it was easy to get through. We passed through the four-mile bridge which sounded awful to us and boring (a 4-mile bridge), but we learned it was called the 4-mile bridge as it linked the Isle of Anglesey with Holyhead (which is a four-mile hike to get to Holyhead from the bridge).



After that we hiked through corn fields and got hit by stinging nettles almost the entire hike through the high grass. We also saw wild boysenberries almost the entire walk as well. We went up a long hill that took us to a coastguard look-out station. It was manned with coastguards who had binoculars to watch the kayakers and boaters below us. We assumed, if he saw anything that was alarming, he'd call a boat to come save them because from where they were sitting it would not be possible for them to do any saving.





This was the easiest day, which was a nice break, with only 8 miles of hiking. We passed by an old Neolithic Chambered Cairn which is used for the burial of the dead back in 2500 BC. The stones in the front and back of the chambers bear the original decorations but it was hard to see because it was dark inside.

The other fun thing we saw on this hike was St. Cwyfan's Church, known locally as the "little church in the sea." It was originally built on a peninsula giving everyone access, but over the years, the beach began to erode and the only way to get there was when the tide was low. You can see there are stepping stones to get there, but they were pretty far apart. The sign in the village noted there are links to mythology and the town definitely had a medieval feel to it.



# Day 10 Aberffraw to Dwyran



Our tenth day was the first time we had weather that became hard to ignore during the 14-mile, hike. The winds were blowing like crazy (35 plus miles per hour) and the clouds were darkening up, so we could see that we might be in for a storm approaching. Prior to this, we might have had a few drizzly days, but for the most part the weather was near perfect hiking weather (low 60's).

We loved the wooded section and then going along a beautiful beach. I was never a big fan of water crossings, so when we had to venture across the stone bridge, I made Bob slow down and help me get from some of the longer steps, but I did make it across even with the strong winds blowing.

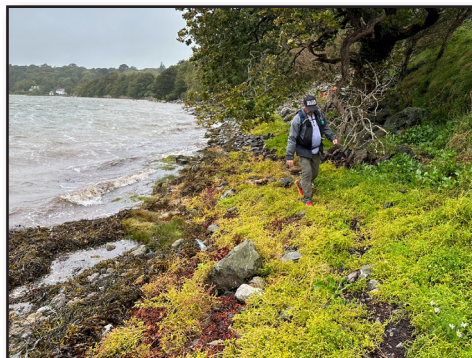


# Day 11 Dwyran to Bangor



This was our final day of hiking, and as we predicted, the weather finally took a turn towards nasty. We had rain almost the entire 12-mile hike and we had winds that were blowing at 35 mph with 50 mph gusts, so it was a crazy, big finish day. We stayed on a farm that was really beautiful and hard to walk away from because the rain began to come down just as we started our hike.

Being wet helped us as we came down by the river towards the bridge as the tide was up and part of the trail was submersed in water from the bay. Nothing was going to stop us at this point, as we knew there was a pub at the foot of the bridge, and we were ready for a warm place to stop. So, we stomped right through the Irish Sea knowing we were almost done!



The last two miles were easy as we had already walked this from Bangor when we began. We crossed over the Menai Suspension Bridge and braved more weather, so we could officially finish the 140-mile trek we had started out to do ten days earlier!



# Part 3, Dublin

We wanted to end the adventure with a new country and decided to take a ferry boat ride from Holyhead to Dublin which sounded like a great final leg for our epic vacation.

The original ferry ride we booked was cancelled because of the weather, but they moved us to a bigger ferry which turned out to be a great way to travel. The lounge-style seating was perfect, and we couldn't have been happier to have a ride instead of walking to our next destination. Because the ferry boat was a later ride, we didn't get into Dublin as early as we had hoped, so our first day was just an evening, but we had fun regardless.

Dublin in one day doesn't allow you a lot of time to see it, but we managed to start the day early with breakfast and then hopped on a double decker tour

bus to get a birds-eye view of the city knowing there was no way we'd be able to see all the sights on foot. After the whirlwind view of the city, we hoofed it to our first appointment of the day at the Guinness Factory.

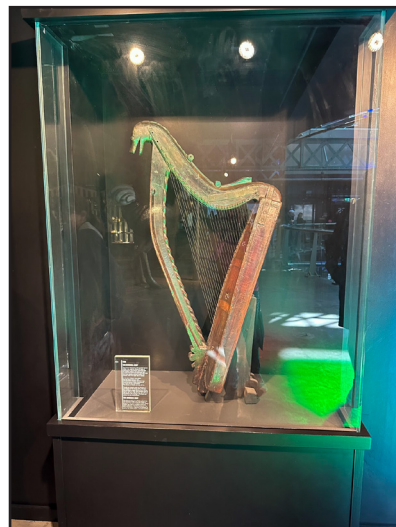




The Guinness factory was a seven-story building that you walked around in a self-guided tour where you followed the the history of Guinness beer and the factory process to make the beer. When we walked into the area, our bus tour guide said to look up towards the ceiling because they made it look like a beer stein.

The water stream was to show the spring water is where it all begins and the rest of the tour continued with nice explanations about everything you ever wanted to know about hops and beers.

They had many fun displays that were great for picture taking. They had the original harp (from the 1800's) on display which is the logo for Guinness. The top floor was a see-through round room with views of the entire city. Your ticket got you a free pint, so of course we had to participate.





After that, we had to hoof it to the Jamison tour that came next. This appointment included a tour guide who had some fun jokes included in his speech that we enjoyed. He had a fancy video and a room with a hands-on learning approach to explain the process of making whiskey from start to finish. The last room was for the tasting, which again was done with flair and good information.





When we asked Seamus and Kristy for advice on the best bars in Dublin to see, Seamus' response was to walk down the street near the Trinity Bar section of town and listen for music or a band you like, and that's the bar you should go in. We did just that and found a great venue with live music and great food and beverages.

The next day, we headed back to Manchester and flew home to San Diego the following day. It was a great vacation and we loved being on this adventure together with our friends! We feel so lucky to have the endurance and ability to travel in such a way that you can really enjoy a country in this intimate way!



# FAMILY ART



Can you identify this person?



Jess Rios  
10.5.23  
DODGE



Jess Rios  
10.5.23  
FRANKIE'S



Jess Rios  
10.5.23  
MAP

## Riel Bowl XXXIII

Is Just Around the Corner

Hosted by Bob and Listy  
December 30th, 2023



Don't Forget the White Elephant Exchange  
All Gifts Must Something You Have Owned  
Not Something Bought for the Occasion



# RIEL FAMILY THANKSGIVING

MARGRET AND BUD'S HOME, NOVEMBER 23RD, 11AM UNTIL EVERYONE'S GONE