

Greetings, or rather, Aloha,

Surfs Up! Tubular dude. Whew.... Can you believe the end of the year is here already? I don't know about you, but these years are reeling by much too quickly. Probably my own fault though - time does seem to fly when you are too busy.

Still working several jobs, but with a major change. I continued to enjoy vending at Coors Field for the Rockies' games and doing security at the Nuggets games (though there hasn't been much winning there lately). But I have entered a new chapter as far as my career goes. This past October, I left the bike store, a victim of down-sizing. But I landed on my feet rather quickly, winning a position I was hoping would become available. I am now working for the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Leukemia Society of America as the *Team in Training* Campaign Manger. What that means is I am responsible for recruiting runners, walkers, and cyclists for LSA's *Team in Training* (running/walking marathons or cycling centuries) fund-raising program, helping and motivating them with their fund-raising and training, finding coaches, arranging travel plans, and then traveling with the team in support. I had become involved with them 2 years ago as a marathon-running fund-raiser, really liked the program, and was hoping TNT would grow to a point where a full-time person would be needed to coordinate it. So now for the first time in my life, I am commuting into downtown Denver, taking an elevator to the 15th floor, and sitting at a desk in an office. What a long, strange trip it's been, but I am enjoying the challenge. I am comparing this job right now to my time managing a river company in California for three years in the early 80's. The company was having a bit of an identity problem, and I enjoyed building it back up to become a very respectable company running quality trips. It's the same thing here - the program has grown and grown and the staff did not have the time to run it properly, so it's needed some organizational work and TLC. But I am having a blast, meeting some great people, traveling to some nice locations, *and* doing some good. I just returned from 4 days in Honolulu where our Team ran and walked the Honolulu Marathon, and had raised over \$120,000 for the Leukemia Society. This spring, we have Teams scheduled to go to the Paris Marathon in April, Vancouver Marathon in May, Anchorage Marathon in June, and to a Lake Tahoe Century also in June. I'll be busy, but it'll be fun with some great destinations.

The highlight of my year was participating in the 100th Running of the Boston Marathon. It was an incredible day, the highlight of my participation in running. Everyone was cheering at the starting line - the runners, the crowd, the volunteers. And it didn't stop for the whole 26.2 miles.... The support of the townspeople was incredible, the organization of the Boston Athletic Association was as flawless as it could be for supporting 38,000 runners when there are normally less than half that. But unfortunately, that was my last race of the year. Since the prior fall after the New York City Marathon, I had been suffering from an injury called plantar fasciitis, an inflammation in the sole of your foot. I've learned it is a rather common injury for runners. I had to have a cortisone injection in my heel just to participate at Boston and it has been a slow, frustrating recovery that is still not complete. But hopefully I'll be running again by spring. I did manage to fit in a quick trip to a Red Sox game at Fenway Park, my first, but the weather was so crappy, we left after the 3rd inning. Fortunately race day was perfect.



The Finish Line

Only spent a couple of days on the river or backpacking this year, which I am determined to change next year. And I am looking forward to the travel possibilities my new job is offering. Heck, I had only worked for 4 weeks when I got to go to Hawaii. Though it was a busy 4 days, I did manage to fit in one afternoon at the beach and a bit of snorkeling.

I'll be spending Christmas in Fort Collins - the entire family is now in Colorado now that my brother and his family have moved here. Now all three of my nieces and two nephews are only an hour away. Then, I'll be looking forward to the Bronco's play-off games, and being hoarse for several days after. There's nothing in sports like a home Bronco play-off game (except for a trouncing of the Oakland Raiders). It'll be a win in the Super Bowl this time.

I hope your year has been as full-filling and continues to be so. Keep in touch and good luck and great health in the coming year.