

Merry Christmas from the Spargurs!

We're off on a trans-Atlantic cruise, leaving from Rome the Monday after Thanksgiving and returning to Fort Lauderdale on 12/21. So we have had to resort to a canned Christmas letter this year. We're definitely enjoying retirement and justify all our travels by reminding ourselves we spent most of last year at home due to Dick's father's slow decline from cancer.



Rounding Cape Horn



Penguins on Otway Sound, Chile

2009 also started with a cruise — from Santiago, Chile to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Dick had always wanted to round Cape Horn and was on deck at 7 am to take pictures. For Ginnie the trip highlight was the Valdes Peninsula with its abundant wildlife: seals, guanacos, rheas, and penguins. In between we saw the beautiful Chilean fjords, snow-capped volcanoes, and the Falkland Islands. In April we were in NJ for the cousins' brunch that has

grown to over 30 people with all the extended family. Afterwards we spent some relaxing time at Cape May which is pristine and uncrowded in the off season.

Then it was back to Ohio to prepare for the annual Burroughs Bibliophiles meeting (The DumDum) which Dick hosted in August. It was attended by 70 people, including guests from Canada, England, France and Czechoslovakia. The official venue was the Dayton Holiday Inn but we had close to 60 people at Chez Spargur for a cookout Friday evening.



The Dum-Dum Barbeque

Dick had worked very hard on this all year and his efforts were rewarded. Everyone said it was a great success and we made a lot of new friends.



Philippe Badre, Janet Rinehart, Ginnie and Joan Ogden enjoy the Dum-Dum

Ginnie insisted on a September getaway to recuperate so we bought an "extra vacation" through the same company we use for our Arkansas timeshare and spent a week at Cape Cod. We had splendid weather, hiked at the Cape Cod National Seashore, biked a good part of the



Watching a Whale Off Cape Cod

scenic 22 mile bikeway, did some whale-watching, and took the ferry to Martha's Vineyard for a day. In between we sampled many of the wonderful seafood restaurants – again without all the crowds that are there for the summer tourist season.

It's hard to believe it's been over a year since Ginnie's job was outsourced and both of us have been officially retired. Besides the



Watching a Whale on Cape May

trips, we are keeping busy with classes at both UD and Sinclair's Learning in Retirement programs, our gym membership, and biking. Ginnie is still active in her LexisNexis Fantasy Football League and also plays bridge and mah jongg. Dick keeps busy with his Burroughs group and computer projects. Plus, we are blessed to have many wonderful friends and lots of opportunities for dining out (our favorite pastime!) in both Dayton and Cincinnati.



Ginnie welcomes Lolli as Erbi scratches

We look forward to hearing from you about your year and hope it's been a healthy and happy one for you. Best wishes for 2010 as well!

Love,
Dick, Ginnie, Erbi, and LolliBop



Autumn at Chez Spargur