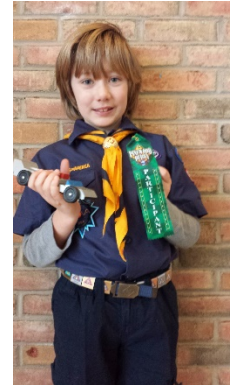


Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Frohe Weihnachten, God Jul, Joyeux Noel, Kung His Hsin Nien bing Chu Shen Tan, Buon Natale, Shalom, I'd Millad Said oua Sana Saida, Io Saturnalia,



Another year is passed. In some ways it's been very good, in others not. Our big news this year is that Paul and Suzanne both got new jobs. Paul's is in NJ, only 10 miles from our home. He started in late June as a product support specialist with the [Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre's](#) recently opened US office, located on the campus of Rutgers University in Piscataway. It was quite interesting that this position came up as he had quite a bit of interaction with CCDC during his post-doctoral time in Germany, including spending a week at the main office in Cambridge, UK in 2002. The position itself is going quite well and includes a mix of product technical support and some basic scientific support, customer training and site-visits, scripting and minor development work, and some in-office IT support. Suzanne's new job is at [Baron Environmental](#), a small consulting firm located only about 7 miles from the house. She really likes her job and is having quite an impact, both on the environmental and safety sides. It's also been great for her to never be on call.

In January, Kyle turned eight years old. We had a party for him at the Trailside Nature Center, in a local nature reservation. They presented a very nice program including some live turtles and snakes that the kids could handle. Also in January, Kyle's Cub Scout pack had their annual Pinewood Derby. Jack had cut the basic shape at his woodworking club while we were visiting over the holidays, so it looked much better than when Paul did it last year. Kyle placed third in his age level which meant he could also compete in the district race in March. He only placed middle of the pack there, but he had a great time regardless. A few weeks later, Kyle and Paul headed for an evening in Newark to see the Harlem Globetrotters. Kyle had a great time seeing their antics.



In March, we spent an overnight at the Philadelphia Zoo with Kyle's Cub Scout pack. This was a great time and included a night time walk through the zoo as well as another tour the next morning. We did sleep inside, so it wasn't cold. During Kyle's spring break in mid-April, Paul took some time off to spend a few days with Kyle. We had a great visit to the Intrepid Air and Space Museum in NYC as well as just hanging out at home. We both really enjoyed seeing the Space Shuttle Enterprise. Near the end of the month, we headed to the Philly Brick Fest Lego show. Kyle is a Lego fanatic and loved seeing the incredible displays and getting some special Lego pieces and figures.

In May, Suzanne and Paul headed to New York City for a night on the town to celebrate our 15th anniversary while Jack and Mary Lou came up to watch Kyle. We had a great time seeing some museums, having a good German dinner, seeing Rock of Ages on Broadway, and having a nice lunch at Lidia Bastianich's Becco. Just after, it was time for the Spring Cub Scout Camporee followed the next week by yet another trip to NYC.

This time all three of us went in for the day to see The Greatest Pirate Story Never Told!, which Paul's mom won free tickets for, followed by a visit to the American Museum of Natural History. While we probably don't take enough advantage of it, it's great living only an hour from one of the world's great cities.

After starting his new job in late June, Paul had a work trip for a week to the main CCDC office in Cambridge, UK in late July. I flew into London, arriving Saturday morning. After checking into the hotel near Paddington Station, I headed out to visit Westminster, Whitehall, and the Churchill War Rooms and then some shopping on Oxford and Regent Streets before hitting the Victoria pub for dinner and few pints. On Sunday, I headed down to the British Museum, spending a couple of hours. This museum has an incredible collection of artefacts from antiquity with exceptional Egyptian, including the Rosetta Stone, Assyrian, and Greek exhibits. Next up was a trip through the British Library, seeing one of the original Magna Carta copies from 1215, before hopping my afternoon train to Cambridge.



After the one hour ride and a 15-20 minute walk, I checked in at the very nice, and very convenient to the office, Regent Hotel. I was able to hit a few pubs and spend a couple of evenings walking and photographing around town during my week. I also managed to see more of the Cam River and the "Backs". The week at the office was fine. I reconnected with a few people who were still there from 2004 that I had known then and met many new people who I'd be working with. I also learned a lot about the software and the organization as a whole.



