

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We hope 2014 was great for you and that you have many good things in store for 2015. For us 2014 has been a year of getting ready for change. To use a river analogy, 2014 has been a year of scouting the rapids before running them in 2015.

This past spring Bob interviewed for Nevada's Chief Economist position. Bob and I flew up for the interview and enjoyed a weekend get-away together in Nevada's capital, Carson City. A few days later, on our 24th wedding anniversary, Bob was offered the position. Bob was very honored, but after much consideration, we decided it would not be as good a fit as his current job with the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED). We felt that a move to Carson City would be good for our family though. So, Bob proposed a transfer to GOED's northern office



Our Family in Zion National Park

(also located in Carson City), and his boss went for it! In the midst of this Bob received a notice from the National Park Service that he had been awarded a coveted permit for a private float trip down the Grand Canyon. Bob has been on the waiting list (chosen by lottery) for one of these permits for twelve years! This permit allows us to take our family and twelve other friends on a river runner's trip of a lifetime. Our launch date for the Grand Canyon trip is April 13, 2015. We are grateful that Hannah and Caleb are old enough to participate in this great adventure. To make a long story short, we will be moving to Carson City and then spending three weeks floating the Grand Canyon! Our life is now full of preparations for these upcoming adventures.



Bob on Fortification Hill far above Lake Mead

science and enjoys spending time with his school friend, Allistaire. Hannah has gotten a taste of a small school with only 10 kids in her whole 8th grade class! She enjoys the interactive discussions with teachers and time spent with new friends. Caleb continues to be interested in building with Legos, writing and illustrating stories, and fighting nerf battles with Hannah and friends. He has added

Hannah and Caleb are growing taller and more special to us every day. Hannah will be fourteen years old in January and Caleb just turned eleven. Hannah is taller than me now (which seems a little strange) and Caleb is beginning to eat like a teenager. They are both attending Calvary Chapel Green Valley Christian Academy (associated with our church). They are excelling at the challenges of 8th and 5th grades. Caleb's year has been a tough one for him, but we are proud of how he has risen to the occasion. He is a conscientious student who always does his best. He excels in math and



First Day of School



Bob and the Kids Geocaching in Red Rock Canyon

a motorized element to his Lego creations and recently designed and built a machine that loads and fires Lego pieces. He has also turned out to be a great hiker and enjoys hunting for geocaches with Dad. Hannah is a beautiful young lady who is a pleasure to be around. She is a voracious reader and has become quite a poet (see this year's Christmas poem). Hannah volunteers in the preschool classes at church and helped with Vacation Bible School this year. She is great with kids and loves their hugs. She enjoys spending time with the family, playing with her brother, tea shop outings with Mom, and photo shoots with Dad. Some milestones for Hannah this year were getting her braces off, hiking Angel's Landing in Zion National Park, and getting a new desk/bunk bed combo for her room.

This year I have enjoyed the best job in the world - being a wife and mother! I love my daily walks and talks with Bob, helping Hannah with her math homework (gotta use my engineering degree somehow!), reading Agathe Christie mysteries, driving our Mini Cooper, and being the Boxtop Queen at the kids' school. I am in my third year of teaching cooking classes at a senior center and have even catered a couple of events. In October I celebrated my 50th birthday with a special dinner with Bob at a fancy restaurant at Lake Las Vegas. On a funny note, I accidentally purchased 50 re-light candles for the birthday cake for our at-home party. We practically had to smother the cake to get it out! So my 50th year came in with a blaze of glory that just wouldn't go out. Hope my new year is just as bright!

Bob has had a very busy, exciting and productive year. He worked on numerous new projects that will help bring thousands of jobs to Nevada's recovering economy. The two that stand out are Nevada's designation by the Federal Aviation Administration to test Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (aka drones) in the state and the other is Tesla Motors' battery manufacturing plant. The Tesla project alone promises to bring 22,000, high-paying jobs in the world's largest manufacturing facility when fully operational. It is very satisfying to Bob to be able to help people in the vital area of getting a good job. Bob also gave many presentations to local, state and even national groups this year. He was requested as a guest speaker at the EMSI Conference in Pocatello, Idaho. His talk was one of the most popular presentations of the conference!



Celebrating Lisa's 50th Birthday



Hannah Hiking the Angels Landing Trail

As always, we enjoyed getting outdoors as much as possible. We started off the year with a family geocaching hike up our local peak, Black Mountain. Caleb and Hannah, as well as Christy, climbed like mountain goats to find a newly placed hidden cache and were the first ones to sign the log. Now when I drive by Black Mountain I always think "I can't believe we were up there!". In February, we took a group to hike Fortification Hill, an extinct volcano with beautiful views of Lake Mead. Caleb led the way on this seven mile hike! We also made our

traditional trek to Death Valley in February. It was a great to be camping under the star-studded sky with coyotes yipping in the surrounding hills. Christy also loved camping in Death Valley. On bike rides around the park, Christy spread smiles wherever she went, riding like a queen in Bob's backpack. In March, I got to take a special trip to Seattle to visit my good friend, Karen Dion, for a girl's weekend. It was a great get-away for me, filled with Seattle sightseeing, cross-country skiing adventures, and hot tub chats. At the end of May we packed up our camper and headed to Zion National Park, our favorite place. On this trip our whole family hiked to the top of the classic trail Angel's Landing. This was particularly satisfying to me, as this was Bob and I's



Caleb looking up the Lighthouse Staircase at Cabrillo National Monument



Bob's Dad and Mom in Genoa, Nevada

first outdoor adventure together so many years ago. Hannah and Caleb did an awesome job, even on the scary parts where there are thousand foot drops on either side. In August we took a fun family trip to San Diego as an end of summer blowout. We visited Sea World and the San Diego Zoo. I won't soon forget the Manta Ray roller coaster at Sea World - I screamed the whole ride and only opened my eyes once! On the way out of town we stopped at the Cabrillo National Monument. It was a great ending to our trip - viewing the ocean, climbing up in the lighthouse, and spending a little time enjoying the California coast. In November we took a group on our yearly kayak trip down Black Canyon. It was a great day on the water. We had fun exploring side canyons, hiking through hot springs, and viewing desert bighorn sheep and osprey. Hannah and Caleb have turned into awesome paddlers. What a difference a couple of years makes!

This Thanksgiving Grandpa and Grandma Potts flew down from Montana to spend the holiday with us. We had our Thanksgiving dinner on Wednesday evening, then Thanksgiving morning we all (including Christy) hopped in a rented suburban and headed up to Carson City, Nevada for a couple of days of house hunting. It was great to get the lay of the land, play in the hotel pool, and check out prospective houses for our upcoming move. We also enjoyed visiting

the quaint historic town of Genoa, the oldest town in Nevada. On the way back to Las Vegas we drove through rural Nevada with it's many ranches and interesting geology. It was a good trip and a productive one as our house hunting was successful.

This Christmas we will be at home, saving up vacation days for our upcoming Grand Canyon trip. As we head around this bend in the river of our life we are glad you are a part of the journey.

Bob and Lisa
Hannah, Caleb, and Christy

Make sure you check out our family website at:

www.pottsadventures.com



Kayaking on the Colorado River



Spring Flowers in Zion National Park



Christy



Dad and Daughter Enjoying Sea World



Hannah's Photo of Zion Canyon



Noon Break while Kayaking the Colorado