

## *Holiday Greetings!*

As 2016 draws to a close, we reflect on a year that has simply flown by. First of all, let us wish you and yours a very Happy Christmas and we hope that 2017 will be a good year for all of us.



The past year has had a few quirks, but all in all it has been good. We continue to enjoy our peaceful home setting. We can sit out on our front porch and listen to the birds, squirrels and other creatures and sometimes not see one vehicle go past. The weather's been crazy and our trees and insects are confused. For the second time in the 16 years that we've had this property, the creek beside us went over the top of the bridge in May. Luckily,

we're on high ground. Our neighbors again had a close call, but nothing like Oct, 2015.

In June the University of Texas ended our 19 years of work with the Texas Center for Disability Studies (3 of those years Martin worked for the Center as a MediaProducer to regain his State retirement and our health insurance, then it became a contract with our company for 16 years). The new director decided media wasn't her priority. Cancelling the last year of the contract was handled in a very unprofessional way. We found out during a client meeting in May, that in January she'd cut the last year of funding and didn't share that bit of information with us. However, Martin picked up a four month bonus contract from our 15 year client in Houston to create a new Texas Education Agency "mobile friendly" web site. That enabled us to solidify retirement plans. Strange how things work out sometimes.



I am still doing some entertainment bookings, but they are also dropping off sharply. David Perkoff (left) is travelling a lot, so I'm managing much of the work. With all the new folks moving into Austin (157 per day) and the internet resources, competition is stiff! I think we are

getting a message that retirement is in the air after 26 years. We've done some great shows over those years and had a good run!

In March Ken decided to move from Houston to Eugene, Oregon. He had been thinking about it for sometime. He has always liked the areas of Oregon and Washington from his times in the Navy. It is indeed beautiful countryside. He loves it there and is enjoying his work. We are very happy for him, but wish he wasn't 2,000 miles away.



Anthony and Family also had a transition in April. Starbucks eliminated Anthony's position as Director of Concepts for the Americas. He negotiated a good severance package and was able to enjoy being home with the boys during the Summer months. He has recently started work as VP of Design and will be opening a new office in Seattle for Harbor Industries, who are headquartered in Michigan. He is very excited about the opportunity.

I flew up to Seattle at the end of August to spend a little time with Anthony, Sharon, Julius and Rowan. Ken also came up from Eugene on the train, so it was really nice to have the brothers together for a weekend. Sharon is now working full time and with Anthony starting his new job, things are going to stay hectic.



I am enjoying my two horses, KD (Kan Daanz) and Taffie. I think once horses are in your life, they always hold a special piece of your heart. I am riding Taffie out with neighborhood friends on a pretty regular basis and sometimes just enjoy riding her on my own. I haven't trailered her out to the trails yet, as KD would get upset thinking that she was going away for good and I don't want to stress him.

Bracken continues to be a joy. She is so smart and considerate and has actually "trained" Martin and I quite well. She was very low energy a couple of months ago, and the vet decided to check her thyroid levels, which turned out to be very low. She is now on medication for that and we now



have a puppy back, full of energy and enjoying life once more. She is almost 10 years old now.

Because of our animals, we haven't travelled. The only trip we both took was to Alpine, TX for Martin's birthday in April and we took Bracken with us. She loves to ride in the car, and was still happy even after being on the road for seven hours straight.

The events at UT and the intensive web work distracted from our developing the recording museum. We're entering our 5th year for the non-profit. Martin dedicates as much time as he can to the Museum of Magnetic Sound Recording project



and fields enquiries on vintage recording from all over the World. We have been excited by many of the developments, and at the same time, disappointed with the lack of follow through by some. Donations have been sparse. However immediately after our October Board meeting, we received a significant donation and a long list of excellent recommendation from the donor. We have a very supportive Board and they continually encourage us to move forward. Hopefully things will turn around and we will be able to realize the dream of a permanent location for the collection.

So, again, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and fun New Years.

Love,  
*Martin and Chris*

Please visit our online scrapbook at: <http://phantomprod.com/sc2016.html> to see what else we have been up to this past year. Martin does a great job of keeping it current.