After my week in Cambridge, I hopped the train on Friday afternoon to head back to London, staying at the same place as my first weekend. As I had all day Saturday, I hopped the bus down to St. Paul's Cathedral, which Suzanne and I had missed in 2002, and ended up walking back through Covent Garden, Piccadilly Circus, and Green and Hyde Parks. After dinner at Mickey's Fish Bar, I headed back to pack and turn in early as I had to head out 6 am to catch the train back to Heathrow for my flight back to the US. It had been over 10 years since I was last in the UK and I enjoyed my return very much. I look forward to returning a few times a year for work.



After spending most of the summer at the Cub Scout Day Camp, which he loved, Kyle started 3rd grade in September. It's hard to believe he's already there. Just after Kyle went a birthday party and got to ride a horse. He had a great time. We also attended a couple of nature festivals, one at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and one being the NJ WILD Expo.

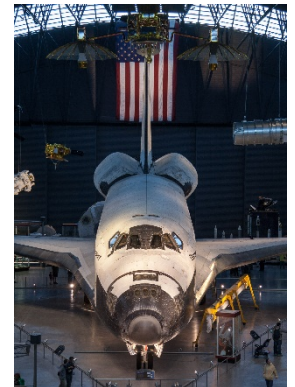
In late September, we got the shocking news that Paul's brother Allan had passed away. It was completely out of the blue and threw the whole family for a huge loop. Paul headed down to spend a week with his mom helping her to deal with Allan's affairs in Mobile. It was a rough time, but we were able to make it through. Paul's dad hosted a funeral in Burlington, VT in late October. It was a nice weekend and a nice memorial to Allan.

In October, it was time for the Fall Cub Scout Camporee. It's always a nice weekend and this was no different. The weather was great, a bit on cool side, and Kyle had a great a time. Of course, Halloween came at the end of the month with Kyle dressing up as a pirate. Paul very much enjoyed being home and getting to go trick-or-treating with Kyle as it had been several years.



For the first week in November, when Kyle had two and a half days off of school, we headed down to Washington, DC. We drove down Saturday morning, it's only about 3½ hours, and checked into our hotel, the Avenue Suites, near Foggy Bottom/Georgetown. The hotel worked out very well as it was a good size one-bedroom suite with a full kitchen. We spent the afternoon at the Air & Space Museum, which Kyle really wanted to see and loved. On Sunday, it was a return trip to Air & Space, though Suzanne did spend some time at the National Museum of the American Indian next door while Kyle and Paul watched the D-Day IMAX movie. On Monday, we hit several of the monuments on the Mall, including the WWII, Vietnam Veterans, and Lincoln Memorials. We also visited the top of the Washington Monument and spent a good chunk of time at the National Museum of American History. Tuesday was Ford's Theater, the National Archives, and the National Museum of Natural History.

On Wednesday, we headed out to do the Tidal Basin Memorials – Jefferson, FDR, and MLK – and also did Arlington National Cemetery. For dinner we hit a really good German place, Old Europe, in Georgetown. Thursday was our day to head out to the Udvar-Hazy Center of the Air & Space Museum out at Dulles Airport. This is a giant hanger with tons of planes, including a Concorde, the Enola Gay, and, most impressively, the Space Shuttle Discovery. Kyle especially enjoyed it. As it was nearby, we hit Manassas National Battlefield before heading back to the city. Friday included a trip to the Capitol, though only Suzanne and Kyle went into the visitors center, the Library of Congress, where Paul got to see a second of the four copies of the Magna Carta from 1215, and the surprisingly enjoyable National Postal Museum. It was then off to the hotel to pack up a bit before dinner. We headed out Saturday morning for the trip home, with a stop at Fort McHenry on the way. We had a very nice week.



A few weeks later, we got the sad news that Paul's step-mom Theresa had lost her long battle with cancer. While we knew it was coming, it was still very hard to take. Luckily we had all been able to see her in Vermont in October. Paul headed up to Berlin, NH for the funeral service in mid-December. While it was nice to see the family again, it was still a rough weekend.

For Christmas, Paul's dad will be coming down for the holiday. Suzanne's parents will be coming up a few days later. Paul's mom will be visiting in early January as we celebrate Paul and Kyle's birthdays. It will be nice to see everyone again. We don't have any specific plans for the upcoming year. We're still settling in to being all together the whole week once again. Our hope it to visit the UK and perhaps elsewhere in Europe sometime during the year, maybe near the end of summer. Suzanne doesn't get a ton of vacation, so we're not sure where exactly where else we might go, but we still have time to plan.

As always, you can check out our latest news and photos at <http://www.sanschagrins.com>. We wish all of you joyous holidays and a wonderful New Year.

Paul, Suzanne, & Kyle Sanschagrins